



# LaGrange County Lakes Council

*"We've got the real Great Lakes!"*

**2008 Membership Dues Notice on Page 3**  
*Individual notices not being mailed this year.*

Spring 2008



**Stone Lake...**  
***Down Under!***

# Editorial

Summer greetings to all of our members and friends of the Lakes Council. It is indeed a pleasure to send you our first major educational outreach newsletter issue. We hope you will enjoy reading about the many opportunities our members have taken to protect the lakes in LaGrange County.

As a long-time lake enthusiast, I can recall when pontoon boats were nothing more than a floating platform with aluminum deck chairs. Common comments were: “How the heck can you fish from that thing?” Wooden rowboats were the best choice for fishing—or for “cruising” the lake. Motors were scarce, with horsepower mostly limited to the single-digits.

How times have changed! Now we have sewers, year-round homes, electricity and telephones, cable TV, natural gas and high-speed internet—not to mention every conceivable type of watercraft imaginable.

I shudder to think about how our lakes have suffered through all the growth and pressure and how they might have become useless without the work of our lake associations, conservation clubs and other organizations that take an active role in balancing human needs and desires with nature’s wonderful resources.

As you read through this issue, try and imagine how much work and effort has been invested to maintain the beauty of our lakes. Try to realize just how fragile the balance is and how easily it becomes upset without constant attention. Then realize how little it would take if *everyone* helped.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and enjoy your little piece of paradise on earth— on *one of the real Great Lakes!*



Jack Dold



**Spring 2008 Newsletter**

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

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 Stephen Scott-Welty North Twin Lake  
 Katie Caldwell Westler Lake  
 Harold Wasson Stone Lake  
 Carolyn Thatcher Little Turkey Lake

**Newsletter Editor**

Jack Dold 260-351-4915 Pretty Lake  
 Secretary@LagrangeCountyLakesCouncil.org

This publication is sent by mail to more than 4,000 members and friends of the LaGrange County Lakes Council.

Membership in the Lakes Council is open to anyone with a desire to further the Council's mission: "To promote, protect and preserve the quality of the lakes and watersheds of LaGrange County."

**2008 Membership Dues Notice**

Name ..... Lake .....

Mailing address ..... City ..... State ..... Zip .....

E-mail address ..... Home Phone ..... Lake Phone .....

Annual Dues:	Individual/Family	\$25	Dues amount enclosed	..... \$ .....
	Lake association	\$25	Additional donation	..... \$ .....
	Business sponsor	\$50	Scholarship fund donation	..... \$ .....
			Total enclosed	..... \$ .....

*Dear members:*

*Thank you for paying from this notice. As you may be aware, your Lakes Council Board members are all volunteers. The time and expense of sending individual dues notices can be much better spent on our educational efforts, such as the newsletters and our annual spring seminar, coming up on May 3rd, 2008.*

*Remember, the Lakes Council is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your dues and donations are tax deductible.*

*Thanks and Happy 2008!*

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# IN THEIR ELEMENT!

*By Sandy Bugg*

## Divers brave the icy darkness of Stone Lake

**W**inter, summer, spring or fall, it isn't really unusual to see scuba divers at the lake.

The lake is a great place for the divers to learn how to dive as well as practice and keep up their certification. Conditions at Stone Lake are ideal for first time students because of the great clarity of the water and the large number of underwater artifacts to be found on the bottom.

Residents of the lake are use to seeing the little rubber ring with the red and white flag flying on top to mark the spot where there are divers and to avoid that area with their boats. . Typically the divers use the east end of the lake, as it is the deepest part going some 35 feet deep with normally 15 to 20 feet of visibility.

Greg Stone from Hart City Scuba is the principal person for teaching people the techniques of diving and often uses Stone Lake for his classes. While the students typically start out in a swimming pool, you don't get the real feel until you come to the lake to give it a try. Almost anyone can become a certified scuba diver by being reasonably fit and going through a series of classroom instructions and four open water dives that put to the test the skills discussed and learned in the classroom. It takes 60 hours of practice before you can earn your certifica-

*"Typically the divers use the east end of the lake, as it is the deepest part going some 35 feet deep with normally 15 to 20 feet of visibility."*

tion for diving alone and even then it is highly recommended and safer to do it with a buddy.

Once a certification card is issued, it's good for life. Skills learned should always be refreshed on an annual basis just to stay "tuned up" and ready to explore the vast underwater world that comprises about three-fourths of the surface of the world.

Once you are certified, you can rent and buy equipment anywhere in the world to explore the depths. Sport divers are limited to 120'. Below that depth, it's dark and not much to see anyway, all the colors are within 25' of the surface. A certified diver on a full 2,000-psi tank of air can stay under the water for 50 minutes at 40'.

Stone Lake residents, Gwyn Bontrager, who has been actively

diving for 24 years, and Herb Ulery, Sr. are members of the Hart City Scuba Club, and serve as hosts to many of the Club's events at the lake. Annually the group holds an ecology dive where divers are transported by boat or pontoon to all ends of the lake and divers head back to Gwyn's home underwater. On their way, they collect the summer accumulation of used bait containers, cans, bottles, or any other trash they can find. Prizes are given to all participants for different categories such as the largest number of items, the oddest, the oldest or classic. Always a good sample of anchors, lures, and other artifacts are found.

