

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



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

Winter, 2007

Flowage Factoids

Interested in FOG FUN Fishing "Tournament"?



At the last Annual Meeting it was suggested that we consider having a FOG fishing tournament for FOG members and guests.

This would be a "just for fun" fishing event.

The FOG Board would like to know if you are interested in participating in such an event this summer.

The Board will work on the details if enough members are interested.

Please return your opinion on this idea with your membership form that is enclosed in this newsletter.

FOG Goes On-line with New Website

Thanks to Gary Hopp, FOG Board member and owner of Great Northern Services, FOG will have a new website: [www. friendsofthegile.org](http://www.friendsofthegile.org).

As a donation from his computer business, Great Northern Services of Duluth, MN, Gary has donated the cost of the FOG domain name for 10 years. Gary is also hosting the FOG website through his company and has provided software, support, and training for FOG Board members to learn how to update the it.

The new website will allow viewers to browse past FOG newsletters, meeting minutes, research about the Flowage, Flowage photos, and so much more.

Now FOG members, and anyone with access to the Internet, will be able to learn more our lake association and this wonderful body of water.

Under Gary's guidance, Board members Joel Enking and Cathy Techtmann are learning how to use the software and are working with it to construct the website.

The new FOG website will replace an older website that was developed and maintained by Peg Sutherland, former FOG Secretary. Peg was instrumental in putting information about the Flowage and FOG on the Internet. "The new website builds on the good work Peg did for FOG", explains Cathy,

If you have access to the Internet, check out the new FOG website. More features are being added to the website regularly.

Thank you, Gary and Great Northern Services for this generous donation!

You are a great Friend of the Flowage!

You can read more about Gary's company at: <http://www.gnsconsulting.com/>



FOG Board Member Gary Hopp teaches Joel Enking and Cathy Techtmann (taking the photo) how to create and update the new FOG website

FOG APPLIES FOR NON-PROFIT STATUS

FOG Treasury Report, By Jeanne Matchefts, FOG Treasurer

It's that time again....memberships expire at the end of each year, so if you haven't sent your 2007 dues in yet, now's the time. See the membership form in this newsletter.

On the bottom of the membership form we've added a question regarding a member's fishing tournament. The FOG Board is trying to come up with some new and interesting ways of fundraising as well as bringing members together. Please circle "yes" or "no" to indicate your interest. We are also asking you for some input on other fund raising ideas. So please add your thoughts on the back of the form!

The FOG Treasury is in good shape.



*Jeanne Matchefts,
FOG Treasurer*



Your FOG dues help support projects to enhance the Gile Flowage such as the new educational kiosks erected last summer at each Flowage boat landing

We had 67 paid members in 2006! Most of our funds at this time are coming from membership dues, but past grants have helped to pay for the new boat landing signs, boater education packets and newsletter supplies and postage.

Our application for Recognition of Exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code is in the mail! This will allow us to receive tax deductible donations and then allow us to apply to the State of Wisconsin for sales tax exemption. We will keep the membership informed as this application moves through the system.

Thank you to all of our members for keeping the FOG treasury strong!



FOG ANNUAL MEETING: Saturday, May 26, 9:30 am—11:30 am PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

It is always hard to find just the right date and time for our FOG annual meeting. Either we run into conflicts with graduation parties, meetings of other organizations, or cut into time for fishing and having fun on the Flowage!

The FOG Board is going try something new this year. Recognizing that most local and out-of-town members are here over Memorial Day Weekend, we are scheduling our 2007 Annual Meeting on Memorial Day **Saturday, May 26, from 9:30 am-11:30 am. at the Gile Park Pavilion in Gile, WI.**

Instead of our traditional potluck lunch, the Board will provide coffee, cookies, and sweet rolls.

The FOG Board felt that the earlier meeting time will allow avoid conflicts with graduation parties and other events typically scheduled the Memorial Day weekend and still allow members plenty of time enjoy the Flowage.

THE STATE OF FOG...WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Cathy Techtmann, FOG President

It's hard to believe that it was only 4 years ago that working together we formed the Friends of the Gile Flowage. Thanks to all of your help and support, I am happy to report that FOG is fulfilling its mission and making a difference in protecting and enhancing the Gile Flowage.

I would like to thank our FOG Board members who meet throughout the year to plan and complete these projects on behalf of our lake association and for everyone who has volunteered to help make them happen.

