

TOWN BOARD

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Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee

**Town Lakes
Committee
Members**

- John Bartosz
- Roy Bodo
- Guy David
- Charlene DeWald
- Edith Dobrinski
- Roberta Gast
- Jack George
- Gerald Gorski
- Lester Kuerschner
- Rob Milburn
- Chuck Pollack
- Donna Roche
- John Spickerman
- Paul Stinski
- Gretchen Watkins
- Norm Wetzel
- George Zickert

Grant # AEPP-191-09

Lac du Flambeau

December 2009

Dear Neighbor:

In April, the Town Board learned that a grant application submitted by the Town Lakes Committee (TLC) to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) seeking funds for fighting aquatic invasive species (AIS) was approved.

As a result, four temporary AIS coordinators were hired to inspect watercraft at several landings and the Town Lakes Committee undertook a variety of grant activities.

I am pleased to report that the targets stipulated in the grant

have been met, and, the Town will be reimbursed by the WDNR for expenses made through the grant, such as the coordinators' salaries, purchases of supplies and materials, and the printing and mailing of two newsletters.

This newsletter focuses on the scope and results of the grant and highlights the important contributions of more than 200 volunteers.

The newsletter also encourages you to consider serving on the TLC, or becoming a Lake Steward, or starting a lake association.

We hope you share the Town Board's appreciation for the dedication of the volunteers who have worked so hard to benefit all of us and our community.

On behalf of the Town Board,



Francis P. Chartier,
Chairman, Town Board



Town Lakes Committee—Background

The Lac du Flambeau Town Board established the Town Lakes Committee (TLC) in cooperation with the Tribe in 2005 to protect the lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species.

The 17-member all-volunteer TLC has three goals to guide its work:

1. Prevent AIS Infestations
2. Manage AIS Infestations
3. Administer Efficiently and

Effectively.

So far, the TLC has submitted four grant applications to the WDNR seeking funds to combat AIS, and all four applications have been approved.

In October, the Town Board approved a resolution authorizing the TLC to submit another application to the WDNR.

TLC Meetings

The TLC meets on the third Wednesday of each month, April through October, 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 public is encouraged to attend the meetings, a portion of which is reserved for visitors to address the committee.

Watercraft Inspections: Clean Boats Clean Waters Program



A major part of the grant included inspecting watercraft at nine landings while distributing education materials on AIS.

From April to October, 114 volunteers and four paid inspectors spent 3264 hours inspecting watercraft: volunteers, 1646 hours; paid, 1618 hours.

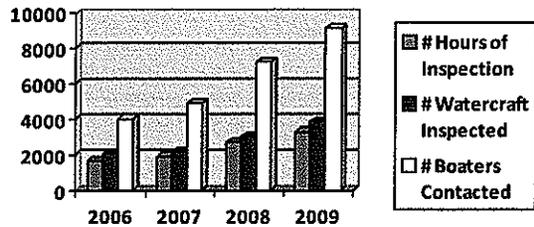
They inspected 3878 watercraft and contacted 9074 boaters at the landings.

Due in part to their work, the lakes associated with the target landings remain free

of AIS like Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed.

The table shows data from the past four years (WDNR Database).

Clean Boats Clean Waters



According to interviews conducted at the landings, boaters said they had learned about AIS from a variety of sources.

From ...	% interviewees
Inspectors	44%
Announcements	8%
News	9%
Brochures	13%
Signs	24%
Billboards	1%
Web	<1%

Data Collected at the Landings

As required by the grant, data recorded on inspection forms at the landings were entered on a WDNR website.

Here are some of the data collected in 2009.

>9074 boaters contacted
>3878 boats inspected; 62% when entering; 38% boats when leaving

>28% of boats used during the past five days on other waterbody; 72% were not

>95% of boaters said they examined boat and removed plants since last used; 5% said they did not

>91% of boaters said they drained water from boat since last used; 9% said they did not
>64% of boaters said they disposed of bait since boat last used; 36% said they did not

>61% of boaters said they iced their fish; 39% said they did not
>68% of boaters said they washed equipment or let it dry

for at least five days before using it again; 32% said they did not

>95% of boaters said they are aware of current AIS boating laws; 5% said they are not
>10 violations were noted
>1 violation was reported to the WDNR

The WDNR website can be accessed at <http://dnr.wi.gov/>. Data submitted by Lac du Flambeau will be available at the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall by January 1, 2010.



The renown Milfoil Man representing the TLC in the Lac du Flambeau Fourth of July Parade. Actually it's volunteer Sue Benzol who is dressed in the aquatic finery. The TLC float earned a third place prize in the parade

Lake Monitoring

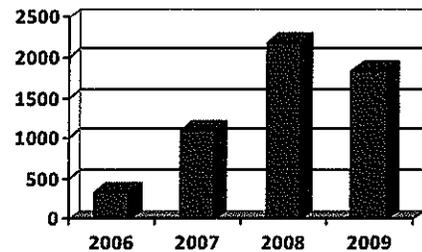
Part of the grant included monitoring the lakes; inspecting the water along shorelines, landings, and channels for evidence of AIS, especially Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed.

