



LaGrange County Lakes Council

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

111 West Spring Street Suite 8

PO Box 86 • LaGrange, IN 46761

Visit our website: www.lagrangecountylakescouncil.org

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

97% of the water on the planet is salt water. 2% is frozen in polar ice caps. Just 1% of water on earth is freshwater, and less and less of it drinkable. No wonder there is a national study going on of every watershed in the United States! Here we sit - on our own beautiful lakes and snuggled inside the magnificent Great Lakes basin. We are definitely seeing renewed interest in area watershed studies.

The watershed is a big drain. Formed by glacial ridges and valleys 10,000 years ago, even our flat northern Indiana terrain has interesting watershed divides, with several large

watershed and sub-watersheds right within LaGrange County.

Olin, Oliver, Martin and the Indian Lakes chain flow into the Little Elkhart. Shipshewana and Stone drain into the Pigeon. Big and Little Turkey, Big Long, Pretty, Lake of the Woods & McClish flow through Turkey Creek to Pigeon. Wall and Cedar lakes flow to Fawn River. All of these tributaries meet the St. Joseph River near Bristol, then on to Lake Michigan.

A lake may drain a watershed 10 or 100 times its size, but because our watersheds are fairly flat,



what happens in the water and at the lake perimeter generally affects the water quality more than what's going on in the surrounding watershed. Thus the tension of lakefront ownership - family fun & recreation balanced with conservation. *(Thanks to Sara Peel, President, Indiana Lakes Management Society)* More on our website - click the 'Water Quality Testing' tab.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fall Forum 10/15 **1**
Don't miss it!

Water Quality Tests **2**

Thanks, Sponsors! **2**

Lakescaping **2**

Around the Lakes **3**

President's Message **3**

Membership Benefits **4**

LAKE COUNCIL OFFICERS

- Steve Scott-Welty
President—North Twin
- Carolyn Thatcher
Vice Pres—Little Turkey
- Meredith Cameron
Treasurer—Oliver
- Harold Wasson
Secretary

2012 ELECTIONS: 10/27

LCLC/SCLC FALL FORUM - OCTOBER 15

Learn more about our watersheds, taxing issues, water quality testing programs and play Indiana Lakeshore Jeopardy at the Fall Forum. Open to all members in LaGrange and Steuben Counties, the Forum will be held 9am-3pm October 15 at Lake Missionary Church on SR 20 just east of SR327, northeast side of West Otter Lake. Hope to see you there!



WATER QUALITY TESTING CONTINUES



LaGrange County Lakes Council is funding water studies for the second year in 2011, measuring seven quality parameters on member lakes. The tests will be conducted throughout September, with results posted on our website, alongside 2010 results.

Lakes are tested for e-coli, Ph, Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen, Specific Conductance, Total Suspended Solids and Temperature. At publication time, the Council is looking into adding a cyanotoxin study, a dangerous byproduct of blue-green algae blooms.

The 2010 studies indicated seven area lakes had excessive e-coli, and four exceeded the state threshold for Phosphorus. This one-time measure is not necessarily indicative of a problem, but long-term results above recommended

thresholds suggest action may be necessary. LCLC is working with two private vendors and the Pigeon River Watershed initiative to gather valid 2011 data on all our lakes. When problems are identified, we will continue to collaborate with the Soil and Water Conservation District and others to help address them.

Water quality testing, like all LCLC activities, is funded through individual memberships and business sponsorship. See lagrangecountylakescouncil.org

PATRONIZE LCLC SPONSORS!

ARCA, Inc.

Auto Parts, Company

Dr Lynn Bowen, DDS

Dr Vincent Coda, DPM

Lakeland Title Company

Masonry by Richmond

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NE Assn of Realtors

People's Federal Savings

These generous business sponsors help 'float the boat' at LaGrange Co. Lakes Council. They know the importance of the lakes communities we serve, and in turn, wish to serve our lake families.

Please choose these businesses when you have a need for services, and make sure to tell them you appreciate their ongoing support of the LaGrange County Lakes Council!

Real Living Homes

RE/MAX Results

Schlemmer Hardware

SNRT, Inc.

