

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

Reminder: *FOG Fall Festival— Saturday, Sept. 24*



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

Late Summer, 2005

## Annual FOG Fall Festival Brunch Scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 24 9:30 am—12 noon

### Presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species and Shoreland Restoration Will Be Featured

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#### Flowage Factoids

##### *Did you know that...*

The spread of aquatic invasive species is one of the biggest threats to Wisconsin's inland lakes?

Invasive species (terrestrial and aquatic) cost our country over \$100 billion in damages every year including:

- Reducing game fish populations
- Ruining boat engines
- Making lakes/ivers unusable by boaters and swimmers
- Dramatically increasing the operating costs of drinking water plants, power plants, dam maintenance, and industrial processes
- Reducing native species
- Degrading ecosystems
- Affecting human health
- Reducing property values
- Impacting local economy if your community is situated on the water.

What started last year as a way for members and friends of FOG to get together one last time before the end of the summer season, has become a tradition called the FOG Fall Festival. It's a time for everyone to share a potluck brunch, learn more about the Flowage, and stay updated on FOG's winter activities. And it's just a lot of fun!

This year the FOG Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, September 24 from 9:30 am to 12 noon at the Pence Town Hall. This is a potluck brunch, so please bring a dish to pass. (Last year we had a delicious variety of egg dishes, fresh fruit, and delights from the home gardens) Members and guests are invited to attend. There is no charge.

This year's Fall Festival features a presentation by MaryJo Gingras, Conservation Education Coordinator for the Ashland-Iron-Douglas-Bayfield County Land Conservation Department. MaryJo will be giving us practical tips how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into the Flowage and how to restore shoreland areas.

We will also be holding a short business meeting to bring everyone up to speed on what FOG has been involved in during the summer, plus plans for winter activities including setting plans in place for the winter fish crib installation project.

Come and join your FOG friends and neighbors at the Fall Festival!

## FOG Begins Water Sampling Project on the Gile

It couldn't have been a nicer early August Sunday morning to be out on the Flowage, for a pontoon boat ride, but this wasn't totally a pleasure trip.

FOG members Cathy Techtmann, Dan Bormann, Peg Sutherland, Jeanne Matchefts; piloted by pontoon boat captain Harold Schmude; gathered to sample the Flowage's water quality. The group was led by Dr. Dean Premo of Whitewater Associates who conducted the sampling protocol and trained FOG members. (*story continues on page 2*)



*Dr. Dean Premo of Whitewater Associates (center) takes water samples while training FOG Board members Peg Sutherland (left) and Dan Bormann (right)*

## Flowage Water Quality Sampling (continued)

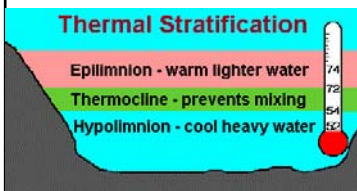
The need for better information about the Gile Flowage’s water quality was identified in the 2004 DNR Lake Planning Grant project conducted by the Towns of Carey and Pence, with assistance from FOG. As a result, a second DNR Lake Planning Grant was written to include funding to conduct water sampling and train volunteers.

The Flowage was sampled in four locations representing different aquatic environments and water depths. The water was sampled for clarity, dissolved oxygen profile, temperature, and chlorophyll A (presence of algae). Sediment samples to determine the extent of heavy metals were also taken due to concern about mercury levels in the Flowage.. The samples were done with scientific precision to insure accuracy and will be analyzed at the Wisconsin Lab of Hygiene. Sampling will be repeated later this fall for comparative data..



Using a Sechhi Disk to measure water clarity– an important factor for aquatic plant growth.

While the results from the first sampling are still pending, the group discovered one interesting water quality characteristic about the Flowage. Even though it was the middle of summer, the Flowage was not “stratified” even at the maximum depth of 18 feet.



Stratification refers to a “layering” of water due to differences in water temperature. Colder water is denser and sinks to the bottom, forming a colder layer. As this denser layer sinks, it pushes warmer water towards the surface where it forms a layer of more temperate water. During summer, the lake becomes layered with warm water at the surface and cooler water sinking to the bottom. You might notice this when your feet get cold while swimming.

Stratification can change the oxygen content, light penetration, and photosynthesis in a lake, all of which affect the entire lake ecosystem, fish production, etc.. In the fall, the top layer cools and the lake is all one temperature. Winds mix the water and the lake “turns,” so that winter waters are warmer near the bottom where fish spend the winter, and colder water is near the surface where the lake freezes. In the spring, the lake “turns” again and it begins all over. This pattern (spring turnover — summer stratification — fall turnover — winter stratification) is typical for temperate lakes. Many shallow lakes, however, do not stratify in the summer, or stratify for short periods only, throughout the summer. Other lakes may stratify and destratify numerous times within a summer. The Gile may be one of those lakes that does not stratify because it is relatively shallow, is it affected by wind, and has a continuous flow of water into and out of it.

Results of the Gile Flowage water quality testing will be shared via this newsletter and public meetings on this project that will be held later in 2005 as the results become available. “To our knowledge, this is the first volunteer water quality sampling ever conducted on the Gile Flowage”, states FOG President Cathy Techtmann. “We hope to join other Wisconsin lake associations and have trained volunteers to continue monitoring the Flowage’s water quality”, she adds.