On New Year's Day, ice thickness and conditions permitting, members of the Club, or those brave enough to do it, cut a hole in the ice

and enter a world where a very few select people in the world have ever been, or can even imagine. This is a dive specialty requiring special training not only for the divers but also for the surface tenders. Divers are not only tied together in pairs, but are also in communication with the surface with the tender line, allowing only a 200' radius from the entry point, (and hopefully the exit point.)

One of Gwyn's favorite dive stories happened during a specialty class launched from his house. The class was a "Rescue Diver" and as you can imagine, in order to "rescue" someone, you must have a "victim". On this occasion the victim entered the water some distance away from the class and swam underwater to a point about 100' from shore, surfaced, and began acting very convincingly like a swimmer in distress by flailing his arms and crying for "help". The students sprang into action like they were trained to do and all was going well until Gwyn noticed his neighbor running out of her house with her phone to her ear. It took some quick talking and calming to convince her that this was a practice, not the real thing and to stop the "911" call. From that day on, when doing one of these classes, the victim yells "PIZZA", not help. True story, just ask Marian Healy.

In addition to the Hart City Scuba members, divers from the Elkhart Sheriff's and Police Department Dive Teams practice here usually about once a month. They have also brought divers from the Notre Dame Police and Fire Departments as well as other local communities.

*Below: Undeterred by deep snow, SCUBA team members gather to plan an under-the-ice experience.*



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## Two staff at Pigeon River honored for 2007

Al Van Hoey of Mongo was biologist of the year. Jeff Ladig of Kimmel was field technician of the year. Bev Wagner of Mongo was secretary of the year. Doug Keller of Mooresville was program manager of the year.

Van Hoey is the District 3 wildlife biologist and is based at Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area. He has been with DFW since 1970, starting in Greene County. Seven years later, he moved to his current position. He has one of the busiest districts of any of the DNR biologists, and deals with all facets of wildlife management, from nuisance wildlife to establishing wildlife habitat. In 2007, a two-mile walking and biking trail along Fish Creek in Steuben County was dedicated as part of the successful Fish Creek Restoration Plan, in which Van Hoey played a key role.

Ladig is an equipment operator, mechanic, truck driver and welder, and does carpentry work and maintenance/repair at the DFW's Public Access North (PAN) site. PAN constructs public access sites and performs a variety of other duties using heavy equipment. He started with the DNR in 1979 as a laborer at Chain O'Lakes State Park. After a stint with the state highway department starting in 1986, he returned to Chain O'Lakes as a laborer in 1995, then moved to PAN in 1997. Ladig often goes above and beyond his normal equipment operator duties to make things safer and more efficient at PAN.

Wagner works at Pigeon River

## ICO Runyon Named District Officer of the Year for 2007

Indiana Conservation Officer Anthony D. Runyon was recently selected by the Indiana Conservation Officers of District Two to receive the District Officer of the Year Award for 2007. The counties that comprise District Two are Lagrange, Steuben, Noble, Dekalb, Whitley, Allen, Huntington, Adams, and Wells.

Runyon is assigned to Lagrange County, and has been an Indiana Conservation Officer since July 30, 1979.

The Pitzer Outstanding-Officer-of-the-Year Award is presented in "Remembrance" of Conservation Officer James D. Pitzer born May 11, 1906 in Clinton County, Indiana; who was killed in the line of duty, on January 2, 1961 in Jay County, Indiana. Officer Pitzer began his service to the Department of Conser-



**ICO Anthony D. Runyon**

vation in 1939 and served faithfully for twenty-two years. His was the "Ultimate Sacrifice".

Fish and Wildlife Area, where she started in 2004 after 7 ½ years at Pokagon State Park. Customer service is a top priority for her, as evidenced by one of her favorite sayings: "Anything can be fixed." She's known for keeping a binder that is used by all fellow office personnel to keep them current with changes in purchasing and accounting policies.

Keller is the DNR's aquatic invasive species coordinator. He works on preventing new introductions of invasive species and minimizing the negative impacts of invasive species already in Indiana's waters. He spearheaded the massive Lake

Manitou hydrilla eradication project, developing hydrilla identification materials and working effectively with local citizens, elected officials and agency representatives. He made presentations on his subject of expertise in both Ohio and Illinois, and at the Midwest Plant Management Society Conference in Milwaukee. Through the development of many partnership, Keller has been able to take this one-man program and multiply it into a million-dollar effort to implement Indiana's management plan for dealing with this serious challenge to the environment.

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# Little Turkey spring update

By Dan Camp

Little Turkey Lake

The most recent winter news at Little Turkey Lake is probably much the same as many other lakes—we had a lot of water around our homes with the rain, snow and melting cycles. We dodged serious damage with only several crawl spaces that needed pumping.

We are currently working toward possible DNR funding for aquatic weed control and will hopefully hear about our grant in spring 2008.