The grant recognized that once AIS plants are in a lake, they do not stay by a landing or along the shore, but travel by current and wind throughout the lake and from one lake to another.

Per the TLC database, more than 100 volunteers provided over 1800 hours of lake monitoring. On average, individual

volunteers monitored for 16 hours, including a low of 40 minutes up to a high of 354 hours!

Lake Monitoring Hours 2006-2009



Lake Steward Program Begins in 2010

The Town Lakes Committee is pleased to announce that the new Lake Steward Program will begin on August 4!

The main purpose of the program is to provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to be a primary caretaker of their lake.

Participants will learn how the basics of limnology apply to their own lake, how to measure the water clarity of their own lake, how to identify the aquatic plants native to their own lake, how to identify the invasive species that threaten their lake, and how to be a productive member in a network of other lake stewards.

Though based on current science and professional standards, the program is structured for the layman and is intended to be practical and useful.

Participants will actively en-

gage in learning taught by professionals as well as experienced local volunteers. The professionals, for example, include Susan Knight (Aquatic Ecologist for the WDNR and University of Wisconsin, Madison), Sandy Wickman (Coordinator for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network), and Gretchen Watkins (Water Quality Specialist, Tribal DNR).

The program will be held at the Lake of the Torches Resort Casino Convention Center. Participants will need to set aside the full day because the program will likely run from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Due to the hands-on nature of the instruction and the fact that part of the training will occur on boats on Pokegama Lake, the total number of participants is limited. Moreover, in an attempt to get as many

lakes represented in the training as possible, no more than two applicants will be approved per lake.

If you would like to participate in the Lake Steward Program, complete the form on the last page and submit it to the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall by February 1, 2010. You will be notified of the status of the application by March.

The Town Lakes Committee has applied to the WDNR for financial assistance. If the request is approved, participants will be able to attend the program at no cost. Otherwise, there may be a nominal fee.

Participants will receive a packet of information about the program early in the summer.



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Volunteer Donna Roche works with Tribal Water Guard, John Preuss, at the TLC booth, Lakes Fest.

Thank You Volunteers!

On August 20, the TLC hosted an Appreciation Reception to thank the volunteers who worked so diligently this season inspecting watercraft, monitoring the lakes, and completing other AIS-prevention activities.

The reception, held at the

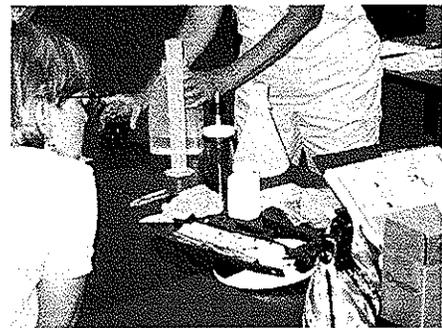
Lake of the Torches Resort Casino Convention Center, received financial support from the Center, Town Board, and Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians.

Below, volunteer Ger Gorski helps other volunteers learn about watercraft inspections.

Upper right, volunteers learn from Sandy Wickman at a lake monitoring workshop how to analyze a water sample.



Below right, volunteer Norm Wetzel learns from Gretchen Watkins, Tribal DNR Water Quality Specialist, how to conduct a point intercept survey.





Above: Jack George digging roots for transplanting.
Right: Lester Kuerschner collecting beetles.
Below: Roberta Gast checking on plants and beetles.

Containing the Spread of Purple Loosestrife

A few TLC volunteers spent part of the spring, summer, and fall working to keep several infestations of Purple Loosestrife from spreading to other lakes, streams, and wetlands in Lac du Flambeau.

The volunteers quickly learned that the infestations are too large and

widespread to be controlled by a few volunteers, only. In other words, if the infestations are to be contained, much more help is needed and on a much larger scale.

Therefore in 2010, the TLC and Tribe will sponsor a major effort to increase the scope of the effort to contain the Purple Loosestrife infestations, including encouraging more volunteers to get involved.

The following areas are infested by Purple Loosestrife, though all waters near these infestations are at risk.

- >Wild Rice Lake
- >White Sand Lake (several infestations)

- >Flambeau Lake (north shore by the Bear River dam)
- >Small pond along Hwy D between Pokegama Lake and Long Interlocken Lake)
- >Moss Lake (several large areas of infestations)
- >Fence Lake/Crawling Stone Channel (near highway bridge)
- >Haskell Lake (wetlands to the west & north)
- >North Placid Lake
- >Shishebogama Lake

the roots to the controlled environment, capture beetles and place them in the controlled environment, and release the new generations of beetles back in the infested areas.



Volunteers are also needed this winter to sew at least 200 nets that will be used next spring and summer to cover the potted plants, keeping the beetles from escaping. If you would like to assist with the sewing, please call Roberta Gast at 715-356-5550. If you would like to help in any other way,

please call the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.



Representatives of the TLC have been meeting with Brock Woods (WDNR State Coordinator for Purple Loosestrife) to plan how to address the problem the most effectively. One of the strategies will be to expand the effort to control the infestations biologically.

