
LAKE LORRAINE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2005

Letter from the Editor

I owe an apology to all Lake Lorraine area residents, so here it is – *I am very sorry that we (I) did not live up to our promise to publish this newsletter on a quarterly basis, please forgive me, and we (I) will make every effort to do a better job of getting this newsletter out on schedule in 2005.*

A lot has happened since the last newsletter was published, so this edition is dedicated to bringing everyone up to date as to where we are and where we are headed in our efforts to restore and protect Lake Lorraine.

As always, I welcome all input from area residents and our readership in the form of Letters to the Editor, Fish Stories, Fisherman Jokes, Lake Photos, Recipes and articles that are relevant to our efforts to restore and protect our lake.

It is essential that we remember at all times that we are stewards of this great earth and its resources. It is our solemn duty to, where possible, restore and protect our habitat and shield it from further harm, as this is the only planet that we can call home.

The First Annual LLR&PA Fishing Derby



Dateline January 22, 2005 – The Lake Lorraine Restoration and Protection Association held its first annual fishing derby. After months of planning and worrying, the fishing derby, despite the 10” to 12” inches of snow

provided by Mother Nature, was a fantastic success. Many a stout hearted ice-fisherman attended the event.

Our thanks go out to all of the area residents who donated their time and effort in the planning, setup, food preparation, running of the event, etc. Without their efforts the first annual fishing derby would not have been the success that it was. As there are too many to mention here (and I am afraid that I would forget someone) I am passing along a giant

We also wish to pass along our thanks to a number of local area businesses for showing their support in a number of ways. With out their support, we would not have had the fantastic tent, prizes, raffle items, etc. Once again as we have limited space, so once again we pass along another giant

Thanks for your support!

Lake Lorraine Restoration and Protection Association Annual Meeting Scheduled for Saturday April 2, 2005 -- Plan on Attending

The first annual Lake Lorraine Restoration and Protection Association Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held at the Richmond Town Hall on Saturday, April 2, 2005 at 11:00AM. Proposed agenda items are; 1) Update on fund raising activities, 2) update on the Limnological Institute study and recommendation, 3) Treasurers report, 4) Secretaries report, 5) Membership drive, 6) Next Steps, 7) New Business. So bring your check book so that you can become a member of this very worthwhile organization.

Whats all this about a Lake Association?

As a result of the July 3, 2004 Lake Lorraine town hall meeting (see 7/3/2004 - Town hall Meeting Held) the meeting attendees authorized the interim board to form a lake association for the purpose *of bringing all Lake Lorraine area residents, who care about the lake, together under one organization* as opposed to several organizations that have limited membership and no formal goals or objectives for the restoration and protection of the lake.

The overall purpose of the newly formed Lake association is to be the first line of defense for protecting the water quality and ecological integrity of Lake Lorraine. The major goals of this association are to include, but not limited to, maintaining, protecting and improving the quality of Lake Lorraine, its fisheries and its watershed.

Thanks to all!!!!

Why do we need a Lake Assoc.?

As a formal organized group we can work together to determine and carry out the best actions to restore and protect Lake Lorraine.

As a formal Lake Association we can influence state and local government, apply for and receive state grants and effect lake management practices, ordinances, and/or special lake projects, serve as an organized voice for our membership and as the watchdog for enforcement for all local ordinances.

In addition, we will be able:

- To develop a partnership with all of our lake neighbors
- To gain awareness of our neighbor's lake interests and concerns
- To develop a communications network for sharing lake news
- To raise awareness of lake issues in the community
- To launch fund raising events and apply for grants
- To develop a long-range lake management plan
- To act as a support group for members
- To focus the wide range of skills and know-how a lake group possesses
- To gain strength in numbers. The group's opinions and needs can be constructively represented to local government officials or agencies
- To gather information and present educational programs for our membership and those living near the lake
- To conduct data collection on a broad range of lake concerns (water quality, development, lake use conflicts)
- To network with other lake organizations

How will a Lake Assoc. Affect Me?

That's the beauty of it – it will only affect you in very positive ways. It will start out slowly, but over the next several years you will start to notice small improvements in the quality of Lake Lorraine. It may start with a noticeable reduction in nuisance weeds and the gradual disappearance of algae. You will also begin to notice that the fish population and the size of your catch are increasing.

As an active member of the lake association (dues paying member) you will become more involved in the overall management of the lake, your opinions will be valued and your voice will be heard. You will receive the quarterly news letter, be kept informed of special events, educational programs and get together.

Another long term benefit that will be realized by all area residents is that area property values will hold solid, if not increase (see "Did you Know")

Fund Raising Activities Planned

In an effort to raise additional funds for the Lake Lorraine restoration efforts, a Lake area rummage sale is in the works. So while performing your Spring Cleaning, set aside those unwanted treasures for the first annual LLR&PA lake wide

rummage sale. The tentative date for the rummage sale is **Saturday May 21 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. If you would like more information about the rummage sale, **please contact Carol Golbuff at 920-203-2202**.