For several years now we have been stocking our lake with walleye. The first year we delivered 500 fish to the lake, 1000 the second year and third years and 1225 fish the fourth year—a total of 3725 fish. This has been a very successful campaign because of the help of many people who contributed their funds, resources and aluminum cans. Our thanks to all who contributed.

Little Turkey Lake upcoming events:

- Yard sale! Lake association yard sale Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17, 2008, 8am-5pm both days. It will be held at 3435 South 1075 East Little Turkey Lake. There will be many great items for sale — tools, clothing, electronics and collectibles. Please come and visit our sale.
- Semi-annual lake association meeting on June 28, 2008 at the home of Ken and Sharon Ludwig.

Submitted by Dan Camp

*Right: Dakota Bruce experiences a nice catch on January 30 at Westler Lake. The temperature was 12°. That's enough to give anyone "rosy cheeks!"*

Online registration begins March 1

## Outdoor sports workshop for women, May 2-4

Women can learn outdoor skills, such as backpacking, shooting sports, fishing and birding at Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), May 2-4, at Ross Camp, near West Lafayette, Ind. Registration begins March 1.

BOW introduces women to more than 30 outdoor sports and skills in a safe, non-competitive environment. The hands-on classes promote confidence and instruction for women who want to learn new sports or improve existing outdoor skills.

"I learned how to fish and paddle a solo canoe and I caught four bluegills my first time fishing! I would have never done that on my own," said Angela Sturdevant, past workshop participant. "I was so excited to go home and try these skills by myself. The instructors were

patient and helpful. They really helped me learn these skills and gave me a new perspective on outdoor sports."

Participants must be 18 years old or older. Workshop enrollment is limited. The \$175 fee covers barrack-style lodging, meals, and all equipment and supplies used in the workshop. Partial scholarships are available for students, single parents and low-income, first-time participants. Please call (317) 232-4095 for more information about qualifying for scholarships.

The workshop is sponsored by the Indiana DNR and the Indiana Hunter Education Association.

Register at [bow.IN.gov](http://bow.IN.gov) or call Dawn Krause, (317) 232-4095, for more information.

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# Wall Lake Association residents have big hand in lake management and destiny

Wall Lake is a 141 acre natural kettle (glacial) lake located in the northeast corner of Lagrange County Indiana. The lake lies approximately two miles south of the Michigan border and approximately one mile west of the town of Orland. Wall Lake's shoreline is mostly developed with approximately 161 lakeside homes and cottages. There is an Indiana Department of Natural Resources public access site located on the lake's south side. The total surface area of the lake is approximately 57 hectares (141 acres).

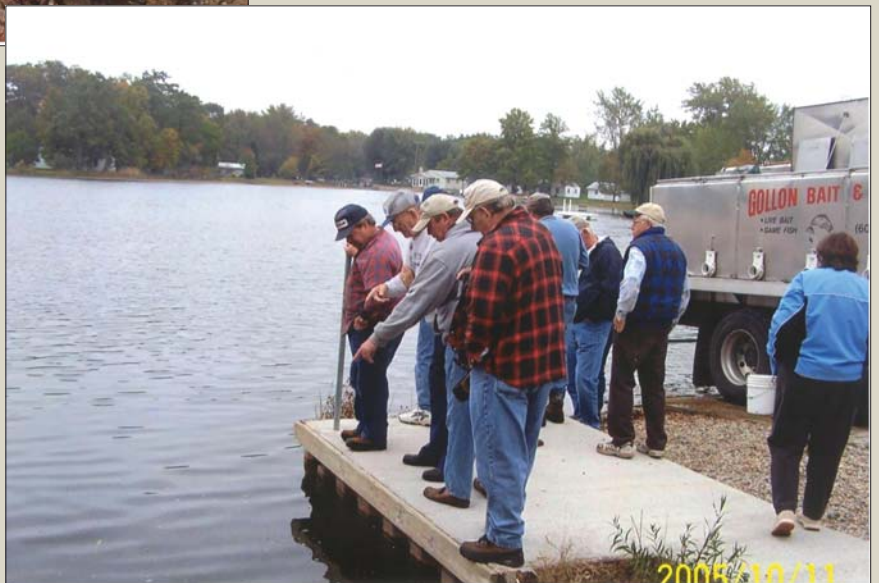
The recently completed Wall Lake Dignostic Study may be viewed on the Internet at:  
[http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/lare/lare\\_reports.html](http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/lare/lare_reports.html)



Long-time Wall Lake Association supporter and past-president Ralph Whitcomb is shown inspecting walleye as they are being stocked. The members have funded and carried out a private stocking program since 2005 under the direction of IDNR fisheries biologists.

Members of the Wall Lake Fisherman's Association gather to watch as their stock of walleye are introduced in 2005.

The group is now encouraging a 16" limit, rather than the 14" state size limit.



# Stone Lake's Jerry McCoy makes beautiful and elegant "Writing Instruments"

By Sandy Bugg

When you live at the lake year round, how do you fill your time in the winter months when you can't fish, play golf or work in your vegetable garden?