Last season, volunteers grew forty plants in controlled conditions and used the plants to raise approximately 80,000 beetles that were subsequently released in areas of infestation.

Next season, the TLC is planning to grow 200 plants and raise more than 400,000 beetles on a "beetle farm" being established on land provided by the Tribe.

This is a very labor intensive strategy and help is needed to dig Purple Loosestrife roots from infested areas, transplant

In partnership with the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, the TLC is sponsoring a workshop on Purple Loosestrife and how it can be controlled.

The workshop will be held on June 3 at the Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters.

To register, mail the enclosed registration form or call the Town Hall at 715-588-3358

Members and Dates for 2010

Members

On October 21, the Town Board accepted resignations from four TLC members: Guy David, Edith Dobrinski, George Zickert, and Paul Stinski. Appreciation is extended to them all for their years of distinguished service.

Also, the Town Board approved four new members whose service will begin on January 1, 2010: Randy Augustinak, John Dean, Dennis Gathmann, and Gene Hayman. A warm welcome is extended to the new members.

The Town Board also approved the TLC's Executive Committee for 2010: Roberta Gast, Chair; Lester Kuerschner, Vice-Chair; Rob Milburn, Secretary; and Norm Wetzell, Financial Officer.

The TLC includes seventeen members who serve on a voluntary basis from January 1 to

December 31,

On November 4, the Town Board approved modifications to the TLC's *Standing Rules*. The new rules now permit the TLC to add two alternate members.

If you would like to serve on the TLC as a member or alternate member, please call the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.

Dates

Here are the dates the TLC has set so far for 2010:

June 3: Purple Loosestrife Workshop in Manitowish Waters.

June 3: Workshop on Establishing a Lake Association: North Lakeland Community Education in Manitowish Waters, 7:00-8:00 pm.

June 9: Lake Association

Roundtable, LdF Town Hall, 9:00-11:00 am.

June 12: Clean Boats Clean Waters Workshop, Discovery Center, 9:30-11:30 am.

June 17: Lake Monitoring Workshop, LdF Town Hall, 9:00-11:30 am.

June 26: Lakes Fest, Indian Bowl, 10:00 am-3:00 pm.

August 4: Lake Steward Program, Casino Convention Center, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

August 26: Volunteer Appreciation Reception, Casino Convention Center, 4:00-6:00 pm.



John Brown and Dan Benzel rest after diving in Flambeau Lake late this summer. Due to support from the Tribe and grant, they and Bryan Hoover earned PADI certification by successfully completing diving school. They are now available to respond quickly to reports of AIS in the waters near landings and other areas.

Estimated Budget and Actual Expenditures: 2009 Grant

The table shows budget estimates and actual expenditures for the grant from April through early November.

The grant does not end until December 31, so the actual expenditures will change by then. The final financial report will be available at the LdF Town Hall in January.

Table Notes

(1) Four watercraft inspectors were paid \$12/hour to examine watercraft at the landings. They were reimbursed for mileage at .42/mile up to \$1,500, and they were provided with cell phones for emergency use at the landings and to schedule volunteers.

(2) Printing and mailing 7,000

newsletters, printing the TLC brochure, printing several reports, and general copying and mailing.

(3) Items distributed at the landings and used in workshops, basic office supplies, workshop attendance.

(4) Rental of SCUBA diving equipment related to training and searching for AIS.

As part of the agreement with the WDNR, the TLC needs to offset the expenditures by accumulating donations valued at a minimum of \$14,900 by December 31.

The TLC met the target by the end of June by collecting \$14,926 in donated labor

Item	Budget Estimate	Actual Spent
(1) Watercraft Coordinators	\$ 29,153.00	\$ 29,030.44
(2) Printing/Mailing	\$ 7,795.00	\$ 5,236.91
(3) Supplies/Other	\$ 7,350.00	\$ 6,831.99
(4) Rental	\$ 610.00	\$ 110.00
Totals	\$ 44,708.00	\$ 41,209.34

(\$12/hour) and mileage (.58/mile).

By mid-October, the TLC collected \$72,649 in donations, an amount that will approach \$80,000 by the end of the grant.

From April 1, 2006 to December 31, 2009, volunteers will have brought back to the LdF community about \$121,529 in State tax revenue due to participating in four WDNR grant programs.

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



**2010 SEASON
Workshop Registration & Lake Steward Application**

Please check your selections and send the form to the LdF Town Hall at PO Box 68, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538. If you prefer, provide the information by calling the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.

June 3: Purple Loosestrife Workshop, Discovery Center (Manitowish Waters, time to be determined)

June 3: How to Establish a Lake Association Workshop: North Lakeland Community Education (Manitowish Waters),
7:00-8:00 pm

June 12: Clean Boats Clean Waters Workshop: Discovery Center (Manitowish Waters), 9:30-11:30 am

June 17: Lake Monitoring/Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop, LdF Town Hall, 9:00-11:30 am

August 4: Lake Steward Program, Lake of the Torches Resort Casino Convention Center, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Name: _____ Phone (Winter): _____

Address: _____

Lake Represented: _____