

Turtle Flambeau - Trude Lake
Property Owners Association

Fall 2001 Membership Survey



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Turtle Flambeau – Trude Lake Property Owners Association Fall 2001 Membership Survey Results

Introduction

The Turtle Flambeau – Trude Lake Property Owners Association Fall 2001 Membership Survey was conducted by the Association Board in order to gather opinions and feedback from members. The results of the survey will help guide Association efforts and work plans with respect to the Flowage.

The survey was designed by Terry Daulton with input and review by members of the Association Board.

The survey was mailed to all 71 lake properties (representing 122 Lake Association members) in late August 2001. By the late September deadline, 53 responses were received, representing a response rate of 75 percent.

Additionally, professional input on the design of the survey was provided by Leever Research Services, a research firm in Chicago that serves non-profit organizations and associations. Leever Research Services also compiled the returned surveys and prepared this final report.

Survey Highlights

The following point are highlights of the survey findings. Additional detail and other findings are contained in the body of the report.

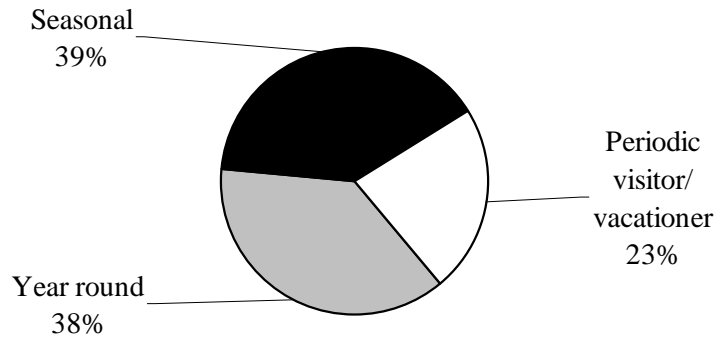
- Nearly one-quarter of Lake Association members are periodic visitors or vacationers, while the rest of members are split evenly between seasonal residents and full-time residents.
- The top three most important issues to Lake Association members are water quality, fish populations in the Flowage, and exotic species.
- Members feel the most appropriate ways for the Lake Association to address issues of concern are education through written materials, conducting surveys and research (e.g., water quality monitoring, exotic species, walleye watch) and field activities (e.g., fish cribs, purple loosestrife removal).
- On the Flowage, the top five recreational activities engaged in by members are fishing, nature observation, boating, ice fishing, and snowmobiling.
- Seventy-seven (77) percent of members feel the Association has either met or exceeded their expectations. Twenty-three (23) percent of members did not know or had no opinion about how the Association was doing. Only two percent of members felt the Association had fallen short of their expectations.

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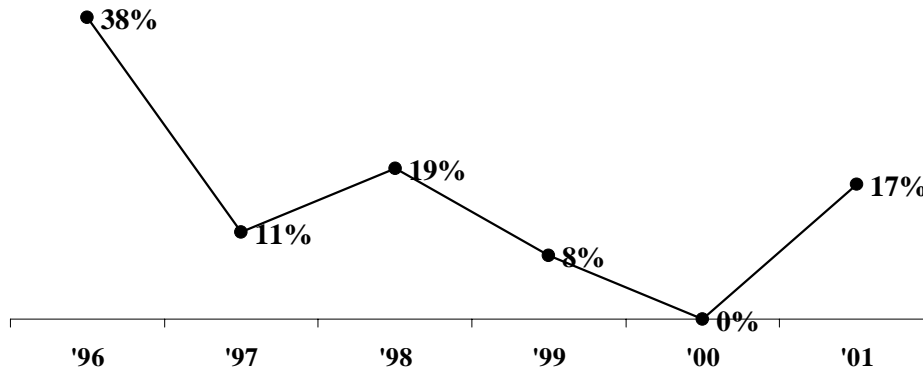
Section of the Flowage where member residence is located

