



The newsletter of the
Turtle Flambeau Flowage
and Trude Lake
Property Owners'
Association, Inc.

Fall / Winter 2016

Lots of Fry to Fish...But not Quite Yet Early Results of the 2016 TFF Fishery Survey

By Zach Lawson, WDNR Fisheries Biologist

It's that time of the year again...as I sit here and plunk away at this keyboard, there is a lower unit draining in the garage. The tip-up bucket has migrated next to the front door, and there is a large vacant space in the corner of the living room once occupied by an excessive pile of rods and reels. Although summer made a valiant effort this year, the season is finally giving way to colder times.

While Fisheries Management is wrapping up most of our 2016 fieldwork around the area, we still have a few loose ends to tie-up on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. We will be continuing our creel survey on TFF through the ice fishing season, and still need to conduct a recapture-round of musky netting (second phase of a population estimate) during spring of 2017. After these two components are complete, we can 'tie a bow' on the 2016 TFF comprehensive survey. While we are still conducting fieldwork and haven't had much time to prod data collected thus far, we do have a few key points to share.

Walleye – This spring we completed an assessment that estimated the adult population density to be around 2.8/acre. As a complete estimate hasn't been done

in 2009 and 1997, which resulted in densities of 4.1/acre and 4.0/acre, respectively. Some of the explanation for a reduced population density estimate during 2016 can be attributed to environmental conditions during the spawn, which made it more difficult to capture the entire population (very high water, opened riverine areas prior to ice-out, and an extreme rate of water warming following ice-out). And although I strongly believe that 2.8 adults per acre is likely a very conservative estimate, I won't sugar coat the numbers. Adult densities



Fall measuring of a handful of baby walleyes hatched in spring of 2016. These little shakers are in wonderful condition and bode well for the future of the TFF walleye fishery.

since 2009, an updated number will be important for most accurately setting safe-harvest quotas in the coming years. Many have noticed that this number is lower than population estimates conducted

are lower than those measured in previous surveys. But keep in mind that we have had three missing year classes since 2011, which makes it difficult for a population to grow when young fish are not present to recruit to the adult population. We are now experiencing ramifications of failed recruitment in the fishery, but the future looks brighter! Our fall electrofishing survey detected a banner year-class of baby walleyes this fall. In many areas during this survey, baby walleyes were "poppin' like popcorn", much too fast to collect them all – which is exactly what we want to see. These little guys looked remarkably

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President's Letter

By Jeff Malison



I'm happy to introduce myself as the new president of the Board of Directors of our association. Over the next two years I'm looking forward to helping advance all of our many worthwhile goals. I was happy that we had such a great turnout at this summer's annual meeting at the Pines in Mercer, and I hope that trend of increasing participation continues. In my three years on the board, I've learned a great deal about the many issues that present themselves to those of us who live on or near Wisconsin's "crown jewel" and enjoy the many recreational opportunities it offers. These issues not only have important independent consequences on their own, but also have significant interactions with one another.

Because our water level is controlled by a dam, the water level maintained in the flowage is a primary concern for property owners, boaters and fishermen, particularly in the summer. The low summertime water levels that we experienced several years ago during a few drought years posed significant problems for navigation and also for the owners of piers, docks and boat lifts. We currently have great leadership on our water level committee working with Xcel Energy and the WDNR on this important issue.

The flowage and Trude Lake have some spectacular fishing, and the fish management committee works closely with WDNR fish managers to help foster our good fishing. We have, for example, actively supported the recent changes in bass regulations. But for the foreseeable future all parties agree that walleyes should be the primary focus of fish management efforts. We are currently exploring whether water level management may have effects on the fishery and on fish management.

All of Wisconsin's waters have been affected by the introduction and spread of invasive species. We are extremely lucky that the spread of invasives has been somewhat

minimal in and around the TFFTL. Our invasive species committee spends a remarkable amount of time working on monitoring and reducing the spread of invasives. Aquatic invasive species not only compete with native species, but they can have serious effects on the water quality and fish populations of water bodies.

