VAN VLIET NEWS

Spring 2003

2003 Annual Meeting Set for July 6th at 11:00 AM at Steve & Nancy Frank's!

The 2003 annual meeting and picnic of the Van Vliet Lake Association has been set for Sunday, ***July 6th*** *at the lake home of Steve and Nancy Frank. It will begin at 11:00 AM with a business meeting and educational session. There will be light snacks and beverages available with good conversation at the close of the meeting. The meeting itself will last no more than 1 ½ hours. The agenda will follow in a later newsletter.*

What Do You Want Your Association to Be?

As we approach our 10th anniversary, we felt it wise to ask again what your want from your association. Our stated purpose is:

> "The purpose of the Association is to preserve and protect Van Vliet Lake and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of Van Vliet Lake as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations." (if you would like an entire set of Bylaws, let us know by checking the box on the membership form)

Our focus has been issue and education oriented rather than social and recreation. We want your thoughts – more of the same; more or less of the same plus other activities; only other activities. Please see the back of the membership form.

50" Musky Limit

The DNR has presented to the Conservation Congress the idea of creating a 50" minimum limit for a number of lakes in northern Wisconsin. There are approximately 20 lakes in Vilas County which are under consideration. Three of those lakes include the "Presque Isle Chain".

The purpose of this change is to allow for the potential development of some very big muskies in the lakes involved. The lakes were selected on several bases including relative densities of the current musky population and the availability of forage fish in the lakes to support development of these trophy fish. The purpose is not necessarily to increase the population of muskies but more to encourage the growth of very large, "trophy" fish.

If passed, the DNR would then track the populations of the fish in the lakes involved. There would also be some stocking to support the purpose of this proposal. In the past, DNR Fish Management has stocked the Presque Isle Chain but has not stocked Van Vliet for many years. Woodruff Area Fish Manager, Steve Gilbert, has indicated that Van Vliet would be included in the stocking going forward.

Your Board unanimously feels that this is a healthy proposal for the lake. We intend to indicate support for this proposal as a Board but would also like to express support from the membership.

Please indicate on the attached membership form whether or not you support this proposal.

Land Use Plan – What Is Happening?

When most of you last heard from us, we were preparing a letter to submit to the Presque Isle Town Board opposing the current Land Use Plan and suggesting a modification which would make all of Van Vliet "Residential A" except for Alpine Lodge which would have a more liberal designation. This proposal was developed after discussions with the consultant who assisted the Land Use Planning committee of the Town.

We received a great response from you. There were 76 individuals who responded and 74 favored the proposal we prepared (2 responses were unclear in their position) As a result, the letter was sent. In addition, we have had multiple discussions both with the Town Board Chairman and other members of the Town Board regarding the filed plan. We also receive the agenda of each meeting (before the meeting) and minutes (after the meeting) so that we can track the situation.

The most recent information is that the plan was sent to legal counsel some time ago for review. It also appears that many other towns are having slow progress. The Presque Isle Town Board now intends to hold the plan on file for the current time. At such time as the Land Use Planning issue heats up again on a county level, they would intend to address the issues. This could either be a ways off or in the near future

So, where does that leave us? We currently are operating under the Zoning rules as they exist. There will be no change until after the plan is either adopted by the Town or the County. We plan to continue to monitor the situation so that we can express your feelings when the matter comes up.

We have also attached a copy of the letter which was sent to the Town Board last fall after our survey of the membership. Our response from all of you was absolutely great.

Boat Landing Adoption

As you will recall, last year the Van Vliet Lake Association became the first lake association in the state to "adopt a boat landing". The purpose was to help the DNR (and ourselves) to have a neat and safe landing.

Our program was a great success due the voluntary efforts of many of you – particularly Steve and Nancy Frank who stepped in at times when we didn't have coverage.

The good news is that there was little to do. It appears that, by staying on top of things, there was little trash which collected at the landing.

Once again, you have a chance to volunteer to assist in this activity. There is a set of dates on the membership form. Please indicate those times when you could be involved. We will confirm your assigned times back to you.

Water Quality Testing

Association member, Jeff Burke, volunteered to get involved in restarting the water quality testing on Van Vliet. Part of this was done in the past, and somehow "fell through the cracks" when the last volunteer stopped doing it.

Jeff's involvement is to conduct "secchi disc" tests several times over the period of the summer. This involves the lowering of the disc over the side of a boat in a deep part of the lake until it disappears. At that point, you read the depth and report it to DNR.

