





# LAGRANGE COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL

To promote, protect and preserve the quality of the lakes and watersheds of LaGrange County.

Phone: (260) 499-5253 [www.LaGrangeCountyLakesCouncil.org](http://www.LaGrangeCountyLakesCouncil.org)

## **Free fishing weekend, June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**

It's reel fun! Load up the car with friends, family and fishing poles for a FREE fishing weekend. Check out a new lake or river, or introduce friends and family to an old fishing hole.

Youth age 17 and younger do not need a fishing license to fish in Indiana. Additionally during Free Fishing Weekend, all Indiana residents do not need a fishing license or a trout/salmon stamp to fish Indiana waters.

For more information, visit:  
[dnr.in.gov/fishfree](http://dnr.in.gov/fishfree)

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## **Spring Seminar set for June 4<sup>th</sup> at Pine Knob County Park**

Flowerfield Enterprises is dedicated to continuing the legacy of Mary Appelhof, founder of Flowerfield Enterprises. She used her tireless energy to promote the idea that individuals can take the initiative to reduce waste and pollution and grow safer and more nutritious food. Flowerfield Enterprises is dedicated to improving the environment through knowledge and service to the public.

This year's spring seminar will be held at Pine Knob County Park just 3 miles east of Howe on State Route 120. The program starts at 10:00 a.m. with discussion by Dane Terrill from Flowerfield Compost Tea, and Scott Banfield will provide Water Testing Results. There will be a final presentation by Mike Metz from the Parks Department. Our program is expected to conclude around noon.

This is a free program for anyone interested in attending. Please RSVP by calling the LaGrange County Lakes Council at (260) 499-5253.

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### **Lare Funding**

The Lakes Council doesn't agree with the current LARE funding issues and asks for all people to contact their State Representatives and Senators to protect LARE funding in the future.

According to a February 2011 News release from the Statehouse, the Indiana House Republicans rejected efforts by State Rep. Nancy Dembowshki (D-Knox) to protect funds designed to improve the quality of lakes throughout the water.

Indiana boaters have willingly paid a fee on their annual registration because the money was supposed to go toward improving the quality of lakes and rivers. However, the governor has used this money to shore up other areas of the state budget.

Find more details at [Indiana.gov](http://Indiana.gov) for the most recent legislature information.

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Watch for information about the Fall Forum, to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in October 2011. LaGrange County Lakes Council will co-sponsor this event with Steuben County Lakes Council at the Lakes Missionary Church on State Road 20. Watch for details!

In 2010, the LaGrange County Lakes Council donated \$200.00 towards the purchase of a Speed Watcher Box to be utilized on any of the lakes. In working with and partnering with the LaGrange County Sheriff's Department, this Box could be placed at your lake too. The LaGrange County Lakes Council is asking Member Lakes or individuals to consider donating funds towards the expense of the equipment and to help offset the overall cost and expenses to move it periodically.

Contact our office for more information regarding this program.

## Membership Notes

A big "THANK YOU" goes to all of our members again this year, both old and new. With your help as paid members, you have made it possible for us over the past 9 years to watch over the lakes and streams of LaGrange County. You have made it possible for us to accomplish these things in 2010:

- Provide water quality and environmental seminars both in the spring and fall. This is in cooperation with Steuben County Lakes Council.
- Provide a \$500 scholarship to students that demonstrate an interest in subjects that compliment the Council's mission.
- Provide representation at many county and state governmental meetings throughout the year.
- Provide the costs of two yearly publications in the spring and fall. These publications reach over 4,200 lake property owners and associate members in an effort to keep them informed on current environmental issues.
- Provide an office to serve you in obtaining information regarding many water quality issues.
- Provide financial support for our Water Quality Testing project in all the watersheds of LaGrange County.

As you can see, membership is essential to us.

Membership information for joining for our current 2011 membership year is at the end of this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support!

## We appreciate the support of our Sponsor Members in 2010!

LaGrange Veterinary Clinic, Farmer's State Bank, Topeka Pharmacy, Schlemmer Hardware, Toth Automotive, Lynn R. Bowen, DDS, Lakeland Title Co., Myers Plant Health Care, LLC, Poor Boys Baits, Inc., Northern Indiana Association of Realtors, Dr. Vincent J. Coda & Associates, J.O. Mory, People's Federal Savings, West Lakes Boat Mart, Taper Lock Credit Union.

