

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

Reminder: FOG Annual Meeting Saturday, May 28



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

Spring, 2005

Gile Flowage Receives Two Major DNR Grants FOG will be a major player in partnership with the Towns of Carey and Pence

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Thanks to leadership from the Towns of Carey and Pence, together with support from FOG, the Gile Flowage will be the focus of two important Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant funded projects in 2005.

One grant funds the **Phase 2-Gile Flowage Watershed Comprehensive Plan** through the DNR's lake planning grant program. This \$10,000 grant builds on the first phase of the project started in 2004. The project will fund environmental research about the Flowage to complete the Gile Flowage watershed scale plans for the Towns of Carey and Pence. A portion of this grant offsets the "smart growth" planning costs for both Towns, saving taxpayers \$4000 for this mandated planning while improving the Towns .

FOG will be a major player in this grant by providing a required match in donated time and services to help with water quality sampling and assist the Towns in keeping the public informed about the project via this newsletter. Other funding matches are being provided by both Towns and the Iron County Land Conservation Department.

Flowage Factoids

Did you know that...

Eurasian Milfoil arrived in Wisconsin in the 1960's. It has invaded many WI lakes, including several in nearby Vilas County. Like quack-grass, it can spread from a small piece of vegetation transported on a boat prop to overrun a lake. Eurasian Milfoil hurts lakes by:

- Forming dense mats of vegetation
- Fouling fishing lines
- Pushing out native plants
- Clogging shorelines & beaches with weeds
- Degrading water quality
- Supporting algal blooms
- Disrupting fish populations

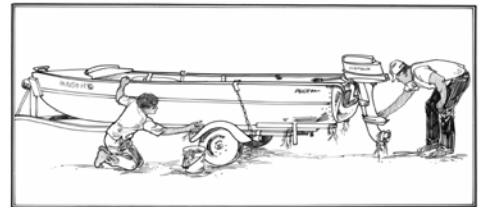
Because of its fluctuating water levels and low density of native aquatic plants, the Gile Flowage is vulnerable to invasive by Eurasian Milfoil.

The second project, funded through the DNR's new Aquatic Invasive Species Education Grant, is called **"Be A Friend Of The Flowage-Stop The Spread"**. This grant will fund a public education campaign to teach people how stop the spread of invasive species into and out of the Flowage. With growing numbers of transient boaters using the Flowage, there are greater chances to spread spiny water fleas from the Flowage to other inland lakes and bring in other aquatic invasives like Eurasian Milfoil into the Flowage from infected lakes.

Through this grant a Clean Boats-Clean Water Program was held in April to train volunteers to help stop the spread of invasive species. Our thanks to the Iron County Lakes Alliance for hosting this program as a volunteer match!.

The grant funds development of educational materials for Flowage users with a positive message about how they can help "stop the spread", including attractive information kiosks at three boat landings to encouraging users to Be A Friend of The Flowage!

We will share more about these grants at the FOG Annual Meeting, May 28.



The "Be A Friend of the Flowage" grant will encourage boaters to carefully clean their boats before and after using the Flowage .

 **BoatU.S. Foundation** for Boating Safety and Clean Water

LATE BREAKING NEWS...

The Boat US Foundation has awarded the Friends of the Gile Flowage an additional \$2000.00 to support education projects to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species into and out of the Flowage. The funds will be used to supplement boater education programs including information packets to be distributed to Flowage users and information kiosks at boat landings. Our thanks to Boat US for their generous support. For more info on BoatUS Foundation visit: <http://www.boatus.com/cleanwater/grants/>

“GRANDPA, GRANDPA”

... Some food for thought about shorelines by Dan Bormann, FOG Vice Pres.

“Grandma, Grandpa, quick come look at the big frog I caught down by the pier!!!!” “Hey honey, look at that old log that blew into our shoreline a couple of weeks ago, there must be at least 10 turtles lined up on it!!” “Daddy, Mommy, look at the big bird in that dead tree down by the lake, is that an eagle???” As the major credit card add says “priceless”.

Are these rare occurrences? -- not at all in the natural world. Amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, fish, and guess what, you and I need shelter, cover, friendly habitat to not only live in but sometimes just hang out in like a turtle on a log during a summer afternoon.



Think of what you would have missed from that grandchild's excitement at catching a frog on your shoreline. The chances of that frog being there were greatly increased because you decided that you weren't going to mow the last 20 feet of grass right down to the water's edge anymore. As an added bonus you can go fishing sooner because now you have less time behind that mower. It didn't end there however, even though the turtles were fun to watch sunning themselves on that log. You just weren't too sure about the “big junky” log washed up by the shoreline until you saw the Great Blue Heron sitting there every morning while you sipped on your cup of coffee. Once again it didn't end there, because a little detective work on your part found that the heron was hanging out there due to a bass and some bluegill that were nesting under the cover of that tree. And the big old dead “snag” tree you were going to cut down didn't come down because that eagle really seemed to like sitting way up there during the early evening. Frosting on the cake was the \$5.00 you won off that know-it-all brother-in-law when you sat outside having an evening cocktail and told him you could get an eagle to come to your place just about every evening!!!!

We cherish our waterfront and all it brings, so let it LIVE to it's full potential. If we're given the choice between a picnic table under the trees or a picnic table in the middle of a mowed field, you know which one we'll take. Wildlife and fish are the same way; every living thing likes someplace to call home. It's easy to do, set down the chainsaw, put the mower away and enjoy the natural splendor that will appear time after time with no major effort on your part.