Stone Lake resident, Jerry McCoy, has found a new hobby and perhaps a new source of income. Jerry, a retired master journeyman wood pattern maker, has started making wood ballpoint pens. His interest in woodworking started in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and he says he has done some sort of woodwork for 45 years.

Retired from NIBCO, Jerry learned to make wood patterns as an apprentice, advanced into management and ended his career training new apprentices in the skill. Jerry says he has always preferred to work with his hands and, throughout the years, has made small pieces of furniture like end tables for his family and friends. Then it was time to make wooden toys for the grandchildren until they were all grown up.

About a year ago, Jerry saw the wood pen kits in a woodworking magazine as well as an advertisement for a seminar being held in Fort Wayne to learn how to make them. He signed up, made one in the class, and he was hooked. The kit contains just the ballpoint pen mechanism. The rest is all made by hand. Starting with a piece of wood about 6" long by 3/4" inches wide, it's cut into two parts and a hole is drilled in both pieces the size of the pen cartridge. After gluing the brass cylinder in the bottom half,

Jerry puts it on the lathe and shapes it to the desired shape and size with a spindle gouge. The same method is used for the top portion. This is where the skill and creativeness comes in the shaping of the pen in the various shapes and sizes. The pen is then sanded using 320 grit sandpaper, then 400, 1600 and finished off with a special pad. Liquid wax is applied using a small rag while the pen is on the lathe. The friction of the liquid wax on the rag against the wood gives it the high glossy finish and lets the beauty of the wood grain show through.

Jerry continued making pens for family and friends improving and enhancing his technique. His next-door neighbor, Melody Hamm, was having a Christmas Open House to sell some items and encouraged Jerry to make some of his wooden pens to sell. They were a big hit and the rest is history. He currently has 14 different styles in all sizes and shapes to fit both men and women's hands. He uses all kinds of



Jerry McCoy handcrafts ballpoint pens at his Stone Lake workshop.



Jerry uses his 45 years of woodworking skill in turning pen-barrels on his tiny wood lathe.

wood like oak, maple, cherry, walnut as well as exotic woods like padauk, tulipwood, zebrawood and even dark ebony. He buys this wood by ordering it from a supply store in Oklahoma or at the woodworking craft store in Fort Wayne. Jerry can even add pen clips shaped like fish, golf clubs or tennis rackets for sporting enthusiasts.

While computer and machines can do many things today, there is nothing like the basic hand skill that can craft a special item that makes it a keepsake to own. Currently Jerry has pens for sale at Apple Creek Alley in Shipshewana. When asked what's up next, Jerry says he is working on wooden wine bottle stoppers.

Jerry is an interesting guy with lots of interests and is a big asset to the Stone Lake community.

# Where does your lake water come from?

**D**o you know where your lake water comes from? Do you know where it goes when it leaves your lake? Following the flow of the water from the outer edges of the watersheds, through the individual lakes of LaGrange County and ultimately to Lake Michigan is an eye opening experience for most of us. The unique way that water moves through LaGrange County results from its glacial history. This glacial history determined the soil and thus the land use within the lakes' drainage area (watershed). The soils and land use plays a large role in determining the water quality within LaGrange County lakes and streams.

Water from lakes in the extreme northern boundary of the county, such as Wall and Cedar lakes, flows north then west into the Fawn River. The Fawn River flows north and west into the St. Joseph River at Constantine, Michigan, and from there to Lake Michigan. Lakes along the western portion of the northern boundary, like Shishewana and Stone lakes, drain west to the Pigeon River, which also flows into the St. Joseph River near the Indiana-Michigan line north of Bristol. Similarly, water from lakes within the central and eastern portions of LaGrange County, like Big and Little Turkey, Big Long, Pretty, Lake of the Woods, and McClish lakes, also flow north and west through Turkey Creek to the Pigeon River. On its way to the St. Joseph River from eastern LaGrange County, the Pigeon River collects water from North and South Twin, Shishewana, Fish, and Royer lakes. Finally, those lakes in the southern portion of the county, including Olin, Oliver, Martin, and the Indian Lakes Chain, flow south and west through the Little Elkhart River eventually reaching the St.

Joseph River in Bristol. These unique routes were determined by the glacial history of LaGrange County during the melting of the glaciers 10,000 years ago.

Lakes in the Fawn River watershed and the northwestern portion of the Pigeon River watershed lie within glacial outwash deposited as the Saginaw Lobe of the Wisconsin Age glaciers retreated. Glacial outwash is typically flat (less than 3% slope) and is composed primarily of sand and gravel. The watersheds for lakes within this portion of the county range from 750 acres (Wall and Stone lakes) to approximately 2,000 acres (Cedar Lake). These relatively small watersheds results in low ratios between surfaces areas of the lake and surface areas of the watershed (less than 10:1). Because of these relatively small watersheds, the lake water quality is generally not driven by watershed activities. Rather, they are more affected by shoreline and in-lake activities. These factors coupled with the sandy, well-drained soils, shallow stream slopes, and relatively flat watersheds typically create sand-bottom lakes with relatively clear water and relatively low nutrient concentrations.

