



Lake Soundings

The Gilmore Lake Association Newsletter - Spring 2026



A Hidden World in the North Basin. Photos captured by Gilmore Lake resident Mike McCloskey reveal the surprising diversity of wild-life living around the beaver dam and wetlands in the lake's north basin. Story and photos begin on page 6.

President's Message

Dear Lake Neighbors,
The Association board has been busy in the off-season working to address the most pressing issues on Gilmore Lake.

As you know, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) is an ongoing concern. We have been awarded two grants aimed at addressing EWM in various ways. The cost of these initiatives is only partially covered by the grants. Our budget for 2026 includes \$52,000 that will be spent on EWM surveys, testing, herbicide & mechanical treatments, and consulting from our lake biologist, Emily Moore. The grants will cover only \$32,000 of this expense.

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New Milfoil Management Projects and WDNR Grants Announced

The Gilmore Lake Association (GLA) is pleased to announce important new developments in our ongoing efforts to manage and reduce Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Gilmore Lake.

New WDNR Grants Awarded for 2026–2027

GLA recently received two grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to support aquatic invasive species management and lake planning activities during the next two years. The grants include:

- \$50,000 Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant to support Eurasian watermilfoil control efforts during the 2026 and 2027 seasons
- \$7,300 Lake Management Planning Grant to support lake management and planning initiatives

"These grants are an important step in helping the Gilmore Lake Association continue its long-term mission to preserve and protect the lake for current residents and future generations," said GLA President Fran McCloskey.

"Our 2026 management plan combines science-based treatment strategies, community involvement and ongoing monitoring to address Eurasian watermilfoil," said Fran. "We are grateful for the support of the WDNR and the many Gilmore Lake property owners who have already contributed their time and resources to protecting the lake. Our entire community's involvement and support will be essential to the success of this effort."

Eurasian Watermilfoil Action Plan

The GLA is pursuing an "integrated pest management"

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Gilmore Lake Association Board

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President: Fran McCloskey
franmcloskey@yahoo.com

Vice President: Open position

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Joan Mellor
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Kevin Smith
kevin@smgreps.com

Committee Chairs

Lake Management:
Fran McCloskey

Membership & Communications:
Barb Robinson

Fundraising: Joan Mellor

President's Message from page 1...

Our board members and I believe we need to operate with a balanced budget, so we will need to raise \$20,000 this year.

We have been raising funds for the EWM battle since it was first discovered, but our efforts have been sporadic. We must plan for ongoing work which is why we are launching the Gilmore Lake Preservation Fund to sustain our lake management efforts over the long run. Please review your level of commitment to the lake and support this work for your benefit and future generations.

In addition to the EWM project, we have worked to recruit volunteers for our board and committees to help share the decision making and work of GLA. I want to welcome Marggie Banker and Patrick Boyle who were appointed at our Spring board meeting. They will stand for election to three-year terms at the GLA Annual Meeting on June 27. We continue to look for members willing to help us in our work. Please consider joining us.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to everyone that is a member and contributes annually. You are making a difference for all of us. Join today or renew your annual membership using the QR code or form on the last page. If every property owner gave \$111 extra per year, we can balance our budget and fully fund the EWM fight.

I look forward to seeing you on the lake,
Fran McCloskey, President

Mark Your Calendars!

June 27: GLA Annual Meeting

The 2026 Gilmore Lake Association Annual Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27 at the Jack Link's Aquatic and Activity Center. Free lunch to follow at noon.

July 4: Boat Parade & Paddle Races

In honor of the United States' 250th anniversary, this year's "Yankee Doodle Dandy" themed boat parade will begin at 1 p.m. on July 4. Participants should gather near the boat landing before the parade.

The GLA will also host canoe, kayak, paddleboard — and any other non-motorized craft — races for adults & youth (14 and under) beginning at 11 a.m. in the south basin. Check in at the GLA pontoon boat.

Ice cream sandwiches will be available for paddle race and board parade participants. Plaques awarded to category winners. Bragging rights free to all.

