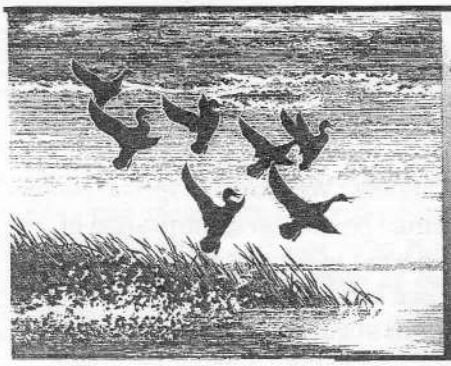


Turtle Flambeau Flowage - Trude Lake

Property Owners' Association, Inc.

Spring/Summer July, 2004

President's Letter

Summer has finally arrived; at least it seems like summer one day out of three. I'm sure the weather will improve, and the walleye will bite on Rapala's soon. Here are some highlights of our winter's accomplishments.

Rest Lake Dam

Three meetings of the Rest Lake Dam/Manitowish River Work Group have been held. The purpose of these meetings is to study the operation of the dam at Manitowish Waters, develop information, and to determine options for the future. If you are curious about the issue, see last fall's newsletter for background information. There are several groups participating in the work group including the Friends of the Manitowish River, the Town of Manitowish Waters, the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, our association, Xcel Energy, UW-Stevens Point, the Manitowish Waters Alliance, and the WDNR.

Each meeting provided information, from the dam's history to present day operation. The dam's main function is to control the water levels in the Manitowish Chain so that it can act as a storage reservoir. Historically, in the fall, the water levels have been drawn down three to six feet below summer pool level. When this happens, the river tends to flood and the water level in the Turtle Flambeau raises by about a foot. In spring when 75% of the ice is off the Manitowish Chain, the water levels are again raised to full pool. This water level regime dates back to a 1937 agreement. The main goal of our discussions is to consider ways regulate the dam to incorporate river and lake ecology with the needs of people above and below the dam.

In addition to water levels, information was provided about fish movement in the river, water flow and depth and the relation of water flow to aquatic organisms and fish. There are studies underway this summer on sturgeon and other fish. This is an ongoing project and will require time and commitment before any decisions are made. Minutes of the meetings are available, if you are interested call me.

Group Campsite Discussions

Another issue we are involved in is a discussion of campsite capacity for the TFF. The DNR brought together a group to consider changes to group campsites. At the meeting a possible option was developed which would reduce crowding and provide for better outhouse maintenance. All the meeting attendees felt that the natural wilderness condition of the flowage should be retained; however we felt that an additional group site was needed. No decision or approval was made at this time on the proposal. See the article by Roger Jaskinsky on Page 9 for further details.

Walleye Watch

This year's Walleye Watch was conducted for nine evenings. Thanks are extended to all who participated!

