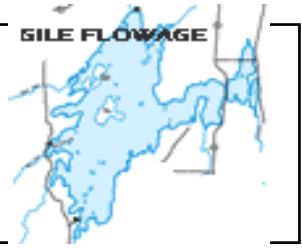


Friends of the Gile Flowage F.O.G. Newsletter...



Protecting and enhancing the Gile Flowage for now... and future generations

Winter, 2004

FOG Is A Major Player in \$10,000 Gile Flowage Watershed Planning Project

This newsletter is being published quarterly with DNR Lake Planning Grant funds, matched with volunteer services. It's purpose is to inform citizens about the Gile Flowage watershed planning, activities of the Friends of the Gile Flowage, and encourage people to get involved

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Did You Know... the Wisconsin Record Black Crappie was caught in the Gile Flowage on 8/12/67 by Alan A. Dollar? It measured 19.75 inches in length and weighed 4 lbs, 8 ounces.

The Gile Flowage is changing. Property values are increasing and for sale signs are sprouting up. The Gile has been discovered by a new group of boaters and fishermen. While the Gile's development potential is increasing, so is an awareness of the need to protect the unique characteristics that make it so attractive. Recognizing these changes, the Towns of Carey and Pence successfully applied for a \$10,000 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Management Planning Grant to create a plan to guide the Gile Flowage's future. FOG will be a major partner in this project by providing volunteer services required to match the grant monies.

The grant will fund development of a Gile Flowage watershed plan to protect the Flowage by identifying issues affecting its future and opportunities for environmentally sound development. The project will compliment the Towns' ongoing land use planning process, as required by Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation, and the funds will help offset the Town's planning costs. Carey and Pence share jurisdictional boundaries over the majority of the Flowage. By working together, the Towns hope to avoid "patchwork" land use planning that could negatively affect the Flowage. *For more on this story, see "Future" page 3*

A watershed is a geographical area where all surface waters drain to a common point. The Gile Flowage watershed includes not only the Flowage, but most of the land within the Towns of Pence and Carey. What is done on the land within this watershed ultimately affects the Flowage's water quality which is key to its fishing, recreation, and property value. That's why it's important to take a watershed approach to the Gile's future.

FOG Files Incorporation Papers

It's official. In January, FOG Board of Directors filed Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State's office. Once approved, FOG will officially be a Wisconsin corporation.

This status is important for establishing FOG as a "qualified" Wisconsin lake association. A lake association must be incorporated for one year before it can attain the status of being "qualified." Once qualified, a lake association is eligible to receive DNR lake grants.

Once FOG's incorporation is approved, Board members plan on filing for non-profit status which would open more opportunities for grants and donations to help support its activities. FOG's Articles of Incorporation are available upon request.

FOG Board Update,

By *Cathy Techtmann FOG Acting President*

Dear FOG Members and Friends,

On July 5, 2003, the future of the Gile Flowage changed for the better. Forty-six citizens unanimously voted to form the Friends of the Gile Flowage (FOG), Wisconsin's newest lake association dedicated to protecting and enhancing this unique body of water. In the seven short months since organizing the FOG Board has been actively pursuing this mission. On behalf of the Board, I would like to give you a progress report on FOG's activities:

√ **Memberships:** FOG currently has a list of 64 members, with 34% of them paying dues. Dues go towards supporting the kinds of activities highlighted in this newsletter plus postage, paper, etc. All work is done on a voluntary basis—there is no paid staff! Please consider the positive impact of FOG and support its activities with your membership!

√ **Incorporation:** FOG by-laws were developed and incorporation papers filed in January 2004. Filing for non-profit status will be the next step.

√ **Education:** Public informational meetings on two critical issues affecting the Flowage's future were held. The first was a meeting Robert Olson, Xcel Energy's Licensing Coordinator to learn more about Xcel's management plans for the Gile. FOG hosted a public meeting where Craig Roesler-DNR Biologist explained the discovery of exotic Spiny Water Fleas in the Flowage, how they might affect the Flowage, and what can be done. The minutes of both meetings are posted on the FOG website.



Spiny Water Flea

√ **Outreach:** To keep you posted, a FOG website and this newsletter will be regularly published to help everyone learn more about the Gile and how we can work together to protect and enhance it.

√ **DNR Lake Planning Grant:** FOG took the leadership, together with the Towns of Carey and Pence, to secure a \$10,000 DNR grant to improve land use decisions that will affect the Flowage. In the upcoming months, you will learn more about how you can get involved in this project.

I would like to thank the FOG Board for their work and members for their support, as we take our first steps toward building the Gile Flowage Lake Association. I invite you to get involved in these activities and welcome your suggestions as we move forward together. - *Cathy*

FOG On Line

Thanks to the efforts of Peg Sutherland, FOG Secretary and computer guru, minutes of FOG Board meetings and other special events are now on-line at [www.http://rueruel13.tripod.com/index.html](http://www.rueruel13.tripod.com/index.html). Peg volunteers her time to keep the site updated.