	Number	%
Springstead	20	38%
Lake Bastine	12	23%
Horseshoe	8	15%
Lake of the Falls	5	9%
Fisherman's Landing/Norway Point	5	9%
Other	2	4%
Trude Lake	1	2%
TOTAL	53	100%

Amount of time spent at Flowage residence



Year became a member of the Association



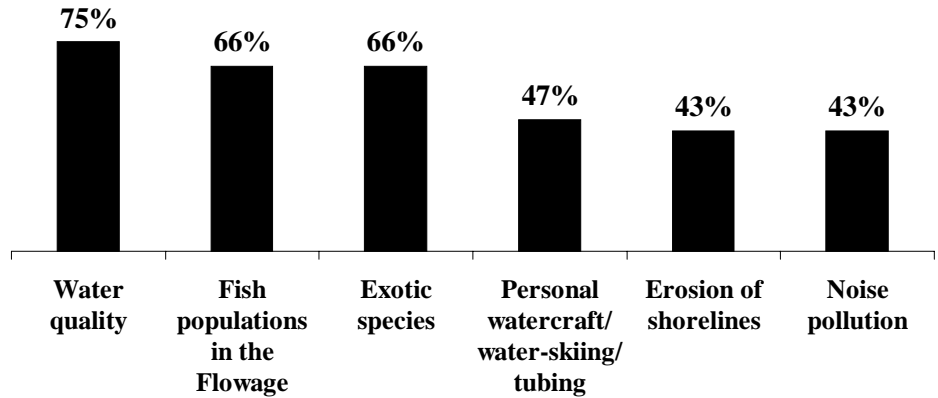
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Members were asked to rate the level of importance of several issues facing the Flowage. Members rated each issue on a scale from 'Most important' to 'Not important.'

Based on the percentage of members who rated each item 'Most important,' the top six issues are shown on the graph (right).

Top six (6) most important issues on the Flowage

Percentage who feel each issue is 'Most important'



The table below shows the detailed findings for all issues.

In rank order by 'Most important'

The first column is the sum of responses for 'Most important' and 'Very important' as a measurement of those who generally feel the issue is important.

	Most important/ Very Important (Subtotal)	Most important (4)	Very important (3)	Some-what important (2)	Not important (1)	No answer	Average rating out of 4.00
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
1. Water quality	100	75	25	-	-	-	3.75
2. Fish populations in the Flowage	98	66	32	2	-	-	3.64
3. Exotic species (purple loosestrife, zebra mussel, etc)	96	66	30	4	-	-	3.62
4. Personal watercraft/water-skiing/tubing	70	47	23	19	9	2	3.10
5. Erosion of shorelines	75	43	32	21	2	2	3.19
6. Noise pollution	66	43	23	21	13	-	2.96
7. Shoreline development	83	38	45	11	6	-	3.15
8. Water level fluctuations	70	36	34	25	6	-	3.00
9. Crowding (too many boats)	47	25	23	34	19	-	2.53
10. Navigational hazards (swim rafts, trampolines, slides, etc.)	45	25	21	28	26	-	2.43
11. User conflicts	58	23	36	30	8	4	2.76
12. Shoreline lighting	47	23	25	23	28	2	2.42
13. Forest management	72	15	57	25	4	-	2.83

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Other issue(s) members feel are important:

Verbatim Comments

(Numbered for reader convenience only)