Lake Lorraine Restoration and Protection Association Web Site to Debut

Get your web browsers ready, the LLR&PA website will debut on June 1, 2005. The website will contain information about our organization, its goals and objectives. In addition, board and annual meeting minutes will be available, along with current and back issues of the news letter. In addition there will be a number of links to other websites that contain valuable information with regard to lake management and issues facing Wisconsin area lakes. The URL for the site is <http://llrpa.cjscgs.net>.

Lake Lorraine Photo Op



Photo taken by Chris Chmielewski at this year's Fishing Derby

We would love to publish photos taken on or around the lake by area residents. To submit a photo, email it to cchmiele2000-llrp@yahoo.com.

LLR&PA Calendar

- Saturday, April 2 11:00 AM –Lake Lorraine Restoration and Protection Association Annual Meeting – Open to all Lake Lorraine area residents – Meeting to be held at the Richmond Town Hall.
- Saturday, May 21 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM – First Annual LLR&PA Rummage Sale

On the Water's Edge

Following is a reprint of a chapter titled *Shoreline Habitat* from "*The Waters*"



Edge, Helping Fish and Wildlife on your Lakeshore Property published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In each of our upcoming issues, we will reprint a chapter from this publication. If you would like to obtain the complete publication, you can visit the DNR's website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/pubs/thewateredge.pdf#search='The%20Water's%20Edge%20Helping%20fish%20and%20wildlife'>.

Chapter 1 – Shoreline Habitat

The water's edge is a busy place. Northern pike, bluegills, bass, and other fish spawn in the shallow water along the shore. Loons, ducks, geese, and other water birds nest along the banks. Wildlife such as frogs, otters, and mink live there, too. Shoreline areas—on land and into the shallow water—provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife that live in or near Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, and streams. Overdeveloped shorelands can't support the fish, wildlife, and clean water that are so appealing to the people attracted to the water's edge. Unfortunately, that's exactly what's happening to many Wisconsin waterways. The problem is poorly planned shoreland development. Bit by bit, the cumulative effects of tens of thousands of waterfront homeowners "fixing up" their property are destroying one of our state's most valuable resources – its fragile lake and stream habitats. Some examples:

Sand trucked in for swimming beaches covers underwater gravel or silt used by:

- fish for spawning
- mayflies for burrows
- frogs for laying eggs.

Aquatic vegetation removed to create swimming and boating areas eliminates shoreline stabilizing plants that are also habitat for:

- bass and other fish that hide among the plants and spawn in areas protected from waves
- loons that nest on floating vegetation
- waterfowl that feed on underwater plants
- insects that live among underwater vegetation.

Shoreline shrubs and "unsightly" fallen trees are removed to create golf course-type lawns, thus eliminating habitat for wildlife such as:

- songbirds that use these shrubs for nesting
- ducks that lay eggs in native shoreline grasses
- turtles that sun on fallen logs
- bass and panfish that hide in the shade under toppled trees.

*"If you destroy the natural shoreline habitat then fishing will get worse — and we cannot fix that situation simply by stocking or changing the fishing regulations. If you want great fishing — then you have to protect the fish habitat." Mike Staggs
DNR Fisheries Director*

Look for our next installment "Clean lawns make Dirty Lakes"

LL Fish Stories

A Fishing Lure

A couple of young boys were fishing at their special pond off the beaten track. All of a sudden, the Game Warden jumped out of the bushes.



Immediately, one of the boys threw his rod down and started running through the woods like a bat out of hell. The Game Warden was hot on his heels.

After about a half mile, the young man stopped and stooped over with his hands on his thighs to catch his breath, so the Game Warden finally caught up to him.

"Let's see yer fishin' license, Boy!" the Warden gasped.

With that, the boy pulled out his wallet and gave the Game Warden a valid fishing license.

"Well, son," said the Game Warden. "You must be about as dumb as a box of rocks! You don't have to run from me if you have a valid license!"

"Yes, sir," replied the young guy. "But my friend back there, well, he don't have one."

Take The Bait

It was a cold winter day, when an old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line and began waiting for a fish to bite.

He was there for almost an hour without even a nibble when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice not too far from the old man and dropped in his fishing line. It only took about a minute and WHAM! a Largemouth Bass hit his hook and the boy pulled in the fish.

The old man couldn't believe it but figured it was just luck. But, the boy dropped in his line and again within just a few minutes pulled in another one.

This went on and on until finally the old man couldn't take it any more since he hadn't caught a thing all this time.

He went to the boy and said, "Son, I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You have been here only a few minutes and have caught about half a dozen fish! How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrrarm."

"What was that?" the old man asked.

Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrrarm."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you are saying."

So, the boy spit into his hand and said, "You have to keep the worms warm!"

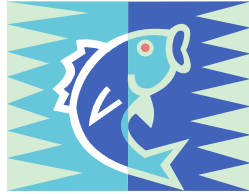
For more fishing humor, visit <http://www.fishingjokes.net/>

LL Eats and Treats

BEER BATTER PANFISH

2 cups oil
1 1/2 cups buttermilk pancake mix
1 egg
1 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. white pepper
1/2 tsp. thyme
1 1/2 cups beer
2 lbs. Panfish fillets

Pour oil into skillet; heat to 375 degrees. Mix remaining ingredients, except fillets; set aside. Season fillets with salt and pepper. Slice fillets into finger - size pieces. Dip fillets into batter; allow excess to drip off. Place pieces in skillet one at a time; fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve with lemon wedge.



