Turtle Flambeau Flowage - Trude Lake
Property Owners' Association, Inc.

Fall/Winter Issue **2002/2003**

President's Letter

By Arlen Wanta

Why is it that when a person is away from a desk and computer he can think of all kinds of brilliant, informative things to report, or write about, but sit at a desk, and his brain goes dead? If my memory doesn't desert me, I'll try to remember what has been happening around the flowage this past summer.

The cribs we built last winter were placed by the WDNR in the Townline Lake area and are attracting bugs, bait and fish. I checked them a couple of times with an underwater video camera and saw some fish, but more important, there were minnows, water bugs, and crawdads. We are planning to build and place another 30 cribs this next January or February. Please call and volunteer to help. We are investigating other possible fish habitat improvements with the WDNR for next summer.

There is an ongoing osprey eagle study underway on the flowage. Video cameras and recorders were placed at several nest sites last spring. They recorded egg laying to egg hatching to feeding the chicks and the chicks flying for the first time. We were hoping the tape would have been ready for our fall meeting. It was not, but will be shown at our Spring, 2003 meeting. The directors approved a donation to the DNR to help support the continuation of the osprey research next year. Please see the photos and article on Page 6 for more details.

The WDNR conducted fish shocking in late October to check the 2002 walleye hatch. The preliminary data indicated a strong hatch. The report will be available in the near future at the Mercer ranger station.

The WDNR is also doing a loon study in the area. They are developing a population estimate for loons in Iron, Vilas, Oneida and Forest Counties, and then testing the possible effects of stressers such as recreational boating, shoreline development and mercury. This summer's study lakes included: French, Mirror, Deer, Trude, and a number of Mercer lakes. For two additional years, a random sample of lakes will be studied each summer. The goal is to make an accurate estimate for the future of loons in our area and make recommendations that can keep the loon population healthy.

Several of the boat landings have been improved this past summer. Those not completed will be finished next season. The kiosks are also a reality and received good public acceptance.

Roger Jasinski and his crew are working hard to improve and maintain the area and doing a bang-up job. I try to talk to a lot of users at the boat landing and on the water and hear many positive reports. Dennis O'Brien is also continuing to maintain clean, usable campsites for the campers and doing an ambassador's job of helping any and all flowage users. When you get the chance, thank these folks. Oh, and by the way, be sure to read the article Dennis wrote on Page 2 entitled "The Summer Season in Review."

I understand and agree fishing has been about average with bluegill and smallmouth coming on fast. If the flowage isn't known as a top smallmouth water now, it soon will be. It could be that catch and release is helping this happen.

In closing, I want to thank Liz and Frank Kilgore for handling the purple loosestrife survey. It was a success again. I also want to commend the newsletter team, great job! If the opportunity presents itself, suggest to users you meet that our lake and area is one of a kind. Ask them to protect it and keep it clean for the future. Finally, ask your flowage or Trude lake neighbors to join the association, if they don't already belong. Also, ask your non-property owner friends to join the special-members club.

Thank you.

Flowage Update

Fishermans Landing

As of October 10, 2002, the contract for redoing the boat landing has been awarded and hopefully work will begin this fall. Look forward to the new landing in early 2003.

The Summer Season in Review

By Dennis OBrien

As the 2002 camping season winded down, President Wanta asked me to describe camping issues for this and previous years and to reflect upon my observations of visitors' comments and conduct.

Our visitors seem to represent every socio-economic status and each year brings people from farther distances to take advantage of this unique recreational opportunity. A demographic survey of license plates at the six state-owned boat landings represented 38 states including Alaska. Two provinces from Canada were also recorded.

Coins from Mexico, Canada and Russia have been found while cleaning campsites. This year I met citizens from Sweden, Korea, England and Denmark. For the past two years, a wildlife photographer from Italy with a great interest in the loons came to the flowage to photograph loons and wildlife of the Flowage.

In previous years we have had a wedding party from Germany and many visitors from Russia, Poland and other Eastern European countries. I even observed an elaborate Eastern European samovar* cooking over a campfire for preparing coffee or tea. It has been necessary for me to be sensitive to the visible apprehension displayed by some of these people at being approached by a law enforcement officer.

The biggest part of my job involves trying to make contact with as many visitors as possible to inform them of camping regulations, to inquire if they have any concerns and to observe if there are any violations or problems in progress. My contacts number around 2000 each season. I make my presentation friendly and brief except in circumstances where there is a violation in progress.

