



LaGrange County Lakes Council

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

Volume 1 - Number 1

Summer, 2005

Lake-Friendly Living seminar August 27

The 2005 Lake-Friendly Living seminar is planned for Saturday, August 27 at the County Office Building in downtown LaGrange. This three-hour seminar offers lake associations and residents an opportunity to hear experts define how our every-day living habits can impact the lakes.

- Dave Hague, district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Services, will present Federal Programs on Agricultural Lands and how lake associations can find valuable resources for their projects.

- State Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) funds have become subject of much discussion and some confusion. You will hear from an IDNR representative who will answer all your questions about this funding source for your lake.

- David Arrington, LaGrange SWCD Watershed Coordinator, will explain simple measures that individuals and associations can encourage that will improve the water quality of lakes.

Please invest three hours of your time to learn how to keep our lakes clean, healthy and enjoyable.

The free seminar begins at 9:00 am and will finish by noon. Please join us on August 27 at the LaGrange County Office Building.

Lake-Friendly Living Seminar

Saturday, August 27, 2005

9:00 a.m. to Noon

LaGrange County Office Building
115 W. Michigan St. • LaGrange

MemberLakes:

- Adams
- Atwood
- Big Long
- Big Turkey
- Cedar
- Dallas
- Fish-Royer
- Lake of the Woods
- Little Turkey
- Martin
- North Twin
- Oliver
- Pretty
- Shipshewana
- Stone
- Westler
- Witmer

2004-05 Officers & Directors:

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Andy Kennedy

Annual Meeting set for August 25

The Council's Annual Meeting will take the place of the usual board meeting on Thursday, August 25.

Four directors will be elected for the coming term.

The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. in the County Office Building, 115 W. Michigan St. in LaGrange.

Please invite your friends and neighbors for this important meeting.

Lakes Council joins LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce



The Council is proud to support county businesses through its membership in the Chamber of Commerce. The Council can also partner with the local business community to realize and grow the economic value of tourism, lake visitors and lake homeowners to the county and local businesses.

Joint LaGrange-Steuben County boating study begins

How many boats can use your lake before the water quality is compromised? That is one of the questions that might be answered by a joint study being conducted by the LaGrange and Steuben County Lakes Councils. Members of both Councils are in the process of determining how best to accomplish their survey.

The joint study was suggested by Ron Matthews, president of the Steuben County group. Members of the study committee have had one organizational meeting and plan to meet in late July to formalize their plans.

Results of this study will also lend further credibility to the Councils' position on group piers and other anti-funneling measures.

Anti-Funneling provision added to new county zoning ordinance

The new LaGrange County Zoning Ordinance is scheduled to be approved by the Commissioners in July or August. The new ordinance includes a provision to discourage funneling on our lakes.

Under the ordinance, a person who desires to use lakefront property as access for off-lake development must meet certain criteria: for the first off-lake user, 100 ft. of lakefront property is required; for a second user, an additional 50 ft. of adjoining lakefront must be owned; for each additional user, another 20 ft. of adjoining lakefront is required.

As an example, under this restriction, an off-lake development for 5 users would require ownership of 210 feet of lakefront property. This protection, along with the new Group Pier rule (see below), should afford additional security from overcrowding the lakes in our county.

LaGrange County Commissioners adopt Comprehensive Plan

The long-awaited Comprehensive Plan for LaGrange County has been formally adopted by the County Commissioners. Proposed in 2000, the plan has been through intensive scrutiny and numerous public meetings.

Through input from the Lakes Council, the plan includes numerous references to the unique needs of the lakes.

Council offering ink cartridge recycling as fundraiser

Green Fund Network of Louisville, Kentucky is furnishing the Council with supplies for recycling ink and toner cartridges and cell phones.

Countertop display boxes have been placed in businesses around the county to collect items or to dispense post-paid mailing envelopes for ink-jet cartridges and cell phones. There is no cost to the Council for supplies or transportation of the recyclables to Green Fund.

The County Commissioners have endorsed the project and all county offices have been asked to participate by placing their recyclable items in boxes provided to the county by Green Fund.

Millions of ink-jet cartridges are discarded every day. Recycling makes sense, especially when everybody wins.

