

# Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee

PRESS RELEASE

MAY 15, 2008

Of the more than 100 invasive species in Wisconsin, several Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) currently threaten the lakes in Lac du Flambeau. Most of the AIS move from lake to lake by hitching rides on boats and trailers and in bait buckets and bilge water. Learn the most recent information on AIS, including how to identify them and find them, and learn the proper procedures for inspecting watercraft at a workshop hosted by the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

The workshop will be held at the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall on June 19 from 9:00-11:30 am. There is no charge to participate. Please call 715-588-3358 to register.

The Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee consists of local citizen volunteers who promote lake stewardship through education and action. This activity is supported in part by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Grant AEPP-130-08.

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Kratz will speak on how and why the ecology of the Northwoods lakes are changing. An experienced researcher of the long-term regional ecology of lakes and lake metabolism, Kratz uses automated sensing systems to obtain lake dynamics.

Kratz's lecture will be held in the auditorium at Lac du Flambeau Public

Grade School, 2899 Hwy. 47 South.

The Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee comprises citizen volunteers who promote local lake stewardship through action and education, activities supported in part through Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant funding.

*Eric Johnson can be reached at [ejohnson@lakelandtimes.com](mailto:ejohnson@lakelandtimes.com).*

## Lakes committee to host workshop

In other Lac du Flambeau town news, the Town Lakes Committee has announced two special upcoming programs.

With more than 100 invasive species in Wisconsin and several currently threatening Lac du Flambeau lakes, the LdF Town Lakes Committee will host a free aquatic invasive species workshop from 9-11 a.m on Thursday, June 19 at the town hall, 109 Old Abe Road.

As most aquatic invasive species move from lake to lake by hitching rides on boats and trailers and in bait buckets and bilge water, the workshop will educate attendees on current AIS information, how to identify and locate aquatic invasive species and proper procedures for inspecting watercraft for AIS.

To register for the AIS workshop, call 715-588-3358.

The Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee will also be hosting a free admission Tuesday, June 17, public lecture by Dr. Timothy Kratz, director of the University of Wisconsin's Trout Lake Station and chair of the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network's steer-

## Town lakes committee

Several weeks ago, a newsletter was mailed out from the Town Lakes Committee. A survey form was included with the newsletter and so far not many of the survey forms have been completed and returned. The Lakes Committee is asking that you please fill out and return the survey – it's not too late! The feedback from that survey will help guide the committee's future efforts, so please take a few minutes to complete and return it to the Town Hall, P.O. Box 68, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538.

The committee meets the third Wednesday of every month April through October from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall on Hwy.

715-588-3358

PO Box 68, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

47. LAKELAND TIMES  
6/27/08

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Dr. Kratz, an experienced researcher of the long-term regional ecology of lakes and lake metabolism, uses automated sensing systems to obtain lake dynamics. He is also Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON).

Open to the public, Dr. Kratz will share his thoughts on Tuesday, June 17 at 1:00 pm in the Lac du Flambeau Public School Auditorium. No charge for admittance.

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5/31/08

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5/31/08

**NOTICE  
TOWN OF LAC DU FLAMBEAU  
JOB OPENING  
LAKES COMMITTEE COORDINATOR  
(PART TIME)**

*April  
Lakeband  
DNR*

This position is posted in anticipation of the Town of Lac du Flambeau receiving a grant from the Wis. DNR. If the Town receives the grant, the position will be in effect from mid-May through early September, 2008.

This position requires a flexible schedule, including weekends and holidays, and will involve up to 600 hours total throughout the summer. This part-time position will coordinate scheduling of the Lakes Committee volunteer inspectors at selected boat landings in the Town. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation, and proof of automobile insurance.

If you are interested in this position, contact the Town Offices, 715-588-3358, to request a complete job description and/or application form. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Selected applicants will be contacted and interviewed by the Town Lakes Committee sometime in March or April.

96,99 WNAXLP

The town lakes committee advises us to check your lakes for aquatic invasive species (AIS). The weeds are up and as you fish, kayak, and canoe or walk your shoreline, look at what comes up on anchors, lures, boat trailers and motors. Pick up a lake monitoring form from the town hall or from one of the volunteers at the boat landings and keep track of the time spent at these activities. Send or bring the completed forms back to the town hall, and they will be used to fulfill the time requirements under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant for 2008. More importantly, if AIS are observed, it may be in a small enough area to be dealt with in a non-chemical manner.

