

# Friends of the Gile Flowage F.OG. Newsletter

## Special Double Issue and Membership Renewal

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, 2004

## FOG Membership & Dues Change Approved

This newsletter is being published quarterly with DNR Lake Planning Grant funds, matched with volunteer services. Its 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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### Flowage Factoids...

1. How many paid members in the FOG as of 12/04?
2. How many people are on the FOG mailing list and receive this newsletter?
3. How many FOG members are from Dane County, WI (Madison area)?

Answers:

1) 73 paid members  
2) 117 on mailing list  
3) 38 members from Dane County

The FOG Board received unanimous support for changing the FOG by-laws concerning membership at a Special Meeting held at the FOG Fall Pot-Luck, Saturday, October 4. The by-law change was necessary for FOG to become a qualified Wisconsin lake association and eligible for DNR grants.

In discussing the change, members also expressed support for changing the membership fees to be more equitable between individual and family memberships AND supported lowering the dues.

**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 a calendar and due January 31 of that year

**Individual (1-vote): \$15.00/year**

**Family (2-votes): \$30.00/year**

(a family is up to two persons and their unemancipated children)

The FOG by-laws were amended and now read: In other words... for 2005 FOG memberships dues are lower and FOG is now open for anyone interested in the Gile Flowage to join. What better reason to become a Friend of the Gile Flowage member today!

**Reminder... FOG Membership Dues For 2005 Are Being Accepted Starting in January**

**FOG Membership Benefits Include:**

- ▶ Quarterly FOG Newsletters for information affecting the Flowage
- ▶ Special FOG events and Annual Picnic
- ▶ Being a part of an active organization dedicated to the Gile Flowage
- ▶ Meeting neighbors and friends interested in the future of the Gile Flowage

**Stay involved with the only volunteer organization representing the Gile Flowage. Renew Your Membership Today! A handy membership form is enclosed**

**See some of what we accomplished as a lake association in 2004 on page 4.**

## GILE FLOWAGE SURVEY SHOWS STRONG SUPPORT FOR PLANNING, PRESERVATION

Property owners and users of the Gile Flowage strongly support long range planning for the Gile Flowage and its watershed, according to results of the Gile Flowage Survey. Over 50% of survey respondents had a vision for the Flowage that placed a high priority on protecting nature... See "Survey" on page 2 for more information.

**GILE FLOWAGE SURVEY** *(continued from front page)*

...with 84% saying that preserving the Flowage’s “northwoods character” is very important to them. Sixty five percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the watershed. Respondents most valued the Flowage’s scenic beauty (27%). These responses suggest the need for planning that will support these attributes.

Are land use and development issues important? Sixty-two (62%) said they were very important to them. The majority respondents thought that the current amount of development in the Gile Flowage Watershed is about right (62%), with 22% saying it was “too little” and 16% saying it was “too much.”

On-the-water uses of the Flowage were very important to 60% of respondents. As might be expected, the most popular water-based use of the Flowage was fishing from a boat (41%) followed by swimming (12%), motor boating (11%), ice fishing (10%), canoeing (9%), sledding (9%) and other (8%). There was strong agreement to improve fishing with 85% of respondents supporting projects like the construction of fish cribs and fish stocking, FOG will be involved in a fish crib construction project in 2005.

Scenic enjoyment, wildlife viewing, and walking/hiking were the most popular on-land uses.

Just over half of people surveyed (56%) agreed that recreational use of the Flowage has increased over the past several years, but 78% said that current levels of recreation did not diminish their enjoyment of the Flowage.

Virtually everyone agreed that the quality of the Flowage’s water was important to them. Most people (76%) believe the Flowage’s water quality has stayed about the same over the past several years and it does not diminish their enjoyment of the Flowage. Threats of exotic species in the Flowage, such as the spiny water flea, is a critical issue with over 90% of respondents saying it is fairly or very important to them. However, only 13% of those surveyed said they actually noticed exotic species in the Flowage. There was strong support by 84% of respondents for improving education and awareness of exotic species, with 76% saying they favored enhanced enforcement to reduce their introduction.

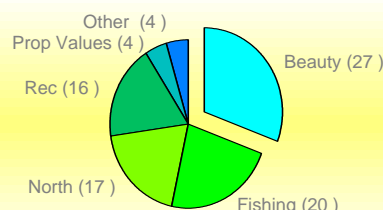
The results of the Gile Flowage Survey were presented by Will Andresen-Iron County UW-Extension Community Resource Agent at a public meeting held on November 10 at the Iron County Courthouse. Andresen helped develop the survey for the Towns of Carey and Pence to gather information about the public’s interests and concerns about the Flowage. A total of 252 surveys from the resident or out-of-town property owners in the communities of Montreal, Pence, and Carey or 26.6% were returned which is considered a “good” rate.

The survey is part of a DNR Lake Planning Grant for Towns of Carey and Pence to gather base line information about the Gile Flowage and its watershed and people. The results will be used by the Towns, to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Flowage.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey and to Will Andresen and the Iron County UW-Extension Office for their help!

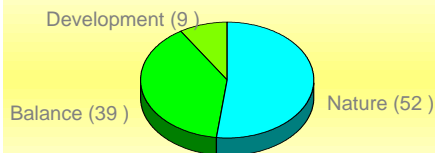
A complete copy of the Gile Flowage “Vision For the Future” Survey is available from the Iron County UW-Extension Office, Courthouse, 100 Taconite St., Hurley, WI 54534, or phone 715.561.2695.