Peg selected a photo of the Flowage for the website's background and an icon representing the Flowage's dam house in Gile to mark each web page entry. Just click on the "dam house" to find out more about what's happening with FOG. Thanks Peg!!

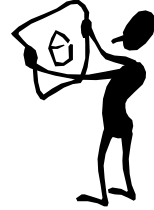


The Gile Flowage Dam House icon

WANTED: A FOG Logo

The Friends of the Gile Lake Association needs a logo for use on letterhead, hats, and other projects to give its activities easy identification. The winning entrant will win \$50.00 cash or their logo printed on a shirt. The contest open to every one, all ages. FOG members are encouraged to apply. Contest requirements are:

- ◆ Entire logo must fit into a 2-1/2 inch diameter circle
- ◆ The words "Friends of the Gile Flowage" must be included in the circle
- ◆ The logo should pertain to something you feel best represents the Gile Flowage
- ◆ The design should be simple enough that it is eligible when printed or embroidered
- ◆ All entries must be submitted to FOG by April 1, 2004



Final judging will be conducted at the Annual FOG meeting on Saturday, May 29 at the Gile Park Pavillion, Gile, WI. All entries become the property of FOG. All entries should be sent to FOG, Box 227, Montreal, WI 54550. Enter as often as you wish. Good Luck To All!!

Flowage's Future, GET INVOLVED

(continued from page 1)

The project's first phase will gather baseline information about the 3400-acre Flowage to help town planning committees, local citizens, and interested people understand its history, ecology, and special issues. Watershed property owners and flowage users will receive a survey in summer, 2004 asking their opinions on future management of the Flowage.

As part of the watershed plan, FOG will take the lead on developing a Gile Flowage lake history and publish quarterly newsletters to update citizens about the plan and other FOG activities.

Did You Know....

In 2000, the Town of Pence adopted a shoreland lighting ordinance for the Gile Flowage.



It does not stop lights from being installed near shorelands, but requires that they are "shielded" to prevent the light from trespassing on other property or out into the Flowage. The purpose is to preserve the Gile's



FROM THE FLOWAGE

To help get snowmobile traffic off Spring Camp Road, a snowmobile trail has been established across the Flowage from Gile to the "Sucker Hole" boat landing on the Flowage's southern end. Snowmobilers seem to be accepting the new trail well.

Slush is also helping out by staying at a minimum. For the first time in 30 years, a road has been plowed across the Flowage starting from the 4H-Boat Landing off Spring Camp Rd. to the Big Island—compliments of Rollie Bessett.

Board members Gary Miles and Joe Franzio report that plans to install more fish cribs in the Flowage this spring are on hold as the DNR is already booked up with too many projects. FOG members were looking forward to forming a work bee to install the cribs and getting folks interested in fishing for a fun day of working together. Don't worry, Gary and Joe are keeping on top of chances for FOG to help improve fishing. We'll keep you posted.



Friends of the Gile Flowage

Box 227, Montreal, WI 54550; Phone: 715.561.2185

FOG NOW ON THE WEB AT
http://
rueruell3.tripod.com/
index.html



FRIENDS OF THE GILE FLOWAGE
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2004

GILE PARK PAVILION— RAIN OR SHINE
Bring a dish to pass, meats & beverages provided
Agenda with meeting times coming soon!

The mission of the Friends of the Gile, Inc. (FOG) is to preserve and protect the **Gile Flowage** and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and its aesthetic values, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations. Membership in FOG is open to any individual, family, business, or organization that subscribes to this mission

SUPPORT THE FLOWAGE... JOIN FOG

Ten reasons to join the Friends of the Gile Flowage Lake Association:

- #1 Meet your Flowage neighbors (who are those folks, anyway??)
- #2 Learn more about the unique history, environment of the Flowage and how to preserve its natural state
- #3 Volunteer to help out with FOG projects to improve fishing, water quality
- #4 Learn about how to increase the value of your shoreland property
- #5 Fantastic fun, food, and refreshments at the FOG annual meeting and picnic
- #6 Support the only organization working to protect the Flowage
- #7 Get free copies of this newsletter mailed right to your home
- #8 Find out what's going on with the Flowage—on your property or the activities you enjoy on the Flowage
- #9 Keep up to date on issues affecting the Flowage (like water fleas!)
- #10 Meet guys & gals who really know where all the fish are hiding!

BECOME A FOG MEMBER

Voting Memberships: Open to anyone who owns, leases or year 'round or seasonally within 2 miles of the Gile Flowage

Individual (1 vote): \$20.00/year
Family (2 votes): \$30.00/year

Non-Voting Memberships: Open to anyone who supports the mission of FOG

Individual: \$10.00/year
Family: \$15.00/year

** A "Family" is defined as up to two adults and their unemancipated children.*

Visit the FOG website for more membership information or send us a note to request a membership application at PO Box 227, Montreal, WI 54550