Van Vliet Views

Winter, 2005

It Was a Very Good Year...

In looking back over the last few issues of this publication, much space was spent discussing efforts to secure a planning grant for Van Vliet Lake. The grant was approved, a consultant hired, volunteers were recruited and data was collected. Here is a summary of what has taken place, where we are now with the plan and what we need to think about for the future.

About the Planning Grant

The spring and summer ('04) issues of the newsletter give a good overview of objectives of the planning grant, summer workdays, collection of data, etc. They can be viewed at www.vanvlietlake.com.

The summary and all submitted comments from the 2004 VVLA Owner's Survey have been turned over to hired consultant Steve Mc Comas. The results were presented at the annual meeting.

We received a DNR small scale grant to purchase a Dissolved Oxygen Meter. It has been received by Jeff Burke who will begin sampling DO once the ice is safe. Dissolved oxygen is a key indicator for "winter kill". Fish habitat can be evaluated by loss of bottom oxygen during summer and lake nutrient releases from sediment reflect conditions for plant and algal growths.

Steve Smithson met with Steve McComas on December 5 to review progress, tasks remaining, schedules, and the next grant application. There is some **very interesting news regarding the Van Vliet environment for invasive plants Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pond Weed.** From the ph data (nutrient analysis) from the soft sediment samples taken, these two invasive species should not do well even if introduced into Van Vliet.

(cont. on page 3)

President Praises Board in Annual Report

Prefacing the report Tom Olson gave at the annual meeting in August, he had this to say:

"Since our last annual meeting, we have had an extraordinarily productive year. It is a direct result of the new energy and cooperation which has occurred with our new Board. There is a singleness of purpose, and, for the first time, no divisiveness in our meetings. We have been able to address issues, formulate plans and move forward."

In addition to the previously mentioned Lake Management Plan, Olson cited these other accomplishments:

✓application for a second small grant to get a dissolved oxygen meter to aid in planning and evaluation

✓formation of a committee to work on a strategy to preserve the trust land property ("Van Vliet Hemlocks") on the north end of Van Vliet Lake and southern 2/3 of Averill

✓reassessment of the wisdom of seeking a rezoning of Van Vliet Lake

✓establishment of a website to provide information to members and residents

✓continuation of efforts to maintain a clean boat landing

(cont. on next page)

Much work is left to do, concluded Olson, and with the "new energy and spirit" on the Board, upcoming years are sure to be as productive.

Have You Walked Among the Hemlocks?

Winter is an ideal time to scope out the land that has come to be known as "Van Vliet Hemlocks". Although one can still get lost in there, bearings are easier to maintain with foliage gone. Your prints in the snow and missing mosquitoes are factors which help also.

This land is controlled by the State Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. A potential threat due to concerns about need to raise revenue off state lands owned by the BCPL **does exist.**

We have been in contact with both BCPL and the DNR- at the highest levels- to encourage permanent preservation of VVH. Co-chairs of a committee to work on this project are Jill Wilm and Steve Frank. George Kupfer is also on the committee. If you are interested in helping with the efforts, need maps, or have questions, contact Jill (715 686-7396), teachnomore@centurytel.net).

THE LATEST: On November 8, Steve Frank and Tom Olson met in Madison with Tia Nelson (daughter of Gaylord Nelson), the new Executive Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, and Charlie Luthin, the Executive Director of the Natural Resource Foundation of Wisconsin. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce themselves to Ms. Nelson and reaffirm the Van Vliet Lake Association's interest in the preservation of VVH.

Ms. Nelson has a strong background and history of involvement in the environmental area both in Wisconsin and nationally. She indicated support for wishes to preserve VVH in its current state. She is in the process of reviewing her options and developing strategies for the landholdings of the BCPL throughout Wisconsin and is working to find the answers which will allow her agency to meet its constitutional mandates and also do the right things for properties which are environmentally special or sensitive. Steve and Tom offered to help the BCPL in the process in any way possible. They came away from the meeting believing that VVH is not in any current danger but also that we need to continue to push for its long term preservation.

Many thanks to Tom and Steve for representing all of us since those attending the annual meeting in August unanimously supported any efforts to permanently preserve this land.

By-law Revision?

At the annual meeting, a request was made to review the by-laws from the perspective of **possibly** allowing more input from those unable to attend the annual meeting. The committee appointed to work on this issue consists of Jill Wilm, chair, George Kupfer, Jim Sprester, Bill Schroeder and Don Trimble. The group will begin work in the new year.

