

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



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

Late Summer, 2004

FOG Holds First Annual Meeting... Board Elected

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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FOG's first annual meeting was a great, although soggy success. Over 40 members and friends joined the festivities on a rainy Saturday, May 30th under the shelter of the Gile Park Pavilion. Following the annual business meeting and election of the FOG Board of Directors, everyone enjoyed delicious cook-out potluck.



At the Annual Meeting, the Gile Flowage Fishing Association donated a check for \$1475.90 to FOG. Thank you Gile Flowage Fishing Association! We appreciate your support and trust!

For more on this story see page 4...
Annual Meeting

IMPORTANT FOG BY-LAW CHANGE RECOMMENDED

FOG BOARD recommends an important change to FOG By-Laws for a vote by members at a Special Meeting being held at the FOG Fall Pat-Luck, Saturday, October 2 at 10 am.

FOG has learned from the DNR that its two-tiered membership structure of members and non-voting members makes it ineligible to receive DNR lake grants. To be eligible to receive grants, a lake association must allow ANYONE who resides within a 1 mile radius of the lake at least 1 month a year to become a member.

The FOG Board is recommending that the by-laws be changed to allow anyone to join FOG regardless of where they live. This solves some of the issues we have heard from folks who want to join FOG, but object to having to join as a non-voting member since they lived over 2 miles away from the Flowage AND it eliminates the ineligible 2-tiered membership structure.

Flowage Factoid...the Flambeau Trail, a grueling 45-mile portage between Lake Superior and Long Lake in Mercer was used by Native Americans and fur traders. It crossed the Montreal River at Gile, passed near Big Island, and continued overland from the Flowage's east shore. It connected the communities of LaPointe and Lac du Flambeau.

Fall FOG Potluck "Brunch" Sat. October 2

Based on overwhelming support for a fall get-together to wrap up a wonderful summer on the Gile Flowage, members have voted to hold a FOG Fall Potluck Brunch. The date for the potluck brunch is Saturday, October 2 from 10 am—2 pm at the Pence Town Hall located in on Hwy. 77 across from the Pence ball field.

This is a great opportunity to get together on last time, before the snow flies, with friends and neighbors.

We will also have a Special Business Meeting to discuss an important by-law change that is being recommended by the FOG Board (see box above for details).

The FOG Board will provide plates, coffee, condiments. Please bring your favorite brunch-type dish (from coffee cake to egg dishes) to pass. Questions? Call Cathy Techtmann at 715.561.2185

FOG BY-LAW CHANGE *(from page 1)*

Our current by-laws, as stated below, make FOG ineligible for DNR grants. Grant eligible lake associations may only have one class of members and they must be voting members. A lake association may restrict membership based on the distance a person resides from the lake. The minimum distance restriction is 1 mile. The Board feels that if FOG may only have 1 membership class, there should not be a geographical or distance requirement that could limit participation by people who support FOG and the Flowage. Amendments to by-laws may only be done at the Annual or at a Special Meeting and with a 2/3rd's vote of those present. To consider the issue of changing FOG's membership by-laws, a Special Meeting is being called during the Fall Brunch on October 2. Here are the original by-laws and the proposed change the Board is recommending be adopted:

Current by-laws:

Section 1 - ELIGIBILITY: Membership in FOG shall be open to any individual, family, business, or organization that subscribes to the purposes of FOG. There will be two membership categories. "Voting Member" category is open to anyone who owns/ leases property or resides permanently or seasonally within 2 miles of the Gile Flowage and pays voting member dues. Non-Voting Member" category is open to anyone who pays non-voting member dues.

Section 2 - DUES: Dues shall be based on membership category according to the following schedule and paid on a calendar year basis by January 31 of that year:

<u>Voting Memberships</u>		<u>Non-Voting Memberships</u>	
Individual (1-vote)	\$20.00/year	Individual	\$10.00
Family (2-votes)	\$30.00	Family	\$15.00

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

The FOG Board is recommending the following by-laws change:

Section 1 - ELIGIBILITY: Membership in FOG shall be open to any individual, family, business, or organization that subscribes to the purposes of FOG.

Section 2- DUES: Dues shall be based on membership category according to the following schedule and paid on a calendar year basis by January 31 of that year:

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

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



Iron County Boating Ordinance May Affect Jet Ski & Water Skiing Use On The Gile Flowage

Iron County is considering adopting a Boating Ordinance that sets guidelines for watercraft use. For the most part, the ordinance is an adoption of rules already contained in state statutes.

Two provisions in the Iron County ordinance could affect jet ski use and waterskiing on the Gile Flowage. They are restrictions on the hours of operation of personal watercraft (Section 00-0-25-F) and water skiing (Section 00-0-27-C). The restrictions only apply to lakes where the municipality(s) with jurisdiction over the lake supports the ordinance. Of the three municipalities with jurisdiction over the Flowage, the Town of Carey and the City of Montreal have supported the ordinance for the Gile Flowage. Action by the Town of Pence is pending. The hours of operation restrictions from the Iron County Boating Ordinance read:

Section 00-0-25(F): No person shall operate a personal watercraft at the speed in excess of slow-no-wake-speed between 5:00 pm and 10:00 am Sunday through Saturday.