In addition, for the first time as part of the DNR program, Jeff has been trained in taking samples for chemical testing of the water. This is a more involved process than the secchi testing. It also involves some cost which the DNR is covering through a grant which the Association applied for and was given. It is a matching grant, and our match is our labor.

Over a period of years, the information from this program will provide data for lake managers to review to get a better idea of the health of Van Vliet Lake.

We are very pleased that the Association is involved in this program and particularly than Jeff Burke for providing the impetus to get us going again.

Board News

Your Board currently consists of the following:

Tom Olson	President
Jill Wilm	Vice President
Nancy Frank	Treasurer
Jim Sprester	Secretary
Tim Bowler	At-Large
Barb Novak	At-Large

The terms of Nancy Frank, Jim Sprester and Barb Novak will expire at this year's annual meeting. All three have agreed to be nominated for re-election.

Board Expanded

At last year's annual meeting, we voted to increase the Board from 6 to 8 persons. As a result, we will be seeking two additional members to serve on the Board. One will be elected for a one year term and the other for a two year term.

Van Vliet Lake is a terrific place – because of the wonderful lake resource and the good people. We have a lot to think about to make sure it stays as good as it is – or even gets better. Your Association has done much to provide education, information and hands on action to make things happen over the last few years. It needs to do more of that and maybe many other things.

We are seeking people who are interested in serving. It will be very positive to bring in members who can bring their own perspective to the needs of our lake neighborhood.

Please consider serving. You may indicate your interest on the membership form. If you would like more information, contact one of the Board members either by phone or e-mail.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand -- June 30, 2002	$ 3,281.36
Receipts -- June 30 to Dec. 31, 2002	
Dues and donations from members	$ 245.00
Disbursements -- June 30 to Dec. 31	
Annual Meeting and Picnic:	
Jill Wilm	$ (44.60)
LaPortes IGA $ (290.07)	
Frank Beer Co.	$ (42.56)
Lakeland Rental (portapotty)	$ (131.88)
Tom Olson -- newsletter & postage	$ (54.47)
Tom Olson -- newsletter & postage	$ (45.21)
Headwaters State Bank (checks)	$ (18.80)
Department of Financial Instit. Nonstock Corporation annual dues	$ (10.00)
	$ (637.59)
Balance on hand -- December 31, 2002	$ 2,888.77
Receipts -- Jan. 1 to March 7, 2003	
Dues and donations from members	$ 10.00
Disbursements -- Jan. 1 to March 7	
UW - Extension Lakes -- registration Wisconsin Lakes Convention $ (65.00)	
Wisconsin Assoc. of Lakes - dues	$ (84.00)
Vilas County Lake Assoc. - dues	$ (25.00)
	$ (174.00)
Balance on hand -- March 7, 2003	$ 2,724.77

Many thanks to Dave Sidlo for his donation in the printing of this newsletter!

MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip Code_____

Home phone_____Local phone (if different)_____E-mail_____

I/We want to **volunteer to help in the adopt-a-boat landing** program and will take responsibility for clean-up during tl following period(s):

_____ May 3 to May 16	_____ July 12 to July25	_____ Sept 20 to Oct 4
_____ May 17 to May 30	_____ July 26 to Aug 8	_____ Oct 5 to Oct 18
_____ May 31 to June 13	_____ Aug 9 to Aug 22	_____ Oct 19 to Nov 1
_____June 14 to June 27	_____ Aug 23 to Sept 5	_____ Nov 2 to Nov 15
_____ June 28 to July 11	_____ Sept 6 to Sept 19	Volunteer more than once!!!

Call Steve Frank with any questions (608) 231-2387 or (715) 686-7372

Musky Limit:

Favor current proposal as stated (50")_____ Oppose proposal _____

Comment _____

Board – I am interested in serving on the Board_____

_____ I would like to get a set of Bylaws.

Other Comments_____

Enclosed please find my membership check in the amount of

(min. $10) payable to the Van Vliet Lake Association, Inc.

Your membership is tax deductible. Your check is your receipt.

Mail to: Nancy Frank, Treasurer
Van Vliet Lake Assn, Inc.
4918 Fond du Lac Trail
Madison WI 53705

PLEASE COMPLETE QUESTIONNAIRE ON REVERSE SIDE AND RETURN!