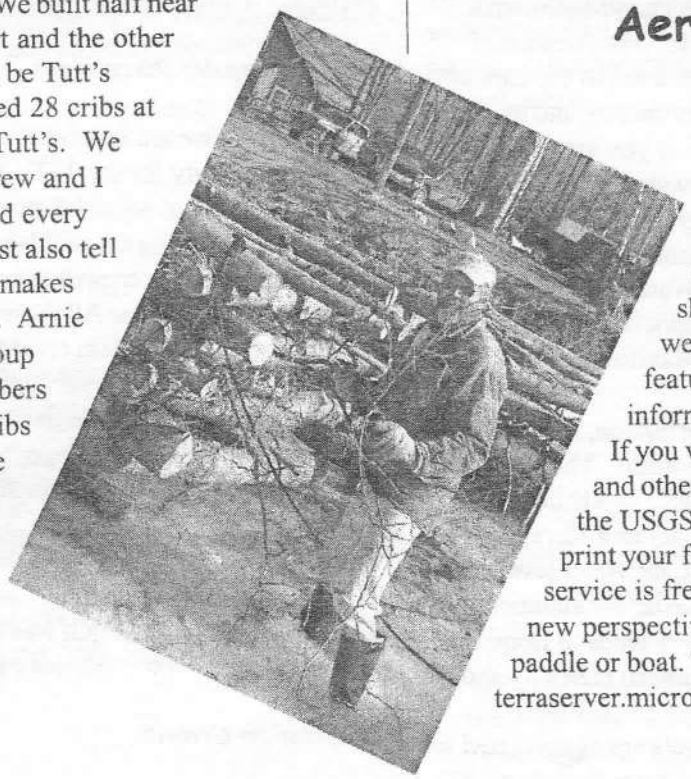
Association Growth

Our Association is growing, with addition of several

new members this year. We also have several folks in the "supporting member" category and requests for information from a number of businesses. This increased interest can be credited in large part to the publicity and good feelings generated by the crib building project. As part of that initiative, several association members spent opening morning of the fishing season giving golf cart rides at Springstead Landing. We provided cart rides from cars to the landing as well as coffee, cookies and literature on the fish cribs, the association and other educational materials. Thanks to Tom Mowbray, and Kalvin and Joyce Patzer, for golf cart rides, and to all who made cookies.

Fish Crib Project

The long winter was broken up with another successful crib building project. We built half near the Dead Horse Resort and the other half near what used to be Tutt's Resort. We constructed 28 cribs at Deadhorse and 17 at Tutt's. We had a hard-working crew and I want to thank each and every one who helped. I must also tell you that Arnold Popp makes ***the best*** chicken soup. Arnie made a big kettle of soup for the the crew members who worked on the cribs that day, and they sure enjoyed it! Thank you Arnie. The cribs should be in place by the time you read this.



Invasive Species Program

The problem is, invasive species being introduced to Wisconsin lakes is very serious. We highlighted invasive species at our opening day booth at Springstead Landing. We provided special photo cards that instruct boaters on identification of invasives and ways to prevent transporting them from one lake to another. We will be discussing this at our annual meeting and hope to form an exotics committee or task force to prevent invasive species in the flowage. Please let us know if you can help with this project.

Remember to help build membership and provide your ideas on what you would like our association to become involved in. It is up to us to keep our lake clean for our children and for future visitors.

Thank you all.

Arlen Wanta, President

Aerial Photos On-Line

If you've ever gotten lost on the flowage or surrounding lands, an aerial photograph might be your salvation. Aerials show land contours, forest types, wetlands, logging roads and other features that a topographic map or informational map might not include. If you would like to look at the flowage and other lands using aerial photos, visit the USGS web site and you can view and print your favorite haunt. This government service is free of charge and may give you a new perspective on the landscape you hike, paddle or boat. The web site is http://terraserver.microsoft.com.

Tales of the Old Flambeau

By Richard Czeszewski

Editor's Note: This is the second installment in Richard's three-part series on Flowage life in the "good old days." If you have stories to share, contact us for a future Tales of the Old Flambeau column.

As I recall, it was the last weekend in Sept. 65', when I first felt this itch. I blamed the old woolen sweater that I had been wearing because the weather had been a little nippy. However, that wasn't it, the darn itch wouldn't go away. Then it hit me: sweater, last weekend in September, a little nippy, Ton-A-Mara (North Wind) was trying to tell me something! "Yep," the Flowage, that's what it is, the call of the flowage. Time to head north!

I managed to put two days and a long weekend together, took my fishing gear, and my clothes (including the woolen sweater that is still my favorite). I filled up the car with gas and took off. I knew my buddy Casey, who still had "Popko's" old resort, would find me a place to stay. That's what friends are for, right?

It didn't take me as long to get to the flowage in 65' as it had in 57'. I had a better car, better roads, and I knew where I was going.

It was no surprise to me when I got to the flowage, to see the breathtaking scenery. The majestic pines dominating the shorelines, with a background of blue sky and fluffy white clouds so low they seemed to be playing tag with the pine treetops. Just looking over my shoulder I could see the maples, aspens and any number of trees, beautiful beauty queens every one, showing off their pretty dresses of yellow, scarlet and tangerine.

While I was watching Mother Nature at her finest, I heard that barking sound up above, that big "V" barking their heads off were geese going south to greener pastures. I must admit it always brings a tear or two to my eyes as I see them fade into the horizon, I always hope they can find their way back.

Most of the resort owners and commercial people call this time of year "Colorama" or early autumn, but not me. To me, when that little nip fills the air, the days get a little shorter, the leaves rustle and float to the ground and haze covers the harvest moon - it means "Indian Summer."

On several occasions I had tried to buy a piece of property from Casey without any luck. This time when I brought it up, he told me that old man Schienebeck had passed on and there might be some property for sale on the Springstead side of the flowage.