We have been very fortunate to have many volunteers and a rather consistent supply of grant money to help us monitor key water quality parameters at different locations on the TFFTL. My understanding is that, to date, water quality in the TFFTL has remained quite constant. Before moving up to the northwoods permanently, I resided in the Madison area for almost 30 years, and spent a significant amount of time recreating on the Madison chain of lakes. I can't begin to describe how sad it was to watch the deterioration of the water quality in these lakes. The changes in water quality were no doubt driven by a number of factors including agricultural runoff, expanded shoreline and municipal development, and invasive species. The changes certainly affected fish populations and significantly reduced the esthetics of fishing, boating, swimming and other recreational activities on these lakes. Let's all hope that we can prevent such changes from occurring here on the TFFTL.

With all of that said, and with all of the great volunteer and committee work that I've observed since joining the board, it has always struck me that our property owners' association was rather lacking in local awareness and recognition. In conducting my day-to-day business in Mercer I've met quite a few people who have never heard of our organization. A number of new houses have been built in my neighborhood on Trude Lake, and many of our new neighbors were not aware that the TFFTL had a property owners' association. I've observed at several local government meetings that our association did not seem to carry much weight.

As a member of the Board of Directors I have made it one of my primary goals to increase public awareness of our association. When I reviewed what we do and what we could do in this regard, it was obvious to me that our group puts out a terrific newsletter. But more and more people are becoming almost totally reliant on the internet for their news, and our website was rather feeble. So we've spent the last year or so updating our site. My wife Leann spent a great deal of time on this, and deserves a pat on the back. The design is not quite finished yet, but I think it's pretty functional (<http://www.tfftl.org>). We are making a concerted effort to keep it updated on a monthly basis, so I encourage you to visit it every so often for news regarding the TFFTL and surrounding area.

In my travels driving around Wisconsin's northwoods I also noticed that a number of lake homes have property owners' association signs attached to their fire-number sign posts. I then talked with a number of representatives of these property



associations. Every one who I talked to felt very positive about their signs and the job they did to raise public awareness and participation in their association. At our annual meeting this past summer we discussed such signs for our association, and a show of hands indicated near-unanimous support. We also asked if members would be willing to voluntarily pay an additional \$10-12 (one-time only) for such a sign and again received great support. We hope to move forward with this plan soon.

I also noticed that some lake associations (including Manitowish



Waters down the road) promote their property owners' association by distributing bi-fold brochures at various local businesses. Our board will be discussing this possibility in upcoming meetings. Another suggestion made at our annual meeting was participation in the "Adopt a Highway" program. I'd like to encourage anyone to contact me or the association directly about these or any other ideas that you might have to promote the visibility of our association and the great work done by all of our volunteers.

"Is that a . . . ?" **The 2016 Flowage Wildlife Survey**

By Chad McGrath

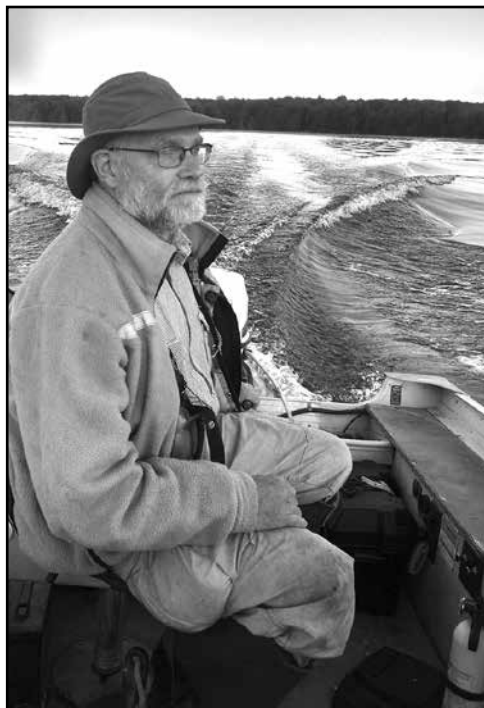
"Hey, there's a mallard hen!" "No Jim, I think that's an American black duck." "Really Sam, it looks like a hen mallard to me."

Ten minutes later: *"Jim, look quick, up on shore to the left of that big aspen, I saw the flash of a white tail."* Sam, *"I didn't see it."*

A few minutes later; *"Sam, I'm sure that was the head of a snapping turtle we just saw submerge."* *"No Jim, it was way too small for a snapper. It had to be a painted."*

One can only imagine some of the exchanges that occur during the half-day wildlife survey conducted on the flowage and Trude Lake from boats every five years. Accomplished in late June, this summer's excursion involved 27 people, divided up into groups of three or four. Each boat had a driver, spotter(s) and a recorder and was assigned an area in which to putter around the shoreline and bays looking for wildlife.