**What Do You Value Most About the Gile Flowage?**  
*(percentage of responses)*



*Responses included Scenic Beauty, Fishing, Northwoods, Recreation, Property Values, and Other*

**What Is Your Vision For The Gile Flowage Watershed?**  
*(percentage of responses)*



*Responses included Protecting Nature, Promoting Development, Balancing Nature and Development*

**For more results from the Gile Flowage Survey , see the supplement to this newsletter that is enclosed.**



## FOG Gifts For the Holidays... EZ Shopping for the Flowage Lover

Rossi Wear of Hurley, official winner of the FOG logo contest, can now put the cool new FOG logo on a hat, t-shirt, sweatshirt or almost anything you desire! Rossi Wear can embroider the logo on any of the many types of high quality wearing apparel they stock and sell or on most items supplied by customers.

What a great Christmas gift or stocking stuffer to surprise that special someone who loves the Gile Flowage... or even yourself!

Rossi Wear is located at 207 Silver Street in downtown Hurley. For more information either stop in or call them at 715.561.9911 to order by phone.

In 2005, we hope to offer a number of FOG items for sale through our association especially for the convenience of our out-of-town members. We'll keep you posted! Our thanks to Julie Miles for helping with FOG apparel arrangements!



## FROM THE FLOWAGE



### Fish Crib Project Scheduled for 2005

#### From Gary Miles-FOG Fishing Committee

The Gile Flowage is on the DNR's list for fish crib installations this winter. The problem is the date for the installation has not been chosen because of the number of other lakes ahead of the Gile. We are just waiting on the DNR.

If we can get a date before the holidays are over, we will ask community residents to donate their used Christmas trees to use as "structure" within the cribs. Our plan is to set up an easily accessible site where people can drop off their trees, free of ornaments and tinsel, of course. We are waiting on the DNR to give us a final date before we encourage people to donate their trees. Otherwise we may end up with a pile of trees and no place to put them!

The Fish Crib Project will be a fun weekend activity for FOG members and anyone who wants to help. There will be plenty of work, good company, and hot food & cocoa to keep everyone happy. As soon as we have the date, we will publicize it in the FOG newsletter and via local newspaper and radio.

Once the fish cribs are installed, new FOG Board member and GPS guru Joel Enking has offered to create a Flowage map with GPS coordinates for each fish crib so eager fishermen and women can find these fishing hotspots fast. FOG would offer these maps, at a nominal cost, as a fund raiser.

If anyone is interested in helping with the 2005 FOG Fish Crib Project or wants more information on how to get involved in the FOG Fishing Committee, contact Gary Miles at 715.561.2876.

### Public Meeting on the Results of Gile Flowage Environmental Assessment— December 15th

Despite its size, little environmental information about the Gile Flowage has ever been gathered or analyzed.

Dean Premo, scientist and president of Whitewater Associates of Amasa, MI will be presenting the results of the Phase I-Environmental Assessment of the Gile Flowage on **Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 pm** in the Iron County Courthouse in Hurley, WI.

The environmental assessment is being done as part of a DNR Lake Planning Grant for the Gile Flowage Watershed by the Towns of Pence and Carey.

The assessment is designed to collect and analyze existing environmental research about the Flowage and its watershed to help the Towns identify areas where more information is needed and identify potential environmental issues. The information will be incorporated into the Towns' land use planning.

Everyone is welcome to attend!



**Box 227, Montreal, WI 54550; Phone: 715.561.2185**



**On-The-Web at <http://rueruel13.tripod.com/index.html>**  
*Please note that in the URL the character before the number 3, is the number 1, not a letter "l". Thanks to Peg Sutherland for maintaining our site!*



## *Happy Holiday Greetings*



This is our last FOG newsletter for 2004.  
 Thanks for your support for the Friends of the Gile Flowage during our fledging first year and your interest in protecting and enhancing this wonderful resource we share a passion for.  
 And what a year it's been. Here are a few highlights of what we have accomplished together:

### **Formation of the Friends of Gile Flowage or "FOG"...**

*remember the first picnic with 40+ friends supporting establishing a Gile Flowage lake association ?  
 FOG is now an incorporated Wisconsin Lake Association !  
 Annual picnic and fall festival in 2004.*

### **Assisting the Towns of Pence and Carey...**

*to secure a \$10,000 DNR Lake Planning Grant  
 to gather information to help plan for the Flowage's future including the:  
 Gile Flowage Survey of Property Owners  
 Phase I- Environmental Assessment of the Gile Flowage Watershed  
 Shoreland Assessment*

### **FOG Sponsored Public Educational Meetings ...**

*Rob Olson- Xcel Energy...The first dialogue on their plans for the Flowage  
 Craig Roesler-DNR on Spiny Water Fleas in the Flowage  
 DNR Fisheries Biologists on DNR fish management plans & goals for the Flowage*

### **Quarterly Newsletters and FOG Website...**

*keeping you informed about issues and activities affecting the Flowage*

**We look forward to working together with you in 2005 as  
 Friends of the Gile Flowage**

*Thank you for your Support !  
 Your FOG Board of Directors*

## **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

### **FOG Board of Directors**

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 Contact at: 715.561.2185

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Dan Bormann

#### **Secretary**

Peg Sutherland

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