

TOWN BOARD

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Town Lakes

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Grant # AEPP-130-08

Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee

Lac du Flambeau

November/December 2008

Dear Neighbor:

Early last 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.

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

At this time, I am pleased to report the targets stipulated in the

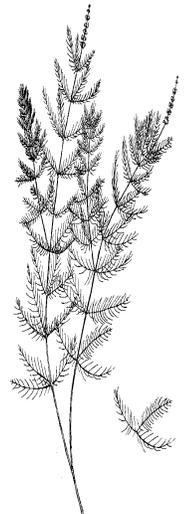
grant have been met, and the Town will be reimbursed by the WDNR for expenses made through the grant, such as the coordinators' salaries, purchases of AIS supplies and materials, and the printing and mailing of two newsletters.

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 adopted 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 three grant applications to the WDNR seeking funds to combat AIS, and all three applications have been approved.

Recently, the TLC took two important actions, adopting a Strategic Plan and approving a Rapid Response Plan. Both are addressed in this newsletter.

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

Watercraft Inspections: Clean Boats Clean Waters Program



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

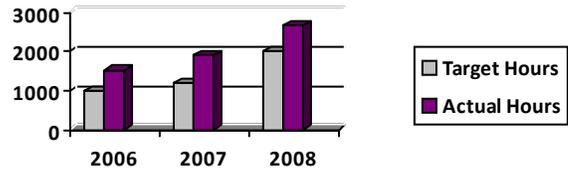
The goal for 2008, to provide more than 2,000 hours of inspection, was exceeded with the total hours of inspection reaching 2,664 hours by the end of October.

Also, 95 volunteers inspected 3,042 watercraft and contacted 7,204 individuals at the landings.

The graph shows how the commitment to watercraft

inspection has grown over the past three years. The target doubled from 1,000 hours in 2006 to 2,000 hours in 2008 and the actual hours of inspection rose from 1,521 in 2006 to 2,664 hours in 2008.

Watercraft Inspection Hours 2006-2008



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

From....	% Boaters
Inspectors	39
Announcements	7
Media	9
Brochure	15
Signs	30
Billboards	1
Web	0

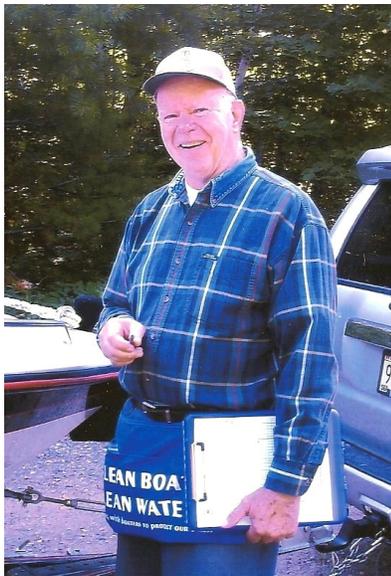
Data Collected at the Landings

As a requirement of the grant, volunteers inspecting watercraft recorded data on forms provided by the WDNR. Later, the data were entered on a WDNR website, contributing to a statewide database on inspections.

Here is a partial summary of data collected from April through October. The complete report will be available by request at the Town Hall in January.
 >7,204 boats were

inspected
 >64% of the boats were examined when entering the lake
 >36% were examined when leaving the lake
 >29% of the boats had been used during the past five days
 >97% of the boaters said they had examined their boat and removed plants since it was last used
 >94% of the boaters said they drained water from their boat since it was last used
 >78% of the boaters exiting the

lake disposed of their bait
 >31% of the boaters exiting the lake iced their fish
 >75% of the boaters said they had washed the boat or let it dry for at least five days before using it again
 >98% of the boaters said they were aware of the current AIS/boating laws
 >If plants were present on the boat/trailer, 98% of the boaters removed the plants
 >Watercraft inspectors reported 16 violations



Volunteer watercraft inspector, George Schneider, works the landing on Little Crawling Stone Lake.

Lake Monitoring

Part of the grant focused on monitoring the lakes, inspecting the water along shorelines, landings, and channels for evidence of AIS, especially Eurasian Water

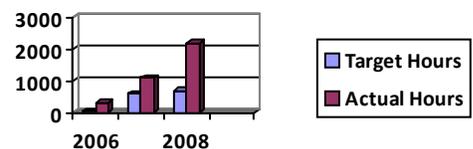
Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed.

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

Per the TLC database, more than 120 volunteers provided

more than 2000 hours lake monitoring on 38 lakes. One volunteer alone provided 400 hours of monitoring!

