



Lake Soundings

The Gilmore Lake Association Newsletter - Spring 2024



Minong Fire Burns 200 Acres

A fire broke out east of Smith Bridge Road near Gilmore Lake on April 13, burning approximately 200 acres and destroying two trailer homes and five other structures. Evacuation orders were quickly issued for the surrounding area and no injuries were reported.

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Annual Lake Meeting & Boat Parade

The 2024 Gilmore Lake Association Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00am on **July 6, 2023** at the Jack Link Aquatic & Activity Center in Minong. Free membership lunch to follow.

This year's Annual Boat Parade will be at 1:00pm on **Friday, July 5** (rain date is the following day). The parade theme will be "Your Favorite Song."

Eurasian Watermilfoil Plan for 2024: Remove, Educate, Fundraise & Petition

The Gilmore Lake Association has a comprehensive plan for combatting Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), the notorious invasive weed that can damage fish habitats, obstruct swimming areas and entangle boat motors. Success of the multi-action plan that begins this season will require the financial support and active participation of lake residents.

"We are taking immediate action and putting into place a longer-term strategy for fighting the spread of EWM," said Fran McCloskey, GLA President. "We can succeed, but this effort needs everyone who enjoys the lake and cares about protecting it."

EWM currently covers about 10 acres in the north basin of the lake. Its rapid spread, often accidentally by boaters and other recreational lake users, has led to the emergence of 22 smaller patches or micro colonies in the central and south basins, as well as in 'Little Gilmore.' "Our Eurasian Watermilfoil infestation is significant, but it remains manageable if all of us are vigilant, determined and proactive," said Fran.

...Continued on page 4

President's Message

Dear Lake Neighbors,
With the early spring in the Northwoods, the GLA board has sprung into action on several important projects. We are continuing the battle against Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the lake, and we have a specific plan for tackling EWM in 2024 and beyond (see nearby article). This is our most important project right now and we are committed to doing all we can to keep EWM in check.

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Prevent the Spread

**Help Us Raise \$10,000 to
Stop Eurasian Watermilfoil**

Across Gilmore Lake, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is threatening:

- Fish habitats
- Water quality & lake ecology
- Swimming areas
- Property values

Our current funding is not enough. Please make a tax-deductible donation to the Gilmore Lake EWM Fund.

- PayPal
- Mail a check payable to Gilmore Lake Association, PO Box 188, Minong, WI 54859

**SCAN
ME**



Donate today!

All funds will support:

- Targeted removal
- Lake user education
- Advocating Wisconsin DNR for additional treatment options

All contributions will be matched 100% up to \$10,000 by a generous donor.

Together We Can Preserve Our Lake

Questions? Contact GLA President Fran McCloskey at fmccloskey@gilmorelakeassociation.com

Gilmore Lake Association Board

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Membership: Fran McCloskey

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Newsletter: Dave Walsh
iamdwalsh@gmail.com



Gilmore Lake's Own 'Walter' was a Legendary Sturgeon

In 2006, perhaps the biggest fish never caught on Gilmore Lake was found washed up on the southeast shore. This old photograph shows a Wisconsin DNR agent standing beside the beached sturgeon, which was an impressive 85 inches in length, weighing around 100 pounds, and believed to be approximately 100 years old. Bud Casey, a former resident of the lake, now 93, recalls how locals dubbed the colossal creature "Walter" after the iconic 10-pound rainbow trout from the 1981 film "On Golden Pond." While the lake sturgeon is considered a rare species in the U.S., it is known to inhabit the Namekagon River below the Trego Dam.



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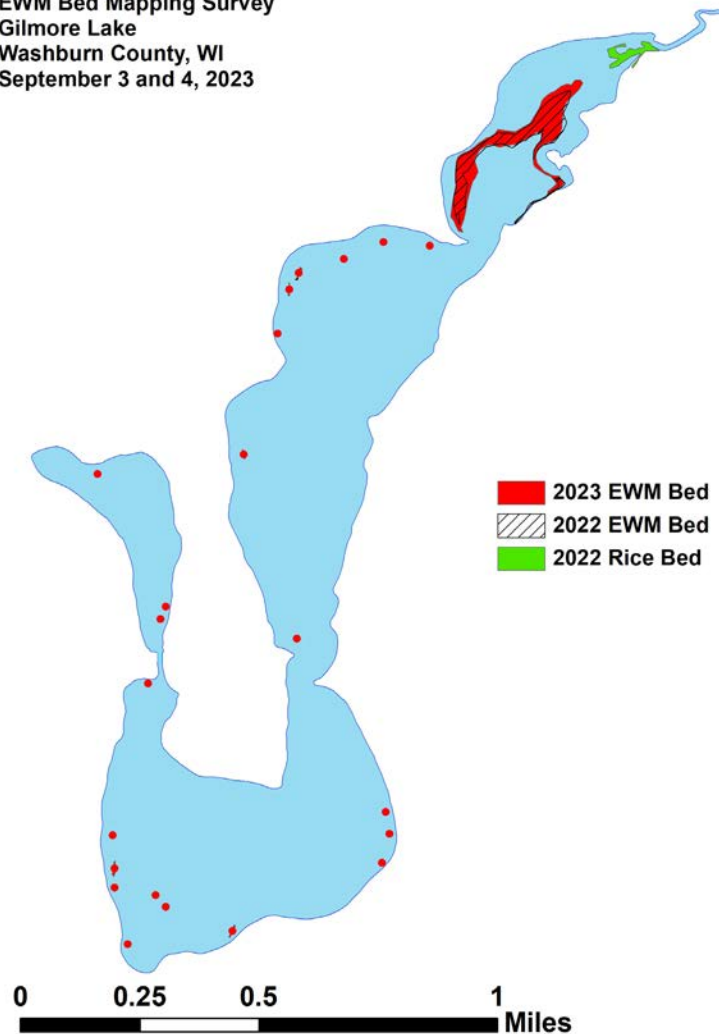
Eurasian Watermilfoil Plan from page 1...