So take that \$5.00 and buy some fish bait, grab that child or sweetie of yours and spend some time on this beautiful body of water enjoying yourselves. Of course it doesn't end there, admire the frogs, turtles, and eagle that flies out of that old snag you left standing just as you pull up on your shoreline. “You know what honey, I think this is probably the nicest place on the whole flowage” Man you are one smart cookie!!!

FOG FINANCIAL UPDATE...from Jeanne Matchefts, FOG Treasurer

With all the talk about federal and state budgets in financial difficulty, I am happy to report the FOG budget is in good shape. Our funds come from two main sources, membership dues and grants.

Membership dues have been steadily rolling in since the beginning of the year. We have taken in almost \$500.00 in dues for 2005 so far. We have a mailing list totaling about 120 people and of those folks, almost 40 have paid dues for the current year. Memberships run from January 1 to December 31 each year, so if you haven't paid up yet, there is still plenty of time to become a member of this great organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Gile Flowage.

Grant monies are hard earned dollars from federal and state agencies to help support the work done by The Friends of the Gile Flowage. Our president, Cathy Techtmann, works tirelessly on these grant applications to ensure we have funds for such projects as newsletters, water testing and research projects that are vital to our mission of protection and preservation. In January we received a check for \$500.00 for work done in accordance with our grants.

The FOG membership selected a logo last year at the annual meeting in May. We plan to have some t-shirts with the logo for sale at the upcoming meeting on Memorial Day weekend. Just in time for summer wear.

A full report of the FOG treasury will be presented at the FOG Annual Meeting, May 28; so please plan to attend!

Jeanne



Show 'Em You're A Friend

Proudly display that you are a Friend of the Gile Flowage! Our new FOG logo can be embroidered on almost any type of fabric from baseball caps to jackets. Rossi Wear, located at 207 Silver Street in downtown Hurley, has the FOG logo on their embroidery computer and can stitch it on almost anything! FOG logo items make great gifts. For more information either stop in or call Rossi Wear at 715.561.9911 to order by phone.

We will have a limited number of FOG logo t-shirts and baseball caps for sale at the Annual Meeting. Proceeds from these sales at this event goes to support FOG.



Cathy Techtmann presents Rossi Wear owner, Dan Rossi, with a check for \$50.00 for submitting the winning FOG logo. Both are modeling the new FOG logo baseball cap.

FROM THE FLOWAGE

Fish Crib Project Postponed, Island Clean-Up Planned



Gary Miles-FOG Fishing Committee

I guess you could say a fish crib project just wasn't in the cards last winter. A chain of events combined to scuttle what promised to be our first major FOG winter event. Despite strong enthusiasm for the project by members, we ran into a number of problems. First, we had to wait for a crib installation date to be finalized by the DNR. This delay made us to miss an opportunity to collect and recycle Christmas trees as material to use in the cribs. Once the DNR set the date, the next hurdle was finding pole sized wood used to make the cribs. Supplies were very limited due to the high cost of wood. The FOG Board learned of a logger who was conveniently working near the Flowage. They unanimously voted to immediately purchase poles from him and authorized a FOG Board member to contact the logger. The Board member did so, only to learn that the logger sold the poles the day before! At that point, the project was put on hold because no other sources of pole sized wood were available.

The Fish Crib Project will be planned for next winter. As soon as we have the date, we will publicize it in the FOG newsletter and via local newspaper and radio. And we'll line up the pole wood right away!

We are planning an Gile Flowage Island Cleanup for this summer to clean up trash being left on islands by a few disrespectful campers and users. We will be asking your opinion on this project at the FOG Annual Meeting. This would be a work-bee type project with food and fun to follow!

2005 NORTHWEST WISCONSIN LAKES CONFERENCE Friday, June 24, 8:15 am—3:45 pm Telemark Resort, Cable, WI

*Cost: \$45.00 / person includes breakfast,
lunch, materials*

Educational Session Highlights:

- Changing Lake Rules, NR 115 & Act 118
- Property Values & Water Quality
- Legislature Playing In Wisconsin's Waters
- Water in the Courts— Pending Cases
- Protecting Lakes—Conservation Easements
- Wisconsin's Loons
- Motivation to Protect Lakes

*Special Pre-Conference Training Sessions
offered on June 23 including:*

- *Clean Boats Clean Water Training*
- *Lake Conflict Management*
- *Pontoon Boat Classroom*
- *International Watershed Management*

For more information contact The Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) at 1-800-542-5253. We will have a small supply of conference brochures at the FOG Annual Meeting.





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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!

FOG's 2nd Annual Meeting & Picnic

Saturday, May 28

1:00 pm

Gile Park Pavilion, Gile, WI

Rain or shine

Business Meeting Agenda Items Include:

- State of the FOG and The Flowage
- Financial & Membership Report
- Election of Officers with terms ending in 2005
- Update on 2005 Grants and volunteer opportunities
- Member feedback and suggestions for FOG activities
- Summer and Fall FOG Projects
- Display and sale of "FOG Wear"
- And more!

Followed by

Pot Luck Picnic Lunch & Friendship

*Grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, buns
Coffee, cups, and condiments provided*

Please bring:

*A side-dish or dessert to pass
Your own dish & silverware*

******Lots of Door Prizes ******

Non-FOG members welcome as a member's guest
(non-member donation welcome to offset lunch costs)

The mission of the Friends of the Gile Flowage, Inc.

...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

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