

TOWN BOARD

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AIS Coordinator

- Jane Pfeifer

Grant # AEPP-083-07

Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee

May 2007

Dear Neighbor:

The Lac du Flambeau Town Board is pleased to inform you that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has approved our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant application for 2007. This means the Town Lakes Committee (TLC) will have funds to continue protecting the lakes from unwanted aquatic invasive species this summer.

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.

Through an AIS grant received last year, the TLC coordinated the efforts of volunteers who worked in a variety of ways to combat AIS.

Importantly, volunteers donated enough hours to offset the Town's financial obligation to the grant, and the Town recently received a check from the WDNR in the amount of

\$14,041 as reimbursement for expenses incurred last season.

The new grant will provide \$20,393. Again, it is a matching grant, meaning the Town will be reimbursed up to that amount if volunteers donate sufficient hours working on or participating in specific grant activities.

This newsletter highlights the scope of the new grant and encourages you to help.

Every minute you serve as a volunteer will help protect the lakes as well as help us secure the grant money from the WDNR.

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

- Attend one of the Clean Boats Clean Waters workshops
- Help inspect boats at the landings
- Attend a workshop on AIS identification
- Attend a workshop on establishing a lake association

- Participate in the LDF Lake Fest
- Participate in a Shoreline Sweep
- Monitor your own shoreline regularly
- Attend the Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- Attend Town Lakes Committee meetings

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

On behalf of the Lac du Flambeau Town Board,



Chairman



Important Dates to Keep in Mind

- June 2: Clean Boats Training, 9:00-Noon, Manitowish Waters
- June 5: Clean Boats Training, 9:00-Noon, LDF Town Hall
- June 12: Clean Boats Training, 9:00-Noon, Eagle River
- June 19: Workshop on Forming a Lake Association, 7:00 PM, LDF Town Hall
- June 23: Lake Fest, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
- June 30: Shoreline Sweep, Crawling Stone & Little Crawling Stone
- July 14: Shoreline Sweep
- July 17: Workshop on AIS Identification, 7:00-8:15 PM, LDF Town Hall
- August 11: Shoreline Sweep
- August 25: Volunteer Appreciation Reception

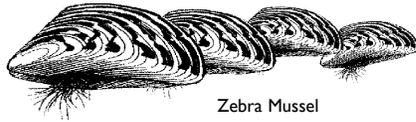
Town Lakes Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 10:00 AM - Noon, LDF Town Hall.



Purple Loosestrife

Last year, volunteers for Lac du Flambeau provided 1,583 hours of watercraft inspection at the landings, examined 2,049 watercraft, and contacted 4,004 people.

Your help is needed this year, too!



Zebra Mussel

At last count, Wisconsin has at least 100 invasive species! Of these, six are currently a distinct threat to the lakes in the Flambeau area: purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, rusty crayfish, zebra mussel, and spiny waterflea.

All six have been found in lakes in Vilas County or in nearby counties.

Purple Loosestrife, for exam-

TLC Workshop on Identifying AIS

ple, is in Moss, Flambeau, Little Trout, Wild Rice, White Sand, Gunlock and Shishebogama Lakes. The rusty crayfish is in Little Crawling Stone, Crawling Stone, White Sand, Pokegama, and Little Trout Lakes.

To learn about AIS, including how to identify them and what to do if you suspect you find one, plan to attend a workshop on AIS identification sponsored by the Town Lakes Committee.

As part of the grant, members on the Town Lakes Committee will present the work-

shop on Tuesday, July 17 from 7:00-8:15 pm at the LDF Town Hall.

To register, complete the enclosed form and return it to the LDF Town Hall, or, if you prefer, call the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.



Spiny Waterflea

Clean Boats Clean Waters

Likely, the AIS noted above entered the lakes by falling off boat trailers and motors, or when bilge water or bait bucket water was dumped into the lakes.

Most of the grant funds, therefore, will be spent on 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.

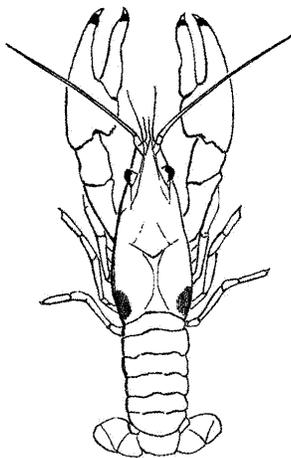
Per the grant, the Town will hire two watercraft inspectors who will work at the target landings on weekends from late May through early September.