The violation that I encounter most frequently is exceeding limits of the number of campers at a site. Because over-numbering, in violation of regulations outlined in NR 45 of the state administrative code, has become a chronic problem we have adopted a zero tolerance approach. The main issues here are the overuse of our fragile pit toilet system and compacting of soil in the campsites causing damage to tree roots and erosion on the banks.

Another frequent problem I encounter is burning garbage in the fire rings, which are intended for cooking and campfires only. An associated problem is when campers leave refuse in the fire ring at the conclusion of their vacation. Not only is this a litter violation, but also it creates a health hazard for the next visitors to come who would cook dinner over the remains of tin, plastic, aluminum and batteries.

One last problem I will mention which is quite common is the practice of using nails, lag bolts, ladder hangers, screws and other hardware pounded into trees. This is usually done to hang lanterns and secure tarps. This causes injury to the trees and opens them up to disease. One person even brought lineman's boot spikes to allow him to climb high in the trees to secure a tarp with nails.

I still occasionally find people who have cut live trees for firewood or for poles to support tarps. This has always been a zero tolerance issue. Looking back on the past nine years the problem of chain saw use by campers on the Flowage has diminished to one or two incidents in the last several years. Nine years ago chain saws seemed to be standard gear for campers.

I believe that none of the people who engage in these violations come to the Flowage with the intention of causing damage, but just seem to lose sight of what it was that lured them to come here. However, the negative impact on the resource is the same no matter what the motivation. We all hope that with the kiosks at the landings, regulations posted, and brochures available, many of these problems will decline in the future. Despite the problems, the fact is that the overwhelming majority of our visitors are wonderful guests and appreciate the opportunity to enjoy this unique piece of state property. Many people have verbalized to me how very much they appreciate having this wonderful place to come, whether they are here for the first time or are frequent visitors.

Just how much people enjoy this property and how determined they can be was illustrated a few years ago by a husband and wife camping at C-7. She was waiting by their cell phone for a kidney transplant call and performing her dialysis twice a day with a portable machine on the island.

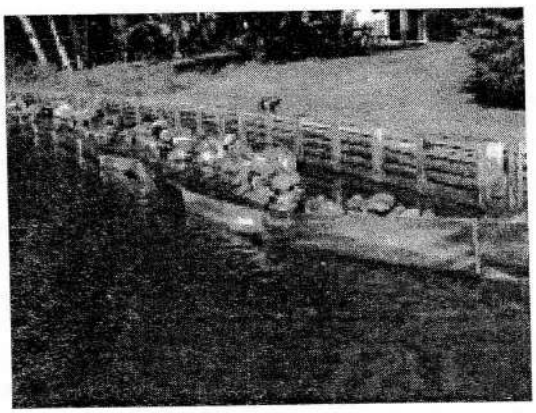
Helping us to make this small camping community, with a transient population, work smoothly are the residents of the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area who function as my eyes and ears, alerting me to problems and directing me to people in need of assistance. Please contact me anytime at home, at the office or on the water with any concerns.

Dennis O'Brien
WDNR Ranger-Enforcement
Office 715- 476-7846
Home 715-339-3217

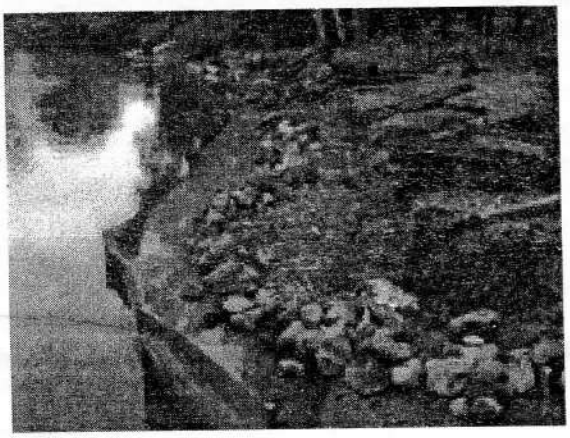
** A Samovar is described in the dictionary as being "a metal urn with a spigot used to boil water for tea."*

Shoreline Habitat Restoration on Flowage First in Iron County

By MaryJo Gingras



In September, Tom Mowbray, a private shoreland owner on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron Counties Land Conservation Department (ABDI-LCD) in Ashland, Wisconsin to develop the first Lakeshore Stabilization and Habitat Restoration project in Iron County.

