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Grant # AEPP-037-06

Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee

May 2006

Dear Neighbor:

I and the other members of the Lac du Flambeau Town Board have been very concerned about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and the implications of their presence for the future of our waters and community.

We feel it is time for us to share our concern with you by explaining the nature of the problem, what we have been doing to address it, and what yet needs to be done. Why are we sharing this newsletter with you, specifically?

Our understanding is that you own property on or near a lake that is already infested by at least one form of AIS. Moreover, your property is near a high use public boat landing, meaning the lakes served by the landing are highly susceptible to an infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (picture upper right).

We know you do not want to have to contend with an infestation of this highly invasive and destructive plant.

We are concerned and we hope you share our concern and will work with us to protect our lake and our community.

Given the problem, the Town Board created the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee in March 2005, charging it to protect the lakes from AIS by promoting cooperation and coordination of protection efforts.

This newsletter highlights the committee's work and encourages you to volunteer time this summer at a landing near your property. It also encourages you to learn what Eurasian Water Milfoil looks like and then spend time on your own lake, indeed, along your own shoreline looking for signs of this plant and other AIS plants.

Every minute you serve as a volunteer will help protect the lakes as well as help us secure \$14,000 in grant money being offered to us by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to address this problem.

Please take time to read this newsletter and then give careful thought on how you can help support our efforts to combat AIS.

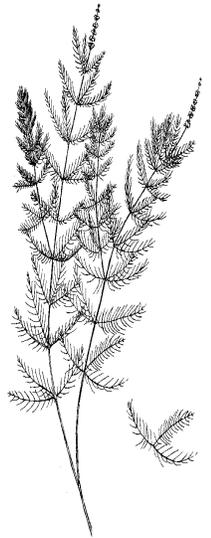
In closing, we want to thank the members on the Town Lakes Committee for their efforts to date. In addition, we extend a warm thank you to you in anticipation of your support.

On behalf of the Lac du Flambeau Town Board,

Francis P. Chartier,



Chairman,
Town Board



Grant Approved for Specific Landings and Lakes

In January 2006, the Town Lakes Committee submitted a grant application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) seeking funds for fighting aquatic invasive species, particularly Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).

The WDNR approved the application and will reimburse the town up to \$14,000 for

expenditures on specific prevention and education activities that are **conducted by volunteers**.

Due to the large number of lakes and landings in the Lac du Flambeau area, the grant focuses on seven public landings considered to be at very high risk for the spread of EWM.

The landings are located on

Flambeau Lake, Fence Lake, Little Crawling Stone Lake, White Sand Lake, Gunlock Lake, Little Trout Lake, and Wild Rice Lake.

The landings have a very high rate of use and they serve multiple lakes already infested by at least one form of AIS (smelt, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish).



An infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil at Big Sand Lake.

What is Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)?

EWM is a feathery submerged aquatic plant that quickly forms thick mats in lakes and rivers.

It is one of eight milfoil species found in Wisconsin and the only one that is not native.

It interferes with swimming, fishing and boating and displaces native plants, impacting

fish and wildlife.

Since discovered in North America in the 1940's, EWM has invaded nearly every state and at least three Canadian provinces.

It spreads when plant pieces break off and float on water currents and by clinging to watercraft, motors, trailers, and fishing gear.

It has small reddish flowers above the water, long stringy stems that branch near the water surface, 3-5 feathery leaves arranged in circles on stems, and leaves with 12-21

leaflet pairs.

The plant is now in at least 19 lakes in Vilas County, though not yet in any of the lakes in the Lac du Flambeau area.

Because eradicating an established infestation is nearly impossible, the Town Lakes Committee believes that our best option at this time is to prevent the introduction of the plant by supervising the launching of boats at the landings.



For 2005, the WDNR reported that statewide through the CBCW Program, volunteers provided 4,579 hours of service at landings, examined 9,055 boats, and contacted 19,792 people. Of the boats examined, 6% had weeds removed before launch.

Preventing—Clean Boats Clean Waters

Most of the grant funds will be spent on preventing an AIS infestation by implementing the State's *Clean Boats Clean Waters* Program, a proven way to keep unwanted plants from entering a lake by examining boats and trailers at the landings.

Several members on the Town Lakes Committee either have or will soon have received formal training on how to identify AIS plants, how to supervise landings, and how to train

others to do likewise.

They will be prepared to help other volunteers who are willing to donate time helping examine boats and trailers at the landings.

The grant also provides for hiring a coordinator who will help schedule volunteers as well as supervise at the landings.

The overall task requires more help and time, however, than members on the Town

Lakes Committee and the coordinator can provide alone.

One way you can help is to spend time at a landing during any day of the week, but especially during the high use weekends, helping examine boats and trailers before they enter the water.

Please call one of the contacts listed on the next page.



Monitoring—Check out your own shoreline!