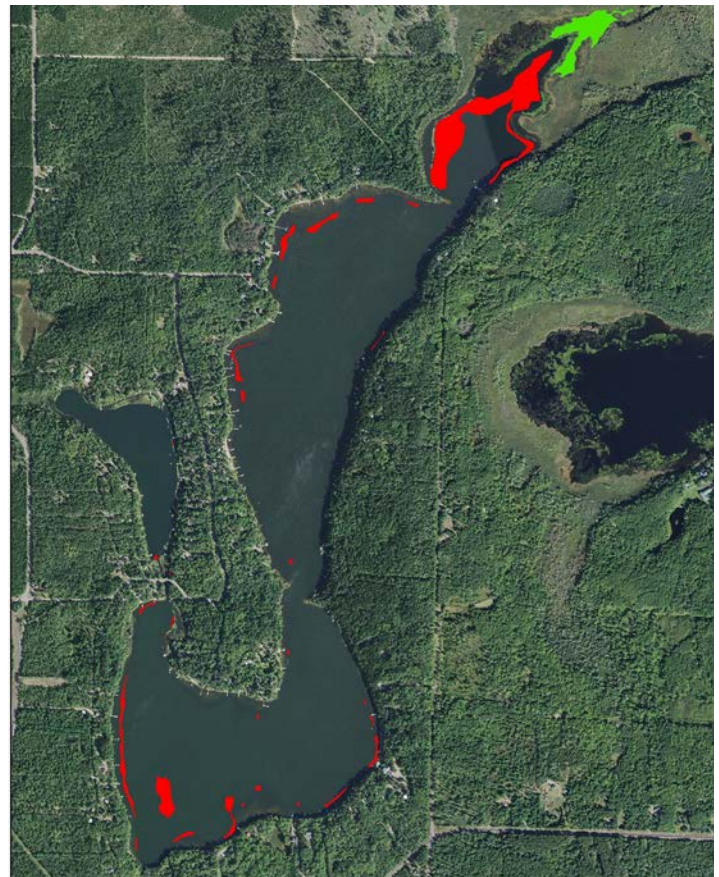
EWM Action Plan from page 1...

strategy developed with Aquatic Plant Management LLC, a Wisconsin-based aquatic plant management firm specializing in invasive species control and lake restoration. The plan includes herbicide treatments, diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH), and professionally led volunteer snorkel divers who will hand-pull weeds. The EWM control grant will help fund these several initiatives, including:

- Herbicide treatments targeting EWM beds in the lake's southern and middle basins in early July using 2,4-D and ProcellaCOR®. However, the GLA must first obtain treatment permits from the WDNR, and approval is not guaranteed.
- DASH operations in the north basin, which is the most heavily infested area of Gilmore Lake, beginning in August.
- Volunteer snorkel diver efforts led by Emily Moore of Moore Lake & Garden LLC, who has been serving as our lake consultant for the past few years, to hand-pull smaller EWM beds around the lake during July and August.

Optimism for WDNR Permit Approval

The GLA's proposed 2026 treatment strategy is designed to contain Eurasian watermilfoil while protecting the lake's native wild rice beds. Because the WDNR is cautious about allowing herbicide applications near wild rice due to the potential for unintended impacts, the Gilmore Lake plan focuses herbicide treatments primarily in the southern and



Red shows Eurasian Watermilfoil beds on Gilmore Lake. Bright green in the north basin represents protected wild rice.

middle basins of the lake — areas located well away from the wild rice beds in the north basin.

Recently, the WDNR approved ProcellaCOR® treatments on the Minong Flowage after a lengthy negotiation and review process.

"The Minong Flowage precedent is encouraging," said Fran. "We hope that a carefully designed

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**403 US 53 Bus Highway, Minong
(715) 466-2262**

Monday – Saturday 8:00am - 8:00pm
Sunday 8:00am - 6:00pm

The logo for Boondocks Coffee + Cafe. It features a silhouette of a canoe with two people inside, set against a background of evergreen trees. Below the canoe is a shield-shaped emblem with the text "BOONDOCKS" in a bold, sans-serif font, and "COFFEE + CAFE" in a smaller font below it. At the bottom of the shield, it says "MINONG, WI".

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EWM Action Plan from page 3...

treatment plan for Gilmore Lake — one that emphasizes geographic separation from wild rice beds and responsible application practices — will satisfy WDNR requirements.”

Community Hand-Pulling Event Planned

The lake association also plans to host a Eurasian watermilfoil training session followed by a volunteer hand-pulling event and picnic in late July. The event will give lake residents an opportunity to learn more about invasive species management while contributing directly to efforts to protect and preserve Gilmore Lake.

