



3634N Boxing Camp Trail  
Stone Lake, WI 54876

Address Correction Requested

### Support Little Siss! Be a member of the LSSOA

Membership dues are due at the fall meeting of the Little Sissabagama Shore Owners Association meeting. If you haven't yet paid your dues, please mail a check to:

Ron Marquis at 9146 Jade Way N., Lake Elmo, MN 55042-7100 The dues are \$50/year.

If you are unsure if you or someone in your family has paid, feel free to contact Ron at [rfmarquis@gmail.com](mailto:rfmarquis@gmail.com). Thank you!

LSSOA is a non-profit organization registered with the US Internal Revenue Service.

## LOONS

IN 2022 LIL SISS SUPPORTED ONE LOON CHICK TO MATURITY AND IN 2023 IT DID THE SAME FOR A PAIR! THE NEST WAS AT THE HEAD OF HABERKORN BAY (BETWEEN THE KISSINGER AND HOUDEN PROPERTY).



One juvenile feeding another!

## How Flemings and Parronis Found Little Sissabagama

Told by Dick Fleming 1968 or 1969

Joan and I had been at a party at the country club - in the course of our discussion, we spoke about how great it would be to have a cottage in the Hayward area; soon after that we decided to go with my sister, Margaret Parroni and her husband (Manlio) for a drive in the Hayward area to try and learn about how to proceed with a search for a cottage. We set out with no specific objective other than drive to the area and see what possibilities may be open. My uncle, Leonard Seyberth, was familiar with the Hayward area and suggested that if we were to go there we should have a look on a lake called

Little Sissabagama. Not long after that discussion, we found ourselves at the edge of Little Sissabagama - and noted a cottage with smoke coming out of the chimney. We parked along the roadside and walked

over to visit with the folks who were there. While standing in front of their cottage, we could look across the lake edge and see a cottage that rested upon a pine-filled point jutting into the lake. I said, "well, that kind of place is what we'd be interested in."

The folks said that as far as they knew it was not for sale. The caretaker of the place was a gentleman named Ford Bradley, who lived in a home on Big Sissabagama. We decided to go over and try to meet him and inquire who owned the cottage and perhaps contact those people. He said it's not for sale.... period. I told him I understood but wondered if we might go visit the place to just have a look around. He again said, it's not for sale, but I'll drive there with you and I can maybe suggest some other possibilities to consider.

The four of us and Mr Bradley drove back to Little Siss, and we followed his directions such that we parked alongside the cottage we had seen earlier. He opened the cottage, and we walked in for a quick look. I turned to Joan and Margaret and Manlio, and I said, "we're going to buy this place." Bradley overheard me and again said, it's not for sale! I asked him if he could give me the owner's contact information, and he kindly gave it.

A few days later, back at home in Eau Claire, I called the owner, Miss Ethel Westburg, and I told her that we had visited Little Siss and found ourselves (with the help of Ford Bradley) at their cottage.



In my discussion with Miss Westberg, I told her that Joan and I had four daughters and that my sister had three daughters, and that the seven girls were fast friends. I told her that the vision of that cottage belonging to us and the children thrilled us. Miss Westberg responded that my vision was a lovely thing to consider. We concluded our conversation; I thanked her for talking with

me and again told that we were very interested in that property being a place for our family in the summertime.

Several days later, I was resting in the bathtub in the early evening when I heard the phone ring. Joan called up the stairs, "Miss Westberg is on the phone, and she would like to talk with you." Miss Westberg said, "Mr Fleming, after our discussion, my sister and I talked about our plans regarding the cottage.....we've reached a decision that it's time for us to sell."

In the course of that conversation, she said that somehow another party had learned that the place could possibly be for sale. In brief, they told Miss Westberg that whatever another buyer would agree to pay, we will pay a thousand dollars more.

I told her that I didn't know how to respond to that other person's offer except to say that the seven cousins had already assumed we would have the cottage and were overcome with

excitement. I told Miss Westberg that it was going to be a very difficult assignment to report that the sale fell through.



Miss Westberg said, "Mr. Fleming..... that other buyer said that they would take the cottage down and build a real cottage." To my astonishment, she went on to tell me that she and her sister were heartstruck with the possibility of seven young girls growing up in the place where she and her sister so happily spent

much of their lives. To this, I humbly said, "Miss Westberg, on the back wall of the cottage, there is hanging a galvanized wash tub. Fifty years from now, that washtub will still be hanging there if that cottage is ours." After some pause, Miss Westberg said, "Mr. Fleming..... the place is yours for the amount we agreed to."

More than fifty years have passed since the purchase of our beloved place on Little Sissabagama. The galvanized washtub remains hanging on the outside wall of the cottage where it will remain for another fifty years..... and God-willing, another fifty years....

## Wake Boating and WI Laws

October 21, 2023 | **Getting Involved**

By Michael Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

A bill proposed by Rep. Robert Swearingen (R-Rhineland) and Sen. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) to regulate wakesurfing and wakeboarding **fails to provide any meaningful protection against the activities' impacts.** While Wisconsin Lakes is pleased to see this issue being addressed, the bill falls far short of what is needed and even **makes things worse by undercutting local efforts to manage impacts to lakes and streams.** Rather than setting minimum levels or protection for Wisconsin, the bill as written would actually limit the regulation of wakesports.

Wisconsin Lakes encourages everyone to let your legislators know that this bill, LRB-3518, fails at what it claims to do and does not deserve their support. This is true even as we should be, as a state, considering meaningful legislation to protect private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments from the impacts of wakesports while balancing the rights of everyone to recreate on our waters.