Lake Monitoring Hours 2006-2008



Rapid Response Plan

The Lac du Flambeau Town Board and the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians both took significant action in October when they endorsed the TLC's *Rapid Response Plan (RRP)*.

The RRP outlines a process for guiding the Town and Tribe on how to respond in a timely manner to new reports of AIS. The word *rapid* refers to responding to a verified finding of AIS before it is able to reproduce.

The RRP pertains to new detections of AIS that may

cause the greatest damage to the local economy and environment or threaten human health.

The process includes four phases: verifying an AIS report, assessing the threat of the AIS, developing a management plan to respond to the AIS, and implementing the management plan.

The complete RRP is available at the LDF Town Hall and the Tribal Office.

Importantly, the RRP requires the TLC to establish a network of *Lake Stewards*, vol-

unteers from every lake in LDF who want to learn about AIS and serve as liaisons between their lake's residents and the TLC.

The TLC will start establishing the Lake Stewards Program in 2009. If you would like to receive more information about the program, please submit the form on the last page of this newsletter.

What is your role in the Rapid Response Plan?

Anyone who finds an aquatic plant or animal that seems out of the ordinary or that resembles a picture of an Aquatic Invasive Species should record the location of the find and report the finding to the Tribal DNR (715-588-3303) or the LDF Town Hall (715-588-3358).

Focus on the Future

On October 15, the TLC approved its first Strategic Plan, *Focus on the Future*. The plan outlines the TLC's planning process and defines the committee's mission, goals, objectives, and activities through 2011.

For 2009, the TLC plans to address its mission, **protect the lakes from aquatic invasive species**, by working toward three goals: Prevent AIS

Infestations, Manage AIS Infestations, and Administer Efficiently and Effectively.

The ambitious agenda for 2009 includes completing nine objectives and 46 activities. The complete plan is available at the Town Hall.

Part of the plan calls for the TLC to submit another AIS application to the WDNR.

If the AIS Education Grant is approved, the TLC will be able

to hire watercraft inspectors, issue newsletters, and continue many of the activities it has offered the past three years.

The TLC will support the Tribe's Lakes Fest, scheduled for Saturday, June 20. Also on that date, the TLC and the Crawling Stone Lakes Association invite you to the public school auditorium at 10:00 am to hear the writer and naturalist, John Bates,

Recent Research on AIS Mussels

During the past two decades, two AIS, quagga mussels and zebra mussels, moved into the waterways of 25 states, including Wisconsin.

UPI.com recently (October 2, 2008) reported that U.S. scientists say they have created an environmentally safe bacterial toxin to control infestations of both mussels.

The new bio-pesticide was developed from a common soil bacterium by researchers at the New York State Museum Field Research Laboratory in Cambridge, N.Y.

Scientists in the U.S. Department of Energy-funded study said that when ingested in large quantities, the bacterium is lethal to zebra and quagga mussels but harmless to non-target organisms, including native freshwater mollusks.

Officials said the bio-pesticide achieved a 90% kill rate of zebra and quagga mussels at a New York power plant. Officials said the addition of the bacterium to the plant's water supply showed no effects on humans.

Thank You Volunteers!

On August 28, 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 Hotel and Convention Center, received financial support from the Center, Town Board, and Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians.

The program included several

presenters. Among them, Ted Ritter, Invasive Species Coordinator for Vilas County, spoke about the spread of new infestations.

Larry Wawronowicz (right), Tribal DNR Deputy Administrator, spoke about the Tribe's and wardens' efforts to keep AIS out of the lakes.

Ray Wolfe, Tribal Conservation Officer, shared experiences about his contacts with boaters on the lakes and at the landings.

All of the speakers acknowl-

edged the importance of the volunteers' efforts to protect the lakes from AIS.



The TLC's Application was Strengthened with Letters of Support from...

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, LDF Improvement

Association

Ron Zimmer

President, LDF Lions

Jeff Zanski

President, Squaw Lake

Association

John P. Dean

President, Ike Walton Lake

Association

George T. Zickert

Secretary, Shishebogama &

Gunlock Lakes Association

Clark J. Albert

Vice President, White Sand Lake

Association

Jim Appelgren

President, Crawling Stone Lakes

Association

David L. Ahman

Chair, Lake Placid Lakes

Association

Survey Results

As part of the process for establishing its first Strategic Plan, the TLC, with guidance from the WDNR, designed a questionnaire enabling residents of LDF to share opinions on several topics and issues related to the future of the TLC.