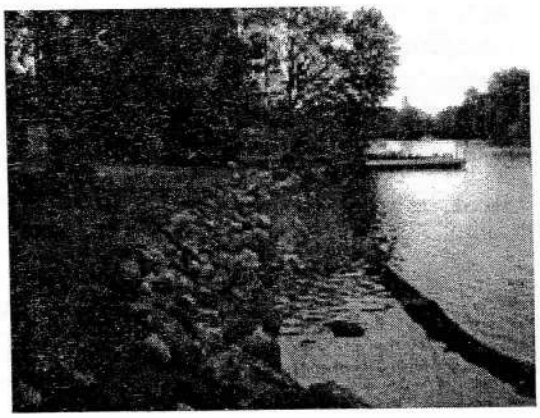


Shoreline Habitat Restoration seeks to restore the functions provided by the original, natural vegetation, or buffer. These include: filtering and reducing the amount of pollutants and sediment entering the water; improving littoral (near shore) habitat for fish, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic insects; providing habitat for birds and wildlife; and providing a natural screen for aesthetics and privacy. The shoreline buffer is a zone of native vegetation that extends from the high water mark inland. Shoreline buffer restoration must consist of a variety of native trees, shrubs and ground covers.

Mowbray's project required the technical assistance of the NRCS with the removal of a 125-foot old wooden sea wall, bank shaping and sloping and installation of stabilization techniques. In addition, the ABDI-LCD gave recommendations for restoring about 3,500 square feet of Mowbray's lakeshore with a variety of trees, shrubs, forbs and wildflowers native to Northern Wisconsin.

The ABDI-LCD is in the process of developing educational resources for shoreline landowners. These include "A Landowner's Guide for Shoreline Buffer Restoration in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron Counties" and a full color resource guide to "Shoreline Habitats in Northern Wisconsin." Please feel free to contact the ABDI-LCD with questions or regarding shoreline restoration, water quality, shoreline erosion, or any other conservation issues at 715-682-7187.

Let this project be the first in an effort to restore our shores in Iron County and to protect our greatest resource.



Association to Donate Funds

At the October 12th Lake Association meeting, the Board of Directors voted to donate $100 to a WDNR program studying osprey food habitat on the Flowage. The WDNR is banding and video taping at nest locations in an effort to determine the cause for a drop in osprey numbers on the Flowage in recent years. The program is in need of outside funding due to current budget constraints. The Association also volunteered to help with the construction of osprey nest platforms.

On a second topic, the Board passed a motion to donate $200 to WAL's legal fund for their dockominium case. It was stated that WAL still owes $40,000 in legal fees for the seven-year court battle. A three-to-three tie in voting occurred when the initial motion to donate $100 was amended to $200. The tie was broken by Association President Arlen Wanta, who voted in favor of the amended amount.

Association Tests Flowage Nutrient Content

By Jim Leever

Our last newsletter contained an overview of the Association's water quality testing activities on the Flowage. Mainly, the article described our initial impressions based on observations taken from testing water clarity, dissolved oxygen, and water temperature. Lake turnover conditions were noted. As our program moved forward, we graduated to chemical testing. In addition to the above, we are now testing for phosphorus and chlorophyll, which measure the nutrient level of the Flowage.

Background on Nutrients

Nutrients — the more the better, right? We all know that nutrients are essential for plant growth. We may even add some to our gardens and lawns in the form of fertilizers. They make plants grow bigger and lawns grow thicker. But, too many nutrients in a lake can spell disaster. We have all seen or heard of lakes that have little or no open water — just aquatic weeds. The reason for this is generally nutrients in the water stimulating excessive plant growth. There are many causes for high nutrient levels in lakes, many of which are difficult to identify with most being difficult to control. However, there are two causes that we *can* control:

(1) grass fertilizer runoff, and

(2) septic system contamination.

By maintaining a buffer zone between your lawn and the shoreline, by limiting or stopping completely the use of lawn fertilizers, and by routinely having your septic system checked, these harmful nutrient sources can be kept to a minimum. It may be the price we all have to pay for that beautiful lake view.

How's Our Nutrient Level?

The nutrient level on the Flowage is "OK", but not great. We measure nutrients in the deepest part of Baraboo Lake (the deepest lake in the Flowage). Without getting too technical, we can say lakes are classified as *low*, *medium*, and *high* nutrient. In general, a good balance of clear water, good fish populations, and healthy plant growth, exists in the medium, or **mesotrophic**, nutrient range. The highest nutrient classification, the **eutrophic state**, is characterized by high weed production. The eutrophic state can support large fish populations, but is susceptible to oxygen depletion and winterkill, and promotes rough fish.