I had already caught my limit of fish, plus a couple of bananas that I planned on using for shore lunch. Since it was still early, I decided to drive over to Springstead for a look-see.

Now I want to prepare you for a real experience, because rural people talk a little different than city people. I'll explain as I go along. I knew how to get to Mercer, but wasn't sure where to turn off "51" to get to Springstead. I decided to stop at the lumberyard just south of Mercer and ask the yard person about Springstead. He said, "No problem, it's just down the road a bit, then turn to your right and over the bridge on 182. Follow that until you see the sign for Springstead, you can't miss it." Well, a bit turned out to be anywhere from 3½ miles to 9 miles. I turned down two roads before I got to the bridge, drove another seven miles to get to a sign that told me I still had ten miles to Springstead. I think my yard man estimated distances as the crow flies.

I finally got to Springstead. There I found a general store with a gas pump and a lot of minnows and night crawlers, and that was it! However, the store had a sign in the window that said " United Farm Agency." Now that was a good sign (pardon the pun).

I went inside the store and inquired about the sign, but specifically about Leo's property. The young man introduced himself as "Sparky Larsen," and the pretty girl off to his side was his wife, Diana. I didn't want to sound like a green horn, so I responded that I was Richard "from up Mercer way." That did the trick, so now we can get down to business. Sparky suggested I go up to Leo's place, someone should be up there with more information about the property. So much for the United Farm Agency sign!

Now comes the kicker, I didn't know where Leo's place was, and I didn't want to go through the "you can't miss it, or just past the pine tree, or stay to the right just before the dirt road or its just down the road a bit." I walked over to the stool that was by the counter and sat down. I put my left elbow on the counter, and put my chin in the palm of my hand. I looked right at Sparky and said, "draw me a map." Sparky looked over at Diana; she was already looking at him with a little smile as she gave the "OK" sign to draw a map. I felt pretty good about the way I had handled myself until, as I was walking to the car, Sparky came up to me and said, "you can't miss it."

He was right. I found the place no problem, except for the flowage road. Getting up to Mrs. Seifert's place was not bad, the road was paved, but a little narrow. Going up to Leo's place was the problem, the road was

all gravel right up to his house, I would hate to have to walk any distance on that road.

As I neared the house I saw the flagpole with "Old Glory flying in the breeze, and then a big German Sheperd, barking to let me know that this is his territory. A voice called out from around the front of the house, "don't worry he won't bite, just say good dog a couple of times."

The voice belonged to Keith Schienebeck, Leo's nephew, who was sitting in a wheel chair, enjoying Mother Nature painting her picture for all to see. After a brief chat, the slight speech impediment and hand tremors dictated that we get right to the point for the visit. Keith's affliction with Parkinson's Disease was the primary reason the property was being put on the market.

Keith suggested I go see the lawyer who was handling Leo's estate. The directions he gave were short and without the if, and, or buts. The lawyer was in Park Falls, on second street, across the street from Gustafson's Grocery store, in back of the Cross Country Hardware store. Keith reassured me I couldn't miss it.

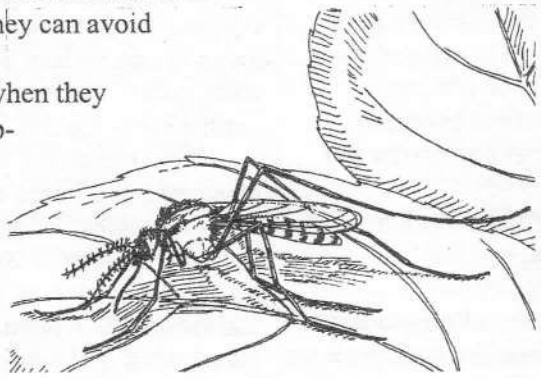
Hoping for a happy ending? Well – you'll need to stay tuned for the rest of the story when you'll hear if I found the lawyer, and what adventures I had along the way!

by Richard Czeszewski
Totem Pole Point

Beware the Mosquito!

Mosquito's have long been the target of north woods humor. Most of us have seen postcards of our surrogate state bird with its thin legs and long needle-like mouthparts. We have probably boasted about our extreme mosquito experiences, finessing the stories in exaggerated prose to make Paul Bunyan proud. These days however, mosquitoes are more than a laughing matter. They can carry West Nile Virus, which can cause significant health impacts for people. Flambeau Flowage residents and visitors should be aware of mosquito life cycles and of ways they can avoid exposure to West Nile.