Your "Sounding Board"

The Van Vliet Lake Association Board members would like to hear from you regarding lake issues, positive suggestions, observations, and ideas for activities. Constructive contacts only...no whining, please!

A unanimous ballot was cast for uncontested positions of President , Tom Olson, and At-Large-Members George Kupfer and Bill ➜

Schroeder. After votes for the Vice President position were counted, Jill Wilm won another term by defeating Barb Novak.

Your Lake Association Board is:

President- Tom Olson, tolaf@charter.net

Vice President- Jill Wilm, teachnomore@centurytel.net

Secretary- Jim Sprester, jsprester@gna.net

Treasurer- Nancy Frank, smfnsf@charter.net

Members-at-Large-
George Kupfer, gakpi@aol.com,

Bill Schroeder, lunkerdewy@yahoo.com,

Jeff Burke, cte26875@centurytel.net,

Dick Novak, novaksupnorth@aol.com

http://www.vanvlietlake.com
Use it often. Our website is an excellent source for information on lake related issues!!

Your "Van Vliet Views" are Welcome

With the diversity of folks having property on Van Vliet Lake, it would be wonderful to receive some input (i.e. HELP !!!) to this newsletter- perhaps in the form of lake related anecdotes (we've all got 'em!), humorous happenings, interesting sightings, photos, history- or "other" that could be shared with the readership. Please direct submissions to the editor: teachnomore@centurytel.net
(715) 686-7396
12045 Baer Rd., Presque Isle 54557

Planning Grant, cont.

Van Vliet does not have an invasive aquatic plant problem and is not very conducive to supporting these two nuisance species. On the whole, the lake has all native vegetation. Even in areas where plants might be considered bothersome, mostly in shallow areas, the plants are native.

Cabbage, which has grown to the surface with regularity between Novak's Island and the west shore, is usually controlled by aquatic insects. Surfacing year after year is somewhat unusual and therefore further observation and mapping are warranted. Pond weed dominates the SW bay and Steve McComas will make recommendations and tradeoffs for control should VVLA or individual owners desire to evaluate and take action.

For our continued work on Aquatic Plants we should:

- **Pay attention to shallow areas**
- **Re-survey- continue benchmarking**
- **Document owners' perceptions year to year - use maps and pictures to show variability**
- **Consider use of GPS Grid as an improvement over transects because plant bed boundaries can change 50% per year**

For the current grant, we need 416 "in- kind" hours. We have accumulated 182.5 mainly from the 3 lake work days, meetings and prep, website and miscellaneous. Most of our remaining opportunity to build "in- kind" hours for the current cycle lies in completing a **Septic Survey**. The tasks include:

- Define info to be collected
- Modify database to accommodate- tie data to lake properties
- Recruit volunteers for sessions- this can begin any time VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT STEVE SMITHSON (steve@smithson-associates.com) or JEFF BURKE (cte26875@centurytel.net).
- Gather and arrange data
- Analyze data with McComas guidance
- Format for report

So what does this all mean? It means that:

☺We have begun to collect data that will give us a comprehensive look at our lake.

☺We have the beginnings of a profesionally developed plan for our lake.

☺We have involved many individuals in a living project to create a plan that we can use and contribute to for years to come!!

CONDITIONAL USES:

*Airports and landing strips
*Public and semi-public uses
*Utility facilities

R-1-Single-Family Residential-The purpose of the Single-Family Residential District is to create areas for exclusive low density residential use and prohibit the intrusion of uses incompatible with the quiet and comfort of such areas.

PERMITTED USES:
*Single -family detached dwelling units, including individual mobile homes which meet the yard requirements of the district
*One non-rental guest house which may be occupied on a temporary basis
*Parks, playgrounds, golf courses and other recreation facilities
*Home occupations
*Essential services
*Hobby farms

CONDITIONAL USES:
*Airports and landing strips
*Public and semi-public uses
*Private club houses which are owned by condominium associations
*Bed and breakfast establishments
*Community based residential facilities

PLEASE MAIL THE POST-PAID ZONING OPINION CARD IN TODAY!!! YOUR INPUT IS CRUCIAL TO FUTURE PLANNING.

The Peace of the Pines,

The Silence of the Snow,

And the Wellness of the Great Northwoods to You in 2005.

Thanks for all of your support in 2004 !!!