We're just beginning to evaluate our nutrient test data, and more data are needed to get a true picture. From our initial results, we seem to lie at the upper edge of the mesotrophic state, bordering on the high nutrient eutrophic state. During our midsummer tests, water clarity dropped to less than 5 feet. These results, supported by corresponding phosphorus results, put us in the early stages of the eutrophic state. According to our references, however, several temporary conditions such as long hot spells and low rainfall can influence summer results. Therefore, the most uniform and reliable data for making year-to-year comparisons are found in spring and fall. During these periods we fare better. Based on limited data, our test areas tend to be in the medium nutrient range.

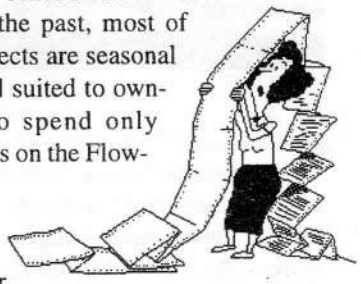
Oh, by the way, the low nutrient state is called the **oligotrophic** state. Now that's a mouthful!

We're Not the Experts

Like all other Self-Help volunteers, we rely on the WDNR for guidance. Water quality experts Sandy Wickman and Jennifer Filbert provided our onsite training and continue to provide technical assistance. We thank them for their time and patience!

Are You on Our List?

As our Lake Association continues to grow and develop, so does our list of projects and activities! In each instance, a project leader contacts individual members to ask for help, explains the project's objective and specifies the extent of help needed. To streamline this procedure, we would like to be able to provide each project leader with a list of potential volunteers. When the membership renewal form comes out in Spring, 2003, it will include a checklist of activities where help is needed. As you fill out the form please look over the checklist, give it some thought, and indicate which activity you would be willing or able to take part in. We will, of course, take into account your availability at the time of request and try to work around individual schedules. As we've said in the past, most of our projects are seasonal and well suited to owners who spend only summers on the Flowage. Please consider adding your name to one of our lists.



Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to the following people who became members of the Association in 2002:

Rick Heinritz
Bill and Karen Kagel
Marvyn and Carole Moody
Jim and Carol Swanson
Nick Leever

A Fishing Story

by Arlen and Grace Wanta

About forty or forty-five years ago Ernie and Helen McCuen began managing Westphal's Northwoods Resort on Little Musky Lake in Springstead. As so often happens, their friends and relatives began vacationing at the resort. After a few years Ernie and Helen's relatives started a family-fishing club. They named it by using the first letter of each last name. Eventually the club became known as the MCC-B-WHIPDEM All Pro Fishing Club. Over the years folks came from all parts of the U.S. to fish the flowage. I can't tell about all the wonderful times enjoyed on these trips, but I will tell you that Grace and I had a trailer parked at Westphal's for several years and got to be friends with many of the guests. To our surprise we were invited to join a few years ago, and this invitation grew into the greatest fishing week anyone could ever dream about.

Over the years some of the original members passed on and younger folks joined the club. This year Bob and Maxine McGriff and their son Mike and daughter Pat were here from California. Eileen Carpenter, and her daughter and son-in-law, Carole and Gus Dattilo, were here from St. Louis. Jim and Gail Schee from Iowa were also here. Nine of us began fishing on Sunday and fished through Friday, about eight hours per day, stopping only for lunch. Max is eighty-seven years young, and his kid sister Eileen is eighty-two. That is dedicated fishing! We caught and released many fish and had a fish fry.

Thursday evening is the club picnic and business meeting. The meeting is called to order by the president who writes the president's letter. The secretary does all the work. Each year a club member is assigned one of the following duties. The boat coordinator makes sure we have boats and a captain for each boat. Each captain stays with his boat all week, with everyone else rotating between boats each day. The bait coordinator makes sure we have live bait. The fishing contest coordinator keeps the bets straight, collects money and pays up. The weight coordinator counts, measures and weighs the fish. The fish coordinator cleans and packs the fish. These are very demanding positions and require complete concentration.

