

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

*Reminder: Time to Renew Your Membership for 2006*



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

Spring, 2006

## FOG ANNUAL MEETING— SAT. JUNE 10, 10 AM, GILE PARK

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### Flowage Factoids



#### UFO's Over The Gile ?

Did you know...  
In 1998 an observer from Ironwood, MI. reported: "I would estimate that there had to have been six UFOs scattered across the southern sky, below 45 degrees and as bright as any other celestial objects in the sky." He stated "the UFOs were 'tens of miles' to the south, past neighboring Hurley, Wisconsin and the Gile Flowage."

Don't forget to show 'em your FOG ware this summer. The FOG logo can be put on almost any wearing apparel. Available at Rossi Wear in downtown Hurley.

### FOG Annual Meeting Features Fishery Update, Auction, Raffle, and Great Food !

The Friends of the Gile Flowage Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 10, from 10 am to 12 noon** with lunch being served after the meeting. As is customary, the meeting will be held in the Gile Park Pavilion, in Gile, WI.

Jeff Roth, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist, has been invited to give us an **"Update on the Gile Flowage's Fishery"** and answer your questions on future fish management plans and issues. Jeff will be netting and releasing pan fish into the Gile Flowage that very day so he should have some fresh perspectives on where the fish are!

The FOG annual meeting is an excellent time to get to know your Flowage neighbors and folks who are interested in the Gile. The meeting agenda will include a recap of projects that have been accomplished by FOG in 2005. Among them include: the second phase of the Gile Flowage Watershed Assessment, creation of the new Gile Flowage map/brochure and boater welcome kits, and development of new Gile Flowage boat landing signs. Everyone attending will get a boater welcome kit which includes the new Gile Flowage map/brochure.

This year's annual meeting will once again feature a silent auction and raffle featuring items donated from area businesses and from FOG members.

The FOG Annual meeting is open to all FOG members, their guests, and anyone interested in the Gile Flowage. FOG will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, soft drinks, and coffee. Please bring a side dish to pass.

See you at the Annual FOG Meeting and Cookout!



*"Chef "Gary Miles , and son Garrison (not shown) will again grill hot dogs and hamburgers for the FOG Annual Meeting cook-out. FOG member Denise Schmitz-Enking considers her main course choices.*

## Mission Completed... FOG Installs 29 Fish Cribs !

Future fishing openers on the Gile Flowage may be even better thanks to fish cribs built this winter by the Friends of the Gile Flowage (FOG) lake association with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and volunteers.

It took two years of planning, waiting for permits, and availability of materials before everything was ready to construct the cribs. Gary Miles, FOG Fish Committee Chairman and Vice-Chair Dan Bormann took leadership on the project, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource. FOG purchased thirteen



*Continued on page 2*

## (continued from page 1, "Mission Accomplished— 29 Fish Cribs Constructed")

cords of oak timber needed for the cribs from local loggers. The funds came from FOG membership dues and donations to FOG from area businesses.

On February 11, a work bee of volunteers bored holes in the timbers to create the crib frames, assembled the cribs, and cut enough brush to stuff inside. At day's end, 29 completed fish cribs stood like a line of boxcars on the Gile's shoreline.

To feed the hard working volunteers, the lake association also provided food and beverages prepared by member Julie Miles. Funds for the project came from membership fees and donations.

FOG members and volunteers were assisted by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource employees Jim Zaleski, Jim Cox, and Jeff Roth. The WDNR donated concrete blocks used to hold the cribs in place, rope, sleds, and snowmobiles to move the heavy items.



*FOG members, DNR employees, and other volunteers work together to prepare the timber frames that will become fish cribs.*



*A portable generator came in handy to drill holes in the fish crib timbers. Despite the snow, the project was a great success.*

The cribs will serve as artificial nursery areas for young game fish and will help improve fishing on the flowage. Because the Gile Flowage lacks natural structure needed for fish production, construction of fish cribs has been a priority for FOG.

The cribs were temporarily submerged off they shore where they were built. They will be towed by the WDNR to their final location south of the Big Island this summer.

Thanks all the FOG Board members, volunteers, and the WDNR for their assistance with this big project to improve fishing on the flowage. We could not have done it without you!!

## Have You Renewed Your FOG Membership for 2006, Yet?

### IT'S E-Z TO BECOME A FOG MEMBER

**Membership in FOG is open anyone!**

Annual membership dues are:

**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.

*Memberships are for the calendar year and expire December 31st.*



A FOG membership renewal form is included in this newsletter and will be available at the Annual Meeting

# FROM THE FLOWAGE...

## Boater Welcome Kits Get Good Reviews During Opening Weekend...

An test run to distribute the new Boater Welcome Kits, during fishing opening weekend, met with great reviews. The kits are part of the “Be A Friend of the Flowage” campaign. Most of the boaters and fishers who received them enthusiastically asked “where can I get more?”

