



LaGrange County Lakes Council

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

Volume 3 - Number 1

Spring, 2007

MemberLakes:

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

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May 19 meeting to explain LARE funding

A spring seminar is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 19 at the County Office Building in LaGrange. Gwen White, aquatic biologist for the DNR, will explain how lake associations can obtain money for weed control and other lake improvements through the Lake And River Enhancement program (LARE) which is funded by boat licensing fees.

Some LaGrange lakes are already participating in the grant process and are receiving grants: Adams, \$16,200; Atwood, \$8,640; Big Long, \$16,200; Big Turkey, \$9,000; Five Lakes (Witmer, Westler, Dallas, Hackenburg & Messick), \$20,205; Little Turkey, \$7,200; Pretty, \$7,200; Shipshewana, \$23,600; Stone/Brokeshaw, \$11,448 and Wall, \$9,846. Other lakes may be eligible but unsure of the application process. This meeting will provide that information.

The seminar will also include a public meeting to announce the results of the Pretty Lake Diagnostic Study, conducted last year. This presentation will be given by Sara Peel, biologist for JF New, which conducted the study through LARE funding.

If your lake association has not yet qualified for LARE funding, this is your chance to learn the process.

Gwen White, DNR Aquatic Biologist, has a PhD from the University of Minnesota, a Master's degree from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor's degree from Goshen College. She has worked as a biologist in the state Lake and River Enhancement Program, DNR Fisheries, and with DJCase, a consulting firm specializing in natural resource communications. She also served as an Aquaculture volunteer in the US Peace Corps in Honduras.

Council resolution opposes Toll-Tail Dairy location

After much deliberation and discussion, the board of directors of the Lakes Council took action by way of a resolution opposing the location of the Toll-Tail Dairy. The board stopped short of opposing the operation itself but strongly supported the Wall Lake efforts to locate the mega-farm elsewhere. The text of the resolution follows:

WHEREAS the mission of the LaGrange County Lakes Council is to promote, protect and preserve the quality of the streams, rivers, lakes and watersheds of LaGrange County; and

WHEREAS the entire population of LaGrange County relies on its groundwater for agricultural, industrial, commercial and human consumption; and

WHEREAS contamination of groundwater threatens the health and well-being of all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS the proposed location of the Toll Tail Dairy is an area designated by the County Health Department as "highly sensitive" to further nitrate contamination of its groundwater; and

WHEREAS the current level of nitrate pollution to the groundwater in the area of the proposed dairy is above the acceptable limits as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS the concentration of nitrogen-bearing materials, such as animal manure, at the proposed dairy will place the groundwater at risk of further damage and endanger neighboring streams, rivers, and lakes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LaGrange County Lakes Council board of directors, representing LaGrange County lake property owners, lake associations, businesses, and individuals concerned with the welfare of Lagrange County lakes and watersheds, at its regular meeting on October 26, 2006 does hereby agree to support the Wall Lake Association and the Northeastern Indiana Trout Association in their opposition to the establishment of the Toll Tail Dairy at its currently proposed location in northeastern LaGrange County.

Invasive weed closes Lake Manitou—threatens others

Hydrilla was identified in Lake Manitou in Fulton County in August 2006. This is the only known infestation of hydrilla in Indiana. Hydrilla is commonly referred to as "the world's worst weed". Another new invader is Brazilian elodea found in Griffy Lake near Bloomington, where removal efforts are now under way. Brazilian

elodea has also been identified in about a dozen private bodies of water in Southern Indiana and Wyandotte Wetland on state property. We need as many eyes watching for these highly invasive aquatic plants as possible. If they do show up in your area, we need to be able spot them at the

Continued on page 3

Senior anglers urged to buy new Fish for Life \$17 license

Each senior citizen's purchase of a discounted senior fishing license will bring the state an additional \$7.90 of federal money, starting April 1, 2008, as the result of a bill signed by Gov. Mitch Daniels, March 30.

With the change, state residents 64 and older (born after March 31, 1943), must buy either a \$3 senior license each year (lower than any neighboring state's fee), or a one-time \$17 Fish for Life senior license to be able to fish in public waters. The \$17 fee is the same price that 64-year old anglers currently pay for their yearly license; however, the Fish for Life license would be the last fishing license they would ever need to purchase in Indiana.

Indiana anglers age 65 or older born before April 1, 1943, will be exempt from having to buy either of the two discounted senior licenses. In other words, no senior who currently fishes public waters at no charge would be affected by the new law, except by reaping benefits gained from use of the additional federal funding.

Lakes Councils to sponsor pancake breakfast August 18

LaGrange County Lakes Council will join with the Steuben County Lakes Council Land Trust to offer a pancake breakfast at historic Greenfield Mills on August 18. This will be the first fundraiser for LCLC and we are grateful to have the opportunity to participate. Greenfield Mills has undergone remodeling and opened a new "Old Mill Store."

Watch for details in the media.

No-Phosphorus Fertilizer Available

Since its beginning, your Lakes Council has been encouraging the use of "Lake-Friendly Fertilizer." This is the one with a "middle number" of zero (0).

Our Sponsors, Schlemmer Hardware in LaGrange and Stroh Farm Supply have ordered a supply of phosphorous-free lawn fertilizers.

Please feed your lawn, not your lake!

Business Sponsors Support Lakes Council

The Lakes Council owes a special thanks to these businesses who gave us the financial boost we needed in our infancy. As ongoing Sponsor Members, we continue to encourage lake resident's support as a demonstration of our appreciation.

Sponsor members are given a plaque signifying their membership and support. Business Sponsors pay a minimum dues of \$50 per year and may use the form on our website to join: www.LaGrangeCountyLakesCouncil.org/apply.htm.

