

MINUTES OF GENERAL FALL MEETING 2011

TIME & PLACE: The 146th meeting of the Teal, Lost Land and Ghost Lakes Improvement Association was held Saturday, September 24, 2011 at Spider Lake Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Bob Dale at 9:00 am.

ROLL CALL: Board members Bob Dale (President), John Hanson (Vice-President), Shari Peterson (Secretary), Rex Clevenger (Environment), John Gouze (Properties/Fisheries) and Gayle Little (Membership & Newsletter) were present. Members in attendance were Ginny Wiklund, Sharon & Preston Woods, Jim & Donna Nickel, Don & Rhoda Nelson, Joe & Dorothy Gallina, Blaine Ehrmanstraut, Bruce Shackelton, Jeff Peterson, Michael & Angela Madalon, Maurice & Ellen O'Connor, Case & Jo Mazik, George Miller, Sue Dale, Audrey Divilbiss, Barbara Clevenger, Bill Sands, Bill Thornbury, and guests were P.R. Roning, H. Grimberg, Jim & Donna Paddock and Carol Alcoe.

PRESENTATION: Our scheduled presenter, Dave Neuswanger, had a scheduling conflict and had to cancel. Instead, Frank Pratt (WI DNR, retired) was kind enough to give a presentation on fisheries. Some of the points of his presentation were:

Teal Lake used to be a strong naturally reproducing lake for walleye. The main problem is that there has always been a competitive predation relationship between large mouth bass and walleye. For a 35 year period starting in the late 60's through early 2000 walleyes had the upper hand. In Teal Lake 9 out of 10 predator fish were walleye, the other half muskie; everything else would fall behind including large mouth bass. Climate change is now shifting the advantage to large mouth bass. Many of the lakes that were 10 years ago walleye dominant are now large mouth bass dominant with little or no walleye reproduction. The best we can do is to stock lakes with large walleye fingerlings. As far as size of fingerlings - the amount of predation on a 9 inch walleye is insignificant, a 7 inch fingerling is manageable. Fingerlings will disperse naturally around a lake when released. It's not necessary to divide them for multiple release sites around a lake. Unless we can do something to intervene to get successful natural reproduction back on the forefront, the outlook for walleye is not good. In 1989 the northern limit of largemouth bass was somewhere in extreme Southern Ontario. They're now half way to the Arctic Circle. Another approach is to intervene in the regulations to liberalize the harvest of largemouth bass. However to date, any efforts to change the regulations have been unsuccessful. Chemical treatments are not an option. They are expensive and socially unacceptable. Stocking and regulation changes are the best options for walleye that we have in our tool box. The outlook on muskie populations is excellent. The numbers and size of muskie have never been better since the 1940's. The average size is increasing, the numbers are stable, and their range is expanding. Northern pike are a cold water fish and their numbers will be hurt by climate change. Promoting lake health and ecosystem health will help to resist alien species. Rusty crayfish were first reported in Round Lake around 1972. By 1976 there was an incredible abundance while the native species numbers went down. This held into the mid 80's then the system started to absorb them and they reached a very low carrying capacity. At the same time the native species went back up to about their former abundance. The lesson here is, particularly for rusty crayfish, if you wait 20-30 years you will out wait them and the system will absorb them. This same cycle with the rusty crayfish happened in Middle Eau Claire Lake and the Highland Lake Chain. However, if a lake has bad water quality, a number of exotics competing, watershed problems, or other imbalances in the fisheries, the chances are elevated for an exotic species to get the upper hand and remain there. There is a disparity between Lost Land and Teal in phosphorus levels but it is probably natural. We should accept the phosphorus levels in Teal as natural and not make an attempt to change them. However, with climate change in particular and the episodic thunderstorm run off events of this summer it becomes more important to control runoff. We must be very cognizant about shoreline protection, zoning for impervious surfaces and buffer zones. Watershed management and shoreline protection is very critical in controlling

phosphorus levels. Frank promotes (and performs) aquatic and angler education to youth. One of the projects he does is to have the kids make a fishing spinner. Frank passed out 'make a spinner' packets to us, explained how to assemble them and how they attract fish. I'm happy to report that no one was injured making a spinner.

BREAK: After a short coffee break the meeting resumed. Thanks to Audrey Divilbiss, Barb Clevenger and Sue Dale for bringing delicious treats to share.

