



Big Wood Lake Association
PO Box 495
Grantsburg, WI 54840



Find us on Facebook at
facebook.com/BigWoodLakeWI

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Please check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____

New members, please fill in all information; existing members only include changes:

Home Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Would you like to volunteer for a committee or event, or like your name included for an officer or board member nomination? _____

Membership dues are \$30 per residence per year. Please mail to BWLA, PO Box 495, Grantsburg, WI 54840 or pay online at www.bigwoodlake.org by June 1.

Become a Friend of Big Wood Lake with an additional donation of at least \$50.00 per individual which is tax deductible. Learn more about the Friends program on our website.



Big Wood Lake Association
Spring 2025

Wood Chips

President's Corner

By Mike Strub

Happy Spring!

I hope this finds you well, and ready for another summer at the lake.

In this newsletter, you'll find information about a large construction project that has already begun. Burnett County will be replacing County Truck Highway Y the entire 5-plus miles from Hwy 70 to Hwy 48. Whether you live on North Shore Drive, Hanson Point, or Assembly Rd/Dr, your drive to the lake will be affected.



The Big Wood Lake Association will continue to advocate for water quality, monitor for invasive species, and urge all to practice safety in all lake activities. Your annual dues help us continue to be good stewards of the lake while planning for the future. An envelope is included in the newsletter to make it easy to pay your dues. You can also renew your membership online at BigWoodLake.com.

You're invited to our Spring membership meeting on the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 17) at Luther Point Bible Camp. The Fall meeting will be at Wood Lake Camp on the Saturday before Labor Day (August 23). Please come to the meeting(s) and get involved with the Association. Whether you're interested in serving as a board member or would like to help out with any other activities, all of us on the board welcome your help and participation. New ideas are always welcome!

We will continue to offer a slate of fun summer social activities that everyone looks forward to each year: Light Up the Lake with flares on July 3, the Flotilla/parade on July 4 (Thursday and Friday this year), and the Family Picnic on Saturday, July 19, featuring the smoky delicious BBQ prepared by Tom Sparrow, who will have some surprises on the menu this year. Stay in touch with us on the Big Wood Lake WI Facebook page.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about the BWLA feel free to contact me or any of the current board members, listed inside.

Cheers to all. See you on the lake!
Mike Strub

Purple Loosestrife on Wood Lake

By Cris Peterson

Following up on Matt Berg's report from last fall on the presence of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on Wood Lake, we wanted to make sure you were also updated on purple loosestrife. Here are the details:

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) (PL), another exotic invasive plant, was again present in the wetlands adjacent to and along the immediate shoreline of the lake. This species prefers mucky soils and is increasing among the Cattails (*Typha* spp.) and Northern wild rice (*Zizania palustris*) near the Spirit Creek Inlet and just south of the Wood River Outlet.

Unfortunately, these areas are difficult to safely reach for manual removal. Both of the central islands also have a number of plants including a monotypic stand on the south end of the north wooded island.

In 2015, Galerucella beetles (an imported insect species that specializes in eating PL) were raised and released by Grantsburg High School students at this location. Although beetles were visible on plants throughout the summers of 2016 and 2017, until 2018, they showed little effect on the island's PL population. However, since then, the beetles have caused moderate to extensive herbivory, and we found a single flower that made it to bloom on the islands in 2021 and none in 2022, 2023, or 2024 (images below).

Although the beetles won't kill the roots, this prevents the majority of plants from flowering and spreading. Another positive development was the natural dispersal of these micro-herbivores as we again located at least some live beetles on all loosestrife plants growing on the islands as well as on plants near the Spirit Creek Inlet. **This suggests no more beetles need to be released on the lake at this time.**