There is an exception to the typical conditions described above. Shishewana Lake possesses a slightly larger watershed, draining 20 acres of watershed to each acre of surface area. Water quality in Shishewana Lake is significantly affected by watershed land use. In addition, the relatively shallow water within Shishewana Lake allows light to penetrate through a large portion of the water column. This readily available light and high nutrient concentrations present within the lake from past land use activities outweighs the

## Meet Sara...



**Sara Peel**

*Sara Peel is a North American Lakes Management Society Certified Lake Manager and a Senior Project Manager for JFNew, an environmental consulting firm located near South Bend. Sara serves on the Indiana Lakes Management Society Board of Directors and is their Secretary.*

presence of sandy soils. Therefore, despite the sand-bottom and shallow watershed slope, Shishewana Lake is relatively productive (lots of aquatic vegetation and algae).

Lakes in the Turkey Creek, Pigeon River, and Little Elkhart watersheds were shaped by the stagnation of the Saginaw and Erie lobes of the Wisconsin Age glaciers. This stopping and starting pattern created an area of overlap between end moraines and silt (glacial drift) left behind the retreating glaciers.

“The next time you are enjoying a sunrise or sunset on your lake, take a minute to reflect on where that water has come from, what it carries, and where it will travel tomorrow.”

Lakes within the Turkey Creek drainage, like Pretty, Big and Little Turkey, Big Long, Lake of the Woods, and McClish lakes, are located within remnant glacial drift. While lakes along the Pigeon River and Little Elkhart River drainages, including the Indian Lakes Chain; Olin, Oliver, and Martin lakes; and Fish and Royer lakes lie within the end moraine—the mound of material pushed in front of the glacier at its maximum southern point. Specifically, the lakes within the Little Elkhart River drainage are located within the Packerton Moraine.

The drainages to these lakes reflect the diverse material within which they reside. Big Turkey Lake, the largest lake in the county, lies within glacial drift. However, its large surface area and even larger drainage area limit the lake’s water quality. Unlike lakes previously mentioned,

Big Turkey Lake possesses a relatively large watershed with every surface acre of lake associated with 80 acres of watershed drainage. Unlike lakes in the northern portion of the county, lakes located in the Turkey Creek drainage are located in soils that are more silt than sand. Silt typically attracts and holds a high density of phosphorus. Once attached to the light weight silt particles, the phosphorus is carried downstream. When the sediment particle enters the lake, the water slows and the sediment (with attached phosphorus) falls to the lake bottom. The nutrients are then recycled through plant growth and decay, resulting in a continuous source of nutrients to the lake’s living organisms. The silt, coupled with the readily available internal and external nutrient sources, produces lakes which typically contain poorer water

quality than those lakes located in the northern portion of the county.

There are some exceptions to this rule. For example, Pretty Lake sits in glacial drift remnant from both lobes of the glaciers. It has the highest surface elevation of any lake within Lagrange County. Additionally, due to its relatively small watershed to lake area ratio (7 acres of watershed for every acre of lake), Pretty Lake contains some of the best water quality found in lakes throughout the county. The high water quality found in Pretty Lake is likely due more to its relatively isolated position within the watershed than the soils in which it is located.

Lakes within the Little Elkhart River drainage possess similar qualities as those in the Turkey Creek drainage. Most of the lakes drain relatively large watersheds. For example, lakes in the Indian Chain drain 93 acres (Dallas Lake) to 865 acres (Hackenberg Lake) for every acre of surface area of open water. The most downstream lakes act more like riverine systems than most of the other lakes throughout the county. Their relatively large watershed means that activities in the watershed have a greater impact on the lakes’ water quality than the activities within the lakes. Again, their location within the end moraine and the high nutrient content of these soils create relatively high nutrient concentrations within these lakes.

The next time you are enjoying a sunrise or sunset on your lake, take a minute to reflect on where that water has come from, what it carries, and where it will travel tomorrow. Enjoy

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Lake	Area (acres)	Max Depth (feet)	Drainage Area (acres)	Watershed Area:Lake Area
Adams Lake	308	93	3626	11.8
Atwood	170	33	1635	9.6
Big Long	365	82	2720	7.5
Big Turkey	450	65	36110	80.2
Blackman	52	57	1635	31.4
Cedar	120	30	2360	19.7
Dallas	283	96	26476	93.6
Eve	31	46	329	10.6
Fish	100	57	5770	57.7
Hackenberg	42	38	36207	862.1
Lake of the W	136	84	2135	15.7
Little Turkey	135	36	32283	239.1
Martin	26	56	3086	118.7
McClish	35	57	723	20.7
Messick	68	54	37250	547.8
North Twin	135	40	1250	9.3
Olin	103	82	3430	33.3
Oliver	394	91	6817	17.3
Pretty	184	84	1231	6.7
Royer	69	56	4196	60.8
Shipshewana	202	14	4675	23.1
South Twin	116	52	1992	17.2
Stone	116	30	746	6.4
Wall	141	34	753	5.3
Westler	88	33	25085	285.1
Witmer	204	54	23978	117.5

# Ecological benefits of glacial stone seawalls

By: *Alicia R. Bever; Davey Resource Group*

Seawalls are common place methods for combating shoreline erosion along developed Indiana lake shorelines. The materials out of which seawalls have been constructed have evolved throughout the years including materials such as railroad ties, wood, concrete, steel and vinyl sheet piling, stone, and bioengineered materials. Seawalls constructed of treated wood, railroad ties, or any type of refuse are no longer permissible under Indiana Code.