## Even little boys get ready for summer by getting their boats out



*Grayson Hollars, age 5, son of Brad and Monica Hollars pulls his boat out of hiding and heads for the water.*

**Lakes Council President Steve Scott-Welty writes to the Editor regarding New Invasive Species Hurting Indiana Lakes and Rivers – submitted February 7, 2010**

I'm concerned about the future of the lakes and rivers throughout LaGrange County and the state of Indiana. Since the founding of the LaGrange County Lakes Council in 1997, it has been the goal of the council to protect, preserve and promote our county's lakes, rivers and watersheds. We have had weed problems due to phosphorous in our lawn fertilizers. Some of our lakes in the southern part of our county have flooding issues. We have had problems with zebra mussels invading some of our lakes.

Starting this last year, our precious lakes and rivers have been threatened by "invasive politicians" in Indianapolis who are funneling money from LARE funds derived from our state boat tax, into our state's general fund. To date, approximately 2.4 million dollars dedicated to funding lake and river environmental projects in Indiana have been re-channeled to the general fund. This dedicated fund was established to help finance many types of Lake Enhancement projects such as the control of invasive species, watershed land treatment, wetland construction and projects that help protect the water quality of Indiana's freshwater lakes and rivers. This tax is paid by the people who live on our lakes and rivers and those who boat and fish on our many bodies of water. Most of us felt good about this particular tax because it was clear that this money could be used only for the purpose of helping our lakes and rivers when environmental problems occurred.

LaGrange County is blessed with over 70 lakes and rivers. Steuben County has 101 natural lakes. We are unfairly being targeted by paying in more to the state general fund than our share while our lakes and waterways are not benefiting from our boat tax money. I encourage you to contact the Governor and your State Senator and Representative about this misappropriation of tax money. Submitted by Steve Scott-Welty, President of LaGrange County Lakes Council

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**I WANT TO SUPPORT THE LAGRANGE COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL**

**2011 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION** Name of Lake \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lakes Council Member Lake Association Dues	\$ 25.00
Business Annual Dues (suggested amount below)	\$ _____ (\$50.00 is Min. for Business Sponsors)
Additional Donation	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed:	\$ _____

Suggested Business Sponsor contributions: \$100.00 (Up to 50 employees)  
\$200.00 (Up to 100 employees)  
\$300.00 (Over 100 employees)

All dues contributions are tax-deductible, LCLC is a 501 (c) (3) not-for profit corporation.

ADDRESS CHANGES: We are diligently working on our data base to make sure we have current lake addresses and current mailing addresses of those who prefer receiving mail other than at the lake. Please keep us informed of any changes that need to be made. We want to be sure to reach you with any mailings we may have so to make a change, please send a note in the mail or call the office at (260) 499-5253. Thank you for your help!

## *LaGrange County Lakes Council*

111 West Spring Street • Suite 8

PO Box 86 • LaGrange, IN 46761

Visit our website: [www.lagrangecountylakescouncil.org](http://www.lagrangecountylakescouncil.org)

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### **Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring and Basic Training**

Hoosier Riverwatch promotes stewardship of Indiana's waterways through a volunteer stream monitoring and water quality education program. Hoosier Riverwatch is a state-sponsored water quality monitoring initiative. The program was started in 1994 to increase public awareness of water quality issues and concerns by training volunteers to monitor stream water quality. Hoosier Riverwatch is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Division of Fish and Wildlife. The program began in Indiana to increase public awareness of water quality issues and concerns by training volunteers to monitor stream water quality. The mission of Hoosier Riverwatch is: To involve the citizens of Indiana in becoming active stewards of Indiana's water resources through watershed education, water monitoring, and clean-up activities. Hoosier Riverwatch is a state-sponsored water quality monitoring initiative. We accomplish this mission through the following goals:

- Educate citizens on watersheds and the relationship between land use and water quality.
- Train citizens on the basic principles of water quality monitoring.
- Promote opportunities for involvement in water quality issues.
- Provide water quality information to individuals or groups working to protect water resources.
- Support volunteer efforts through technical assistance, monitoring equipment, networking opportunities, and educational materials.

Hoosier Riverwatch is funded, in part, through the federal Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) program, which was created in 1950 through the Dingell- Johnson Act. SFR is a cooperative effort between federal and state government agencies, the sport fishing industry, anglers, and boaters.

Contact: **Hoosier Riverwatch**

Phone: (317) 541-0617

Fax: (317) 562-0790

[riverwatch@dnr.in.gov](mailto:riverwatch@dnr.in.gov)