1. Navigational hazards (rock bars and reefs).
2. Jet skis.
3. Inform users of the water not to throw fish line, cans, bottles, etc. in water. Don't dump bait in water.
4. We need to check water quality on rivers and streams coming into Flowage. Check into boat wash for boats that come in from lakes with zebra mussels.
5. I believe some rock bars should be buoyed to warn boaters. Not all – just heavy traffic areas.
6. Posting rules affecting personal watercraft/water-skiing/tubing at launch sites, rental agencies and resorts.
7. Ban all personal watercraft.
8. Control over water-skiing/tubing dangerous when on Turtle Flambeau.
9. Snowmobile use and debris related to ice fishing. Snowmobiles sometimes use rock bars and small areas to become "airborne" harming vegetation on these bars and islands.
10. Pressing the state to buy more land around the Turtle Flambeau.
11. Being able to picnic on islands. Our campgrounds are sometimes always filled. Maybe charge for camping.
12. No houseboats should be allowed on the lakes/Flowage.
13. Strict law enforcement on fishing violations by campers and property owners – crime watch 800# to report violators.
14. Boats courtesy. I am appalled at speeding boaters going much too close to anchored/drifted fishing boats.
15. Low flying airplanes that just keep "buzzing" over the Flowage. Fireworks and guns going off at all hours from campsites.
16. Work with DNR to remove possibility of houseboats for rent.
17. Screening new development from view.
18. Zoning violations, septic tanks inspections, lawn and gardening fertilizer and insecticide use.
19. Although water levels are listed as most important, I think we have to study and find out (factually) what water level fluctuation means for the quality of life in and around the Flowage.
20. Maybe do non-member survey.
21. Boat speed and quiet area.
22. Litter left at campsites and cutting of trees at campsites.
23. Directional markers located throughout the Flowage for possible lost boaters, fisherman, etc.
24. Public boat landings with the selling of resorts. There will be fewer landings for public use.
25. Keep Flowage as it is.
26. Spearing Walleyes very important.
27. Maintain it as a pristine area.
28. Maintaining the Flowage as a pristine jewel of the North.
29. View of the Flowage needs to be protected. No more improvement at the landing in Springstead. I also would like to work towards a horsepower limit of 100HP or no wake for motors over 100HP. Another issue should be to protect/manage the natural heritage and cultural heritage of the Flowage (i.e., Native Americans artifacts, lodging camps, resorts, etc.)

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What members think the main goals of the Turtle Flambeau – Trude Lake Property Owners Association should be:

Verbatim Comments

(Numbered for reader convenience only)

1. Protect the Flowage's natural character buy supplying information and education.
2. Keep Flowage as natural at possible.
3. To address the issues above as a strong unified voice.
4. Educate users and property owners relating to keeping the Flowage clean and natural as possible.
5. Maintain the present atmosphere of the Flowage. Preserve water quality and prevent inappropriate shoreline development.
6. Meetings with governmental agencies to effect zoning ordinance and control.
7. Ban all personal watercrafts. Protect our greatest resource – the lake, fish and wildlife and help keep our wilderness setting by banning personal water crafts and other sources of noise pollution.
8. Noise pollution.
9. Prevent deterioration of the “natural” nature of the Flowage. (That’s why we bought our home here.) Enhance “natural” state where possible to encourage native species of plants and wildlife. Encourage 4 cycle overboard engines among members. (Could members receive price breaks at area dealers?)
10. To protect the wilderness of the Flowage. To protect endangered species.
11. Finding ways to enjoy our water and helping to protect the Flowage for years to come. Help fight spearing. We should have some leverage with the casino. I would like to keep some fish when I have a good day. Maybe study the Northern Pike. They are growing. Does DNR have any information on them or what change is allowing them to grow?
12. Just moved in December 2000 – so far so good.
13. Restore fish - eliminate spearing and start catch and release laws on all muskies, walleyes, crappie, and perch for 5 – 10 years to give the fish a chance to survive and grow.
14. Fish populations and maintaining the Flowage as near as possible to its original state. Has anyone told the DNR it was a terrible mistake to introduce large numbers of smallmouth bass into the Flowage? The Walleye population cannot maintain itself in competition with spearing and the smallmouth bass.
15. To maintain the natural peaceful and quiet beauty of the Flowage. Keep it highly protected.
16. Work to protect and enhance the overall health of the Flowage and its waters and to provide varied recreational opportunities for property owners and visitors to the Flowage.
17. Get fishing back in shape.
18. Protect the wilderness qualities of the Flowage.
19. Inform members of environmental problems and encourage and direct correction.
20. Preservation of quality of the Flowage itself. Further limits on jet skis. Stocking of fish – eliminate spearing.
21. To provide education and leadership on issues which are important to ecological health of the Flowage.
22. I would like to see everyone (or at least as many as can) establish shoreline buffer zones. I don't agree to waters edge on the full width of a lot is good for the health of the Flowage.
23. Keep the membership informed of new lake information, general lake information and interesting items concerning the lake and the area.
24. Work with the DNR on management plans. Work to keep the Flowage available for all people to use. Work to keep the Flowage as it is.