Research suggests that the vertical faces of concrete and sheet piling seawalls significantly compromise the ecological integrity of shorelines and can be detrimental to water quality. When a wave strikes a solid vertical seawall its energy is reflected increasing wave action on the lake and increasing erosion in front of and at the sides of the seawall. As a result lake turbidity is increased and the establishment of beneficial aquatic vegetation is hampered near the shoreline. Solid vertical face seawalls also restrict use of the shoreline to many species of reptiles, amphibians, fishes, wading birds, and small mammals.

Glacial stone seawalls provide shoreline stabilization while maintaining a more natural appearance to the shoreline. The gradual to moderate sloping surface of a stone seawall and the crevices among the stones serve to disperse wave energy while providing important plant and animal habitat. The crevices provide areas for numerous species to feed, reproduce, and access fresh water. Ice may cause individual stones of a glacial stone seawall to shift; however, maintenance

## *About the author—*

*Alicia R. Bever, M.E.S., is a biologist and project manager responsible for ecological projects including wetland delineations, wetland mitigation monitoring, and wetland restoration/mitigation planning. She is proficient with GPS technology and ArcGIS software. Ms. Bever has experience obtaining Section 401/404 permits, isolated wetlands permits, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources water permits. In addition, she assists with Phase I Environmental Site Assessments. Prior to joining Davey, Ms. Bever performed mitigation compliance assessments for 401 Water Quality Certifications for Indiana Department of Environmental Management and while at Taylor University conducted research using Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) methods in mitigation wetlands. She has completed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Identification and Delineation training course and is familiar with the Indiana Wetland Rapid Assessment Protocol. Ms. Bever is president of the East Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and a Master of Environmental Science degree from Taylor University.*

amounts to little more than occasional repositioning of the stones as opposed to regular maintenance and frequent repairs required to seawalls constructed of sheet piling.

Glacial stone may be used for toe stabilization and refacing existing concrete and sheet piling seawalls lessening their detrimental effects on water quality. When it is time to replace or reface your existing seawall consider using glacial stone or checking into bioengineered methods.

Remember that permits from Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are required for many projects involving work in lakes and around the shoreline. Please consult the aforementioned agencies directly or a professional environmental consulting firm specializing in water related permits prior to beginning any work near your lake shoreline.

**Your 2008 dues notice is on page 3 of this issue. Your kindness in paying from this notice will save the Council additional expense. Thank you.**

## 2008 Aquatic Plant Management Grants

The list below includes all LaGrange County applicants for 2008 aquatic plant management grants. Award amounts are allocated from the portion of the LARE fund that by law must be divided between lake sediment removal projects and exotic species management. This year, the program received applications totaling over \$4.1 million, although just less than \$1.2 million was available for those two broad project categories.

DNR was able to provide \$724,973 in grant awards to survey and treat exotic invasive plants in 49 lakes. Adequate funding was not available to cover the maximum state cost-share amount for a number of these projects. No funds could be awarded to grant applicants for 30 lakes.

Due to the funding limitations, highest priorities included:

- Eradication of new exotic species introductions (hydrilla in Lake Manitou and Brazilian elodea in Griffy Lake) and follow-up control of other invasive species in those lakes;
- Multi-year control efforts for curly-leaf pondweed, comparing the effectiveness of several herbicides, and an evaluation of standardized methods for measuring the quality of aquatic plant communities;
- Follow-up control for lakes previously funded for fluridone treatments;
- A limited number of new fluridone treatments;
- Maintenance treatments in lakes with new 2007-2011 management plans; and
- Maintenance treatments in lakes receiving two years or less of past funding. (These will not be required to complete Tier II surveys and plan updates in 2008 to remain eligible for funding in 2009.)

No new aquatic vegetation management plans will be funded for 2008 in order to complete a three-year herbicide treatment cycle for lakes that already have plans. Consistent with LARE policy, lakes that are conducting routine maintenance treatments (not post-fluridone) and which have already received at least three years of herbicide funding, did not receive awards in 2008.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact a LARE project manager (Angela Sturdevant at [asturdevant@dnr.in.gov](mailto:asturdevant@dnr.in.gov); 317-234-4906; or Gwen White at [gwhite@dnr.in.gov](mailto:gwhite@dnr.in.gov); 317-234-4407).