## LdF lake volunteers to be honored

The Lac du Flambeau town lakes committee and the town of Lac du Flambeau are hosting an appreciation reception for the more than 200 volunteers who have helped monitor the landings and lakes of the town. It will be held Aug. 28, 4-6 p.m.

The reception will be held at The Lake of the Torches Resort Casino convention center and they, along with the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and the town of Lac du Flambeau are sponsoring the event.

A short program will be held with an informative talk by Ted Ritter, Vilas County invasive species coordinator. The tribal natural resources wardens will also be there to tell what they do to help protect our lakes.

With the help of a DNR grant, three coordinators were hired to help obtain and schedule these volunteers for our successful program.

Their efforts have been positive in keeping our lakes free of the aquatic invasive species.

Everyone is welcome to join us to learn about the program and provide ideas they might have.

**NEWS TIP HOTLINE: 356-5236**

*AUG 26, 2008 LAKEBAND  
TIMES*

## AIS workshop hosted by lakes committee

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Learn the most recent information about AIS, including how to identify them and find them, and learn the proper procedures for inspecting watercraft by attending a workshop hosted by the Lac du Flambeau Town

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The workshop will be held at the Lac du Flambeau town hall Thursday, June 19, 9-11:30 a.m. There is no charge to participate. Please call 588-3358 to register.

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*LAKEBAND  
TIMES  
JUNE*

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, OCT 2008  
RELEASED TO SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING LAKELAND TIMES

Vilas County is home to seven new graduates of the Wisconsin *Lake Leaders Institute*. The Institute is offered biennially to participants statewide by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a team made up of the University of Wisconsin Extension, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), who recognize the need for new and on-going leadership in the management of our lakes and created the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute in 1996. Through a combination of reading, classroom seminars and field experiences, participants learned about lake management, local and state government, and gained leadership skills. "With so many lakes worth so much and so few people in service to protect them, it is clear that no one state agency or unit of government can independently provide the attention that each lake deserves" explained Robert Korth, UW-Extension Lake Specialist. "This leadership program provides local lake leaders with effective tools as they volunteer their skills and talents to the stewardship of our lakes".

On behalf of DNR Secretary Matthew Frank, DNR Executive Assistant Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, recognized Walt Bates, Barb Gajewski, Roberta Gast, Sandy Gillum, Marty Ketterer, Norm Wetzel, and Chris Wise. Walt Bates is vice-president of Black Oak Lake Association and the lake's water quality monitor. Barb Gajewski is co-partner of Wild Wood Custom Landscape & Design, in Eagle River which provides shoreland

restoration options and is involved in local AIS projects. Roberta Gast is chairman of the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee and treasurer of Crawling Stone Lake Association. Sandy Gillum serves on the board of directors of Wisconsin Association of Lakes and is co-chairman of Town of Washington Water Resources Committee. Marty Ketterer is a Cloverland Town Board supervisor, chairman of the town lakes committee, a commissioner on the Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission and president of Snipe Lake Association. Norm Wetzel serves on the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee. Chris Wise is on the board of the Plum Lake Association and is co-chair of the town lakes committee. Information regarding participation in Lake Leaders Institute is provided at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/lakeleaders>. The graduation ceremony took place at the Aldo Leopold Shack near Baraboo. Carroll Schaal, Division of Water DNR, Robert Korth, UW Extension Lakes, and Earl Cook, Wisconsin Association of Lakes president also participated in the presentations.

# LdF board approves committee 20

## Guy David: Rapid response provides "plan for action ..."

By Eric A. Johnson  
of The Lakeland Times

On a unanimous Oct. 1 vote, Lac du Flambeau town supervisors Francis Chartier, Michael Christensen and Matthew E. Gaulke approved the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee's proposed 17-member 2008-09 membership roster.

"We have a full complement for that committee and we are asking your approval for that committee," said Lakes Committee chairman Guy David, address-

ing the board.