On Friday evening, we all say good-by for another year. Everyone heads home on Saturday, relives the memories and dreams about next year when the fishing will be better. By the way, we went to Arkansas for a couple years when Ernie and Helen retired and moved there. We didn't catch any fish but the fun and companionship was the same as it would have been if we had caught fish. Wouldn't it be great if everyone could belong to a MCC-B-WHIPDEM All Pro Fishing Club?

Non-Resident Memberships Now Available

As reported earlier, the Association is now offering limited membership to non-resident Flowage users. A change in the Association's by-laws, which was approved by the Board of Directors, created this special membership classification. Special members have the same standing as lakeshore property owners, but cannot hold a Board position, vote in Board elections or on binding referenda.

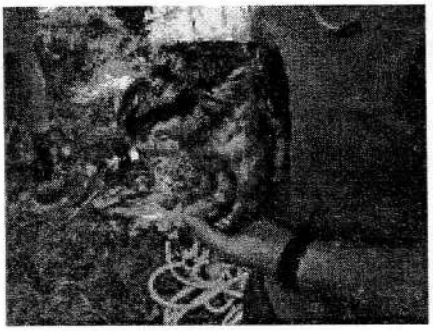
The rationale for this new membership classification is to open our Association to people who do not have a residence on the Flowage, but value this precious resource and share our commitment to stewardship and conservation.

Special membership forms, with an introductory letter, will be used for the initial sign-up. Special members will be offered annual renewal on a standard membership form. This new classification may be of particular interest to family and friends of property owners who frequent the Flowage, and would like to keep in touch with Association news and activities.

Northern Lights

By Frank Kilgore

The other night I watched a very bright aurora borealis from eleven pm to midnight (Saturday, September 7). From our dock, looking north over the trees, the sky was so bright it looked like early dawn. I went out on the lake and floated on open water to watch. The aurora rose from the west up through the big dipper (ursa major) and continued to the eastern horizon. At first, the appearance was like a very bright milky way but a gradual transformation changed the aurora to bright vertical curtains of light that moved along the arc. Other boats were also on the water observing the display.



Lights! Camera! Osprey!

If you have ever been nervous about trends in surveillance technology, be thankful you aren't an osprey! This summer, two osprey nests on the TFF, one on Trude Lake and two nests on lakes in Mercer were the focus of an intensive video study initiated by the WDNR. Bruce Bacon, at the Mercer Ranger Station, was in charge of the project. Its goals were to identify possible reasons for low chick survival on the flowage. Over the past few years, nests on the flowage seemed to produce fewer chicks than on other inland lakes. The two Mercer lakes in the study were Bluegill and Echo.

The cameras were aimed at the nests and took photos every few seconds. The film cassettes were changed every few days and then Bacon and a WDNR student intern could review the footage. The cameras were powered by batteries, which also had to be changed every few days. In addition to the video monitoring, two Northland College students conducted observations of the nests. Their goal was to try to document connections between events on the video footage and disturbances farther from the camera. For example, if an adult osprey was seen leaving the nest on film, the Northland students could perhaps identify a cause such as an eagle flying nearby.

An initial question that the WDNR hoped to examine was whether the chicks on the flowage received as many food deliveries as the chicks on lakes nearby. They also hoped to identify any other factors influencing chick production and survival. Initial data found that the osprey feed chicks a variety of species including: bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, perch, northern pike, smallmouth bass, white sucker, walleye and musky. The cameras were able to document occurrences such as two chicks falling out of the nest. Currently, the data from this study are being analyzed and a second field season may be conducted. For additional results on this work, look for future newsletter articles.

Updated Rules for Shoreland Development

by Tom Mowbray

The Wisconsin DNR has recently announced an effort to update Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115 which governs shoreland development across the State. The current version of NR115, adopted in the mid-1960's, set standards for things like minimum lot sizes, setbacks from the water for structures, shoreland vegetation management, ability to remodel/expand non-conforming structures and many other aspects of shoreland property ownership. Under the current rules, which apply to all land within 1000 feet of lakes and 300 feet of rivers, each county had to adopt a shoreland zoning ordinance which met or exceeded the state standards in NR115.

As you can imagine, shoreland management is a balancing act, trying to protect natural resources while respecting the rights of individual property owners. In ongoing efforts to find this balance, many counties have, or are in process of, updating their shoreland ordinances. Unfortunately, the current NR115 rules limit local flexibility and innovation rather encouraging it.