Mosquitoes become infected when they bite birds infected by the virus. Approximately 138 bird species in North America have tested positive for infection. Birds of some species get ill and die while others become infected but do not show signs of the disease. There is growing evidence that raptors (hawks, owls) get the virus by eating infected prey. There is no evidence of increased mortality among waterfowl due to West Nile Virus.



It is advisable to avoid mosquito bites when possible. Many people will experience no effects of being bitten by a West Nile mosquito, but some people can develop flu-like symptoms, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, and rash. Systems usually show themselves after three to fourteen days. In a smaller percentage of people they can have serious symptoms requiring hospitalization. Illnesses can include encephalitis, meningitis, severe headaches, high fever, paralysis, muscle weakness, or convulsions. While it is rare, death or long-term neurological impairment is possible.

How can a north woods resident avoid these pesky and potentially dangerous insects? Wear clothing that covers skin. Stay indoors at dusk or dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Elderly people and those with weak immune systems should take extra precautions to avoid exposure. Repellents can help keep mosquitoes from biting. DEET-based repellents have been found to be effective. Always read and follow directions carefully. Hunters and others who contact birds directly should use gloves when handling live or dead birds to prevent blood to blood contact.

Ecologically, mosquitoes are essential to the aquatic and terrestrial food chain that keeps the Flambeau Flowage diverse and healthy. West Nile virus is an indirect result of our increasingly globalized world, where plants, animals, insects and viruses travel great distances and reek havoc on wildlife and human lifestyles. So, don't despair! Don your mosquito net, pick out your favorite fragrance from a host of repellents, and thoughtfully enjoy your days on the shore and water.

New Water Level Plan Possible for the Flowage

Editors Note: You may have heard rumors in the wind of possible changes in water levels for the flowage. We asked the power company for an update and were provided the following information:

Xcel Energy has proposed a new water level management regime for the Turtle- Flambeau Reservoir to the federal government. The new regime could be instituted as soon as the government responds to the proposal. The power company made the proposal late last year in lieu of conducting a rigorous federal hydropower licensing process that was imposed on the Turtle-Flambeau by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) several years ago.

According to the company, they have not pursued licensing the storage reservoir for several reasons:

- the uncertainty of new license terms and conditions that might be prescribed as a result of the licensing process,
- the high costs associated with acquiring the license, and
- the minimal energy gains that are realized at the downstream hydropower projects as a result of water releases from the Turtle-Flambeau.

The latter provides the only energy benefits that are derived from the reservoir, as the Turtle-Flambeau Dam itself is not equipped for hydropower production.

The new water level management plan for the reservoir, if instituted, would restrict seasonal drawdowns and other water level fluctuations to 1.5 feet. The company, while waiting for a response from the FERC on the proposal, restricted the depth of the winter drawdown to 3 feet and continued to evaluate other alternatives for managing the reservoir, including the possibility of going through the federal licensing process. The goal is to come up with a long-term management regime that, like in the past, will balance the needs of all river users and interests, both upstream and downstream from the Turtle-Flambeau Dam. For this summer, Xcel Energy intends to operate the reservoir within an approximate 1.5-foot operational band, unless dry weather dictates that more water should be released downstream.

By Lloyd Everhardt

Voluntary Quiet? Fact or Fantasy

A recent article in Wisconsin Trails magazine titled *"Shhh! Why Wisconsin needs a Quiet Zone"* features author Eric Ness on a "wilderness" canoe trip on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. He begins his article in this way: "Early morning on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage is a peaceful spectacle…It is our own little sea of tranquillity, and reminds me of many mornings in the vastness of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Then we hear the drone: a motorboat, flying at top speed from points south. As it rounds the corner of our island and comes into full view, the rough noise shatters the morning calm. We may as well have started up a lawn mower."

Ness goes on to cite a familiar litany of facts on the lack of non-motorized areas in Wisconsin and to highlight new information on the impacts of noise on human perceptions. For example, did you know that federal law regulates the noise allowed by semi- trucks but no such regulations apply to motorboats? Ness suggests that trucks would be quieter on our lakes than many motorboats and that if you were subjected to the level of sound from a motorboat in the workplace you would be required to wear earplugs.