Not surprisingly, birds were the most-seen wildlife. Fifty-six different species of our feathered friends were noted, with waterfowl being the most common. Since the inception



WDNR Forester, Charlie Zinsmaster, drives boat for Wildlife Survey

of the survey in 1980, over 170 species of birds have been identified in the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area by participants in the surveys and by additional keen observations of other knowledgeable people. And this year a species new to the survey was spotted—a red-shouldered hawk. But according to Natasha Shucha, Wildlife Technician at the Mercer ranger station, it's not just birds the surveyors are looking for. "We record all wildlife seen, whether it is big or small, feathered, furred or scaled, warm-blooded or coldblooded and those that are cute and not so cute." This year that record included 8 non-bird species: deer, hare, otter, muskrat, painted and snapping turtles, and green and mink frogs.

Eagles, osprey and loons are sort of the poster birds of the flowage, birds that are conspicuous and more famous than others. The numbers for these birds this year were: eagles...43, up

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Lots of Fry to Fish

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healthy for their age. With plenty of forage out there to gorge on, this year class should fare well and recruit to the adult population in the next few years. That said, there is a long winter ahead in which we will be analyzing samples and data to address questions about the TFF walleye population, so stay tuned as we continue to learn more.

Panfish – Where do I start? I may not be the oldest person in the world, but I've never seen a crappie population like we documented this spring. Quality numbers were accompanied by a staggering size distribution: 97% of the population is over 8" and 64% over a legal 10". Bluegills and pumpkinseeds didn't miss the mark, either. Both populations exhibited respectable relative abundances and had over 90% of the population exceeding 6". If my email and phone records are any indication, people are enjoying these quality opportunities on the water.

Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass – The implementation of an aggregate 5 fish/day, no minimum length, but 14-18" protected slot with 1 > 18" regulation on bass in both TFF and Trude Lake was new for the 2016 fishing season. In order to impose shifts in population densities and size structure, harvest pressure needs to be directed at smaller bass (hence the regulation change). Fortunately, the 2016 creel survey coincided with the start of this new regulation, making it handy for detecting angler response to the new opportunity. As of mid-summer, creel results showed minimal harvest of both species; most anglers decided to release legal-sized bass. However, it's possible that this behavior changed as the fishing season progressed. Anglers may also become more aware of the regulation change and harvest more bass in subsequent fishing seasons. Regardless, we will need a few years to let redirected harvest pressures reverberate

through the bass populations before we can assess the effectiveness of the new regulation.

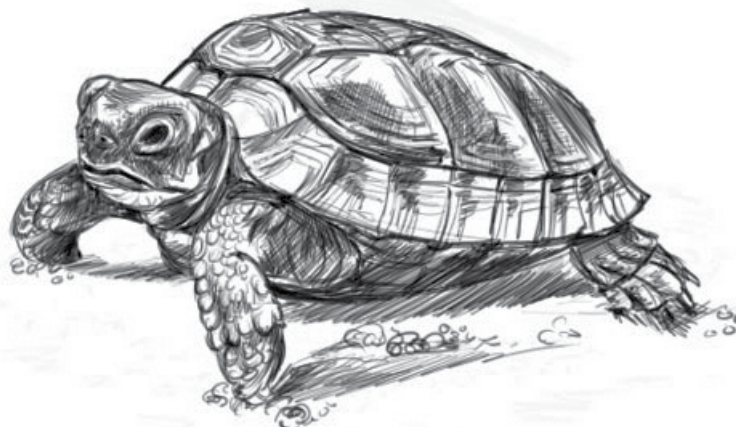
Muskellunge – In sum, the TFF musky population looks stellar. After 30+ years of looking, we finally documented natural reproduction. Last fall's electrofishing survey documented the first, and this spring's intensive sampling efforts found 4 additional individuals hatched during spring of 2015. Throughout our 2016 work, we have PIT-tagged over 190 adult muskies (essentially giving each fish a unique identifier, or 'name'), which will allow us to return in spring of 2017 and complete a muskellunge population estimate (never done before on TFF). The vastness and complexity of the TFF, coupled with the relative scarcity and particular behavior of spawning muskellunge, make this a daunting task; but adult densities need to be addressed, especially given documented natural reproduction. While we don't have specific densities yet, numbers look strong. Perhaps the size structure is most impressive, as more than 12% of adult muskies handled this year were over 45"!



