

Flowage Preservation Alliance

Fall Newsletter October 26, 2016

A lot of time has gone by since the last newsletter in July. The new dam has taken over the job of the old culvert quite well, although some would argue the water level is pretty high. Please see the attached minutes of the Lake District Board Meeting for a discussion of that issue.

Dam Update: Since the Annual Meeting, 1) two official danger buoys have been installed at the underwater culvert intake, alerting boaters and swimmers to the hazard. 2) A group of volunteers delivered the “whistle-tube” cover to a welder for installation of rebar handles, in order to easily lift the cover for inspections. 3) And the grate covering the culvert outlet at the edge of Lapokin Pond was permanently removed, because it was trapping turtles who were swimming through from the Flowage side.

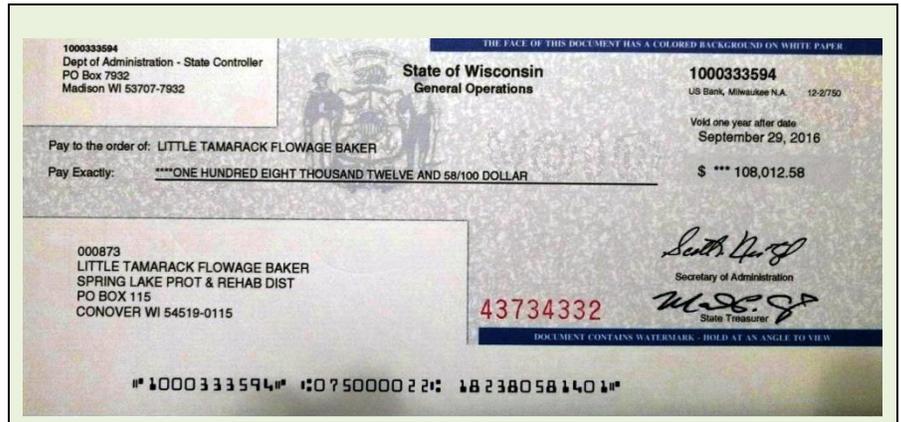


The danger buoys have now been removed for the winter, since swimming season is long over. As soon as the ice is out in the spring, they will be reinstalled.

Wildlife Update: The adult loons have for the most part left Northern Wisconsin for their winter home on the Gulf Coast. This year's youngsters were left behind to fatten up even more in preparation for the long flight south. This year one chick survived on the Flowage, and one on Spring Lake. They will both need to leave before the ice forms. Four trumpeter swans (two adults with two juveniles) have been seen on the Flowage this summer, resting up for their migration. In the Spring Lake area, ducks, mergansers, and geese have been plentiful.



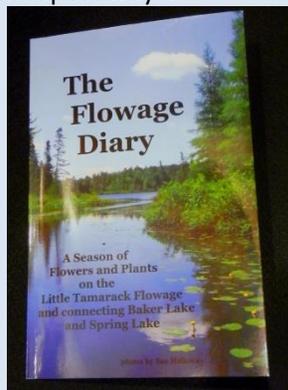
Dam Grant: The WDNR Dam Grant check was received Oct. 1. A tremendous effort by everyone involved! Over the 8 years of work on the dam project, the Flowage Preservation Alliance has also been a major donor: over \$18,000 was contributed by Alliance members and friends, lowering the burden on the taxpayers of the Lake District. We will begin to pay back our loan from the Wisconsin Commissioners of Public Lands as soon as allowed, in January of 2017, with a first payment of \$100,000.



Ideas for Christmas Presents: We have just received another shipment of Flowage Preservation Alliance baseball caps. (The first shipment was sold out right after the Annual Meeting!) They are very high quality hats, with excellent embroidery done by Hahn Printing in Eagle River. The price is \$25 plus shipping. Also available are the "Flowage Diary" booklets, with photos and identifications of over 50 wetland flowers and plants found on the Flowage. The price is \$10. And we still have four "Save Tammy" T-shirts in men's size large – now a collector's item! – the price is \$11. You can pick up any of these items at the Holloway's on North Flowage Road – call first 715-547-6048. You can also order by email, and we will ship the items to you with an invoice – gsholloway@earthlink.net. Please give your name, address, city, zip. We will ship the items the "cheapest way".



Caps \$25



Wetland Flower Booklet - \$10



shirt color is beige

Collector T-Shirts \$11

Reminder: If using Amazon for your online gift purchases, try Amazon Smile <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3099323> to choose the Flowage Preservation Alliance as your organization, and .5% of your purchase will be automatically donated!

Many of us have wondered why the floating bogs seem to be disappearing. We contacted wetland experts at the County and State level. Pulling together information from many sources, here is a description of the natural life of a Flowage:

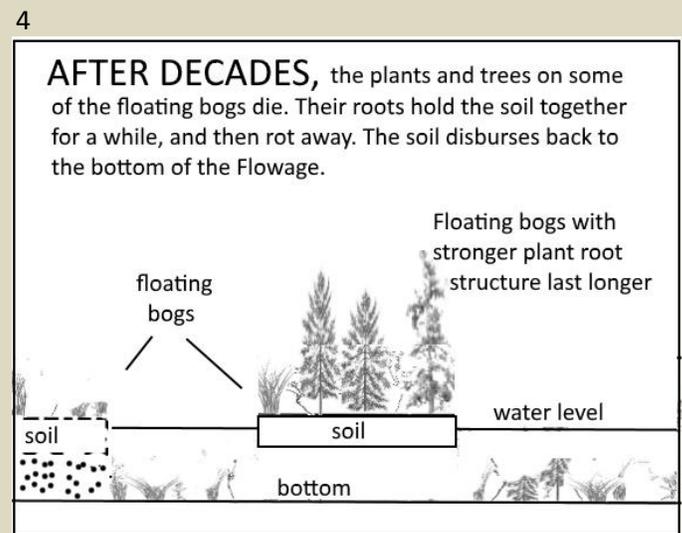
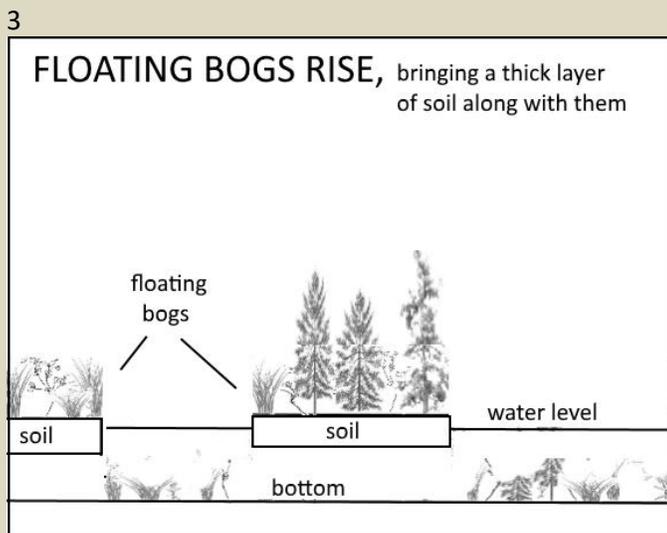
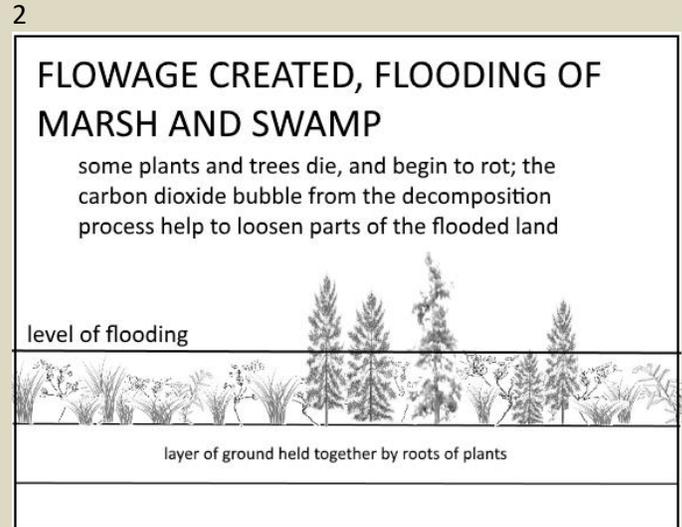
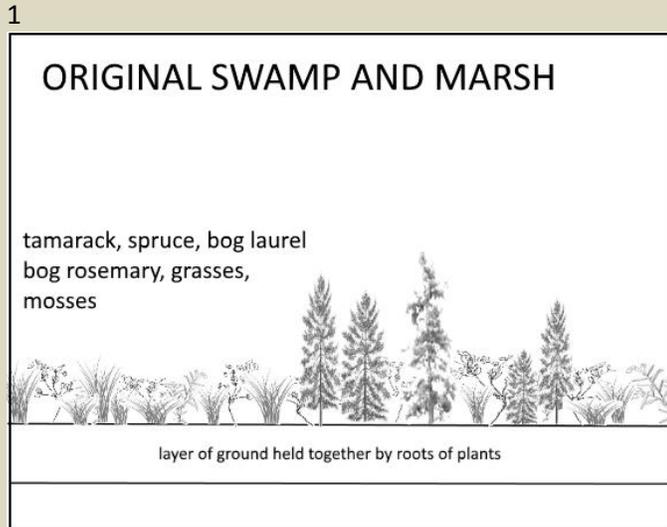
The Story about Floating Bogs

One of the most unique features of the Little Tamarack Flowage is the floating bogs. The "island" you see may move to a new location the next day. Floating bogs can range from the size of a parking space to several acres. Some floating bogs have mature Tamarack and Spruce trees. A floating bog can remain in a familiar location for years, but they are also known to move significant distances when conditions are right. Sometimes high water combined with high winds will move a floating bog, or even cause it to break up into smaller pieces, and disintegrate.

When the Flowage was created in the 1940's, much of the land that was flooded was originally swamp and marsh. Many of these marshy bogs floated to the surface, along with their plants and even trees. Over time seeds scattered by the wind and birds flying overhead germinated on the floating bogs. More plants from grasses to trees began to grow. The floating bog you see today can be quite developed including mature trees.

Although the Flowage was created over 70 years ago, new floating bogs can be created. A phenomenon known as “mud bogs” can appear at any time, although they show up most frequently in the fall. They can rise to the surface temporarily and then slowly sink down to the bottom again, or they may stay permanently on the surface.

Most floating bogs will eventually disintegrate. Their plants and trees die, and the roots can no longer hold onto the soil, which disbursts back to the bottom. This can have the effect of making the Flowage shallower. Some floating bogs may anchor themselves in shallow areas, and become fixed islands. You can see this primarily in the Spring Lake area.



for more information, please call: Rich Ruffalo, Pres. 715-547-6869 or George Holloway, Vice Pres. 715-547-6048
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