In addition to inspecting watercraft, they will schedule and guide volunteers to help inspect boats and trailers.

The overall task requires more help and time, than members on the Town Lakes Committee and the paid inspectors can provide alone.

A major 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 to educate boaters and examine boats and trailers. Every minute you donate offsets the Town's cost of hiring the inspectors.

Last year, volunteers contributed enough time so that the Town recently received a check from the WDNR to cover the Town's grant-related expenditures in 2006.



Rusty Crayfish

Lake Monitoring & Shoreline Sweeps

To complement watercraft inspections, this year's grant emphasizes *monitoring* the lakes, encouraging regular inspection of the water along the shorelines, landings and channels of the lakes looking for evidence of AIS plants, especially Eurasian Water Milfoil.

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.

Again, time spent monitoring a lake helps offset paying for the watercraft inspectors as well as other grant-related expenditures.

To encourage lake monitoring, the TLC is sponsoring at least three Shoreline Sweeps, meaning that on a set date, all of the residents on the designated lake will be encouraged to spend time inspecting the shore of their own property and as much other shoreline as they are willing to inspect.

The first Shoreline Sweep, set for Saturday, June 30, is co-sponsored by the TLC and the Crawling Stone Lakes Association. All residents affiliated with Crawling Stone Lake and Little Crawling Stone Lake are being asked to volunteer time that day to inspect shorelines.

Sweeps at other lakes are scheduled for July 14 and August 11.

Volunteers do not have to

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Forming Lake Associations

In addition to confronting AIS by inspecting watercraft and monitoring the lakes, there is another way you can provide a critical and positive role in helping the lakes. Would you like your lake to have its own lake association?

Volunteer organizations have been a part of the lake scene in Wisconsin for over a hundred years. By the turn of the 19th century, declining water quality and other human impacts on lakes were becoming apparent. People on Lake Geneva and the Lauderdale Lakes formed the first

lake organizations in 1898 and 1902, respectively, to deal with the issues.

Over the years, a growing sense of urgency has caused more and more lake area residents to band together, and today, Wisconsin has 480 lake associations and 220 lake districts.*

To the knowledge of the TLC, there are very few lake associations in the Flambeau area, but fortunately, those few are partners in the current grant effort: Little Crawling Stone Lake Association, Shishebogama-Gunlock Lakes Asso-

ciation, White Sand Lake Association, and Lake Placid Lakes Association.

As part of the grant, members on the TLC will conduct a workshop on Forming a Lake Association on Tuesday, June 19 at 7:00 PM in the LDF Town Hall.

To register, complete the enclosed form and return it to the LDF Town Hall, or, if you prefer, call the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.

*People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations.

A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is the earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.

-Henry David Thoreau*

Workshops on Clean Boats Clean Waters

As part of the grant, members on the Town Lakes Committee will conduct a workshop on the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 5 from 9:00-Noon at the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall. There is no registration fee.

To register, complete the enclosed form and return it to the LDF Town Hall, or, if you prefer, call the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.

If you cannot attend the workshop sponsored by the TLC, consider attending one of the workshops scheduled and conducted by the WDNR.

The WDNR will host a CBCW session on Saturday, June 2, from 9:00 AM to Noon at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters. For reservations, contact Maggie Moesch at 715-543-2085.

Another WDNR session will be held on Tuesday, June 12, from 9:00 AM to Noon at

Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River. For reservations, contact Tom Pauley at 715-356-3296.



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

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Shoreline Sweeps

wait for a scheduled Sweep in order to help.

Once someone from the TLC spends a few minutes with you showing you what suspect plants look like and what to do if you find a suspect plant, time you spend inspecting your own shoreline counts toward the grant. Also, time you spend fishing, canoeing, kayaking, or cruising on a pontoon boat **while** searching with one eye for AIS counts as legitimate time for lake monitoring.