Thinking back to the establishment of the TFF master plan, some will recall that there was a significant statewide interest in designating part of the flowage non-motorized. While the DNR or citizen advisory committee did not see this as a viable option, it did result in the establishment of a "voluntary quiet area." This area is roughly 1/5 of the Flowage and stretches from the narrows west of Blair Lake to Murray's Landing.

The master plan states, "The purpose of the designation is to establish an area for quiet sports. The department will display a map showing the location of the voluntary quiet area. Persons using the area would be asked, not required, to observe slow-no-wake operation of powerboats and pursue quiet camping and fishing activities. It would also discourage the use of radios, TV's, generators, etc., during the open water season only."

At a recent meeting of the Association, president Arlen Wanta expressed surprise that on the opening weekend of fishing there were many boaters traveling in the voluntary quiet area at high speeds. Canoers and kayakers who arrive at the flowage to experience this voluntary quiet are often surprised at the lack of "quiet." One wonders if the voluntary quiet area has any impact on boater behaviors. Perhaps the few people who travel at slow-no-wake speeds are simply more savvy about the hazards to navigation in that section of the flowage – which is rife with stumps and shallows.

Most users of the flowage tout its "wilderness" qualities and express desires to see those qualities maintained. However, the question of quiet and the use of motors is far more controversial. The upshot usually comes down to paddlers wanting nearly complete quiet and motorboaters accepting a higher level of noise for the convenience of accessibility. Because no enforcement or regulations apply, is it possible for the public to work cooperatively towards a quieter experience on that section of water? Perhaps the first step is to make a stronger educational push.

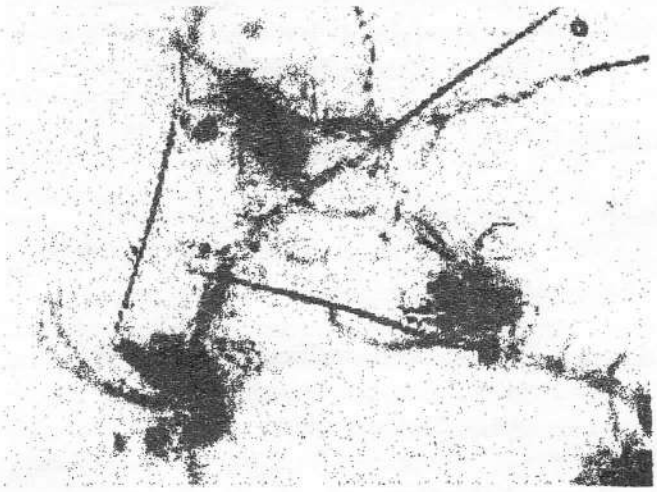
The DNR has shown the voluntary quiet area designation on maps with a thin red line. Roger Jaskinsky, Flowage Manager, has expressed an interest in ideas on better information at landings highlighting the quiet area. The association has discussed the option of marker buoys in the narrows by Blair Lake that would inform boaters of the designation. This would require town approval and some concerns about the aesthetics of buoys in a "wilderness" area have been expressed. However, perhaps a marker or two at the entry would make a significant difference on boater speeds and be worth the visual impacts. It might also inadvertently save on props and lower units if boaters were traveling at lower speeds.

Wisconsin Trails magazine asked for reader responses on the need for quiet zones in Wisconsin. We'd like to ask the same. Do you care about the voluntary quiet area? Would you like to see additional efforts to reduce noise pollution in that area, or beyond? How do you feel the concerns of powerboaters and silent sports advocates should be balanced? As our world becomes increasingly motorized these issues become more pressing. Visitation at Sylvania Wilderness in Michigan and the Boundary Waters increase each year. Conflicts over noise from ATV's, personal watercraft; even air boats and float planes make headlines. Eric Ness says, "Wisconsin has spent the last 50 years cashing in on its reputation as a wilderness escape. Its time to create some last bastion of wild silence…." What do you say?

By Terry Daulton

Invasive Spiny Water Flea Found in the Gile Flowage!

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reported last fall that invasive spiny water fleas (Bythotrephes cederstroemi) has invaded the Gile Flowage in Iron County, a first in Wisconsin's inland lakes. According to a US-Madison graduate student, water fleas are usually found in deeper, cleaner, and



colder lakes. The Gile Flowage, with a maximum depth of 25 feet and a surface area of 3,300 acres, doesn't fit the profile. Spiny water fleas were discovered in Lake Huron in 1984 and spread to all of the Great Lakes by 1987.

