

# TEAL, LOST LAND AND GHOST LAKES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF GENERAL SUMMER MEETING 2015

**TIME & PLACE:** The 155th meeting of the Teal, Lost Land and Ghost Lakes Improvement Association was held Saturday, July 18, 2015 at Boulder Lodge on Ghost Lake . The meeting was called to order by President Bob Dale at 9:07 am.

**ROLL CALL:** Board members Bob Dale (President), Norm Bratteig (Vice President) and Gayle Little (Treasurer), were present. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sue Dale, Chris and Kay Callaway, Linda Bratteig, Terry and Michelle Conroy, Chris and Gene Aichele, Rex and Barb Clevenger, John and Sue Leighton, John and Julie Trombello, Jeff Post, John Gouze, Margaret Lew, John and Brenda Maier. **NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Book.

**PRESENTATION:** Our speaker today is Wisconsin DNR Biologist Chris Cold. The theme today is extinction. 99% of life that has ever existed on this planet is now extinct. We know from the fossil record there is a great story to tell about the rise and fall of life forms. When we think of extinction we tend to think of dinosaurs, as symbols, emblems of extinction. We sometimes consider them failures because they no longer exist, but they dominated the planet for about 150 million years. Many would call that success.

Based on the best evidence we have it appears that the extinction of dinosaurs came 65 million years ago in the form of a large asteroid. It crashed into the Gulf of Mexico, and the impact created shockwaves, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanoes around the planet. The earth went into a period of nuclear winter. Anything larger than a house cat ceased to exist on land. This type of event - of mass extinction - didn't just happen once, it happened many times in the history of this planet. One thing we have learned is that there are always survivors. Those survivors tend to radiate out into all the occupations that were vacated and develop in new directions. Some animals can be totally unrelated to each other but independently evolve similar traits as a result of having to adapt to similar environments. This process is called convergent evolution. One example would be to think of the face of a white-tailed deer - a doe - then think of the face of a kangaroo. These two are not related at all but because they have the same occupation in nature they developed the same heads. 2 million years ago the ice ages began, and they came and went in different waves of intervals. A few times ocean levels became very shallow and exposed massive land bridges which provided movement for animals between continents.

The paleolithic overkill theory strongly suggests that humans were responsible for the extinction of large mammals like mammoths and giant bison. This extinction happened quite quickly. For example, an African elephant lives about 75 years and is pregnant for almost 2 years before giving birth. The young must survive into their teens before they breed. If these animals were hunted into small groups where they were not able to contact other individuals they would be forced to inbreed with relatives. When animals start to inbreed terrible things happen. They have smaller litters, less resistance to disease, and possible defects that can be locked in their genes and condemn them to have that defect forever. Genetics has great importance in life. Many animals today are locked into this type of trouble. Many countries are trying to extract DNA from extinct animals to use as a surrogate for endangered species. Even if this was accomplished we don't have habitat to support these animals. If they are going to do it, it's going to be in NE Russia; they've already named it Pleistocene Park.

Last year was the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon which was known to be the most abundant bird in North America. If you search for "lost bird project passenger pigeon" you will find a computer-generated video of what it may have been like to witness a flock of passenger pigeons migrating overhead. American alligators were on the brink of extinction because of their high quality hide and leather. With the closing of the hunting season the hope was that the alligators could get themselves out of trouble and they did. Today alligator tourism is popular throughout Florida. Education is the best tool in trying to save endangered species. People - especially young people - that grow up to know and appreciate the natural world will want to preserve it.

**NOTE:** Chris displayed over 400 images during his presentation. As he has in the past, Chris brought live animals along to show everyone. Combining education and entertainment seems to come naturally to Chris. We thank him once again for taking the time to share his depth of knowledge with the lake association members and guests.

Thanks to the Dales for bringing treats to share.