The GLA management plan includes:

- **Removal.** Scuba divers have been contracted to remove EWM from the 22 micro colonies identified in the most recent lake survey. EWM does not emerge until the water temperature reaches 60 degrees, so the work is not scheduled until early summer.
 - **Education.** A top priority is educating lake users about EWM to stop its spread. A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant will pay for training residents about how to identify and remove the weed from their shorelines. Removal technique is crucial, said Fran, because EWM spreads so easily. Signs and buoys cautioning boaters about EWM will be placed again in the north basin.
 - **Fundraising.** EWM management is a long-term financial challenge. The association will continue to apply for state education and treatment grants, but these are unlikely to fully cover expenses, especially given the extensive infestation in the north basin. "We are developing an annual fundraising program to help raise the funds that will be needed," Fran explained.
 - **Petition.** The association plans to request an exception to the DNR prohibition on the use of herbicides in the north basin, which is home to protected wild rice, culturally and spiritually significant to many Native American tribes. The
- ...Continued on page 6

Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

EWM Bed Mapping Survey
Gilmore Lake
Washburn County, WI
September 3 and 4, 2023



A survey of Gilmore Lake in September 2023 found 22 small patches of Eurasian Watermilfoil in addition to the 10-acre colony in the north basin. Source: Endangered Resource Services.



HOURS:
Mon–Thu 6am–2pm
Friday 6am–7pm
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EWM Plan from page 4...

DNR no longer permits small-scale herbicide treatment of EWM beds measuring less than five acres, having deemed them as "less effective."

More information about EWM management plan, including ways lake property owners can volunteer and contribute financially, will be discussed at the GLA annual meeting at 10:00am on July 6, 2023 at the Jack Link Aquatic & Activity Center in Minong.

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Formally known as the Golden Chipmunk

President's Message from page 1...

EWM management is expensive, costing nearly \$3,000 per day for divers or Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH). So, we are embarking on a significant campaign to fund EWM control going forward. Our fundraising goal is ambitious yet vital: \$10,000 in 2024 to match a generous grant of the same amount. In reality, this goal equates to a modest \$60 per household. Please give what you can to help combat EWM's invasion and preserve the ecological integrity of our beloved lake, as well as the land and property values around the lake. The enclosed flyer has instructions for making a tax-deductible donation to the Gilmore Lake EWM fund. In our research and conversations with other lake associations, we know that doing nothing is not an option.

At the Annual Meeting and luncheon at 10:00am on July 6 at the Jack Link Aquatic & Activity Center, we will provide more information about how you can participate in EWM management and other GLA activities. We will also hold an election for two board positions that are currently held by Kristi O'Kane and Joan Mellor (who filled the remaining term of John Breiteringer who stepped down last fall). Both have agreed to serve another term. If you want to nominate anyone, including yourself, for a board position, please do so at the annual meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you on the lake this summer.

Fran McCloskey, President

Minong Fire from page 1...

Twelve local fire departments, law enforcement, and emergency management teams responded to the fire. In addition, two airplanes from the Minnesota Fixed Wing Air Resources scooped water from Gilmore Lake to help extinguish the blaze, which burned in the crowns of the trees and in slash on the ground, moving in a northeasterly direction.

Outdoor burning permits are required by the Wisconsin DNR. Free permits, notices about daily burning restrictions and fire safety tips are available on the [DNR website](https://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/).



P.O. Box 188
Minong, Wisconsin 54859

Gilmore Lake Association

The Gilmore Lake Association is committed to protecting our lake and your investments through the proactive management of Eurasian Water Milfoil and monitoring water quality in our lake. By joining the Association, your dues help support this work. Fill out the form below and mail it, along with your \$25 check or money order to:

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

PLEASE SIGN ME UP! 2024 MEMBERSHIP IN THE GILMORE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Name: _____ Lake Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lake Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ () \$25 Membership () Donation: _____