Like many invasive species, the spiny water flea threatens the abundance of native species by diminishing their food sources. It competes with small and juvenile fish by feeding on zooplankton. It also reproduces very quickly, depleting the food source, leaving few leftovers. And due to their barbed spines, many small fish cannot eat them.

Additional sampling on the Gile has shown that the spiny water fleas are abundant and reproducing throughout the lake. Their reproduction success and presence will make it easier for them to invade other inland lakes.

The DNR is working on educating the public about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. They have developed and posted guidelines at boat landings. The guidelines will help anglers and boaters to prevent the spiny water flea from spreading to other lakes:

1. Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat and equiment, including gel-like material from fishing lines.
2. Drain water from live well, bilge, motor, etc.
3. Dispose of extra bait in the trash.
4. Wash boat and equipment with high-pressure or hot water.
5. Dry boat and equipment for 5 days.

For more information, check the DNR website at www.dnr.state.wi.us.

"Take Me to the River" Art Show Features Northern Rivers

This year's Manitowish Riverfest will host a special art exhibition featuring the ecology, cultural history or aesthetics of northern rivers. The North Lakeland Discovery Center sponsors Riverfest, in Manitowish Waters.

Take Me to the River may be of special note to Flambeau Flowage residents and visitors. The flowage is fed by the Turtle and Flambeau rivers, along with numerous creeks and streams. Upstream from the flowage, the Manitowish River, namesake for the Riverfest, links us to our neighbors in the Manitowish Chain and beyond. In a curious way, the Flowage is like a broad moving river itself. A number of local artists will be creating original works for the show, including paintings, sculpture, fiber arts and more.

The art exhibition will be held on July 31 and August 1 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. A special awards reception will be held on the 31st at 4:00 p.m. with gourmet hors d'oeuvres and wine. For information on tickets for the reception please contact Tracy at 543-2085.

Other featured activities of the Riverfest will include canoe and kayak demonstrations, Paddle and Portage Race, birch-bark canoe rides, speakers series, children's games and activities, live music, food and more.

CHANGING WISCONSIN'S SHORELAND DEVELOPMENT

How much are our lakes worth? Many of us say they are priceless, although others have quantified their physical and intrinsic values.

One measure? **Tourism**. Wisconsin tourists spent an estimated $11.7 billion in 2002 and $11.4 billion in 2001. What were their memorable experiences? Water-related activities played heavily into the economics. The Wisconsin Department of Tourism recently surveyed Chicago and Twin City vacationers who ranked boating, fishing, and swimming as their #1, #2, and #3 most enjoyed summer vacation activities in Wisconsin. In addition, other economic studies have shown lakefront property values can increase by tens of thousands with enhanced water clarity.

Aside from economics, shoreland areas have many important values such as, protecting water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitat, and preserving natural beauty.

In the mid-1960's, lawmakers recognized the importance of shoreland areas. The Water Resources Act was enacted, mandating counties to adopt shoreland zoning ordinances to protect these sensitive areas. WI Administrative Code, Chapter NR 115 lists the minimum standards for shoreland activities including lot sizes, building setbacks, grading, and vegetative buffer requirements.

In the 30 years since these minimum standards first went into effect, development patterns and recreational use on lakes have changed. Small traditional summer cottages are rapidly being replaced with large, year-round residences and the number of homes along the shorelines has increased over 200% since the 60's. This increase in development has led to more activity, which impacts our waters.

Chapter NR 115 is a way to provide a balance to protect, use, and enjoy our lakes and rivers. The present standards under this rule are 37 years old and need to be clarified, updated, and defined to accommodate present use and development. Common issues and concerns include:

Shoreland buffers and setbacks

Current — Standards protect a 35-foot deep buffer of vegetation along the shore. Owners can clear 30 feet for access along every 100 feet of shore. Most structure setbacks are 75 feet.

Concerns — Vegetation removal standards are difficult for local governments to enforce and they do not take into account forestry and agriculture practices. Also, most studies recommend a 50-foot vegetated buffer to protect water quality and habitat.

Nonconforming structures

Current — Standards require counties to regulate structures that do not meet current regulations.

