

## TOWN BOARD

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- Tom Skonie
- John Spickerman
- Paul Stinski
- Gretchen Watkins
- Norm Wetzel
- George Zickert

### AIS Coordinators

- Nancy Edwards
- Jane Pfeifer
- Mark Vallier

Grant # AEPP-130-08

# Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee

Lac du Flambeau

May 2008

Dear Neighbor:

The Lac du Flambeau Town Board is pleased to announce that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has approved our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant Application for 2008.

For the third straight year the Town Lakes Committee will receive funds from the WDNR to help protect our lakes from aquatic invasive species.

Since the Town Board created the Town Lakes Committee in March 2005, many volunteers have graciously provided more than 4000 hours to combat AIS.

In December of each of the past two years, the Committee mailed reports to LDF residents and property owners summarizing volunteers' participation for the 2006 and 2007 seasons.

The reports are available on request at the Town Hall on paper or CD.

Importantly, volunteers donated enough hours to offset the Town's financial obligations for both grants.

The grant for 2008 is a matching grant, meaning the Town will be reimbursed if volunteers donate sufficient hours working on or participating in specific grant activities.

This newsletter highlights 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.

As you read the newsletter, please think about how you will help support the important effort to combat AIS.

Take time to complete the

enclosed survey.

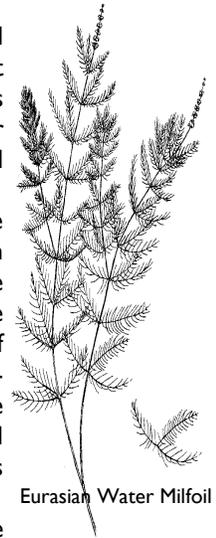
Plan to attend the special event noted below as well as the other activities described in this newsletter.

In closing, we extend a warm thank you to the members on the TLC and to all of you who have volunteered in the past and who will help this season as well.

On behalf of the Lac du Flambeau Town Board,



Francis P. Chartier,  
Chairman



Eurasian Water Milfoil

## How and Why are the Lakes Changing?

The Town Lakes Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Timothy Kratz, Director of the Trout Lake Station, University of Wisconsin, will soon visit with us and speak about how and why the lakes in the northwoods are changing.

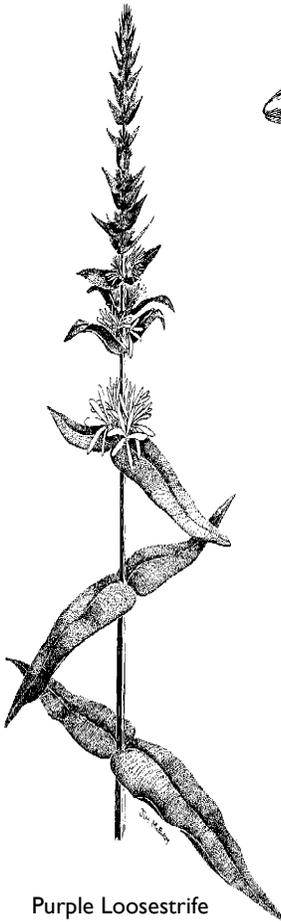
Dr. Kratz, an experienced

researcher of the long-term regional ecology of lakes and lake metabolism, uses automated sensing systems to observe lake dynamics.

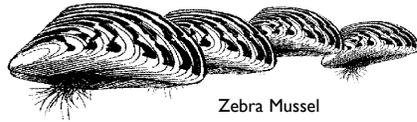
He is also Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON).

Dr. Kratz will share his thoughts with us on Tuesday, June 17, at 1:00 PM in the Lac du Flambeau Public School auditorium.

Dr. Timothy Kratz  
Tuesday, June 17, 2008  
1:00 PM  
LDF Public School  
Auditorium



Purple Loosestrife



Zebra Mussel

Of the more than 100 invasive species in Wisconsin, six currently pose the greatest threat to the lakes in the Flambeau area: purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, rusty crayfish, zebra mussel, and spiny water flea.

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

Purple loosestrife, for exam-

## Learn About Lake Monitoring & 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.

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

Members on the Town Lakes Committee will present the workshop on Thursday, June

19, from 9:00-11:30 am at the LDF Town Hall. **(Note: same workshop mentioned in next article).**

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.



## Learn About Clean Boats Clean Waters

Most of the AIS that threaten Lac du Flambeau travel to the Great Lakes from Europe and Asia in the bilge water of ships. From there, they hitch rides further and further inland in bait buckets and bilge water and on boats and motors.

A major portion 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 has hired three watercraft inspectors who will work at landings from late May through early September, weekends primarily.

However, the overall task requires more help and time than three coordinators can provide alone. You can assist in a major way by helping to inspect watercraft and educat-

ing boaters.

To learn how, attend a workshop on inspecting watercraft and identifying AIS.

Members on the TLC will present the workshop on Thursday, June 19 from 9:00-11:30 am at the LDF Town Hall. **(Same workshop noted in previous section).**

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.