### Test your knowledge of these aquatic invaders and how to R.I.D. the Flowage of them!



- A. **Purple Loosestrife:** Seen near the Gile. A bright fuchsia pink wetland plant that aggressively spreads by roots and over 2 million seeds per year. Chokes out native plants and provides no food or cover. Cover flowering head with a bag, cut, and burn. Herbicide treatments may be needed with permit.
- B. **Spiny Water Fleas:** Found in the Gile, they eat plankton food sources needed by native baby fish, yet are inedible to most fish. Clean and dry boats and equipment leaving the Gile for other waters, avoid transporting any water from the Flowage to other lakes.
- C. **Eurasian Water Milfoil:** Found in lakes near the Gile, it forms dense vegetative mats on the water, chokes out native plants, reduces water quality for fishing, boating, swimming. Carefully clean off boat, motor, trailer, and equipment to avoid infecting the Gile.
- D. **Chinese Mystery Snail:** Found in the Gile. Clean and dry boats and equipment leaving the Gile for other waters, avoid transporting any water from the Flowage to other lakes.

Photos A, B, C from Michigan Sea Grant Program

## FROM THE FLOWAGE...

### FLOWAGE TO GET NEW BOAT LANDING SIGNS, FLOWAGE MAPS, AND BOATER WELCOME KITS



What's the best way to stop aquatic species from invading the Gile Flowage? Ask Flowage boaters and users to help!

Thanks to a DNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Grant and a US Boat Foundation grant, we will have some new tools to get out the message of stopping aquatic invaders before they infest the Flowage. FOG is working with the Towns of Carey and Pence to create an information campaign to enlist Flowage users in the fight to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. The campaign is called "Be A Friend of the Flowage."

The idea is to offer boaters and other users attractive, easy to remember informational messages at boat landings, via brochures, and using promotional items that promote behaviors that decrease the risk of transferring aquatic invaders into and out of the Flowage.

The campaign is designed to give 'added value' messages that do double duty to both promote ways of stopping exotics and also give users information they need about the Flowage. The strategy is to catch their attention and gain their support.

New boat landing signs are being designed that include a detailed map of the Flowage that will attract use by boaters seeking to learn more about the Flowage. The signs will also carry a simple message of how boaters can

**R.I.D.** the Flowage of aquatic invaders by **R**emoving any animals or plants from their boat, trailer, or motor, **I**nspecting all equipment for aquatic hitchhikers, and **D**rain and dumping bait buckets and bilge water away from the lake.

The new boat landing signs will be installed at the County C, Gile Park, Pence 4H, and Sucker Hole Boat Landings. FOG will be working with the Towns of Carey, Pence, and the City of Montreal on this project.

The key to the "Be A Friend of the Flowage" campaign is getting useful information directly into the hands of boaters and users that they will keep. To do this a 4-color Gile Flowage brochure is being printed that will include a detailed Flowage map and important boating and recreational information about the Flowage. The brochure features information on aquatic invasive species threatening the Gile and encourages boaters to help stop their spread by using the **R-I-D** steps before and after they launch.

To help boaters and Flowage users remember to "Be A Friend Of The Flowage", special promotional items such as adhesive fish measuring rulers and cup holders are being developed. These items and the map will be packaged in an attractive litter bag carrying the same promotional message, and distributed like a "welcome wagon" kit to boaters and Flowage users. All FOG members will receive a kit later this year.

#### **LOOK FOR THE GILE FLOWAGE BOATER SURVEY.. in your mailbox soon!**

As a member of FOG, you are a boater or recreational user of the Gile Flowage. We need your help.

As part of the US Boat Foundation Grant which is funding new boat landing signs and boater welcome kits, FOG has been asked to survey Gile Flowage boaters on a number of issues affecting recreation use. If you are now or have been, a Flowage boater, we need to get your input via this survey.

In a few weeks, you will receive a Gile Flowage "Welcome Boater" kit complete with the new Gile Flowage map, "Be a Friend of the Flowage" promotional items, and the boater survey. Please complete the survey and mail it back using the pre-stamped envelope. Surveys are confidential—we just want your ideas!

We will be distributing surveys to as many Gile Flowage boaters as possible in 2005 and 2006. If you need extras for boating family or friends who would like to share their ideas, please contact any of the FOG Board members who will make sure that you receive a supply.





**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!*



## *FOG's 2nd Annual Fall Festival And Pot Luck Brunch*

**Saturday, Sept. 24**  
**9:30 am—12 noon**  
**Pence Town Hall, Hwy. 77-Pence**

Featuring a presentation by  
 MaryJo Gingras-Land Conservation Education Coordinator  
 "Protecting the Gile Flowage from Aquatic Invasion Species  
 through Natural Shoreline Restoration"  
 And a brief business meeting to give updates on FOG activities

*Please bring:*  
*A dish or dessert to pass*  
*Your own dish & silverware*

*Non-FOG members always welcome*  
*Questions? Call Cathy at 715.561.2185*

### **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 aes-  
 thetic values, as a public recreational  
 facility for today and for future gen-  
 erations. Membership in FOG is  
 open to any individual, family, busi-  
 ness, 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            Joel Enking  
 Jim Kaffine         Gary Hopp

### *Special Thanks To...*

#### **The Saxon Pub, Saxon, WI**

For their donation to FOG from their Gile Flowage Fishing Tournament. participants

#### **Rossi Wear, Hurley, WI**

For donation of FOG Wear for our annual meeting

#### **Iron Nugget Supper Club, Hurley, WI**

For donating space for FOG Board meetings

*We Appreciate Your Support!*