In order to find a better balance in the updated rules, the DNR is forming a broad-based 22 member advisory committee to review current standards and develop a range of options for new standards. These options will be based on the latest scientific knowledge and rapidly changing shoreland development trends. The advisory committee will focus on four main issues: (1) shoreland buffers and setbacks, (2) development density, (3) non-conforming structures, and (4) flexibility and mitigation.

The timetable is to have the new rule package ready for public input sessions in fall 2003, followed by formal public hearings during winter 2003 and spring 2004. Before any new rules can go into effect, they first must be approved by the Natural Resources Board, then approved by Wisconsin Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

Lake Association members are encouraged to keep watch on this rule making process and offer their opinions and thoughts at public input sessions and public hearings. To help understand the complex issues under consideration, please visit the DNR's shoreland management web site at: *http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/title.htm*.

Dockominiums

WAL Wins After 7 Years in Court

A 7-year legal battle between Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) and Geneva Lakes Limited Partnership (ABKA) ended on July 16, 2002 with a decisive victory for WAL and all of Wisconsin lakes. This is the third article on the Dockominium issue. The first two commentaries appeared in the Spring/Summer newsletters 2001 and 2002, respectively.

A Review of Past Events

This case began in 1995 when ABKA applied for a permit to sell the boat slips at its Geneva Lake marina for up to $70,000 each. In order to do so, ABKA set up a scheme wherein purchasers would buy a post office box located on land. This 4x5x6 inch lock box carried with it the rights to a portion of Geneva Lake large enough to dock a boat at a pier. It called this scheme a dockominium, or a condominium of the lake. The Geneva Lakes Conservancy objected to this permit application because the scheme authorized the sale of lakes which, according to the Public Trust Doctrine, belong to the people of Wisconsin. WAL joined the battle soon after, making a statement that Wisconsin lakes are an important resource for everyone, not just those who would buy pieces of them.... dockominiums are an unconstitutional sale of Wisconsin lakes.

WAL has long objected to projects of this type, which turn lakes into super highways or which destroy the near-shore habitat necessary for fish and invertebrate reproduction. Lakes can only withstand a certain amount of pressure, and when the pressure on a lake exceeds its carrying capacity, the lake is destroyed for everyone. The Wisconsin Supreme Court rendered a decision that the dockominium form of ownership violated the Public Trust Doctrine because it transfers ownership of public waters to private individuals. The court stated that it is widely accepted and self evident that the public waters of this state belong to the public. The public is entitled to the full reasonable use and enjoyment of these waters, including the enjoyment that comes with the natural beauty of the waters. One can easily imagine the damage to the aesthetic appeal of our lakes if this concept is allowed. The court further stated that PO boxes were "phantom units" which do not meet the correct definition of a condominium.

The Madison attorney who represented WAL was quoted as saying... "This is a decisive victory for the people of the state of Wisconsin. The high court has refused to allow Wisconsin's lakes to be subdivided and sold to the highest bidder for private profit. Were dockominiums legal, they would spread like wildfire throughout the state ruining water quality and harming fishing."

Hooray for WAL, Hooray for Geneva Lakes Conservancy, Hooray for all of us who care about our beautiful lakes!!

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
July 17, 2002
Wisconsin Assoc. of Lakes
July 16, 2002

WAL News Available via E-Mail

Wisconsin Association of Lakes now has an e-newsletter called the "WAL e-Lake Letter." You can sign up to receive it once a month by going to the WAL website at www.wisconsinlakes.org. From there you can get to the e-Lakes Letter sign up. This service is free, and anyone can sign up.

Purple Loosestrife, 2002

by Frank and Liz Kilgore

This August, volunteers from the Turtle Flambeau Flowage-Trude Lake Property Owners Association did the annual purple loosestrife survey. Loosestrife was found near Sturgeon Bay Landing and near the mouth of Grant Creek. These locations are the same areas loosestrife was seen last year. Loosestrife was also seen in and near the Manitowish River from the bridge on Highway 47/182. All sightings were reported to Bruce Bacon at the Mercer DNR station. WDNR crews removed the plants.

Survey work consists of closely following the shoreline in a boat and looking for purple loosestrife. It is not a native flower, is very invasive and where not controlled will totally dominate a wetland. During August, notice that the marshes at the West end of Chequamegon Bay, near Ashland, where Highway 13 heads towards Bayfield, are showing increasing amounts of loosestrife. You might also notice it in the median of I-39 between Stevens Point and Wausau.