Just one of the many muskies over 45" we handled this spring...

muskellunge, make this a daunting task; but adult densities need to be addressed, especially given documented natural reproduction. While we don't have specific densities yet, numbers look strong. Perhaps the size structure is most impressive, as more than 12% of adult muskies handled this year were over 45"!

There are plenty more details to discuss and highlights to cover, but those may be better suited for another time. We will continue to compile, proof, and analyze data collected from this survey for the next couple of months. After which (sometime mid-winter), we will have a more comprehensive survey report available online and will hold at least one public presentation to provide a more complete overview and status of the TFF fishery. As always, I welcome any comments/questions/concerns/clarifications, so feel free to contact me whenever to talk fish! Stay tuned for more TFF updates and good luck out on the water!



Fall Has Arrived and Our Work Is Done!

By Beth and Mike Myers

Volunteers for the Property Owners Association enjoyed a picnic at one of the Big Island campsites again this summer. Every group was invited: water quality, invasive species surveyors, fish management, newsletter, and board. Delicious burgers and lots of sides made for a satisfying lunch. The day was sunny and warm and the bugs weren't too annoying. It's nice to put faces with names and enjoy a brew or two with people who share an active interest in the health of our lakes.



some areas. Special thanks to Randy Payne for the excellent work mapping purple loosestrife on the flowage. He created a Google map of the past three years of purple loosestrife populations.

Finally, thanks to a Natural Resource Foundation grant the ICLWCD treated all of the boat landings on the flowage for terrestrial invasive species with a goal of introducing native plants along the north bank at Fisherman's Landing. Future plans may include a pollinator garden.

Have you checked out our re-fashioned website?

Lots of association news, background and links to some great sources of information!

Go to: www.ttftl.org



After one of the wettest summers in a long time, you'd expect our drainage lake to be negatively

affected by significant surface water inflow, bringing nutrients and sediments into it. The test results show we continue to have poor to fair clarity readings due to the tannins and the amount of algae in the water, but they are not vastly changed from 5 years ago. The same is true for the chlorophyll and phosphorus readings. The lake is providing food and homes for a number of species (including humans!) and the heavy rainfall and runoff hasn't changed the chemistry enough for concern. If you are interested in seeing all the data collected, the link to the website where our data is reported is: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/reportsanddata/>

Zach Wilson reports the Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department has completed the aquatic invasive species work on the flowage this year. The banded mystery snail has been found in Trude Lake. This is new for this body of water. It's been in the flowage for several years, so it is not a surprise. Not much is known about them, (after all, they are a mystery snail...), but they are NOT a big concern for the department.

Zach also noted that it was a great year for purple loosestrife work. More areas were treated and more loosestrife pulled on the flowage than in the past. Purple loosestrife populations seem to be under control and are shrinking in



Retired association President, Terry Daulton, enjoys an autumn afternoon on the Aldo Leopold bench presented to her at the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting in recognition for all she has done for the organization and for the flowage.

Two New Board Members

At the Annual Membership Meeting on June 18, the association elected two new members of the Board of Directors: Jim Kohl and Randy Schubert. Brief profiles and photos follow.

Jim Kohl

In 1975, I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology and Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Subsequently, I worked in the outdoor recreation industry in various sales and marketing positions. I retired from that work in 2015. My wife Mary and I are residents of Cross Plains, Wisconsin.

We have owned a northern Wisconsin cabin since 1980, first on Little Manitowish Lake, and then, starting in 1997, on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

I have had a passion for fishing since I was five years old. I fished as a youngster in the Madison area, and my family enjoyed yearly vacations on Big Arbor Vitae Lake. I have fished the TFF every year since 1967. Therefore I may have some unique perspectives on changes in the ecosystem and the fishery during the past 50 years. As volunteers, my wife and I have surveyed an area as part of the purple loosestrife eradication program since its inception.

I look forward to playing a role in environmental, water quality, and fisheries-related projects and issues during my tenure on the board of the TFF&TLPOA.



Jim Kohl, a fine walleye, a glassy-calm flowage.

Randy Schubert

In late 2002 I decided to finally make the big move and purchase a cottage on a lake in northern Wisconsin. It had been a life-long dream of mine. I had heard stories of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage; however, I had never visited or fished it. In December of 2002, I made a trip to check out some places on the flowage, and the rest, as they say, is history. It was winter when I made the purchase. As the ice left and the seasons transitioned into spring and summer, I was amazed at the vastness and natural beauty of the area.