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Verbatim Comments

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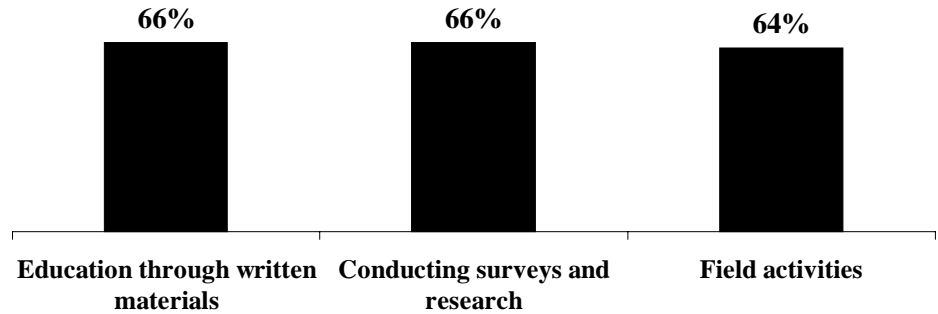
25. To educate and inform members and other users about environmental and non-environmental issues impacting Flowage waters and surrounding land areas. To support conservation programs that are essential for the protection of the Flowage ecology.
26. Preserve and protect the natural resources and beauty of the Flowage. Work with groups that use the Flowage (i.e., boy and girl scouts, etc.) as well as out of area users.
27. Retain its tranquil environment and wilderness look.
28. Keep it as pristine as possible and be the watchdogs. It's our responsibility since there are not many folks who own shore land.
29. Preservation of wilderness quality and get rid of spearing/netting.
30. To have the DNR flow to boat landings so access is easier. Its there's let them do their job.
31. Keep the Flowage from turning into the Minocqua rat race.
32. Our goal would be having property owners monitor the above items and then informing the Association of concerns.
33. Represent the property owners.
34. Spearing.
35. Listen to what members have to say and take action on the majority of issues.
36. To listen to the owners' opinions. Take action to help the majority.
37. Try to maintain and hopefully improve the natural habitat.
38. Work with DNR as the leading constituency for Flowage decisions/policy needs. Give DNR direction on these issues (listed above).
39. Stop "progress" to keep the area as it is.

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Using a scale from ‘Most appropriate’ to ‘Least appropriate,’ members were asked to rate the appropriateness of different ways the Association could address issues of concern. Based on the percentage of members who rated each item ‘Most important,’ the top three ways are shown on the graph (right).

Top three (3) most appropriate ways for the Association to address issues of concern to members

Percentage who feel each method is ‘Most appropriate’



The table below shows the detailed findings for all items.

In rank order by ‘Most appropriate’

The first column is the sum of responses for ‘Most appropriate’ and ‘Very appropriate’ as a measurement of those who generally feel the method is appropriate.