The event date will be announced at the GLA annual meeting on Saturday, June 27, at the Jack Link's Aquatic and Activity Center.

Buoys and Signage Improvements

To help limit the spread of milfoil, GLA will once again deploy buoys in the north basin to discourage boats from entering the large, dense EWM bed. New buoys are being added this season in the southern basin to limit boat use around EWM beds in that area.

GLA also maintains informational signs at the boat landing and the northern narrows to help educate lake users about Eurasian watermilfoil and ongoing management efforts.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Inspections

The GLA will again participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters watercraft inspection program coordi-

nated by the Minong Area Lakes Alliance (MALA, formerly the Minong Town Lakes Committee). Trained inspectors will help educate boaters about aquatic invasive species prevention and inspect watercraft entering and leaving area lakes. Gilmore Lake has been assigned approximately 290 hours of weekend landing inspections during the 2026 season.

“We’re pleased to introduce Jordan Schirmer as Gilmore Lake’s dedicated Clean Boats Clean Waters inspector,” said Fran. “Jordan grew up on the Minong Flowage, and his family has long been active supporters of area lakes and conservation efforts.”



Jordan Schirmer will educate boaters and conduct boat inspections at the Gilmore Lake landing to help stop the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Jordan will staff the Gilmore Lake landing on weekends from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., traditionally the busiest boat launching hours at the landing. Jordan’s inspection and education efforts are an important first line of defense in protecting Gilmore Lake.



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Wildlife Around the Beaver Dam

Photos by Mike McCloskey

Beaver Dam Supports Lake Levels and the Ecosystem

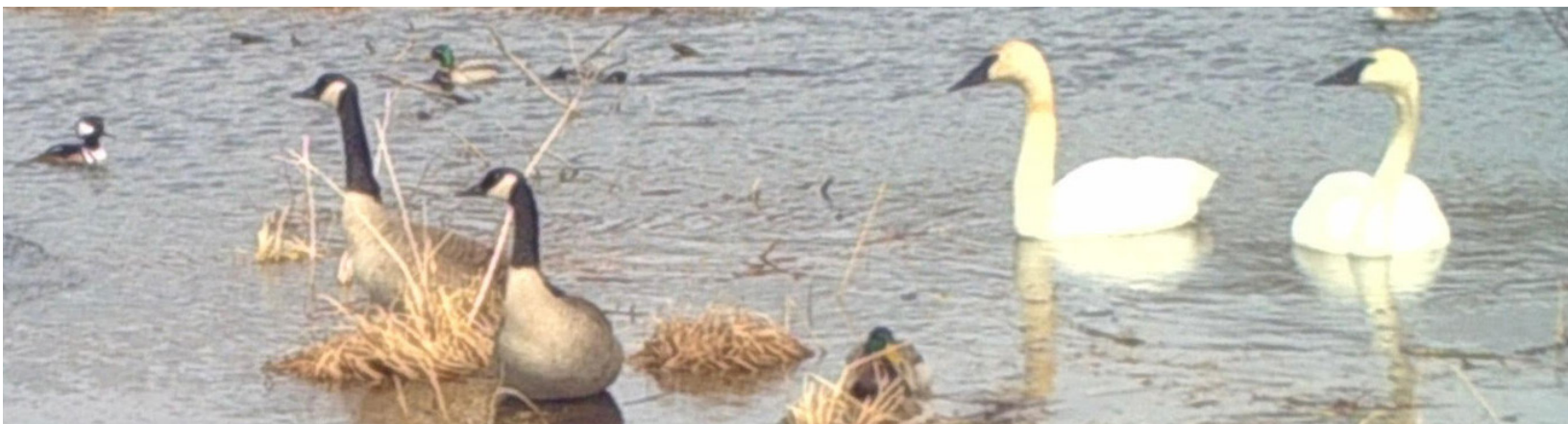
The importance of the beaver dam in the north basin of Gilmore Lake is often underappreciated. In addition to supporting the lake's ecosystem, the dam has helped maintain lake levels during periods of low water flow in the Totagatic River and connecting waterways by reducing the outflow of water from the lake.