I grew up in Stevens Point and lived in Milwaukee for a period of time. I am currently employed in the insurance profession and live in Wausau Wisconsin. In addition to being a member of the TFFTL Property Owners' Association, I am also involved in several other non-profit organizations.

I enjoy spending time with my black lab Cole, kayaking around the flowage, long bicycle rides, and time with family and friends exploring the flowage on my pontoon. There is nothing like a campfire on the flowage with a chorus of loons in the background. In the winter, I enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and ice fishing.

Being a member of the TFFTLPOA given me the opportunity to not only meet my flowage neighbors, who all share the same passion and love for this beautiful area and body of water, but also to be part of a mission to protect and preserve this wonderful place for future generations.



Randy Schubert in Classic Northwoods Setting



A Message About Staying Warm From Mr. Birch

As Channeled via Chad McGrath

Hi, my name is *Betula papyrifera* (Birch Tree), and I and my millions of brothers and sisters live here around the TFSWA. I have been asked to tell readers of the Driftwood about how I and other leafy trees like me manage to survive a typical Northern Wisconsin winter. Think about it. Trees can't find a warm place underground and sleep like Mr. Bear. Nor can we fly south like Mrs. Duck. We are literally stuck. Here. Where it gets really, really cold.

The first thing we do isn't really a response to the cold. We notice in August that days are getting shorter. Without as much sunlight, we can't produce enough sugar (via our top secret process: photosynthesis) so we shut down production; and as my chlorophyll molecules break down the yellows and golds of my carotenes and xanthophylls emerge. That's when our leaves turn golden. Some of my red maple neighbors are show-offs and turn various shades of red. Freezing temperatures encourage these red hues by activating residual sugars and anthocyanins. I also feel a new chemical course through my phloem; scientists call it abscisic acid. After a few "hits" of this acid (apologies to Timothy Leary) I really slow up my production of proteins and RNA (ribonucleic acid). Since these are needed for growth, my above ground parts pretty much stop growing. And the acid also helps me form abscission layers between my twigs and petioles (that's "leaf stem" to those of you not aware of what your scientists call my parts). Once the abscission layers have formed, gravity, with the help of wind and rain, helps me lose my leaves (I prefer the term "branch raiment"). At first I feel pretty naked but it doesn't take long to get used to. Leafless I can see farther. Just like for you humans, leaflessness brings a gift of distant vision. And without my leaves I am safer in winter. Not only do I not get dehydrated, I am less likely to break a limb or even my trunk when snow piles up. My conifer friends, who keep their leaves all winter have shapes (and needles) that shed snowfall. And unlike my leaves, their needles have pores that they can adjust to let out less water in the winter.

Another thing we trees do as winter approaches is to acclimate. You people do this too. As it gets cold, you put on more clothes. Trees actually change how our cells hold water, reducing the amount in each cell and putting that water just outside our cell walls. When it freezes it doesn't burst our cells, it just presses against them. We then add substances

to the water left in our cells that help prevent the water inside from freezing. We make our own anti-freeze, using lipids (fats). All my tree friends do this, but some of us make more anti-freeze than others. I've been told by relatives who live in northern Indiana that the reason several distant relatives there can't move here is because their cells freeze at a higher temperature than mine. When you humans plant trees like tulip popular (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) up here in the north that's why you don't succeed.

Ok, it's early October as I am conveying this for you, and it's time for me to concentrate on getting some of this water out of my phloem and xylem cells, plus put some lipids inside them. Although it's been a long and frost free fall so far, I feel like it's going to be a cold winter. I'll report back in the Spring issue of the Driftwood and tell

you how my winter went.



A smiling Mr. Birch, having shed his golden leaves, looks forward to winter.