	Most/ Very appropri- ate (Subtotal)	Most appropri- ate (4)	Very appropri- ate (3)	Some- what appropri- ate (2)	Least appropri- ate (1)	No answer	Average rating out of 4.00
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
1. Education through written materials (newsletter, brochures)	91	66	25	9	-	-	3.57
2. Conducting surveys and research (water quality monitoring, exotic species, walleye watch)	87	66	21	11	-	2	3.56
3. Field activities (such as fish cribs or purple loosestrife removal)	87	64	23	13	-	-	3.51
4. Public policy (such as commenting on state or local lake regulations, working with WDNR on management plans)	85	38	47	13	-	2	3.25
5. Periodic press releases to local media on issues	74	32	42	21	6	-	3.00
6. Participating in state-wide lake protection organizations such as the Wisconsin Association of Lakes	60	28	32	38	-	2	2.90
7. Education through meetings	57	23	34	32	11	-	2.68
8. Education through workshops, presentations	51	17	34	43	6	-	2.62
9. Social events for members	26	9	17	49	23	2	2.13

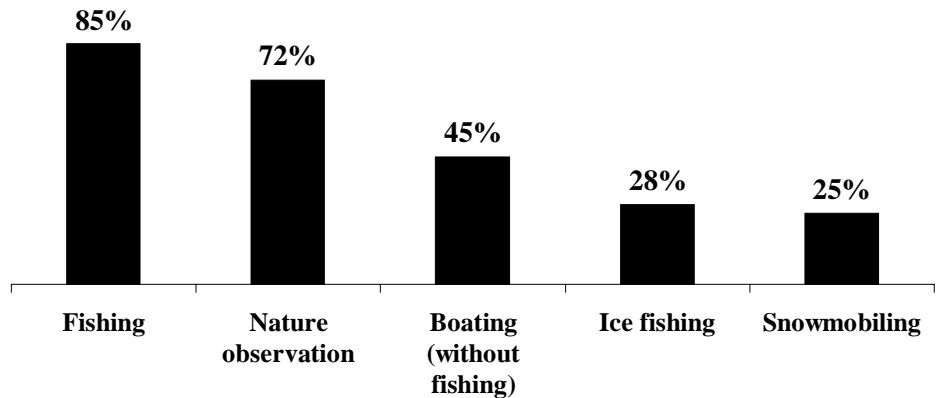
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Members were asked to indicate how frequently they engaged in various recreational activities on the Flowage.

Top five (5) most popular recreational activities on the Flowage

Percentage who engage in each activity 'Frequently'

Based on the percentage of members who perform each activity 'Frequently,' the top five activities are fishing, nature observation, boating, ice fishing, and snowmobiling.



The detailed findings for all activities appear on the table below.

In rank order by 'Frequently'

The first column is the sum of responses for 'Frequently' and 'Sometimes' as a measurement of those who generally participate in these activities.

	Frequently/ Sometimes (Subtotal)	Frequently (4)	Sometimes (3)	Rarely (2)	Never (1)	Average rating out of 4.00
	%	%	%	%	%	
1. Fishing	94	85	9	6	-	3.79
2. Nature observation	94	72	23	6	-	3.66
3. Boating (without fishing)	87	45	42	8	6	3.26
4. Ice fishing	58	28	30	23	19	2.68
5. Snowmobiling	49	25	25	15	36	2.38
6. Hiking	58	21	38	25	17	2.65
7. Hunting	45	21	25	21	34	2.32
8. Non-motorized water craft use	57	13	43	15	28	2.42
9. Cross-country skiing	38	11	26	28	34	2.15
10. Camping	32	4	28	25	43	1.92
11. Water skiing/tubing	17	4	13	17	66	1.57
12. Personal watercraft use	11	4	8	9	79	1.36

Turtle Flambeau – Trude Lake Property Owners Association Fall 2001 Membership Survey Results

Members were asked to evaluate the performance of the Turtle Flambeau – Trude Lake Properties Association to-date. Seventy-seven (77) percent of members feel the Association has either met or exceeded their expectations. Twenty-three (23) percent of members did not know or had no opinion about how the Association was doing. Only two percent of members felt the Association had fallen short of their expectations.

Evaluation of the performance of the Turtle Flambeau – Trude Lake Property Owners Association to-date