The questionnaires were mailed in May-June to about 3,000 addresses gleaned from the Vilas County tax roles.

Though only 100 questionnaires were returned, the responses played an important role in broadening the base of information available to the TLC.

The complete report of results, including comments, is available at the LDF Town Hall. A summary of the results follows.

Of those who returned questionnaires, 28% declared that they are full-time residents in LDF, 53% seasonal residents, and 38% other.

>97% of the respondents said they had heard about AIS previously, and 92% said their

knowledge about AIS has increased during the past three years.

>When asked to identify the primary sources contributing to their increased knowledge of AIS, 64% said newspapers and 77% said the TLC newsletter.

>98% of the respondents believe that AIS threatens local ecosystems, and 95% feel that AIS would detract from the beauty of the lakes.

>91% said they support the TLC's effort to protect the lakes from AIS, while 67% said they take time to conscientiously look for AIS in water near their own residence.

>There is uncertainty about whether chemicals should be used to control AIS like Eurasian Water Milfoil: 45% Yes, 4% No, and 46% Don't Know.

>There is also uncertainty about whether AIS plants should be removed by hand: 56% Yes, 5% No, 35% Don't Know.

>Even so, the respondents expressed more comfort overall in knowing what to do if

they suspect they have found AIS: 77% Yes, 12% No, 11% Don't Know.

>74% of respondents answered affirmatively when asked whether they have heard of a fish disease called viral hemorrhagic septicemia, commonly called VHS.

>When asked whether they are aware of the new rules regarding the movement of minnows and water between lakes, 74% said Yes, 16% No, and 5% Don't Know.

>Since the 2006 season, the TLC has used grant money to issue five newsletters focusing on AIS. When asked whether the newsletters have been effective in informing residents about AIS, 91% said Yes, 2% No, and 3% Don't Know.

>When asked whether issuing such newsletters is an appropriate use of tax dollars, 91% said Yes, 0% No, and 6% Don't Know.

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Welcome to New Lake Associations!



The President of the new Pokegama Lake Association, Lester Kuerschner (left), oversees discussion at the recent meeting when officers were selected.

Special thanks to Pat Goggin, Wisconsin Association of Lakes and University of Wisconsin Extension, for speaking at the meeting and guiding the new association.

Organizations established to protect the lakes in Wisconsin have been forming since the late 1800s. See upper left for a list of the lake associations in LDF that have been very supportive of the TLC.

In July, the TLC offered a work-

shop on how to establish a lake association. Since then, individuals representing Pokegama Lake and Spring (Jerms) Lake have formed official lake associations by filing articles of incorporation with the State of Wisconsin.

In addition, both associations recently had members appointed to positions on the TLC.

The officers for the Pokegama Lake Association include: Lester Kuerschner (President), Jill Anne Consie (Vice-President), Claudia Tegtmeier

(Secretary), and John Tegtmeier (Treasurer).

The officers for the Spring (Jerms) Lake Association include: Roy Bodo (President), Carole Goetz (Secretary), and Scott Wedl (Treasurer).

If you know any of these folks, please congratulate them for taking the initiative to form an association. Better yet, if you are associated with either of the lakes, plan to join your new association—for Pokegama, call Lester at 715-588-1707; for Spring (Jerms) Lake, call Carole at 715-588-7926.

...Survey Results Continued

>Since 2006, the TLC has had inspectors examining watercraft at several high use landings. A few were paid with grant funds while the rest were volunteers. When asked whether they had ever been greeted by an inspector at a landing, 44% said Yes, 45% No, and 3% Don't Know.

>86% of the respondents said having watercraft inspectors at the landings is an effective way to keep AIS from spreading.

>92% believe that having inspectors is an effective way to educate the public about AIS.

>When asked whether employing inspectors is an appropriate use of tax dollars, 78% said Yes, 6% No, 13% Don't Know.

>Respondents believe that

the best approach is to have both paid and volunteer inspectors at the landings: 11% Paid Only, 10% Unpaid Only, 73% Both.

>Starting in 2006, the TLC has sponsored workshops annually on how to inspect watercraft, how to identify AIS, and how to establish a lake association. When asked whether the TLC should continue to offer such workshops, 90% said Yes, 2% No, and 8% Don't Know.

>Starting in 2006, the TLC distributed "education" cards and brochures at the landings and elsewhere: 96% of the respondents said it is an effective way to educate, and 92% said the TLC should continue this practice.

>There is mixed feeling on

whether the TLC's mission should expand to include "terrestrial" invasive species: 52% said Yes, 9% No, and 34% Don't Know.