Tom Mowbray, Paul and Eileen Gottwald, Diane and Jeff O'Krongly, Kal and Joyce Patzer, Arlen and Grace Wanta, Roger and Donna Belongia, Wally and Sally Dodge, and Frank and Liz Kilgore participated in the survey this year.

Some comments heard: "there were fewer wild flowers seen along the shore this year," and "don't go looking for loosestrife on a very windy day!"

Award Presentation

As an expression of the Association's gratitude for their dedication and work on the Flowage, President Arlen Wanta presented plaques to DNR Ranger Dennis O'Brien and his wife Melanie. Dennis is an unswerving presence on the Flowage and does an above and beyond job on the waters and at campsites. Melanie spends many hours each summer assisting Dennis in this work. As a volunteer, her efforts are greatly appreciated. The Flowage is fortunate to have them both! The award(s) read as follows:

Awarded to
Ranger Dennis O'Brien
June 15, 2002

By the Turtle Flambeau-Trude Lake Property Owners Association in recognition and appreciation of his dedication to protecting and maintaining the Turtle Flambeau Flowage for all to enjoy

Awarded to
Melanie Eklof O'Brien
June 15, 2002

By the Turtle Flambeau-Trude Lake Property Owners Association for her many volunteer hours spent maintaining and protecting the Turtle Flambeau Flowage for all to enjoy

Calendar of Events

This pull-out page was formatted for your convenience so you could post it on your bulletin board or refrigerator

North Lakeland Discovery Center

Are you looking for some wintertime entertainment? Check out these activities offered by the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters. The Discovery Center is a non-profit education organization specializing in outdoor, environmental and cultural programs. For more information on their programs, you can contact them at 715-543-2085.

Monday, December 2 — Stories in Snow Tracking

Have you ever wondered what kind of animals are battling the cold winter nights of the northwoods? Here's your chance to participate in a Vilas County tracking survey and see who is moving around in your neighborhood. 7:00am to 9:00am.

Saturday, December 14 — Waxing Clinic

Brush up your waxing techniques before the ski season gets in full swing. Learn basic waxing techniques, equipment and how to read snow conditions. 10:00am. Bring your skis. Cost: $5.00.

Thursday, December 19 — Full Moon Ski

Join us for a leisurely ski on the Discovery Center trails. Refreshments provided. 6:00pm. Cost: $5.00.

Friday, December 27 — Snowshoe Walk

A guided interpretive walk on the Discovery Center grounds. The walk lasts approximately one hour. All ages and abilities welcome. 11:00am. Cost $5.00.

Friday, December 27 — Friday Social Ski Begins

Don't miss out! Every Friday from 3:00pm to 6:00pm join us for a casual ski. No guide provided; just bring your friends or meet them here. Afterward, enjoy refreshments in our cozy warming room. Suggested donation: $5.00

Sunday, December 29 — Wolf Howling

Travel deep into wolf territory for an evening howling survey. Learn how wolves communicate and what different howls mean. Transportation is provided by the Discovery Center. 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost: $10.00.

Tuesday, January 7, 2003 — Brown Bag Lecture

Boulder Junction Library. Noon.

Wednesday, January 8 — Soup and Ski

Every other Wednesday, enjoy a ski on the Discovery Center trails followed by hot homemade soup in the warming room. 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Cost: $5.00.

Saturday, January 11 — Intro to Snowshoeing

Get familiar with various types and styles of snowshoes. Try out a few pairs and find out what is most comfortable for you. 10:00am. Cost: $5.00.

Monday, January 13 — Winter Ecology Snowshoe Hike

Have you ever stared out your window and wondered how the plants and animals survive in this harsh environment? Explore a winter wonderland on this guided winter ecology hike. Bring snowshoes. 10:00am to Noon. Cost $7.00.

Thursday, January 16 — Full Moon Snowshoe

Join us for an evening snowshoe under the light of the moon. Refreshments provided. 6:00pm. Cost: $5.00.

Friday, January 17 — Wolf Howling Survey

Travel deep into wolf territory for an evening howling survey. Learn how wolves communicate and what different howls mean. Transportation provided by the Discovery Center. 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost. $10.00.

Tuesday, January 21 — Brown Bag Lecture

Manitowish Waters Library. Noon.

Wednesday, January 22 — Soup and Ski

See January 8 description.