Approved by supervisors for 2008-09 membership on the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee were: John Bartosz, White Sand Lake; Roy Bodo, Spring (Jerms) Lake; Guy David, Big Crawling Stone Lake; Charlene DeWald, Fence Lake; Edith Dobrinski, Little Crawling Stone Lake; Roberta Gast, Big Crawling Stone Lake; Jack George, Shishebogama Lake; Gerald Gorski, Squaw Lake; Lester Kuerschner, Pokegama Lake; Robert Milburn, Squaw Lake; Chuck Pollack, Fence Lake; Donna Roche, Moss Lake; John Spickerman, Ike Walton Lake; Paul Stinski, North Placid Lake; Gretchen Watkins, Lac du Flambeau Tribal DNR; Norm Wetzel, Little Crawling Stone Lake; and

## 08-09 membership roster, AIS plan

George Zickert, Gunlock Lake.

David said 2008-09 committee officers will be selected by Lakes Committee members at their Thursday, Oct. 16 meeting.

Recommendations on Lakes Committee officers, he noted, will be forward to the town board for review and approval.

The Town Lakes Committee was established by the Lac du Flambeau town board in 2005 to address the threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

### Plan approved

In other developments at the Oct. 1 town board meeting, supervisors voted 3-0 to approve the Town Lakes Committee's proactive joint tribal-town "AIS Rapid Response Plan" for dealing with the eco-

logical threats posed to town lakes by non-native aquatic invasive species (AIS).

"The Rapid Response Plan is something that was part of our grant objectives for this year and something that's been part of committee discussion probably ever since we got started," David said. "The question has always arose - with all of our watercraft inspections and lake monitoring activities, what should we do - or what could we do - if something were actually found."

The Lakes Committee's AIS Rapid Response Plan, he noted, was based on the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal DNR's plan and expanded upon by the committee.

"It's a plan for action if and when we find some aquatic invasive species that may be of a concern," David told supervisors. "It allows us to do a quick assessment, ... addresses the question of who will follow up on it and, beyond that ... the formation of a joint committee between the Town Lakes Committee and Tribal DNR to create a plan to address the problem and go out and look for funding to address the problem..."

The plan's management summary details the situation faced by both the town and the tribe in regard to the AIS threat.

"The waters of Lac du Flambeau are clearly at risk," the plan noted. "Several lakes have infestations of smelt, purple loosestrife or rusty crayfish, with other aquatic invasive species like Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed move closer each year. There is apprehension that the rapid growth and spread of some aquatic invasive species may significantly harm the local economy, property values, ecosystems and native species, while also threatening human health. As a result, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Lac du Flambeau town board have been working together to address the threats of AIS..."

"Given the high probability that more

AIS will infest a body of water in Lac du Flambeau, it is critical for the tribe and town to respond quickly to reports of potential AIS infestations ... Recognizing the need to respond quickly to reports of AIS, the tribe and town have prepared this Rapid Response Plan. The Rapid Response Plan guides the tribe and town on how to respond to new reports of aquatic invasive species in a timely manner."

The AIS Rapid Response Plan covers all waters within reservation and town boundaries, including all lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and "other water conveyances," with the tribe focusing on all waters within the reservation boundaries and the Town Lakes Committee focusing on all waters within town boundaries.

Aquatic invasive species of primary concern include curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, purple loosestrife, European frogbit, hydrilla, water chestnut and flowering rush.

Lead participants under the AIS Rapid Response Plan are the Tribal Water Resource Program and the Town Lakes Committee. Other participants may include the Wisconsin DNR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Vilas and Oneida County invasive species coordinators, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, local lake associations and other organizations.

Questioned by town clerk Ginger Schwanebeck, David outlined the Town Lakes Committee's existing process for dealing with potential AIS threats like non-native purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a 3-7 foot tall perennial herb considered a nuisance species in Wisconsin.

"We have monitoring forms that people fill out - that's one source of information," he said, noting the Tribal DNR is currently working on ways to address the purple loosestrife problem. "A simple phone call or a stop by the Tribal DNR offices, or even the town offices, will also alert us to the possibility of AIS. What we try to do is get that information into the Tribal DNR's hands as quickly as possible so they can go to the spot. Once we know the location and what the suspected AIS is, they can go out and look and see if it's something truly of a concern."