SECRETARY (Peterson): Minutes from the July 23rd General Meeting were approved.

TREASURER (Dale for Johnson): Bob Dale gave the Treasurer's Report as Orlin Johnson was not present. Bob reported 105 members have paid 2011 dues. That is roughly the same number that had paid at this time last year. Additionally, 30 who did not pay 2010 dues caught up in 2011. To date the total dues collected for 2011 are \$2740 vs. \$2320 at this same time in 2010. Much thanks to Gayle Little for contacting the members. Including cash contributions, the walleye donations total \$1707. The picnic and raffle proceeds totaled \$1280, up \$300 from 2010. Picnic expenses were \$1008 resulting in a \$272 excess in revenues over expenses. Excluding walleye donations our operating surplus so far in 2011 is \$550 which is sufficient to cover normal operating expenses which occur during the last 3 months of each year. Currently \$5315.70 is in our operating account which is slightly above the \$5100 which was on deposit last September. According to Orlin, for the last 8 years we have typically carried about a \$5000 balance in the account.

MEMBERSHIP (Little): Gayle reported 166 members on the books. 128 are paid up (these include Lifetime members), 29 have not paid 2011 yet, and 9 have not paid 2010. There is a potential for approximately 400 members. Talk to friends and neighbors about joining. We have wonderful speakers and John does a fabulous job of organizing the annual picnic. We have a core group of people, even if we don't see them at the meetings, that believe in what we are doing. Gayle received 6 bounce backs and all were AOL.com. If you have an AOL email account and are not receiving the information you think you should - either the newsletter and/or blog - contact Gayle.

ENVIRONMENT/BLOG (Clevenger): All testing for invasive species on Teal and Lost Land Lakes have been negative. No one has volunteered to test Ghost Lake. In February we applied for a \$57,000 grant covering all 4 boat ramps for 3 years which was denied. Rex's next approach is to apply for 3 individual \$9,929 grants covering 2 years. One is for the Landing Camp ramp, the second is Teal River dam, and the third combines the remaining 2 ramps (Larson Road and Ghost Lake). We should be notified within the next couple of months if we are awarded or denied any of these grants. Recently, a monitor at a Spider Lake boat ramp had to retrieve pieces of Eurasian water milfoil from a boat that had recently been in Lake Minnetonka. The boat was inspected but after it launched, pieces of milfoil that had been lodged in between the trailer and boat came loose. The monitor retrieved the floating pieces of milfoil. Spider Lake Association has proposed closing the Heinemann ramp so they can better monitor the lake by concentrating their monitoring efforts at the main entrance on Clear Lake. Would closing a Quiet Lake boat ramp be advantageous in preventing the spread of invasive species in our lakes? When Rex asked for input from the members on this question there were mixed opinions. The Larson Road sign was replaced for \$100. During the sign installation Rex was surprised but appreciative to see Audrey Divilbiss putting invasive species information cards on car windows. Rex also found out that Mary Witt has been volunteering in these efforts also. The blog site is up and running; the address is <http://quietlakeswisconsin.blogspot.com>. There is a great story of how Russ Streit and his wife survived being stranded on Rustic Road 622 on New Years Eve night. There are several other stories on the blog. If you see something interesting on the lake or would like to share a story on the blog, send an email to: quiet_lakes@yahoo.com. Rex also gave a short presentation on the Clevenger Apiaries.

FISHERIES (Gouze): There is no new information on fisheries or walleye fund.

PROPERTIES (Gouze): John said that the island picnic areas look good. Visitors have been cleaning up the sites before leaving. We discussed additional speed buoys, placement on the lake, and the application process. John will look into the feasibility of adding a no wake buoy in the bottle neck area, near McNott Island, of Teal Lake.

PROGRAM/SOCIAL (Hanson): John asked for presentation suggestions for the coming year from the members.

2012 membership meeting presentation suggestions

Chris Cold
Eagles and Ospreys
Wolves
Beekeeping
Proposed Mine
Connie Chaney
Healthy Lakeshore Habitat - Sarah Boles

Proposed membership meeting dates for 2012

Saturday, May 19th
Saturday, July 21st
Picnic - August 19th at Reel Livin' Resort, starting at 11:00 am
Saturday, September 22nd

All meetings start at 9 am with coffee and treats available at 8:30 am.

NEW BUSINESS: Revisions to bylaws will be addressed in the spring.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Peterson, Secretary