For more information or to participate in the program, please call Jack Dold at 260-351-4915.

Group pier rule change approved by Natural Resources Commission

Effective February 6, 2005, a "group pier" as defined in Title 312 Natural Resources Commission is no longer covered under a "general license."

"Group Pier" means a pier that provides docking space for any of the following:

- (1) At least five (5) separate property owners.
- (2) At least five (5) rental units.
- (3) An association.
- (4) A condominium, cooperative, or other form of horizontal property.
- (5) A subdivision or an addition.
- (6) A conservancy district.
- (7) A campground.
- (8) A mobile home park.
- (9) A yacht club.

A person seeking to place a group pier is now required to complete the license application procedures of IC 14-26-2 (sometimes referred to as the "Lakes Preservation Act").

As with all regulations, there is no "Pier Cop" supervising the thousands of piers on Indiana's lakes. Enforcement will rely on reporting of suspicious activity by concerned citizens to the proper authorities.

Properly applied, this regulation, along with the zoning ordinance referred to above, will go a long way toward reducing the likelihood of funneling in LaGrange County.

We salute the Lakes Management Work Group for their work in making this rule change possible. This group, which is entirely volunteer, has truly "made a difference" for lakes in our state.

ILMS provides grant for audio/visual equipment

LCLC has received a grant for \$3,500 to pay for new audio/visual equipment. The grant, from the Indiana Lakes Management Society, provides that the equipment is to be made available to qualified organizations after the Lakes Council's grant requirements are fulfilled.

Dave Arrington, LCLC Vice-President, completed the grant application and will acquire a laptop computer with appropriate software, an LCD projector for making PowerPoint presentations and a suitable projection screen on behalf of LCLC.

Associations asked for help with LCLC dues collection

The Lakes Council has established an annual dues level of \$5 for individual members. Lake associations join for \$25 per year and this entitles your lake to representation on the Council.

But the Council cannot continue operation with only \$25 from each member lake. It is essential to have the support of individual members with at least the \$5 dues donation.

The Council asks that each association include the option to pay an additional \$5 with their regular association dues which can then be sent to the council with a list of those who elected to join LCLC.

This process will save your members writing another check and will save the Council from the expense of a special mailing to solicit dues.

Council's decision to "open" board meetings proves successful

The Council's open board meetings in the County Office Building have resulted in improved communication and participation from members. Along with the meeting announcement in the news media, one of our members, Betty Sonnek, has offered to make phone call reminders for us. Betty's efforts are appreciated.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December) at 6:30 p.m. in the LaGrange County Office Building, 115 W. Michigan Street, LaGrange. The meetings are open and the public is invited to attend.

Timely revisions make website useful

If you haven't explored the Lakes Council's website for awhile, you're in for a treat. Board member, Susan Anderson keeps track of important information and regularly updates the site. Member lake associations should send their contact information to: webmaster@lagrangepublicworks.org.

Visit www.lagrangepublicworks.org and see for yourself.

Council reps enjoy association meetings

Representatives of the Lakes Council visited numerous lake association meetings early this summer. Your invitations and hospitality are greatly appreciated, and we always share our experiences with others when possible.

We are always anxious to speak to your groups and answer your questions about the Council's activities.

In planning for your 2006 meetings, please contact the Council at 260-351-4915 and we'll provide a speaker who will attend and bring you up to date on Council business.

LCLC invites business members

LaGrange County business leaders are being asked to join the Council and support efforts to maintain and improve the county's greatest attraction—its lakes.

LaGrange lakes bring more repeat visitors to our county than any other attraction. What's more, many of today's "visitors" will someday become permanent residents.

Each business member receives a beautiful, mahogany plaque to demonstrate their support for the Lakes Council.

In addition, the Council has a special page on its website to recognize business members. A link to the members website is also provided upon request.

The minimum annual dues for a business membership is \$50. Larger firms are encouraged to donate according to their means. For example, the suggested donation for a business with up to 50 employees is \$100; up to 100 employees, \$200 and more than 100 employees, \$300. All donations to the Council are tax-deductible.

Karl Reed is chairperson for the business membership drive and he can be reached at 351-2195.