Jenna Kosnicki Joins Mercer Ranger Station

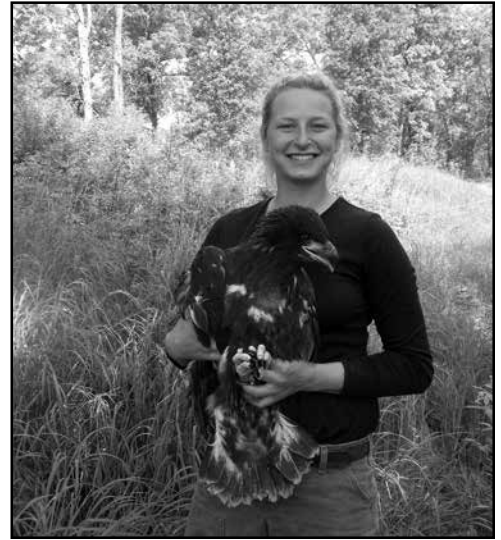
By Chad McGrath

In doing the research for this issue's article on the TFSWA's 2016 wildlife survey, I met the area's new wildlife biologist, Jenna Kosnicki. Her first day on the job was October 18th. She holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology with minors in biology and soil science from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. She's been with the Department of Natural Resources for over 3 years. She worked at the Poynette pheasant farm, was a wildlife technician for Rock, Green and Dane Counties, and served as Assistant Furbearer Biologist, statewide.

Jenna hales originally from Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. She has an older brother and younger sister and Ringo, a German Shepard mix. Jenna is not brand new to the north. She spent a short time as a zookeeper at Wildwood, in Minocqua.



When asked her favorite furbearer she responded almost instantly with, "Beaver because they make their own habitat and habitat for other animals". Asked what excited her about her new position, she smiled and responded, "We have every mammal I can think of around here!" Jenna is looking forward to muskrat trapping season. She also enjoys pursuit of that elusive non-mammalian species, wild rice. She's also looking forward to getting to know the locals, including the furry kind.



A just-banded immature eagle tells Biologist, Jenna Kosnicki, just what it thinks of getting an ankle bracelet.

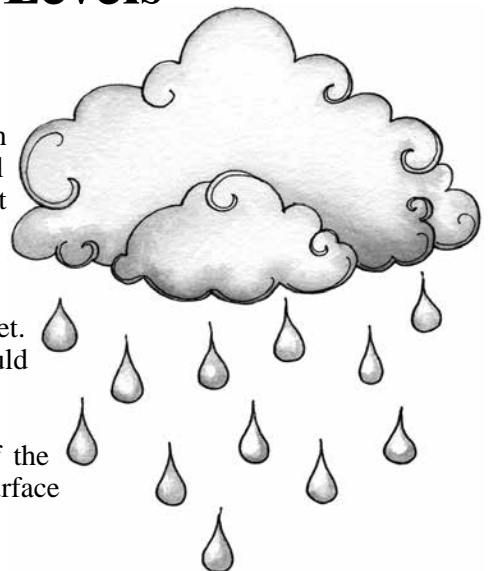
Rains Buoy 2016 Water Levels

By Jim Moore

The open water season of 2016 will be remembered for the rains that kept both the flowage and the entire watershed adequately supplied with water. Early April started with a full pool and the flowage maintained useable water levels throughout the summer. The 2016 flowage water levels exceeded the prior year levels on July 1, August 1, September 1 and October 1 by 4", 7", 25" and 19", respectively.

Xcel energy had initially planned on a flowage summer drawdown of 3.0 feet. Obviously, this planned drawdown was not necessary but had it taken place, it would have been well within the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Hopefully, everyone will continue to enjoy the flowage during the balance of the season, even as the fall drawdown occurs and the speed bumps just below the surface come increasingly into play.



Flowage Wildlife Survey

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from 20 in 2010, osprey...5, down from 9 and loons... 96 the same as in 2010. According to Natasha, "The survey is our opportunity to check-up on the flowage, and we can compare what we are seeing this year with what we have seen in the past."

Funding for the survey, which is accomplished with volunteers, but needs support for things like fuel, food, and other supplies, comes from the State's Natural Resources Foundation. Natasha was thankful for all the volunteer support.

One wildlife species that was not noted during this year's survey but which garners lots of public interest is the moose. The most recent moose observation that Natasha remembered was toward the end of July, 2016, not far to the west of the junction of state highways 182 and 47. Two females and a calf were reported. Apparently three male moose were sighted north of the flowage near Swamp Creek back in the fall of 2015. In fact male moose are a fairly common visitor to Iron County during the fall

breeding season when young bulls are searching for females.

Minnesota has recently embarked on a moose study trying to determine what has led to a decline in the state's moose population. One theory is that an increased deer population has caused an increase in a parasite carried by deer (brainworm). It's also been suggested that this is why there are so few moose in Wisconsin.