The kits contain handy items designed to encourage boaters to help stop the spread of aquatic invasives into and out of the Flowage. They include a Gile Flowage map-brochure, a 27-inch adhesive fish ruler, and fact sheet about FOG; all held in a litter bag. Some kits also include a postage paid confidential boater survey designed to get feedback from boaters on how FOG about their interests.



*The Boater Welcome Kit features the new full color Gile Flowage map-brochure, litter bag, and fish ruler to remind boaters to **R.I.D.** the Flowage of aquatic invaders from hitch-hiking a ride on their equipment*



*The new Gile Flowage brochure features a detailed Flowage map with important boating and recreational information about the Flowage. The map was created by FOG Board member Joel Enking*

Distribution of the Boater Welcome Kits kicks off on Memorial Day Weekend and will continue throughout the summer. Volunteers will distribute them at boat landings and to boaters on-the-water. Conservation Warden John Windt will be handing them out to boaters he meets on the Flowage. Kits will also be available at gas stations, bait shops, and boating supply businesses near the Flowage.

Besides being useful, the Boater Welcome Kits remind recreational users to R.I.D. the Flowage of aquatic invasive species by:

- R**emoving any animals or plants from their boat, trailer, or motor,
- I**nspecting all equipment for aquatic hitch-hikers
- D**rainng and dumping bait buckets and bilge water away from the lake.

The Gile Flowage is at risk of being invaded by a number of aquatic exotic species already found in northern Wisconsin lakes. The greatest threats are from Eurasian Water Milfoil and Purple Loosestrife. These aquatic invasive plants could threaten the flowage’s water quality, recreation, and fishing values.

The Gile Flowage is the only inland Wisconsin lake with a populations of the invasive spiny water flea and the exotic “Mystery Snail.” These invasives threaten other lakes if they are spread from the Gile on boating equipment.

FOG worked in partnership with the Towns of Carey and Pence to create brand new FOG has created the “Be A Friend of the Flowage” educational campaign. The project was funded by a Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Grant and a grant from the US Boat Foundation.

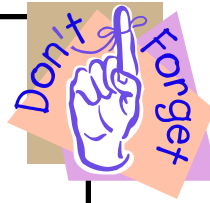
The new items to promote the Flowage will be available at Annual FOG Meeting.

New boat landing signs, developed as part of this project, are still being manufactured. The colorful signs will feature the new Gile Flowage map and information about how boaters can help R.I.D. the Flowage of aquatic invasive species. County C and Gile Park landings will feature 2-panel boat landing signs, while the Pence 4H and Sucker Hole landings will have smaller one-panel versions. FOG member Chuck Tronvig volunteered to construct the beautiful rustic wood structures that will hold the signs. Sign installation is scheduled for July.

**FRIENDS OF THE GILE FLOWAGE  
ANNUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, JUNE 10  
10 AM—12 NOON**

**GILE PARK PAVILION— RAIN OR SHINE  
Bring a dish to pass.. Meats & beverages provided**

**BUSINESS MEETING  
GILE FLOWAGE FISHERY UPDATE  
SILENT AUCTION—RAFFLE—GREAT FOOD**



**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

**Join FOG**

The only volunteer organization dedicated  
to the Gile Flowage

*Here's what your membership will support in 2006:*

**Winter Fish Crib Construction and Installation Project:** *Constructed  
January 2006, installation summer 2006*

**New Gile Flowage map/brochure:** *Debut at FOG Annual Meeting*

**New Gile Flowage Boat Landing Signs** at County C, Gile Park, Sucker  
Hole, and Pence 4H Boat Landings: *Installation July, 2006*

**Creation and Distribution of Boater Welcome Kits:** *Summer 2006*

**Annual Meeting:** *June 10, 2006 10-12 noon Gile Pavilion, Gile, WI*

**FOG website update:** *Summer 2006*

**Achievement of non-profit status:** *By Fall 2006*

**Representing the Gile Flowage** on lake issues

**Newsletters** informing you of what's new on the Flowage

**Monitoring and reporting** aquatic invasive species

**Annual Fall Island Clean-up Work Bee**

**And more...**

*Thank you for your Support !  
Please see Page 2 for membership information*



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**On-The-Web at [http://  
rueruel13.tripod.com/index.html](http://rueruel13.tripod.com/index.html)**  
*Please note that in the URL the char-  
acter before the number 3, is the num-  
ber 1, not a letter "l". Thanks to Peg  
Sutherland for maintaining our site!*

**FOG  
Board of Directors**

**President:** Cathy Techtmann  
Phone: 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