

Van Vliet Lake Association – Spring, 2016

Dear Neighbor:

The Van Vliet Lake Association (VVLA) was formed in 1994 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.*”

Several properties on our lake have new owners and we would like to welcome them to Van Vliet Lake. We hope to see some new faces at our annual meeting!

Your Board of Directors and members of the association have worked hard this past year to continue to fulfill the mission of our group. Our website (www.vanvlietlake.com) is a good source of current information about the association throughout the year. We also communicate information updates by email. Our main efforts for the past year are summarized below.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

- a. In June, 2015 our Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update – Mechanical Harvesting Feasibility Study & Planning Project as prepared by our lake management planning consultant Onterra, LLC was approved by the WDNR and adopted by the VVLA at our annual meeting.
- b. During the summer, we conducted a fund raising campaign to determine if the financial support existed to apply for a harvesting permit. Sufficient funds were raised to allow us to proceed.
- c. We have identified a contractor and applied for a permit for the summer of 2016. The WDNR has informed us that our permit will be approved if the nuisance conditions are verified next summer. The map may be adjusted to reflect location of nuisance plants for 2016.
- d. We are continuing to work with the DNR for clarification of other conditions associated with the permit.

SHORELAND ASSESSMENT

- a. The VVLA supports the best management practices outlined in Wisconsin NR-115: Wisconsin's Shoreland Protection Program.
- b. For the first 35 feet of property (shoreland zone), no vegetation removal is permitted except for access and viewing corridors, invasive species, or removal of diseased or dying vegetation. Vegetation removed must be replanted with native species.
- c. A shoreland buffer prevents erosion, provides habitat, and preserves the natural features of the lakeshore.
- d. Our management plan includes a shoreland assessment map of the lake. Only 0.3 miles of our shoreline was rated urbanized or developed-unnatural. The map rated 2.4 miles as natural-undeveloped or developed-natural. There were 2.6 miles rated developed-semi-natural.
- e. At our annual meeting last year, Quita Sheehan from the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department gave a presentation on shoreland restoration and programs available to landowners interested in planting projects to restore their buffer zone to more natural conditions. She will be at our lake on May 2, 2016 talking to interested landowners. Contact Ronie if you are interested in meeting with Quita.

CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS (CBCW)

- a. The lake chain encompassed by Van Vliet, Averill, and Presque Isle Lakes is still AIS free from a plant standpoint. We strongly believe the CBCW efforts are our first line of preventative defense and thank everyone who has participated.
- b. VVLA shared a grant for the summer of 2015 with Big Lake and Presque Isle Lake. We received 50 hours of inspections by interns from the North Lakeland Discovery Center who interviewed 32 boats. VVLA paid \$755 to participate in the grant and was reimbursed \$566.25 after the hours were completed for a net cost of \$188.75. We will be participating in a similar grant for the summer of 2016 for 50 inspection hours.
- c. Volunteers staffed the landing for an additional 70 hours and interviewed 52 boats.
- d. Please consider joining our CBCW effort. We strongly encourage more volunteer hours on the part of the lake property owners. Boat inspection at the landing is a nice way to spend 3-4 hours meeting and talking to lake users as well as acting as a first line of defense against AIS. Any VVLA Board member would be happy to staff the landing with you for a training session. Please contact Ronie Jacobsen if interested.

ANNUAL MEETING AND OTHER SOCIAL DATES

- a. Our annual meeting will be held on Saturday June 18, 2016 at the Presque Isle Community Library lower level meeting room. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a pot luck picnic.
- b. The offices of President, Secretary, and two At Large positions are up for election. The Board will be nominating a slate of candidates; please let us know if you are interested in serving. Our bylaws allow absentee voting and we are required to have all names to be included on the ballot 60 days prior to the meeting.
- c. We enjoyed an end of summer potluck picnic in August and had a small group but a very cordial gathering at our winter dinner in February. If the membership is interested, we will continue to schedule strictly social events.

VVLA MEMBERSHIP

- a. It is time to renew your membership or become a new member of the Van Vliet Lake Association. The annual membership is \$15.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple.
- b. We need your financial support. To continue to build the strength of the organization and treasury, we urge you to consider a larger donation as we work toward the future of a better Van Vliet Lake. We thank everyone who made additional donations last year.
- c. We also need your time support, particularly with CBCW staffing and data entry. We are also looking for a new volunteer for our Citizen Lake Monitoring Network effort which requires conducting water tests on a monthly basis. Contact Jeff Burke for more details.

We look forward to working together with you in the coming year.

Van Vliet Lake Association Board of Directors

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Ronie Jacobsen | President | Jim Sprester | At large director |
| Ed Brodsky | Vice President | Mark Osberg | At large director |
| Jeff Burke | Treasurer | Tom Olson | At large director |
| Diane Schroeder | Secretary | Mike Czarny | At large director |

Van Vliet Lake Association Annual Membership Drive 2016

Who is eligible to be a member of our Lake Association? Per our Bylaws, membership is open to any individual, family business, or organization, that (a) subscribes to the purposes of the Association and (b) owns or leases property within one mile of Van Vliet Lake or is resident within such property for at least one month each year.

To either renew your membership or to join for the first time please complete the form below and follow the mailing instructions provided. YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Name _____

Name _____

(Enter second name if both you and your spouse/co-owner are renewing or joining for the first time.)

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Lake Address (if different) _____

Home Phone # _____ **Lake Phone #** _____

E-Mail Address _____

(Your email address is important because we try to save money and communicate electronically as much as possible.)

Membership Dues (\$15.00 times number joining) \$ _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: Jeff Burke, VVLA Treasurer
 12099 Streator Rd
 Presque Isle, WI 54557

_____ I can help at the boat landing for the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce Walleye Tournament which is being held on May 13, 14, and 15, 2016. Volunteers conduct Clean Boats, Clean Waters interviews, check in participants, and record fish lengths. Please indicate which date would be best for you to help. ___ May 13 ___ May 14 ___ May 15

_____ I can help at the boat landing for the Musky Classic Tournament which is being held on September 9, 10, and 11, 2016. Volunteers conduct Clean Boats, Clean Waters interviews, check in participants, and record fish lengths. Please indicate which date would be best for you to help. ___ Sept 9 ___ Sept 10 ___ Sept 11

_____ I am willing to be a Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer at the landing sometime during the summer.

_____ I am willing to do the date entry for our CBCW volunteer hours.

_____ I am interested in doing the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network water tests.