And what should you do if you see a moose, or cougar, or other infrequently seen large mammal in your back yard (or anywhere in Wisconsin)? The DNR would like you to report it. It's as simple as googling "large mammal observation form" and following the directions. There's also another way

you can report your wildlife sightings. It's a relatively new program called "Snapshot Wisconsin". The DNR is looking for volunteers to place and monitor trail cameras from various places in the state to help inform them what's out there. For more information, go to dnr.wi.gov and type "Snapshot Wisconsin" into the keyword box.

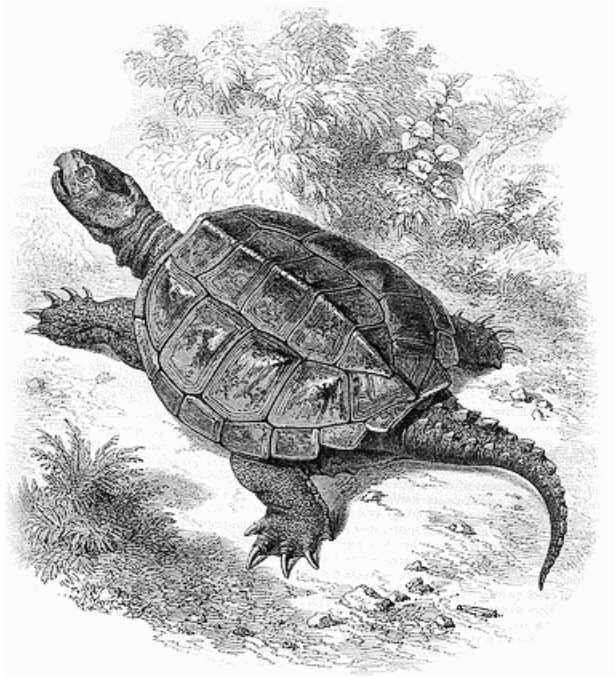


An Iron County moose track. 2016 photo by Mike Hittle

Questions about the TFF or Trude Lake?

Visit www.tfftl.org

Our re-fashioned site is there to satisfy your curiosity!



The “Bill Bednar Flowage” and “Jeff Wilson Bridge”

Stories as told by Jeff Wilson to Terry Daulton

Bill Bednar is a thinker, a talker, and he loves the flowage. In the 1980's he built a house on the flowage near Merkle Lake. Bill is also gregarious and after settling on the flowage he became friends with most folks involved in flowage management. He was in regular touch with DNR staff who worked the flowage, including the then wildlife manager, John Olson.

Sometime in the late 1980s, Olson got a call from Bill Bednar. Bill told John that he had heard the state senate had passed something called the Stewardship Bill that would use state funds to buy land to protect and preserve for public use. Bill asked Olson, “Who is the DNR boss in charge of this area? I want to talk to him.” John replied that it would be Dave Jacobson in Spooner, District Director of a 12-county area called the Northwest District. So Bill asked for his phone number and said goodbye.

About a week later John Olson got a call. It was from Dave Jacobson. Dave stated he was coming to Mercer and could John line up a boat and show him the Flambeau Flowage. Dave later told John he got a call from a guy from Mercer about using stewardship money to buy the flowage. Later that same day Dave picked up the phone and called Tony Wise, president of Northern States Power. The rest is history. Then Governor Tommy Thompson was purchasing land with stewardship money, perhaps to improve public relations around his environmental record at a time when environmentalists in the state had nicknamed him “toxic Tommy”. Bill Bednar's call was perfectly timed. The idea, the funding, the politics, and the leadership came together and the TFF was purchased for the public.

Now how about the Jeff Wilson bridge? Jeff was a wildlife technician working for the Mercer Ranger station under John Olson. After John transferred to La Crosse in the early 90s, Greg Kessler was hired as wildlife manager. Because the flowage was new to Greg, he asked Jeff to send sit in on the DNR team working on drafting the master plan for the newly acquired property. The DNR team was led by Jody Les (from Madison) and consisted of Mercer DNR staff representing fisheries, forestry, and wildlife as well as law enforcement. There was also a citizen advisory board. When the plan was nearly completed Jody asked the team if there were any other ideas that had been overlooked. Jeff raised his hand and said “Yes, two things. First how about a portage between Bonie's Mound and Horseshoe

Lake? There is a lot of traffic in that area and only a couple hundred yards between the two sections of water.” That brought up questions about how difficult it would be to build the portage, and Jeff said that the trail was already in place. When Kenny Myers and Don Strugel logged the island in 1984, they put in a skid trail through that area. Jeff had kept the trail cleared and had used it ever since. The trail would need additional sprucing up, some signage, annual maintenance, and a notation on the new map. The committee decided this was a great idea and today there is a well used portage at that site.