### *LARE money still available—just not as much:*

SPONSOR	COUNTY	PLANNING AWARD	TREATMENT AWARD
<b>Post-Fluridone Treatments</b>			
Atwood Lake Association	Lagrange	\$3,600	\$2,475
Shipshewana Community Lake Improvement Association	Lagrange	\$3,600	\$1,688
Stone Lake Conservation Club (Stone & Brokesha Lakes)	Lagrange	\$4,500	\$8,611
Wall Lake Fisherman's Association	Lagrange	\$3,600	\$10,458
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Maintenance Treatments Survey and Update Required in 2008</b>			
Big Turkey Lake Association	LaGrange	\$3,600	\$7,605
Little Turkey Lake Association	LaGrange	\$3,600	\$14,580
<b>Not Funded in 2008</b>			
Adams Lake Conservation Club	Lagrange	\$0	\$0
Big Long Lake Association	Lagrange	\$0	\$0
Five Lakes Conservation Association, Inc. (Witmer, Westler, Dallas, Hackenberg, Messick Lakes)	Lagrange	\$0	\$0
Oliver Lake Association (Oliver, Olin & Martin Lakes)	Lagrange	\$0	\$0

## Stone Lake residents enjoy winter events

December 1, 2007, was an icy and snowy night, but that didn't stop 62 members of the Stone Lake Conservation Club from attending their annual Christmas party. The event was held at the Chicago Ritz in White Pigeon, MI. A delicious buffet dinner prepared by Silver Spoon Catering featuring roast beef and home-made mashed potatoes, chicken and all the trimmings was enjoyed with dancing following to music provided by a D.J. from The Music Place.

As in the past, unwrapped toys were brought by the members to be donated to the local Toys for Tots.

Newly elected 2008 officers of the Club are Ed Wagoner, President, Gwyn Bontrager, Vice President, Buzz Wasson, Secretary and Sandy Bugg, Treasurer.



February 8, 2008, another snowy and icy night at the lake, brought 32 residents to the home of Herb and Joan Ulery, Sr., to play euchre. It's become an annual event to get together for an evening of cards during the winter months. Everyone brings his or her favorite snack to share and catch up on the news around the lake and just enjoy being together. Tables are mixed so everyone can get acquainted, and there are no winners or losers, but everyone agreed Laura Kilmer is the "card shark" of the lake. She won every game she played.

It was a fun evening and many thanks go to the Ulery's for hosting this event in their home.

LCLC

# County planning and zoning information

By Dr. Lynn Bowen,  
President, LaGrange County Plan Commission

## Zoning Regulations for (L-1) Lake Residential Zones

New buildings in an L-1 zone are required to be placed 45' from the center of the road and 45' from the water. Side setbacks are 10' from the side lot lines where sewer is available; 20' where no sewer is available.

You may also calculate an established building line by measuring the distance to the water (or center of road) from the three closest principal buildings. The average of the three will be the allowed set back for your proposed building or addition.

If your new structure cannot meet the requirements mentioned above you will need to file for a Developmental Standards Variance.

## Development Standards Variance

The BZA may grant a request for a development standards variance only if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The approval will not be injurious to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community;
- (b) The use and value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner;
- (c) The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property; and
- (d) The variance granted is the minimum necessary and does not correct a hardship caused by an owner, previous or present, of the property.

You will be required to make an appointment to complete an application for the Variance in the Plan Commission Office prior to the deadline for filing. You must either be the legal property owner or a person specifically authorized to represent the legal property owner. A site plan drawing showing the proposed use and existing structures, parking areas, etc. must be submitted at the time of application. The filing fee is due at the time of application.

You must submit a legal description of the property for which the variance is proposed. The legal description must be presented at the time of application and may consist of a deed, survey, tax record, or any combination thereof. Site Plans must be drawn to scale on letter or legal size paper using a ruler and showing the following:

1. Septic system (tank and field) and well
2. Road or Highway
3. Driveway and parking area
4. Property lines
5. Show and label all existing structure(s) and

## About the author—

*My name is Lynn Bowen. I have the privilege of residing at Oliver Lake in LaGrange County. I am currently the President of the LaGrange County Plan Commission.*

*The Plan Commission deals with rezones and site plans for businesses, industry and agriculture, and administers ordinance creation and enforcement. I am also the Plan Commission's representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals.*

*The BZA deals with land use and developmental variances. Many of the developmental variances deal with setbacks on lake property.*

*I thought a brief listing of some of the rules and regulations might be helpful for those of you considering remodels or teardowns.*

6. proposed structure(s)  
Show distances in feet from proposed structure(s) to ALL property lines
7. North point and scale
8. An elevation diagram of the proposed building

A Boundary survey showing the building lines will be required 15 days before the board of zoning appeals meeting for all setback variances in I-1, S-1 & U-1 zones. The proposed building outline must be staked and an "as-built" survey will be required to be submitted to the Plan Commission after the project has been completed. One can view the zoning ordinance in its entirety at [www.lagrangecounty.org](http://www.lagrangecounty.org)

I often receive questions concerning whether there is a funneling ordinance for LaGrange County. Funneling is new residential or back lot development near a lake with a desire for lake access

New residential or back lot development requires 100 feet of lakefront for the first unit 50 feet for the second residential unit and 20 feet for each additional residential unit.