Help Keep Track of the Critters

One of the ongoing projects connected to the Lake Planning Grant is doing a "wildlife survey" of animals sighted near Van Vliet Lake. Forms for doing this are available on the website or from Jill Wilm. It's a simple listing and efforts can be counted toward our "in kind" hours.

Dear Lakefront Property Owner,

This letter is to inform you that after due consideration and discussion at the annual meeting of the Van Vliet Lake Association in August, 2004, your Lake Board with overwhelming support from members present, has decided to begin the process of pursuing a zoning change for Van Vliet Lake properties. Currently the Lake is zoned predominantly Recreation District(REC) (see footnotes). There is also a smaller General Business (GB) (see footnotes) zone in the vicinity of the old landing. An attempt several years ago by the Smart Growth program to reclassify the entire Presque Isle chain to Multi-Family Residential (R-2) (see footnotes) brought a new awareness level to many landowners and forced them to consider the implications of mandated zoning directions. The Smart Growth planning phase seems currently to be in a regrouping mode. During that interim many lake associations are working preemptively to circumvent future zoning mandates aimed at their parcels that don't address the needs and wishes of their members. This Association seeks to have Van Vliet Lake properties rezoned to Single Family Residential (R-1) (see footnotes). A property such as a resort can be left out of the list of petitioners thereby retaining its current REC zoning status for perpetuity.

The Lake Association Board feels strongly that this effort is supported by a majority of landowners because it protects the Lake to the fullest extent possible from future development or use that is inconsistent with landowner desires. All property owners need to recognize that a bureaucratic zoning mandate will eventually return and that lake associations who have not weighed in on the zoning subject through their own efforts are not likely to appreciate the mandate of a disinterested third party committee.

Please give this matter thorough consideration and return the post-paid card by January's end. As the appointed chair for the Van .Vliet Lake Association Zoning Committee, I will act as the Association's agent for processing this change if it is approved by a majority of the landowners. Questions regarding the process may be directed to me, Jeff Burke, 715 686-2557, cte26875@centurytel.net.

(Please turn the page)

REC- Recreation District - The Recreation District is created to provide areas primarily for businesses oriented toward outdoor recreation. Property owners in this district should be prepared to accept inconveniences associated with mixing potentially non-compatible land uses.

PERMITTED USES:

*All uses permitted in R-1, R-2 and GB Districts
*Commercial marinas
*Campgrounds and camping resorts
*Drive-in theaters
*Hobby farms
*Riding stables
*Commercial kennels

CONDITIONAL USES:

*Airports and landing strips
*Auto body shops
*Gun clubs and shooting ranges
* Utility facilities
*Warehousing and wholesaling
*Objectionable emission of odor, dust, fumes, smoke, and noise; e.g. Recycling Business
*Outdoor amusement facilities

GB-General Business- The General Business District is established to create areas for a wide variety of commercial purposes on relatively large lots. Non-commercial property owners in this district should be prepared to accept inconveniences associated with mixing potentially non-compatible land uses.

PERMITTED USES:

*All uses permitted in R-1 and R-2 Districts
*Agri-business
*Auto and RV sales, service and repair, except body shops
*Auto service stations
*Building and trade contractors
*Eating and drinking establishments
*Financial institutions
*Forest products industries
*Health care facilities
*Hotels and motels
*Indoor recreation establishments
*Professional offices
*Public and semi-public uses
*Retail stores and commercial services
*Sales, service and repair, misc.
*Snowmobile sales and service
*Hobby farms

CONDITIONAL USES:

*Airports and landing fields
*Body shops
*Campgrounds and camping resorts
*Gun clubs and shooting ranges
*Kennels-commercial
*Marinas-commercial
*Objectionable emission of odor, dust, fumes, smoke and noise
*Outdoor amusement facilities
*Riding stables
*Utility facilities
*Warehousing and wholesaling

R-2-Multi-Family Residential-The Multiple-Family Residence District is created to provide areas for apartments, townhouses and condominiums, with the necessary supporting uses, but free from incompatible land uses.

PERMITTED USES:

*All uses permitted in R-1District
*Multiple family dwelling units
*Apartments, townhouses and condominiums for rent
*Bed and breakfast establishments
*Boarding houses and other types of group lodging
*Community living
*Dwelling units on second stories
*Mobile home parks
*Resorts
*Private club houses which are owned by condominium associations
*Hobby farms

(Continued on last page of newsletter)