Taper Lock Credit Union

Thomas Plumbing

Topeka Pharmacy

West Lakes Boat Mart

Will's Heating and Air

LAKESCAPING



Courtesy Minnesota DNR

Lakescaping and shore-land restoration can return many desirable features to your shoreline. The idea is to create a 'buffer zone' between humans and the nature of the lake. Did you know this 'littoral zone' is considered the eco-niche in greatest danger in the

Midwest? Your neighbor who is busy lining the shore with glacial rock and native wildflowers isn't trying to annoy you - they're trying to restore the shoreline, prevent erosion and contribute to the overall health of the lake! Even naturalizing *half* the shoreline is helpful.

Benefits include:

- Wildlife habitat
- Filters pollutants
- Prevents erosion
- Restores balance
- Discourages geese
- Encourages pollination
- Pleasing aesthetics
- Bugs for fish!
- Natural transition from land to water

SUMMER ON LAGRANGE COUNTY LAKES

Fundraisers and Flotillas, our LaGrange County Lake Associations were busy in 2011! Despite the wet spring, our lakes were gorgeous all summer and we are moving into a glorious Hoosier fall.

The importance of membership in *both* your local property owners' association and in the county-wide council is so important! We are lucky to be living on our lakes and understand the impor-

tance of protecting them. Join us for council meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6pm to learn more about the many fun activities at your neighboring LaGrange County lakes.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: LAKE "FRIENDLINESS"

There is a touch of fall in the early morning hours. The kids are already back in school. The Canada geese are practicing their flight formations above the lakes. It makes you wonder how many will migrate south, and how many will stay for the winter. I don't even want to think of taking the boat and pier out of the water. This is a beautiful time of the year as the landscape and trees change color.

This fall please remember to be lake friendly. When you rake your leaves, don't rake them into the lake or waterways. And, of course, please encourage farmers and residents to use phosphorus free fertilizers. It has been found that one pound of phosphorus can result in 10,000 pounds of weeds that choke the life out of a body of water.

Several local businesses offer phosphorus free fertilizers including Lakes Council business sponsor, Schlemmer Hardware. One of our guest speakers at the Lakes Council Spring Seminar was Dane Terrill from Flowerfield Compost Tea. This organic process of fertilizing lawns, landscaping, and trees is extremely effective, and very eco-friendly when used near lakes and streams. Compost Tea can be made, or purchased. It makes all of your plants healthier, and believe it or not, you don't have to mow as often!

I especially want to thank the Soil & Water Conservation District, and the work of Dona Hunter and Dave Arrington. These folks have been pro-active in identifying sources of water pollution. They are working with farmers and all LaGrange residents to improve the quality of our lakes and waterways. The LaGrange County Lakes Council looks forward to working more closely with SWCD in the future.

Steve Scott-Welty

**Congratulations also to 2011
LaGrange County
River Friendly Farmers:
Floyd Miller and
Ervin Yoder.**



**Steve and Sasha on beautiful
North Twin Lake**



Phone: 260-499-5253
E-mail: admin@lagrangercountylakescouncil.org
LaGrange, IN 46761
111 W Spring Street Suite 8
Po Box 86



LAKES COUNCIL: WORKING FOR YOU!

With 350 individual and business members, 15 member Lake Associations and a mailing list of 4500 waterside residents, LaGrange County Lakes Council is a busy group! Now staffed on a part-time basis, LCLC is working to educate and improve conservation efforts on our lakes and throughout the watershed.

Not yet a member? You should be! LCLC invests in water quality testing on all member lakes, and works to protect your lake property values. Join us!

2011 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Name _____

Lake _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership \$25

Additional donation _____

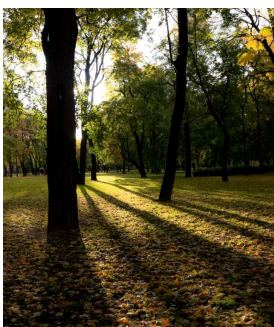
Total enclosed _____

All gifts to the LaGrange County Lakes Council are tax-deductible. LCLC is a 501c3 tax-exempt group.

Mail to: LaGrange County Lakes Council

PO Box 86

LaGrange, IN 46761



Annual meeting 9/22/2011
LaGrange County Annex 6pm
All are welcome!