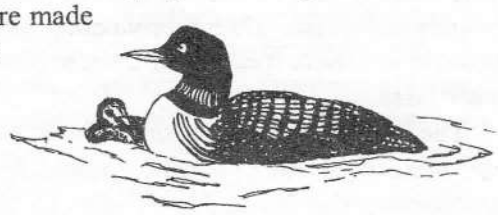
Concern — This standard is difficult to administer and track due to structure alterations and changes in ownership.

Development density

Current — Standards require an average minimum width of 65 feet on sewered lots and 100 feet on unsewered lots. Existing standards do not address impervious (hard) surfaces.

Concerns — Studies have shown that development at this rate accounts for fewer green frogs and native songbirds. Water quality is also degraded when a watershed exceeds 15% impervious surface.

A DNR Advisory Committee is conducting public hearings to focus on the proposed changes. Once the updates are made and approved by the Natural Resources board in the fall, then the rule will be sent to the legislature.



For more information, log on to:
www. dnr.state.wi.us

Master Plan Revisions Proposed

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

Last fall the Department of Natural Resources received a formal request from the *American Camper Association – Wisconsin* (ACA) to modify certain provisions of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area Master Plan that deal with group campsites. Currently the master plan provides for a total of 60 campsites; 58 are "family" sites that have an occupancy limit of no more than six unrelated persons and two are "group" sites where there is no occupancy limit. The ACA requested that more opportunities be provided for "group" camping.

The DNR's Division of Lands reviewed the ACA request and agreed to look at the issue to determine what, if any, changes could be made to improve group camping opportunities while pursuing the goals for the property. The goal statement in the original master plan reads:

Goal

To preserve the scenic qualities of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area; protect plant and wildlife communities, especially endangered and threatened species; provide interpretive and educational information; and accommodate compatible recreational opportunities for the general public.

A citizen advisory committee was formed to begin the process. The committee included Arlen Wanta representing the Property Owners Association as well as representatives from the ACA, other user groups, local government, and the original master plan advisory committee.

The committee met on March 26 to discuss issues related to the group sites as well as possible changes that might better meet our goals. The large demand for the two group sites and the difficulty securing a group campsite was a common theme heard from group site users. The discussion found most if not all committee members also expressing some common concerns such as maintaining the wild character of the property, noise concerns and not overusing the property or the campsites. Suggestions for possible changes included placing a limit on the number of persons allowed at the group campsites, making the group sites available to several small groups rather than one large group, and implementing a system of reservations and fees for the group campsites.

As a next step, specific alternatives will be developed. If association members have comments on the group site issue you can talk to Arlen Wanta as your representative on the advisory committee. Public comment will also be solicited once specific alternatives and recommendations are available.

by Roger Jasinski

Water Quality

– did you know . . .

One pound of phosphorus can produce 500 pounds of algae growth or aquatic plants in a lake! Studies have shown that for each acre of shore development with lawns, up to 1.6 pounds of total phosphorus may enter the lake.

Silence is one of the most important parts of a wilderness experience; without it the land is nothing more than rocks, trees, and water.

Sigurd F. Olson from "Reflections From the North Country"

Keeping the Flowage Quiet

Tips from Law Enforcement

Editor's Note: We asked Dennis to provide us with an update on current enforcement issues and these seemed to dovetail in with the quiet area issues:

I'd like to mention two enforcement issues that pertain to the State of Wisconsin owned lands of the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area.

First, an area of increasing concern is the illegal use of fireworks at campsites and other islands. DNR Administrative Code NR45(3)(L) prohibits the possession or discharge of any fireworks regulated by S.167.10(1) stats. This means firecrackers, bottle rockets, or any device manufactured to explode or emit sparks or combustion. This does not include sparklers 36" or shorter, snakes, or smoke producing devices. Basically, if it explodes on the ground, or flies into the air and explodes, it would be in violation of code. Again, these regulations only apply to state owned lands.

Noise has become a major concern of both residents and visitors to the flowage. Illegal fireworks use makes a large contribution to the noise pollution. Please call the DNR office in Mercer at 476-7846, if you notice campers using these devices.

Second, ATV operation also contributes to excessive noise. ATV operators should remember that there are no designated trails on the TFSWA. Operation of ATV's within the property boundary is limited to private lands (with permission) and roads designated for ATV use by municipal governments. ATV's are also authorized for use on the ice.

Article by Dennis O'Brien

Turtle Flambeau-Trude Lake Property Owner's Association

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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 the members and the general public.

TURTLE FLAMBEAU - TRUDE LAKE
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