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
>Grant Birmingham, President, Lac du Flambeau Lions
>Judy Sudbury, President, Lac du Flambeau Improvement Association
>Thomas Koenen, President, Shishebogama & Gunlock Lakes Association
>Clark J. Albert, Vice-President, White Sand Lake Association
>Jim Appelgren, President, Little Crawling Stone Lake Association
>David L. Ahmann, Chairman, Placid Lakes Association

Note of Special Appreciation

Last year, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians played a critical role in the overall grant effort by serving on the Town Lakes Committee and by providing a watercraft inspector at the Flambeau, Little Trout and Wild Rice landings. We are very pleased to note that the Tribe is continuing to provide similar support this season.

Lac du Flambeau Lake Fest 2007

The Town Lakes Committee will provide several activities at the Lac du Flambeau Lake Fest, scheduled for Saturday, June 23 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The Lake Fest is sponsored by the Lac du Flambeau Tribe and is designed to educate and inform the public about natural re-

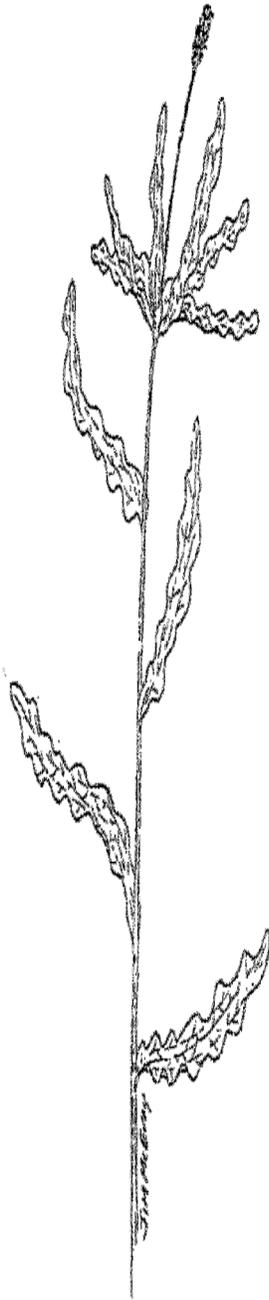
sources and ways to protect them.

Look for the TLC Booth to talk with TLC members who are well versed on AIS and pick up the latest AIS literature. Also, plan to spend some time learning about AIS.

- Learn how to identify and remove rusty cray-

fish.

- Learn how to identify Eurasian water milfoil and Curly-Leaf pondweed.
- Learn how to identify Purple loosestrife and how beetles are used to control the plant.



Curly-leaf Pondweed

Tribal Boating Ordinance Amended to Combat AIS

The Tribal Conservation Code Committee (CCC) and Tribal Council recently passed a resolution to amend the Tribal Boating Ordinance 27.201 to include a provision that will require people to remove all weeds and invasive species from their boats before putting them in Tribal waters.

The Boating Ordinance is now in line with current State law and all individuals, Tribal and non-Tribal, are required to observe it on the reservation.

The Tribal Council and CCC passed this law to protect Tribal waters from nonnative plants and animals that could infest the waters and harm fisheries, boating and swimming.

Some nonnative plants like Eurasian water milfoil can form dense tangled mats of vegetation that limit light to native plants important to fish reproduction and growth, become twisted in boat motors, and fill up shorelines so swimming is made impossible.

Nearby lakes and rivers, like the Minocqua Chain, already have infestations of Eurasian water milfoil and other aquatic invasive species, highlighting the need for the new ordinance.

Tribal Conservation Law Officers, Tribal Water Resource Staff, LDF Town Staff, and volunteers will be at landings this summer to educate boaters about how to keep the waters healthy and free from aquatic invasive species.

EPA: National Lake Survey

Many of our nation's lakes, including Haskell Lake in Lac du Flambeau, will be undergoing a checkup in 2007 as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiates a statistical survey.

The goal of the survey is to discover what percentages of the nation's lakes are in good, fair or poor condition. A "stress test" will

also be performed to examine the relative importance of nutrients, non-native species, lakeshore development, pathogens and other stressors on lake conditions.

The study will include 909 lakes, including 29 in Wisconsin and one, Haskell Lake, in Flambeau.

The WDNR is planning to

use the national lake survey effort to complement and enhance its own lake monitoring and assessment efforts throughout Wisconsin.