The bill as currently written fails on several grounds:

Despite setting standards, the bill fails to protect private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments by allowing local governments to set their own weaker standards. **Rather than set minimum standards for protection the bill sets maximum standards** allowed to regulate wakesports. Wisconsin's local governments deserve local control to set their own standards for protection beyond state minimums

The bill prohibits wakesurfing and wakeboarding within 200 feet of the shore or struc-

tures like piers and swim rafts. The overwhelming majority of studies say that at least 500 feet is required for these "enhanced wakes" to lose their size and power. The minimum standard for Wisconsin **should prohibit enhanced wake creation within 500 feet of the shore**

Current studies are showing that impacts from the creation of enhanced wakes are seen to lakebeds to depths of at least 20 feet. Lakes across Wisconsin are seeing pollutants in the lakebed kicked up into the water column and aquatic vegetation being scoured. The bill fails to include a standard related to depth. The minimum standard for Wisconsin should prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least 30 feet

The bill simply repeats standards already in place in other statutes. For instance, it prohibits wakesports on lakes of 50 acres or less, but all boats are prohibited from creating wakes on most lakes that are of that size in Wisconsin already.

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TO LET THEM KNOW LRB-3518 IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT WISCONSIN'S LAKES AND THOSE THAT USE THEM**

Little Sissabagama is within the Senate and House Districts of:  
Representative James Edming  
Rep.edming@legis.wisconsin.gov  
608-237-9187

Senator Cory Tomczyk  
Sen.tomczyk@legis.wisconsin.gov  
608-266-2502

### **Flink - Friendshuh Rezone on Little Siss**

Although concerned shoreowners stopped the rezoning of the former Flink property from Forestry to Residential in 2022, the application was renewed in 2023 with some changes to make it more difficult to stop. This summer of 2023 the Edgewater Town Board chose to not take a position and neither approved or disproved it. At the time of this writing, the Sawyer County Zoning Board is still scheduled to hear the request in December 2023. *Mr Friendshuh recently passed away. Rest in Peace Steven Friendshuh*

## Shoreline Assessment Study Report 2022

In 2022, Ecological Strategies was contracted to conduct a Lake Shoreland & Shallow Habitat Monitoring survey to collect information needed to quantitatively assess the health of the Little Sissabagama shoreline. Shorelines are good indicators of lake health and intact lake shore ecosystems are essential to a healthy lake. As development increases on lakes throughout the Midwest, any remaining undeveloped shoreline becomes even more critical for supporting biodiversity and maintaining lake water quality.

A shoreline vegetated with native plants will help protect lake water quality and provide critical wildlife habitat. Shoreline vegetation protects and promotes water quality in the lake by holding sediment from uplands in place and capturing nutrients from lawn or agricultural fertilizer. Capturing these nutrients can prevent algal blooms that result when these nutrients are allowed to reach the lake.

Many wildlife species use aquatic and lakeshore plant beds for food and nesting areas. In particular, fish spawn in areas with sedges and emergent plants. In fact, 90 percent of lake life is born, raised, and fed in the area where land and water meet (Wisconsin Lakes Partnership; [http://waterontheweb.org/under/lakeecology/10\\_biological\\_lakezones.html](http://waterontheweb.org/under/lakeecology/10_biological_lakezones.html)).

The focus of the this shoreline survey was to quantify and describe vegetation in the littoral zone: from the lake edge to where floating plants occur and inland 35 feet. Information on structures and activities that might have negative impacts on the lakeshore, such as trails and bare soil, was also gathered.

Shoreline sampling was done from September 7 - 19, 2022 by Cynthia Lane, Ecological Strategies and Jean Accola, Little Sissabagama Lake Shore Owners Association. Data was collected for 80 parcels and over 1100 photos of the shoreline were taken and cataloged.

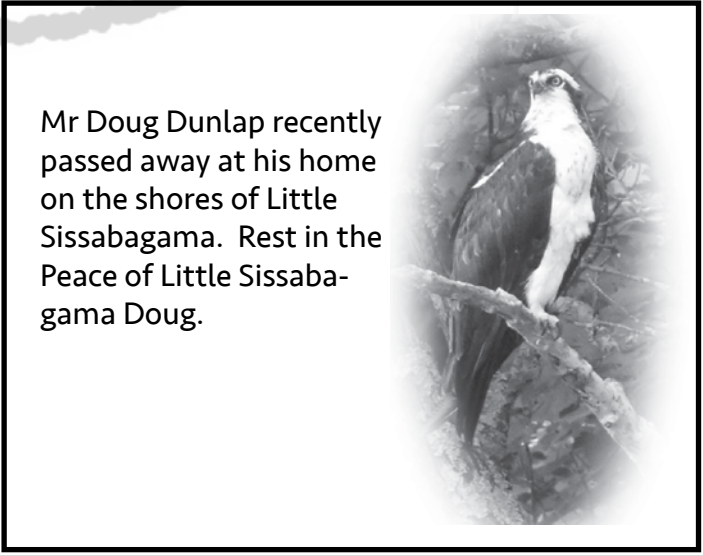
The data will be analyzed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources using established protocols and methods.

An initial overview of the data found that the average tree cover over all parcels was 82%, with 62 parcels having over 85% cover. Shrub and ground cover vegetation had similar high cover. Only a handful of parcels had large amounts of bare ground or lawn.

The few areas with erosion and runoff issues are associated with impervious ground cover at a boat launch and associated with Ranch/Little Sissabagama Road.

The assessment data, photos and photo table were submitted in a digital format to Katie Hein at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Thank you Schnacks & Smiths for hosting the July 4th  
**PICNIC!**



Mr Doug Dunlap recently passed away at his home on the shores of Little Sissabagama. Rest in the Peace of Little Sissabagama Doug.