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208 S. Detroit Street	LaGrange		

Thank you, sponsors!

Lakes Councils represented at ILMS Conference

The Lakes Councils of Steuben and Lagrange were both participants at the 19th Annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference at Lake Monroe. The two-day event was held at the Four Winds Resort & Marina in Bloomington on March 30 & 31.

Bill Schmidt, president of the Steuben County Lakes Council gave a presentation to the audience covering the Council's joint carrying capacity study, conducted with LaGrange County.

Jack Dold and Lynn Bowen, of LaGrange County Lakes Council, described the council's activity in county government and how our organization participates on various county boards, offering input on behalf of the lakes community.

More than 200 people from around the state attended a variety of presentations by 14 speakers. 18 exhibitors contributed technical information and advice on lake management practices.



The LaGrange County Lakes Council board of directors meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, except November and December, at 6:30 p.m. in the LaGrange County Office Building, 114 W. Michigan St., LaGrange. Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The 2007 Annual Meeting of the organization will be held on Thursday, July 26.

Wall Lake group continues battle with dairy

Wall Lake residents and neighbors have been fighting the proposed dairy in Greenfield Township for more than a year. They have recently formed a non profit corporation, Hoosiers for Sustainable Agriculture, Inc. (HFSA) whose mission is environmental education and activism. HFSA can be contacted at P.O. Box 105, Orland, Indiana 46776.

A website is being developed that will be addressing local and state environmental issues. The site will also provide a list of local growers of organic produce and meats produced by sustainable farming. Visit www.hfsain.com.

HFSA has also announced that they will be taking legal action to halt construction of the Toll-Tail Dairy.

A second dairy CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) in LaGrange County, Hill Top Dairy, Section 24, TWP 36N 11E in Milford Township has had an application with IDEM since January 29, 2007 for a 1,087 head dairy operation. It is approximately one mile Northeast of Big Long Lake.

Any lake association member needing research information on C.A.F.O. issues may contact HFSA at their PO Box address.

Invasive weed Continued from page 1

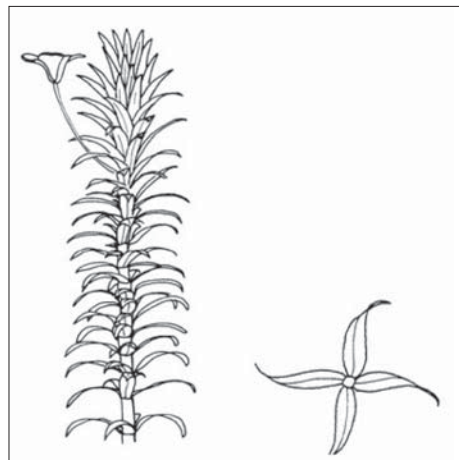
initial stage of invasion. Early detection usually results in a quicker and less costly eradication.

These two plants may easily be confused with a native plant, Elodea. If you ever see anything that looks like elodea during your times on the water, please take a very close look at the plant material to confirm that it is neither hydrilla nor Brazilian elodea. If you are still unsure of the identity, you can contact a district fisheries biologist for assistance in identification.

Further information on hydrilla, Brazilian elodea, and many other invasive species can be found at the DNR's invasive species website: www.invasive-species.in.gov.

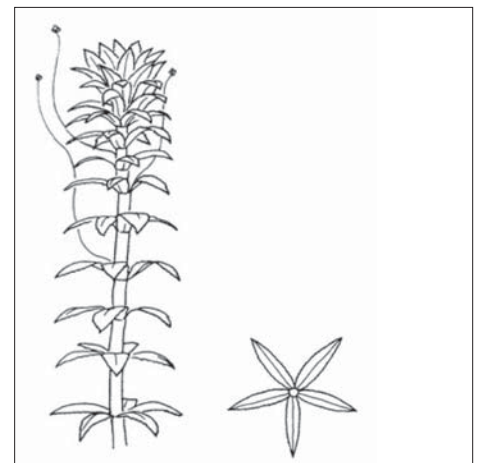
Brazilian elodea (Egeria)

Brazilian elodea is a popular aquarium plant commonly sold under the name Anarchis. The plant fragments readily and each fragment has the potential to create another plant



Hydrilla

Hydrilla has groupings of five leaves and each leaf has a serrated edge. A half-inch sprig of hydrilla transferred to another body of water can start a new population.



Elodea (Native and desirable)

Hydrilla and Brazilian elodea are easily confused with the elodea, a desirable native variety of aquatic vegetation. Please familiarize yourself with these plants so that you can identify each one.



Lakes Council Board approves dues increase for 2007

The LaGrange County Lakes Council board of directors voted to expand services, citing the ever-increasing dangers threatening our lakes. Jack Dold, treasurer for the Council explained: "Many Lakes Council members are voluntarily donating more than the minimum dues of \$5.00. The fact is, that if all of our members only paid the minimum, we could not even afford one newsletter a year. With the dues increase to \$25 per year, we will be able to increase our educational programs and provide more frequent communication."

The Lakes Council has made significant contributions to county government. Watching out for your interests, Lakes Council directors now serve on these LaGrange County boards:

- Economic Development Commission
- Redevelopment Commission
- Plan Commission
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Sewer Board
- Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals
- Park Board

Now, with your increased support, the Lakes Council plans to provide additional communication and programs that will further benefit lakes and their residents.

Please Join Now!

Please complete and mail to:

LCLC

PO Box 86

LaGrange, IN 46761

www.lagrangecountylakescouncil.org



2007 Annual dues: \$25.00

(additional donations appreciated)

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

Name

Lake

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