For more information on the survey, visit www.epa.gov/owow/lakes/lakessurvey.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

The WDNR recently issued information on a deadly pathogen known as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), a serious killer of fresh and saltwater fish that is an emerging disease in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada.

VHS is a rhabdovirus (rod shaped virus) that affects fish of all sizes and ages. It does not pose any threat to human health. VHS causes hemorrhaging of skin, muscle, and internal organs, and death follows. Some infected with VHS will develop antibodies to the virus and will survive. However, after a period of time these fish may start spreading the virus again to other fish.

VHS has been found specifically in the waters of Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair,

Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. Fisheries biologists believe the virus is probably already in Lake Michigan, and ballast discharged from ships may have moved the virus to port cities on Lake Superior.

In the past, VHS was thought to be a concern only for trout and a few other freshwater fish raised for commercial aquaculture in Europe. However, the recent outbreak in the Great Lakes region appears to be a new strain of the virus, responsible for die-offs in the following species: muskellunge, smallmouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, rock bass, white bass, wall-eye, among others.

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on April 4,

2007, adopted and amended emergency Administrative rule [PDF 240KB] that will aid the Department in controlling the spread of VHS to inland waters. The emergency rule went into effect on Sunday, April 8, 2007.

Information on the clinical signs of VHS and how it is spread, and information on the specifics of the emergency rule can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/pages/vhs.html>.

Information provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services) can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/VHS_Great_Lakes.pdf

The members on the Town Lakes Committee extend a sincere word of thanks to John Bartosz, who served as the TLC's first Chair and is now its Vice-Chair. John was instrumental in forming the Committee and continues to provide needed support and boundless energy. Thanks, John!

Documents issued by the Town Lakes Committee, like this newsletter and previous newsletters, the agendas and minutes of TLC meetings, and reports and documents related to the AIS grants will be available on the new AIS Partnership web site in late May. Use this link (<http://co.vilas.wi.us/landconv/>) to the Land & Water Conservation Department page of the Vilas County web site. Then look for the AIS Partnership.

Town Lakes Committee

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

The TLC soon set four goals to guide its work: Prevent AIS, Monitor the Lakes, Educate and Communicate, and Manage Infestations.

In August 2005, the TLC established a grant committee to seek funds from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Since then, the Town has been awarded two grants from the WDNR.

The TLC meets on the third Wednesday of each month, April through November, 10:00 am - Noon, in the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall at 109 Old

Abe Road.

All meetings are announced in the local media and agendas are posted in advance at the Town Hall.

The TLC encourages the public to attend the meetings, portions of which are always reserved for visitors to address the committee.



TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE

Workshop Registration

Please use this form to register for the workshops sponsored by the Town Lakes Committee. You can mail it to the Town Hall at PO Box 68, deliver it to the Town Hall at 109 Old Abe Road, or call the Town Hall at 715-588-3358. Write the number attending on the spaces. All sessions will be at the Town Hall, and there are no fees.

_____ June 5, Clean Boats Training/AIS Identification (9:00-Noon)

_____ June 19, Forming a Lake Association (7:00-8:00 PM)

_____ July 17, Identifying Aquatic Invasive Species (7:00-8:15 PM)

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

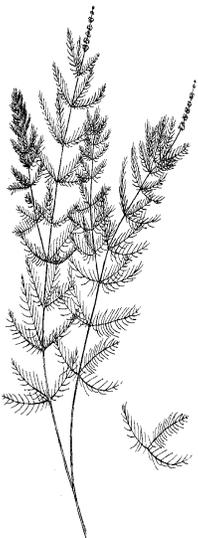
POSITION NOTICE

>Through the AIS grant, the Town of Lac du Flambeau can hire an individual to inspect watercraft during the weekends, primarily, from late May through early September at the White Sand Lake landing and the Gunlock Lake landing. The individual will also call and schedule volunteers to work at the landings.

>The watercraft inspector will be paid to work up to 500 hours at \$10 per hour. As an employee of the LDF, the ordinary deductions apply. In addition, the inspector will receive up to \$200 for phone use and up to \$400 for travel between the landings.

For the complete description of the position and an application, please call the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall at 715-588-3358.

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



Eurasian Water
Milfoil