

## MINONG TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE

By Russ Robinson

In 2008, Sam Lewis motivated a group of concerned citizens in the Town of Minong to form a town lakes committee that would act in an advisory role to the Minong Town Board on lake related issues. The economic strength of the Town of Minong is directly related to the quality of its lake resources. Nearly all of the town's income is generated through property taxes and 70% of this is paid by lake property residents. Maintaining quality lake resources is critical to the town's economic value and desirability. A degradation in these resources would lead to loss in value and eventually erode the town's ability to generate property tax income.

The Minong Town Lakes Committee (MTLC) represents all lakes in the town, thus giving voice to lakes having well-established associations and to those lakes without formal representation. The MTLC charter addresses the following areas of involvement:

- Education related to the preservation of the lake resources.
- Lake water quality.
- Control of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- Watershed and shoreline preservation/improvement.

In general, the MTLC is committed to work with the Town Board to protect the quality and value of our most important economic resources.

In 2009 we took on the task of sponsoring an educational fair for the residents of the Town of Minong and surrounding areas. Presentations and activities were designed to be of interest to all age groups. This event was extremely successful and well attended by nearly 1000 people from the region far exceeding our expectations. The Fair allowed us to reach out to many non-lake residents who use, and appreciate the importance of protecting, the town's lakes.

In 2010 our focus continued to be on education with a very successful Pontoon Boat Educational Field class held on the Minong Flowage. This year we have been successful in obtaining funding from the Town of Minong and a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for significant safety and aesthetic improvement of some of the town's boat landings. Docks will be installed on Bass, Pokegama and Gilmore lakes which will improve lake access for area residents and visitors. Also in 2010, we have begun evaluating and coordinating AIS activities in some of our larger lakes.

For 2011 we hope to expand these AIS effort substantially. In addition we plan to sponsor the second (not so annual) Lakes Educational Fair at the Minong Town Hall on July 23, 2011 and you are all invited.

The 2011 Fair will be even bigger and better than the 2009 Fair. There will be educational presentations, kids' games and activities, lake association presentations, expanded vendor displays, door prizes, cash raffle, music and a delicious lunch. Many details are yet to be finalized but you and your kids will get the chance to be up close and personal with some pretty awesome and impressive birds.

If you are a resident of the Town of Minong and would like to become involved in the Minong Town Lakes Committee or volunteer to help at the 2011 Lakes Fair please contact me at [russrobinson@centurytel.net](mailto:russrobinson@centurytel.net) or 715-466-4152. We'd love to hear from you and look forward to seeing you on July 23!

If you are interested in setting up a town lakes committee or would like more information contact me at [russrobinsin@centurytel.net](mailto:russrobinsin@centurytel.net) or 715-466-4152 or Tony Tubbs at [feetinsurf@centurytel.net](mailto:feetinsurf@centurytel.net) or 715-466-2557.