>A few respondents expressed concern or incredulity about the last item on the survey. The item asked respondents to indicate the amount of time it took to complete the survey. By considering the time and stamps used as donations, the TLC generated enough grant dollars to pay for almost 40 hours of an inspector's salary.

The reports and documents referenced in this newsletter are available at the LDF Town Hall and on the Vilas County website.

Stewardship Award
At the Tribal-sponsored Lakes Fest on June 14, one of the TLC's members, Norm Wetzel, received the Environmental Stewardship Award for protecting Mother Earth.

The award is given to a person that has shown a commitment to protecting the lakes. Norm has been a member of the TLC for four years and has been the person who has written the grants enabling the TLC to hire coordinators to monitor the landings and schedule volunteers. He has also been instrumental in guiding the TLC in many activities including the adoption of the Strategic Plan.

In accepting the award, Norm said that the award "actually reflects the achievements and hard work of every volunteer who has worked in one way or another to prevent AIS." He also acknowledged the "strong support" of the Tribe and Town Board.

Estimated Budget and Actual Expenditures

The total value of the 2008 grant is \$56,110.00. The grant is a 75%/25% matching grant, meaning the WDNR will reimburse the Town up to \$42,082.50 providing the TLC generates at least \$14,027.50 by January in volunteer time and travel valued at \$8 per hour and .42 per mile, respectively.

The TLC has already met its financial obligations by generating more than \$50,000 in volunteer time, travel, and other donations.

The table (right) shows the estimated grant budget and actual expenditures from April through mid-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 Town Hall in January.

Table Notes:

- (1) Three 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 as well as basic

Item	Budget Estimate	Actual Spent
(1) Watercraft Inspectors	\$ 29,853.00	\$ 28,644.25
(2) Printing/Mailing	\$ 6,915.00	\$ 6,621.48
(3) Supplies	\$ 1,870.00	\$ 1,723.94
(4) Training (Regis/Mileage)	\$ 3,444.50	\$ 3,256.50
Totals	\$ 42,082.50	\$ 40,246.17

- office supplies.
- (4) Mileage and registration reimbursement for attending training sessions sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, and other mileage related to administration of the grant.

From April 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008, volunteers will have brought back to the LDF community about \$75,000 in State tax revenue due to participating in three WDNR grant programs.

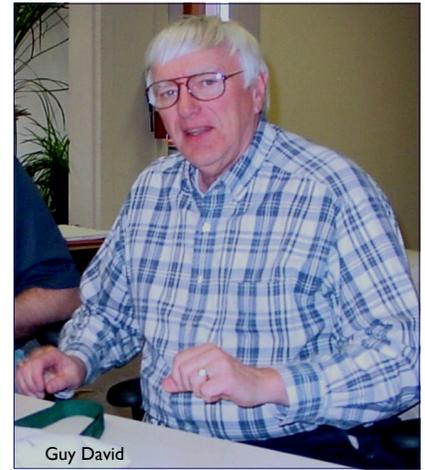
Approval of Members & Officers

For 2009, the Town Lakes Committee will include 17 members who serve on a voluntary basis. At the Town Board meeting on October 2, the Board accepted resignations from two of the TLC's members: Tom Skonie and B.J. Clark, and approved three new members: Roy Bodo, Lester Kuerschner, and Charlene DeWald.

Appreciation is extended to B.J. and Tom for their service and a warm welcome to Roy, Lester, and Charlene, from Spring Lake, Pokegama Lake, and Fence Lake, respectively.

At the Town Board meeting on November 6, the Board confirmed appointments to the TLC's Executive Committee for 2009: Roberta Gast, Chair; John Bartosz, Vice-Chair; and Rob Milburn, Secretary.

The TLC expresses sincere gratitude to Guy David for his service as TLC Chair for the past two years. As a founding member and as Chair, Guy has provided calmness, stability, and a good dose of common sense.



Guy David



2009 SEASON

- Would you like to receive information about becoming a Lake Steward?
- Are you interested in serving on the TLC?
- Would you like the TLC to help establish an association for your lake?
- If another WDNR grant is approved, would you like information about employment as a Watercraft Inspector?

Please let us know by completing this form and sending it to the **Town Hall at P.O. Box 68, La du Flambeau, Wisconsin 54538**. If you prefer, provide the information by calling the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____



Thank you to the
Wisconsin Depart-
ment of Natural
Resources for mak-
ing this newsletter
and the other AIS
prevention efforts
possible.

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