Part of the grant focuses on *monitoring* the lakes, encouraging you to regularly inspect the water along the shorelines, landings and channels of your own lake looking for evidence of AIS plants, especially EWM.

This part of the grant recognizes that AIS plants, once they are in a lake, do not rest at ease by a landing, but travel with the currents and winds throughout the lake and from one lake to another.

Even time you spend examining the shoreline of your own property will support the grant.

Once someone from the Town Lakes Committee spends a few minutes with you showing you what the suspect plants look like, what to do if you find a suspect plant, and how to record your time, the time you spend on or in the water as an active inspector will offset obligations of the grant.

Do you spend time fishing? Do you spend time in a row-

boat, kayak or canoe? Do you take an occasional evening cruise on a pontoon boat? Do you occasionally walk along the shoreline?

If you do, you can easily take time looking for EWM and other AIS—and the time you spend may be applied to the grant, once someone from the Town Lakes Committee spends a few minutes with you.

Again, please call one of the contacts listed on the next page.

Educating and Communicating

The grant also emphasizes the value that educating and communicating play in preventing AIS infestations. This newsletter, for example, is made possible by the grant.

If all goes well with implementing the grant (meaning there are sufficient volunteers who help at the landings and with monitoring the lakes), the grant will enable the Town Lakes Committee to:

- Distribute quality literature on AIS at the land-

ings,

- Update signage at the landings,
- Distribute quality literature at the annual Lac du Flambeau Lake Fest, and
- Provide all residents with additional newsletters focusing on AIS.

Would you like to participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters training program? Would you like to have a member of the Town Lakes Committee meet with you and a group of

your neighbors? Would you like to have someone meet with an organization or association to which you belong? Would you like to consider starting a lake association for your lake?

In the spirit of educating and communicating, members on the Town Lakes Committee will be available to help.

Please call one of the contacts listed below.



How do I volunteer? or ask for more information?

There are two primary activities for which volunteers are needed: 1) to help supervise at the landings, 2) to help monitor the shorelines and channels.

Members of the Town Lakes Committee listed in the table are serving as contacts for these activities. Please contact the individual associated with the landing for which you most identify. If that person is not available, please call another person on the list.

Landing	Contact	Phone
Fence Lake	Larry Krull	588-3086
Little Crawling Stone (Big Crawling Stone)	Norm Wetzel Roberta Gast	588-9428 356-5550
White Sand Lake	John Bartosz	588-3592
Gunlock/Shishebogama	George Zickert	356-6303
Flambeau	John Brown	588-4238
Little Trout	"	"
Wild Rice	"	"

If you prefer, please complete the form on the back page and return it to the Town Hall.

-Thank you to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for making this newsletter and the other AIS prevention efforts possible.-

Words of Appreciation

Several individuals and organizations were instrumental in supporting the submission of the grant application. Some of the organizations, too, indicated a willingness to provide volunteers.

The Town Board and the Town Lakes Committee extend a warm thank you to:

- Dan Meyer, State Representative, 34th Assembly District
- Victoria Doud, President,

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

- Ted Ritter, Vilas County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
- Sue Drum, Secretary, Vilas County Lakes Association
- John Spickerman, President, Lac du Flambeau Lions
- Larry H. Krull, Lac du Flambeau Improvement Association

- Thomas Koenen, President, Shishebogama & Gunlock Lakes Association
- White Sand Lake Association
- Little Crawling Stone Lake Association

-Note of Special Appreciation-

As part of the grant, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians are partnering in the overall effort through service on the Town Lakes Committee and by providing a half-time coordinator to supervise the landings at Flambeau, Little Trout and Wild Rice lakes.

TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE - AIS GRANT

Please let us know when you can 1) help inspect at the landings, and or 2) monitor the shores and channels by completing this form and returning it to the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall at P.O. Box 68. Upon receiving the form, you will be contacted by a member of the Town Lakes Committee or by the Coordinator. If you prefer, please call one of the contacts listed in the newsletter.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____

- 1) Inspect at the Landings. Check which landing(s): ___ Fence, ___ Little Crawling Stone, ___ Gunlock, ___ Little Trout, ___ Wild Rice, ___ Flambeau, ___ White Sand

Date/Time: ___/___/___, ___/___/___, ___/___/___, ___/___/___,
 ___/___/___, ___/___/___, ___/___/___, ___/___/___.

- 2) Monitor Shores and Channels. Check which lake(s):
___ Big Crawling Stone, ___ Fence Lake, ___ Flambeau, ___ Gunlock,
___ Little Crawling Stone, ___ Little Trout, ___ Long Interlaken, ___ Moss,
___ North Twin Placid, ___ Pokegama, ___ Shishebogama,
___ South Twin Placid, ___ White Sand, ___ Wild Rice

AEPP-037-06

Town of Lac du Flambeau
P.O. Box 68
Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin
54538



Eurasian Water
Milfoil