This is FOG membership renewal time. You will find a membership form in this newsletter. Consider the many projects FOG has accomplished on behalf of the Gile Flowage:

- √ Opened a dialogue with Xcel Energy about the future of the Flowage, established FOG as a lake association representing Flowage concerns, and held numerous public meetings to help people learn more about Flowage issues.
- √ Successfully applied for and completed two Wisconsin DNR Lake Planning Grants, in partnership with the Towns of Carey and Pence, resulting an environmental assessment that has increased our understanding of the Gile Flowage and supported the Towns' comprehensive land use planning.
- √ Sponsored a survey of Gile Flowage property owners, conducted by the Iron County UW-Extension Office, to find out people's attitudes, concerns, and issues about the Flowage.
- √ Successfully competed for a Wisconsin Aquatic Nuisance Species Grant and US Boat Foundation Grant, in partnership with the Town of Carey, that resulted in the construction of 4 educational boat landing kiosks, the first Gile Flowage map and brochure, and Gile Flowage Boater Welcome Kits; all designed to encourage Flowage users to help stop the spread of invasive species into and out of the Flowage.
- √ Purchased timber with membership dues and donations, and with the help of FOG volunteers constructed 29 fish cribs that will be installed in 2007 to provide fish habitat and improve the Flowage's fishery.
- √ Conducted island clean-ups in late summer 2005 and 2006, led by Board member Jim Kaffine.
- √ Update FOG members quarterly via the FOG newsletters and the FOG website

New projects in 2007 include a new FOG website to offer information about the Flowage via the Internet, continuing distribution of Boater Welcome Kits, a possible FOG fun fishing tournament, and looking into how FOG can work to improve the boat landing ramps and accessibility.

Please let me know if you any suggestions for ideas for future projects we should consider on behalf of the Flowage.



FROM THE FLOWAGE— The Fishing's GREAT !

The snowmobile trail established across the Flowage from Gile to the "Sucker Hole" boat landing on the Flowage's southern end is getting heavy use by snowmobilers. The Flowage trail is designed to get snowmobile traffic off Spring Camp Road and improve safety conditions for motorists and snowmobilers.

Reports are that ice fishing this winter has been excellent with limits of walleye taken each day. Maybe the FOG fish cribs, even though they are not installed in the lake yet, are getting the fish excited?

Speaking of the infamous FOG fish cribs, they will finally be put into the Flowage this spring. FOG board members are going to keep the DNR's "feet to the fire" to insure the fish cribs are not overlooked again by the DNR in their flurry of spring projects. The fish cribs must be installed after the ice has melted while the water is still high enough to allow them to be pulled into place by boat. We'll keep you posted, as usual!

FOG NOW ON THE WEB
AT
www. friendsofthegile.org

FRIENDS OF THE GILE FLOWAGE
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2007
9:30 am-11:30 am

GILE PARK PAVILON- RAIN OR SHINE
Sweets, cookies, & coffee provided



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.



Box 227, Montreal, WI 54550



Now On-The-Web at

friendsofthegile.org

FOG TO APPLY FOR QUALIFIED LAKE ASSOCIATION STATUS

As you have read in this newsletter, the paperwork has been filed with the IRS requesting a 501(c)3 non-profit organization status for FOG.

In 2007, FOG will also be requesting recognition as Wisconsin "qualified lake association." by the Wisconsin DNR. To achieve this designation, a lake association must meet several criteria. It must be incorporated and be in existence for more than 1 year. The organization must allow property owners or people who reside within 1 mile of the lake to be members and there cannot be different classes of voting members.

The organization must have at least 25 members and a membership fee not less than \$5.00 or more than \$50.00 per person. Finally, the association must declare in its bylaws and by its actions that its substantial purpose is to support protection and improvement of the lake for the benefit of the general public.

FOG achieved all of these milestones and is now ready for this step.

Becoming a Qualified Lake Association would allow FOG to directly apply for DNR grants and aids. It would also give FOG additional statewide recognition as an active lake association dedicated to protection and improvement of the Gile Flowage for the benefit of all.

2007 FOG Board of Directors
President: Cathy Techtmann
 Phone: 715.561.2185
Vice-President- Open
Secretary- Open
Treasurer- Jeanne Matchefts
Board Members At Large
 Gary Miles Jim Kaffine
 Gary Hopp Alan Sobczak

 ★ **KUDOS TO:** ★
 ★ Jeanne Matchefts, FOG Treasurer, for the many hours of work she put into completing the paperwork required for FOG to apply for non-profit status with the IRS. ★
 ★ Gary Hopp, and his company Great Northern Services of Duluth, MN, for donating the cost of a web domain name and hosting for a FOG website . ★
 ★ **THANK-YOU !** ★