### Lake Association Partners

Several lake associations have joined the TLC in the effort to curb AIS. They include:

- >Crawling Stone Lakes Association
- >Shishebogama-Gunlock Lakes Association
- >White Sand Lake Association
- >Lake Placid Lakes Association
- >Squaw Lake Association
- >Ike Walton Lake Association

## Learn About Establishing a Lake Association

In addition to confronting AIS by inspecting watercraft and monitoring the lakes, you can provide a critical and positive role in helping the lakes by establishing a 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.\*

The grant includes resources to help establish new lake associations. The TLC, therefore, will host a meeting for anyone who wants to learn about forming a lake association on

Wednesday, July 16, 1:00-2:00 pm, 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.*

Grant documents issued by the TLC grants are available at the LDF Town Hall. Many are also available on the Vilas County Website.

## Meet the Coordinators

Sometime this season you may meet or hear from the AIS Coordinators employed recently by the Town through grant funds.



Jane Pfeifer (left) served as Coordinator in 2006 and 2007 through previous grants, Nancy Edwards (middle) inspected watercraft regularly as a volunteer in 2006 and 2007, and Mark Vallier (right) is joining us for the first time.

All three will inspect watercraft at some of the most busy landings in Lac du Flambeau from late May to early September.

Also, the coordinators will call and schedule volunteers to help inspect watercraft and monitor the lakes.

### Lakes Fest June 14, 2008

Plan to learn about the lakes and have some fun at the same time by attending the Annual Lakes Fest sponsored by the LDF Tribe, Saturday, June 14, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, downtown Lac du Flambeau.

### Goodbye & Hello

On April 16, the TLC accepted Sig Larson's resignation. As a founding member of the TLC, Sig's support was important to getting the TLC off to a good start. Thank you, Sig!

The TLC also greeted its newest member, Rob Milburn, who lives near Squaw Lake.

Rob joins four other "new" members who joined the TLC late last year: Gerald Gorski, Tom Skonie, Chuck Pollack, and Paul Stinski.

Despite having five new members, the TLC still has one vacancy. Would you like to serve? Consider attending a meeting, visit with current members, and see firsthand what the Town Lakes Committee is all about.



## Study of the Spiny Water Flea

The spiny water flea has made its way to Stormy Lake in Vilas County. Last summer graduate students from the University of Wisconsin discovered the tiny critter while conducting research on the lake in Conover.

Previously, the water flea was found in the Gile Flowage in Iron County.

As a result of the discovery in Stormy Lake, two undergraduate students will examine the effects of the crustacean on zooplankton in the lake this summer.

Though usually too small to be seen without magnification (1/4-5/8"), the spiny water flea has a barbed tail long enough to keep

it from being swallowed by small fish, leaving it largely free to outcompete and dine on native zooplankton.

Anglers may notice them on fishing lines, downrigger cables, and other equipment where a congregation of them may have stuck as a gelatinous or cotton batting-like material.

Since arriving from Eurasia in ships' ballast water, they have spread to all of the Great Lakes and some inland waters, like Stormy Lake.



Ted Ritter (left) and Guy David (Chair of the Town Lakes Committee) share a pleasant moment at a recent TLC meeting.

A few years ago, Vilas County took advantage of grant funding to hire Ted Ritter as Wisconsin's first full-time Aquatic Invasive Species County Coordinator.

Ted's pleasant demeanor, work ethic, and expertise soon found their way to Lac du Flambeau, where he encouraged and helped the Town establish the Town Lakes Committee. It is

## Thanks County Board & Congrats Ted Ritter

not an understatement to say that it is highly likely the TLC would not exist were it not for Ted Ritter.

When the grant used to employ Ted expired in 2007, the Vilas County Board created a new position, Invasive Species Coordinator, and hired Ted, enabling him to coordinate fulltime the county's effort to combat aquatic as well as terrestrial invasive species.

From the TLC's perspective, Ted's transition to his new

position has been seamless as he continues to offer sound advice and important information.

Hats off to the Vilas County Board for recognizing the importance of confronting invasive species and for providing resources to address the problem!

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

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## Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee Newsletter

### THANK YOU!

Several individuals and organizations supported the submission of the grant application. The Town Lakes Committee extends a warm thank you to:

- Roger Breske, State Senator, 12th District
- Dan Meyer, State Representative, 34th Assembly District
- Victoria Doud, President, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Ted Ritter, Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator
- Sue Drum, Secretary, Vilas County Lakes Association
- Judy Sudbury, President, Lac du Flambeau Improvement Association
- Ron Zimmer, President, Lac du Flambeau Lions
- Jeff Zanski, President, Squaw Lake Association
- John P. Dean, President, Ike Walton Lake Association
- Ginger Schwanebeck, Resident, Sugarbush Chain
- George Zickert, Secretary, Shishebogama & Gunlock Lakes Association
- Clark J. Albert, Vice-President, White Sand Lake Association
- Jim Appelgren, President, Crawling Stone Lakes Association



Curly-leaf pondweed