Section 00-0-27(C): No person shall operate a boat for the purpose of towing a person, aquaplane or similar device or engage in water skiing, aquaplaning, or tubing between 5:00 pm and 10:00 am Sunday through Saturday.

The proposed Iron County Boating Ordinance also requires boat dealers and boat rental operations to inform their clients of the new boating regs and includes requirements to prevent boaters from spreading of exotic species like Eurasian Milfoil. For more information about the ordinance, contact the Iron County Corporation Counsel Office at 715.561.3226.

And The Winner Is...

Response to the FOG logo contest was great with over 12 creative entries submitted. After difficult deliberation, the FOG Board members narrowed the choices down to 6 logo entries to be judged at the annual FOG Meeting on May 30, 2004.

Based on the majority vote of the 40 members present the winning logo was chosen as the entry submitted by Rossi Wear of Hurley, Wisconsin. Rossi Wear wins a \$50.00 cash prize for their entry.

Julie Miles is working with Rossi Wear to develop hats and shirts embroidered with the new logo that FOG can offer to its members at attractive prices. We'll keep you updated as we develop these FOG items. Rossi Wear, located on Silver Street in Hurley, will also embroider a FOG logo embroidered on a garment or item of your choice.



The winning FOG logo features the Flowage's distinctive islands outlined by the sun

Update From Xcel Energy on the Pier & Dock Issue

We thank Mr. Robert Olson-/Coordinator of Licensing for Xcel Energy for this update he provided for the FOG newsletter. On September 25, 2003, FOG sponsored a public meeting where Mr. Olson discussed future management issues and opportunities for the Gile Flowage. Minutes of that meeting are available at the FOG website.

“Xcel Energy has decided to postpone its planned efforts for 2004 to clear-up encroachments that are occurring on company-owned lands on the Gile Flowage. The decision was made due to recent legislative activities that have occurred concerning the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ (WDNR) management of shoreline structures. Xcel Energy was planning on cooperating with the WDNR this summer in an effort to eliminate the illegal docks and other structures on the shoreline of the Gile Flowage. The placement of docks and other structures by non-riparian owners is considered illegal by state law (NR Chapter 30). Xcel Energy, being the landowner, cannot convey by easement or by a similar conveyance, any riparian right in the land to another person, except for the right to cross the land in order to have access to the navigable water. This right to cross the land may not include the right to place any structure or material in the navigable water. Xcel Energy will be working with the WDNR and the encroaching parties next summer to insure that all illegal structures and activities on company-owned lands on the Gile Flowage are eliminated”.



FROM THE FLOWAGE

Spiny Water Flea

Spiny Water Flea Population Numbers Increase

According to information received from Craig Roesler, DNR Biologist, monitoring the Gile Flowage for spiny water fleas started on July 8th. Four vertical tows were made at each of four sites. Lots of “spiny's” were present. Applying the average area density to the surface area of the flowage indicated a total population of 1.2 billion!

Roesler said that the plan is to sample every 2 weeks for the rest of the summer. They will begin sampling other lakes in August, when populations tend to peak.

Stop the spread of “spinies” and other exotics by carefully cleaning off your boat and motor. This will also help prevent the spread of other exotics, like Eurasian Milfoil, into the Flowage.



Friends of the Gile Flowage

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**FRIENDS OF THE GILE FLOWAGE
FALL POTLUCK BRUNCH
And
SPECIAL MEETING for the
purpose of amending the FOG By-Laws**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2004
PENCE TOWN HALL-RAIN OR SHINE
Downtown Pence, Hwy. 77 (across from ball field)**



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.

Reflections from FOG's 1st Annual Meeting



Dan Bormann, FOG Vice President is caught on camera sampling a table full of goodies brought by FOG member and friends.



FOG Treasurer Jeanne Matchefts reports on FOG finances and its good news!

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

We are working on getting a new domain name. Until then, please note that in the URL the character before the number 3, is the number 1, not a letter "l".



Peg Sutherland, FOG Secretary and web guru updates members with minutes from FOG activities since our first organizational meeting.

IDEAS FOR FUTURE FOG ACTIVITIES contributed at Annual Meeting

- ✓ Provide information about Iron County ATV trails around the Flowage and their impact
- ✓ Organize a "Take A Kid Fishing Project" through WalMart
- ✓ Sponsor an educational program on the status of fish in the Flowage by DNR Biologist Jeff Roth
- ✓ Hold a FOG get-together on a Saturday this fall



Board member and Chief Cook Gary Miles flips burgers to Denise Enking's amazement.

FOG Board of Directors Elected at Annual Meeting

President
Cathy Techtmann
Contact at: 715.561.2185

Vice-President
Dan Bormann

Secretary
Peg Sutherland

Treasurer
Jeanne Matchefts

Board Members At Large
Gary Miles
Jim Kaffine
Doug Lytle
Joel Enking...
Welcome to Joel as the Board's newest member!