Purple Loosestrife



Plants on Central Island Showing Limited Herbivory on 10/6/16



Figure 7: Moderate Herbivory on 7/25/20

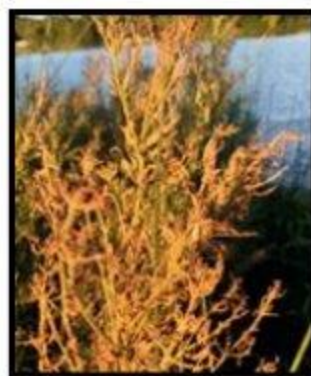


Figure 8: Extensive Herbivory on 8/1/21

Purple loosestrife was formerly widespread along the western shoreline of the lake south of the Wood River Outlet. In 2018, students from GHS performed manual removal of all plants along this shoreline that was safely accessible/not in a wetland (see 2018 annual report). This removal has proven to be very effective as we did not find any surviving plants along these residential shorelines during any of our 2019-2024 surveys. Despite this, residents are encouraged to continue to look for and remove any PL plants they find on their property in August/September when the bright fuchsia candle-shaped flower spikes are easily seen and before they can set seed (Figure 7). Plants should be dug out with a shovel, bagged, and disposed of well away from any wetland. Also, because the plants have an extensive root system, care should be taken to remove the entire plant as even small root fragments can survive and produce new plants the following year.

Concern about Purple loosestrife also prompted several calls from lake residents in 2024. Each plant of concern turned out to be a somewhat similar-looking native species – Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) (Figure 8) – which is scattered around the Big Wood shoreline.

County Road Y Project Underway

By Cris Peterson

The Burnett County Highway Department was awarded a \$2.3-million state road grant for the reconstruction and enhancement of County Road Y near Alpha, through the state's relatively new Agricultural Road Improvement Program (ARIP).

Highway Commissioner Jeremy Burton said the grant allows the county to create a road that is heavier duty, wider, and able to handle heavy, agricultural loads, which is part of the grant focus. "The project is a length of 5.2 miles from State Road 70 to State Road 48, and we will be laying 5 inches (of pavement) down because with this grant we won't be posting road limits for at least 10 years, hence why we are going a little thicker," Burton told the Burnett County Sentinel recently, adding that the grant award allows them to do additional enhancements. "We will be paving the road wider giving it the two-foot paved shoulders."

The good news is we will have a great new County Road Y. The bad news is everyone who owns a lake house on Northshore Drive, Hansons Point Road and Assembly Road will have to deal with a summer of gravel, dust, and an occasional detour. The road won't be paved until September but will be drivable all summer.

Grantsburg's Butterfly House Is a Local Destination

By Cris Peterson

Right in the heart of little Alpha, Wisconsin is a unique and fascinating destination that can't be missed. From June 5 to August 31 this year, Jachus and Gabriella Sundby's butterfly house is open to the public. Check out their website at www.designedfordiscovery.org. Here is Sundby's introduction to their marvelous destination:

"Welcome to Designed for Discovery! We are excited to learn and discover the incredible world of moths and butterflies with you. From a young age, I began breeding *Cecropia* moths. This project quickly grew from a childhood bug phase into a lifelong passion.

"Today, Designed for Discovery leads the industry in providing quality Butterflies and Moths, for Education, Exhibits, and Release. Our vision is to see the butterfly industry grow and flourish, increasing people's exposure to and appreciation of these dazzling creatures. Our mission is to bring visitors' attention back to nature by showing them how brilliantly designed a butterfly is, and ultimately to bring glory to their Creator.

"With providing butterfly encounters we hope to see our society love and value insects more. We see butterflies as engineering marvels valuable for our advancement of technology, beautiful ambassadors for conservation, and crucial to sustaining the diversity of the ecosystems in which we live. We hope you join us in our mission."



Butterfly House



Board of Directors

Mike Strub, *President*

Bruce Hanson, *Vice-President*

Sam Campeau, *Treasurer*

Lisa Carver, *Secretary*

Keith Anderson, *Director*

Travis Smith, *Director*

*Mike Nettles, *Director*

We're sad to share that Mike Nettles passed away April 13th. He was an active member of the BWLA board of directors and will be remembered at our summer picnic.

Association Email

info@bigwoodlake.com

Wood Chips Editor

Cris Peterson