The beaver dam also helps create and maintain wetlands that provide important habitat for fish, waterfowl, amphibians and other wildlife. The Gilmore Lake beavers are natural ecosystem engineers that have created an expansive dam of tree branches, logs and mud stretching hundreds of feet across portions of the north basin wetland area.

Last fall and winter, Gilmore Lake resident Mike McCloskey installed a trail camera near the beaver dam to observe beaver activity and other wildlife in the area. The cameras captured images of a coyote, lynx, otter and a wide variety of birds — highlighting the rich diversity of wildlife supported by these wetland habitats.

**BEAVERS ARE
OFTEN CALLED
'ECOSYSTEM
ENGINEERS'
BECAUSE OF
THE IMPORTANT
WELAND HABITATS
THEY CREATE.**

- WISCONSIN DNR



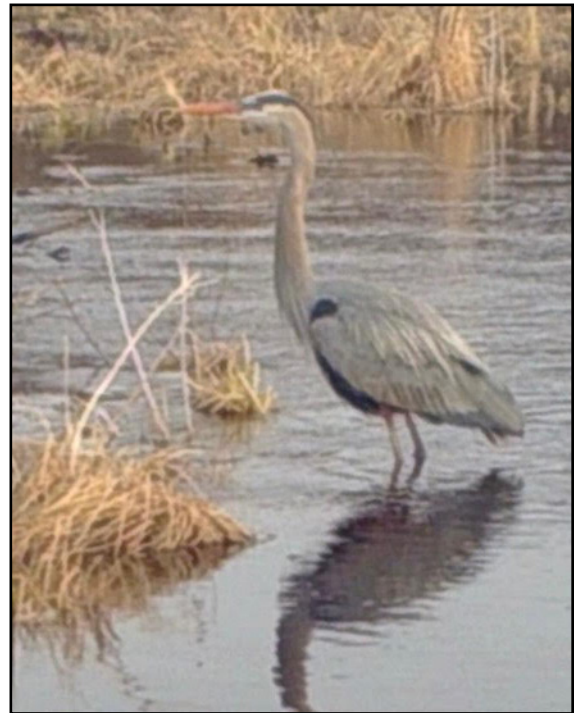
Winter Visitors

Captured by trail camera

Coyote saunters across the ice.



Lynx explores the wetland.



Great Blue Heron in the spring thaw.



River otter along the shoreline.

Help Protect Gilmore Lake

Join the Gilmore Lake Association and Support the Lake Preservation Fund

In addition to its annual membership drive with low dues of only \$25, the Gilmore Lake Association is launching the Gilmore Lake Preservation Fund. This dedicated funding initiative will support ongoing Eurasian Watermilfoil treatment and long-term lake management efforts on Gilmore Lake.

Gilmore Lake Preservation Fund

The new fund will help provide sustainable financial support for herbicide treatments, DASH removal efforts, lake management planning, professional consulting services and other initiatives designed to protect the health, ecology and recreational enjoyment of the lake for future generations.

Eurasian watermilfoil remains one of the most significant long-term threats facing Gilmore Lake. While recent grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have helped fund treatment efforts, those grants require local matching funds and do not fully cover the significant management costs the GLA will likely face in the future.

Annual GLA Membership

Annual membership dues are just \$25 per household and help support the ongoing work of the Gilmore Lake Association, including community events, lake stewardship, safety initiatives and coordination with local and state agencies. Membership helps support the Association's mission to preserve, protect and enhance Gilmore Lake for current and future generations.



2026 Preservation Fund Goal

\$20,000

Suggested stewardship levels:

- Member - \$100
- Lake Steward - \$250
- Lake Guardian - \$500
- Legacy Partner - \$1,000 +

Every contribution helps protect Gilmore Lake.

The Lake Preservation Fund is separate from annual GLA membership dues and provides dedicated funding for Eurasian water milfoil treatment and management.

2026 GLA Membership Renewal and Donation Form

Join or renew your membership in the Gilmore Lake Association today and support the preservation of the lake through Preservation Fund dedicated to treating invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil. Use the QR codes or complete the form below and mail it with your check to:

Gilmore Lake Association, P.O. Box 188, Minong, WI 54859

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Primary Email: _____

() \$25 Membership Dues () Lake Preservation Fund \$ _____



Annual GLA Membership - \$25



Lake Preservation Fund