**LEGISLATIVE (Dale):** The QLA members voted and elected for another 2 year term:

President - Bob Dale

Secretary - Shari Peterson

Please don't hesitate to ask questions if you are interested in becoming a board member. There have been some changes to our bylaws. We now have only 1 board meeting and 1 general meeting each year. The reason for the changes were to reduce the amount of time and effort required by the board members. We hope to continue to be active in bringing our members information pertaining to our lakes as well as a place where residents can express their concerns.

**SECRETARY (Peterson):** Minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting were approved.

**TREASURER (Little):** Gayle reported as of 6/30/15 the checking account balance was \$3,944.13. The savings account - which includes the walleye fund at \$3,823.63, Jim Imse estate donation at \$8,858.36, the WDNR grant at \$3,459.91, plus some interest - totals \$16,145.58.

**MEMBERSHIP (Little):** Gayle reported we have 141 members. 22 have not paid last year. New member and Wisconsin Master Naturalist Brenda Maier will guide a Cranberry Treasure Hunt on November 14th. For information contact the Cable Natural History Museum.

**ENVIRONMENT (Bratteig/Dale):** Norm reported that cleanup was needed on McNott Island after someone had camped over July 4th. Buoys were placed on the lake by John Gouze. Bob has been monitoring the dam and everything is looking good. At the end of July 2013 Eurasian Water Milfoil was found in Lost Land Lake by GLIFWC, and they notified the DNR. In early August a small area of the Eurasian Milfoil was pulled by hand. The Milfoil has come back and we were advised by the DNR to try herbicides. The members voted at last year's summer picnic to try herbicides. Milfoil samples collected in the fall of 2014 tested as native Northern Milfoil so we cancelled the application. More testing was done in 2015 and these were positive for hybrid Eurasian Milfoil. The lake association hired Tom Connell to apply the herbicides asap, which he did on July 2nd. One of the land owners who was unaware of plans to apply herbicides in front of her residence was very upset after learning it had been done and contacted Bob Dale and the DNR. Notifying residences that are not members of the Quiet Lakes Association is a concern we will address in the future.

**FISHERIES/PROPERTIES (Dale):** There has been a lot of success on the lakes catching walleye. We have a lot of 2011 and 2013 year class walleye that were stocked by the DNR that are near the 15 inch length. With the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative we are slated to get walleye fingerlings every other year. Approximately 10,000 walleye will be released into Teal Lake, 6,000 on Lost Land Lake, and 3,500 on Ghost Lake. Muskies will not be stocked in Teal or Lost Land Lake this year because they are currently above the target population.

Walleye regulations for all 3 Quiet Lakes have changed to a daily bag limit of 3, but only walleye from 15" but less than 20" may be kept, although 1 of the 3 may be over 24". Also, next year the WDNR is reducing the limit on panfish; only 10 each of crappies, bluegill, and perch will be allowed with a total panfish limit of 25. A resident said that trolling with one line is now legal.

**PROGRAM/SOCIAL (Dale):** Bob reported that this year's picnic will be at Reel Livin' Resort on Lost Land Lake August 29th beginning at noon. There will be a variety of beer available, hot dogs, hamburgers and brats. To help cover the cost for beer and brats there will be a basket for donations. With the usual pot luck contributions there will be plenty of food. Margaret Lew volunteered to help with the picnic details again this year.

2016 Membership Meeting Dates 2016 annual meeting is not yet determined but will be scheduled for sometime in July. 2016 annual picnic date also is not yet determined.

**BLOG:** The address is: <http://quietlakeswisconsin.blogspot.com>.

**STATE LEGISLATION ISSUES (Dale):** In preparing the budget the finance committee put in an amendment that no local entity can create zoning ordinances or rules that are stricter than the state of Wisconsin. Both the Town of Spider Lake and Sawyer County have stricter ordinances than the state. These local ordinances that have been in place for years cannot be grandfathered in. The 200-foot minimum lot requirement on Teal Lake will now be only 75 feet. Governor Walker has signed the bill. Contact the Wisconsin Lakes Association for more information.

**LOON WATCH (Little):** Residents reported seeing 3 baby loons on Teal Lake and 2 on Lost Land Lake.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari Peterson, Secretary