There are also many questions received concerning shed placement.

A permit is required for all sheds. They may not be located between the principle building and the water body and no closer than 10' from the side property line. A site plan showing the location of the shed should be submitted at the time of permit application.

I hope you will find this information useful. The Lakes Council exists to educate all the residents of Lagrange County. The lakes are an important natural resource which must be maintained for future generation to enjoy. Please consider joining the Lakes Council, and making yourself available to serve on the board of directors.

# Benefit Pancake Breakfast— Saturday, August 16

Mark your calendars for summer fun —and food—for the whole family.

On Saturday, August 16, the 3rd annual benefit Pancake Breakfast will be hosted by Greenfield Mills, the Steuben County Lakes Council Land Trust and the LaGrange County Lakes Council. Join us for home-cooked pancakes, made from the Mills delicious, 100% natural pancake mixes, from 7:30am to noon followed by lunch from noon-4pm. Donation for either meal is just \$5 per person.

A festival with local wares, a farmer's market, face-painting and more as well as guided tours of the historic Greenfield Mills, Indiana's oldest commercial water-powered flour mill, round out the day's entertainment. After sampling the pancakes, you'll want to stop at the gift shop for the quality old fashioned flour and pancake mixes which have been made by the Rinkel family for over 100 years at Greenfield Mills. From buckwheat to blueberry and pumpkin spice to peaches and cream, you'll find the flour, pancake mixes and other local products in the Mills gift shop. Check out the mill on the web at: <http://newrinkelflour.com/>.

Good cause, good eatin', good fun—see you this summer at Greenfield Mills.

**OLD MILL FESTIVAL**  
AUG. 16th. at  
**GREENFIELD MILLS**  
Sponsored by Greenfield Mills,  
Steuben County Lakes Council Land Trust, and  
LaGrange Lake Council.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
7:30 - 12:00  
LUNCH 12:00 - 4:00  
\$5.00 Donation per person.

**TOURS OF HISTORICAL GREENFIELD MILLS EVERY 30 MIN. 8:00 - 3:00**  
\$5.00 Donation per person.

**FESTIVAL 8:00 - 4:00**

**FESTIVAL INCLUDING:**

<b>FARMERS MARKET</b>	<b>HISTORICAL DISPLAYS</b>
<b>FACE PAINTING</b>	<b>LOCAL WARES</b>
<b>FIRE STARTING</b>	<b>AND MUCH MORE</b>

**Directions to Greenfield Mills:**  
From I-69 take 120 west to 327. Turn right (north) on 327 to 700 N. Turn left (west) on 700 N. After a slight bend in the road 700 N. becomes 750 N. Continue about a mile to arrive at Mill.  
From Toll-Road (90-90) or Howe. Turn right (South) on SR 9. Turn left (east) onto 120, Turn left (north) onto 900E across from big rock, turn right (east) onto 750N. Continue about a mile to arrive at Mill.

Find us online at: [www.newrinkelflour.com](http://www.newrinkelflour.com) or call: 260-367-2394

# ***LaGrange County Lakes Council***

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LaGrange, IN 46761

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*Announcing the LaGrange County Lakes Council 2008 Spring Seminar*

**May 3 – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**AINE KNOX COUNTY PARK**

*Featuring:*

***Brad Baldwin,***

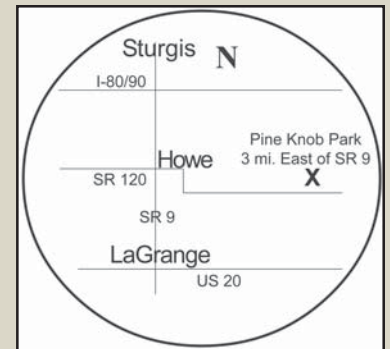
Indiana Department of environmental Management

***Jeremy Price, Lakes Compliance Biologist***

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

***Ryan Cassidy,***

U.S.Army Corps of Engineers



The LaGrange County Lakes Council, in our capacity as educators, has traditionally sponsored a Spring Seminar. This year is no different. We have invited representatives from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and the Army Corps of Engineers to give presentations. All have accepted our invitation to come and provide us with background information on their founding, responsibilities, jurisdiction, and enforcement related to the

lakes, streams and watersheds of Lagrange County. Our hope is that this seminar will provide insight and clarification of the roles these organizations play in both the protection and utilization of our valuable natural resources.

The seminar will be held on May the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 from 9:00a.m. to 11: 00am. We are changing the location this year. We have booked this meeting at the latest addition to the Lagrange County Parks Department, Pine Knob Park. This park is located three miles east of Howe Indiana,

on State Road 120. It is a beautiful park and facility and well worth the drive and visit by itself. With the addition of the speakers and topics it is a must-see event. Presenting for IDNR will be Jeremy Price. The Army Corps of Engineers presenter is Ryan Cassidy. Brad Baldwin will be providing information from IDEM. Please mark your calendars for this educational opportunity—and bring the family.

Lynn R. Bowen D.D.S.,  
program coordinator

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