Jeff's second idea was for Trude Lake. “I'm sick and tired of having to pull out my DNR boat and trailer when I am working on a wildlife project on both Trude and the flowage. The culvert under the Trude Lake dike is too small for boat traffic. I'm always needing to get into Trude Lake to band ducks and geese, install osprey platforms, put up wood duck boxes, or install loon platforms. Can we add a statement to the master plan that when that culvert requires replacement in the future that a larger navigable culvert or bridge be installed? I'm sure the fish management crew would appreciate this as well. It could be similar to the culvert between Catherine and Fisher Lakes.” The committee all agreed, and it was included in the master plan draft that went for public comment and ultimately formal approval by the DNR Board. Now, 20 years later, we have boat access between the flowage and Trude Lake.

So the next time you are out on the flowage admiring the pristine undeveloped shoreline you can think of Bill Bednar, who may have been the catalyst that started the whole process of preserving the flowage. Likewise, when you boat under the new Trude Lake bridge you can look up and remember Jeff Wilson's idea, and when you see a group of canoers paddling the flowage you can think of them taking the portage trail at Horseshoe Lake and having a grand adventure.

Sometimes all it takes to move a good idea from a fleeting thought to reality is timing, a few motivated people, and a bit of luck. If you have a good idea, don't just shake your head and say it'll never happen: talk it up with your friends and colleagues and you too can leave a legacy for your children and grandchildren. It may not be a flowage, or even a bridge, but good ideas are what have built our civilization and country. They start with a dream and sometimes end with a real life impact.



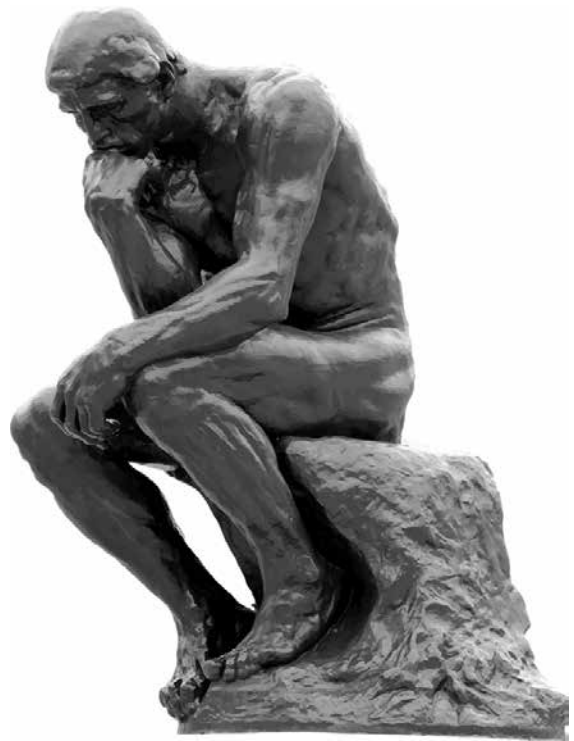
Invite to Submit a Poem

It's a poetry contest, who'd guess?
A Driftwood sponsored fest.
Start writing real soon,
To make us swoon,
As we try to pick out the best.

Call us crazy, Call us wild,
We want your verse strong or mild.
Scribble a rhyme or take your time,
Send us something: blunt or sublime

Sit down right now.
Furrow your brow.
Dance on those keys,
Write what you please,
Just send us something
About bees, or trees or a sneeze.

Submit to: Chad Mcgrath at mcgrath_chad@yahoo.com
or, at 4483 Fawn Lake Road, Springstead, WI 54552



"The Poet" later to be known as "The Thinker."



TFF-TL POA

PO Box 631

Mercer, WI 54547



Driftwood

The newsletter of the Turtle Flanbeau Flowage
and Trude Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.

EDITORS: Terry Daulton/Mike Hittle
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— *Mission Statement* —

The purpose of the Association is to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings for the collective interest of members and the general public.

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If you would like to contact the Association electronically, please visit our website
www.tfftl.org and search under "CONTACT US"