Friday, January 31 — Wolf Tracking

Wolf populations in Northern Wisconsin are on the rise, which makes tracking them an exciting event. Join us as we explore the behavior of a wolf pack and learn the true facts about wolves. Bring snowshoes and warm clothes. A limited number of snowshoes will be for rent at the center for $10.00. 8:00am to 11:00am. Cost: $10.00.

Tuesday, February 4 — Brown Bag Lecture

Manitowish Waters Library. Noon.

Wednesday, February 5 — Soup and Ski

See January 8 description.

Tuesday, February 11 — Owl Calling

February is mating season for the night hunters of the northwoods. Come along on an owl calling snowshoe hike through the old growth forest. Learn how to call owls or just tune up your skills. See if you can call in an owl. 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Cost: $5.00.

Saturday, February 15 — Full Moon Ski

Join us for a leisurely ski on the Discovery Center trails. Refreshments provided. 6:00pm. Cost: $5.00.

Tuesday, February 18 — Brown Bag Lecture

Presque Isle Library. Noon.

Wednesday, February 19 — Soup and Ski

See January 8 description.

Friday, February 21 — Fisher Hike

Come along as we track the second largest weasel in Wisconsin, the fisher. Using radio telemetry, we'll explore the movements of a female fisher and learn what type of habitats fishers live in. Bring snowshoes and dress for the weather. Snowshoes can be rented from the center for $10.00. 8:00am to 11:00am. Cost: $10.00.

Tuesday, March 4 — Brown Bag Lecture

Boulder Junction Library. Noon.

Wednesday, March 5 — Soup and Ski

See January 8 description.

Monday, March 17 — St. Patty's Day Ski

Celebrate the Irish tradition of St. Patrick's Day at the Discovery Center. Ski or snowshoe, then stop in the warming room for "green" treats. 6:00pm. Cost: $5.00.

Tuesday, March 18 — Brown Bag Lecture

Lecture with Andy "Buckshot" Anderson. You may be familiar with the popular shore dinners of this long-time fishing guide, but his recently published book will leave you hungry for more. *The Last of a Dying Breed* is Anderson's first book about a 60-year avid outdoorsman from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. His old fashioned "know-how" helps him deal with adversity and lands him as an international hero. Winchester Library. Noon.

Wednesday, March 19 — Soup and Ski

See January 8 description.

Mercer Area Events

Note: All events subject to change or cancellation. Call ahead before travelling.

November 27-30 — Wreath Sale

Sale by MAHS. Fresh balsam wreaths for sale at Snow's IGA, Highway 51, Mercer. 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Sunday, December 28 — Ice Fishing Jamboree

Sponsored by Flambeau Flowage Sports. Sturgeon Bay Boat Landing on TFF. Walleye or pan fish. Cost: $15.00. Dinner and awards at The Heart of the North Tavern, Mercer. To register call: 715-476-2526.

Saturday, February 22 — Ice Fishing Jamboree

Sponsored by TFF Association. Donner's Bay Resort. Contest starts at 8:00am. Food at 10:00am. Prizes and raffle drawing at 4:00pm. For more information call: 715-476-2555.

Price County/Park Falls Area

Tuesday, December 2 — Annual Tree Lighting

The annual tree lighting ceremony and arrival of Santa will begin at 7:00pm. Steuber Pavilion, Park Falls. For information call 715-762-3895.

Tuesday, December 2 — Trails Open

Price County Snowmobile Trails Open. Call for trail conditions. 1-800-269-4505 or 715-339-4505.

Tuesday, December 2 — Bow Season Opens

White Tail Deer Bow Late Season Opens. Contact 715-762-3204 for information.

Sled Dog Races — Park Falls

For details and exact location call: Ann Janderoa at 715-762-1306.

January 4-5, 2003 — Junior Program Kids Practice.

January 11-12 — First Race

January 15-16 — Flambeau International Dog Sled Classics

February 22-23 — Third Race

Minocqua/Arbor Vitae/Woodruff Area

Sunday, November 23 — Deer Rifle Season Opener

Saturday, November 30 — Eighth Annual Christmas in Torpy Park, Lighting of Christmas Village.

For details call: 1-800-446-6784.

Friday, December 14 — Holiday Enchantment

Minocqua. Santa, Sleigh Rides, Christmas Carols, etc. Call 715-356-5266 for information.

December — Lakeland Ice Arena Open Skating

TBA. Call for schedule at 715-356-6762.

Wednesday, December 31 — Fireworks

Bundle up friends and family for the New Year's Eve fireworks display in winter night sky. For information call 715-356-5266.