The Town Lakes Committee's joint town-tribe AIS Rapid Response Plan, David said, goes a "step beyond" the current protocols for dealing with AIS threats.

"If a serious AIS threat like Eurasian water-milfoil were found in Big Crawling Stone Lake for instance, the response would be bigger than just going out and looking at it," he noted. "It would require some planning and some cooperative efforts, a search for funding sources, permit processes and all these kind of things. This plan recognizes that these are all

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things that will need to be done. It provides us with a mechanism to get started doing that."

Schwanebeck praised the vigilant efforts of the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee in proactive working to address the growing AIS threat on town lakes.

"You guys do a really fantastic job," she said. "We're so grateful for all that you do. And it's really great that the town and the tribe are working so well together on this issue. It's wonderful."

## Supervisors OK Lakes Committee application for AIS control grant

In other developments at the Nov. 26 town board meeting, supervisors approved the adoption of Resolution 2008-06, authorizing Town Lakes Committee chair Roberta Gast to act on behalf of the town to submit an application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for an Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant to help fund the Town Lakes Committee's AIS watercraft inspection, education and lake monitoring project.

The Town Lakes Committee is seeking DNR grant funding for a 75 percent, \$44,708 share of the \$59,611 project, with the town of Lac du Flambeau assuming a 25 percent, \$14,903 share.

The Town Lakes Committee's grant application has been endorsed by the town of Lac du Flambeau, the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department's Aquatic Invasive Species Planning Partnership, the Vilas County Lakes Association, the Lac du Flambeau Area Improvement Association, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Crawling Stone Lakes Association, the White Sand Lakes Association, the Pokegama Lake Association, the Spring (Jerms) Lake Association, the Lake Placid Lakes Association, the Squaw Lake Association, the Ike Walton Lake Association, the Shishebogama-Gunlock Lakes Association and the Lac du Flambeau Lions Club.

The Town Lakes Committee has received AIS grant funding from the

DNR in each of the past three years, between 2006-08. Applications for the Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants are due to the DNR by Feb. 1, 2009.

Previously at the Nov. 6 town board meeting, town supervisors unanimously approved the Town Lakes Committee's five-year "Focus on the Future Strategic Plan: 2007-2011" document, which encompasses three major goals in the AIS fight - preventing AIS infestations through education, watercraft inspections, lake monitoring and effective communications; managing detected AIS manifestations through the implementation of a rapid response plan and the development of an action plan for managing existing purple loosestrife infestations; and effective and efficient program administration through strategic planning, financial planning and the education of Town Lakes Committee members and partners.

The Town Lakes Committee was established by the Lac du Flambeau town board in March 2005 to address the threat posed by AIS, with 35 town lakes now monitored.

A number of the 144-square-mile town's 264 lakes already have infestations of smelt, purple loosestrife or rusty crayfish, while other aquatic invasives like Eurasian water milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed move closer with each passing year. It's feared that the rapid growth and fast spread of some aquatic invasives would significantly harm the town economy, decrease property values, negatively impact the ecosystem and native species and also threaten human health.

Town lakes currently infected with AIS include Flambeau, Fence, Little

Crawling Stone, Pokegama, White Sand, Crawling Stone, Long Interlaken, Moss, North Twin Placid, South Twin Placid, Toto Tom, Little Trout, Wild Rice, Gunlock and Shishebogama.

The roster of 2008-09 Town Lakes Committee officers include: Roberta Gast (Big Crawling Stone Lake), chair; John Bartosz (White Sand Lake), vice chair; and Rob Milburn (Squaw Lake), secretary.

In addition to Bartosz, Milburn and Gast, Town Lakes Committee members also include: Roy Bodo, Spring (Jerms) Lake; Guy David, Big Crawling Stone Lake; Charlene DeWald, Fence Lake; Edith Dobrinski, Little Crawling Stone Lake; Jack George, Shishebogama Lake; Gerald Gorski, Squaw Lake; Lester Kuerschner, Pokegama Lake; Chuck Pollack, Fence Lake; Donna Roche, Moss Lake; John Spickerman, Ike Walton Lake; Paul Stinski, North Placid Lake; Gretchen Watkins, Lac du Flambeau Tribal DNR; Norm Wetzels, Little Crawling Stone Lake; and George Zickert, Gunlock Lake.