Letters to the Editor

I would love to hear from you. Please email your letters to cchmiele2000-llpa@yahoo.com or mail them to LLR&PA c/o C. Chmielewski, N6753 Lake Dr., Whitewater, WI 53190

Town hall Meeting Held

Dateline 07/03/2004 - A number of Lake Lorraine area residents made an effort to attend a town hall meeting sponsored by the Lake Lorraine Restoration and Protection Association interim board. Once again, Josh Britton of the Limnological Institute joined us to give an update on their activities and addressed a number of issues and concerns raised by local area residents.

Mr. Britton informed the meeting attendees that as of May 2004, 2 of 5 water samplings had been completed, and June 2004 the first phase of the Aquatic Plant studies had been completed. Mr. Britton also confirmed that Lake Lorraine was formally awarded two grants by the State of Wisconsin in order to perform the water quality and aquatic plant studies, and to develop a comprehensive lake management plan.

The attendees raised a number of questions with regard to the amount of weeds in the lake and what could be done. Mr. Britton responded that we have been infected by 2 different invasive non-native species – Curley Leaf Pond Weed and Eurasian Milfoil. The Curley Leaf Pond Weed blooms in May and June and is the cause of the blue-green algae that we have floating on the surface of the water. The Eurasian Milfoil chokes out native plants and destroys the stability of the lake and adversely affects the diversity of the fish population and the health of that population. The attendees inquired as to what we could do to deal with the weed problem. Mr. Britton indicated that we can not solve the problem overnight. He indicated that it will require a conscientious effort over a period of time, by an organized lake association to address the problem and to bring it to a point where it can be managed. In

the long run, we may be able to eliminate 90% of the invasive non-native plant species, but this will depend on the efforts made over the next 3 to 5 years. A question was raised with regard to using herbicides to treat the weed problem, would they harm the fish or wildlife? Mr. Britton stated that the herbicides that would be used work on the natural plant photosynthesis process and will have no effect on the fish population or other wildlife. Mr. Britton was asked as to what type of recommendation we would get from the Limnological Institute as a result of this study, he informed the attendees that we would get a good, better and best recommendation along with the associated costs so that the Lake Association could make an informed decision as to what should be done to help restore and protect Lake Lorraine from further damage.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a vote was taken as to whether or not the efforts to form a formal lake association should be continued. All of the attendees voted that the efforts should be continued. It was also decided by the attendees that there should be no less than 1 and no more than 4 meetings per year. In addition, each member household would have 2 votes. It was also agreed that the Annual meeting would be held the first Saturday in April of each year.

Why restoring shoreland vegetation is important

The vegetated area of land adjacent to lakes and rivers is often referred to as a shoreland or riparian buffer zone. This land serves as a bridge between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and performs many important functions. Studies performed by scientists and conservation groups across the country have shown that these vegetated areas protect water quality, serve as wildlife habitat and corridors and provide valuable social functions. These attributes take on greater importance as lakeshore and riverfront development increases. Increasingly, State and local ordinances are requiring that these vegetated tracts of land be preserved or restored with appropriate native vegetation.

As these governmental units design ordinances, the question of how wide riparian buffer zones should be often arises. There is no one answer to this question though. The Wisconsin Shoreland Management Program (WDNR Chapter NR 115), defines what they call a 'vegetative protection area' from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) extending inland 35 feet. Some counties, however, have passed shoreland zoning ordinances that require shoreland buffer zones wider than this. Examining the question from a different perspective, the effective width of a buffer zone is dependent upon the functions one is trying to achieve. For example, to optimize wildlife habitat, studies have found that at least 300 foot wide vegetated areas are needed. In contrast, much smaller vegetated strips can be used to significantly reduce sedimentation into lakes and streams, protecting water quality.

How to restore your shoreline

It is important to recognize that re-planting of a shoreland area is only necessary if native plants have been depleted or bare soils are exposed. If you are developing or building on a lot that has not yet been cleared, consider making the smallest possible 'footprint' on the landscape. This can be done by minimizing the size of the area to be cleared, using 'green building techniques', and by removing only single trees or branches to allow views of the lake. If native plants are missing from your shoreland you can begin to restore your shoreland, or portions of it, by planting appropriate native species for your particular site.

Strategies for Restoration

Passive Restoration

The easiest approach to restoring your shoreland is the "no-mow" approach. Simply allow the existing plants to grow in a strip along the shore. Seeds of native plants often lie dormant in the soil for years. By not mowing, you allow these seeds to germinate and grow. Removal of undesirable, aggressive plants in this zone will speed the process. A list of [non-native invasive species](#) is available at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/shoreland/zone2.htm>. Plants growing in this undisturbed buffer area will trap nutrients and other run-off from the upland and provide wildlife habitat.

Active Restoration

The second strategy for promoting a native shoreland buffer strip is to actively plant species that are appropriate to one's particular shoreland site. In future issues, we will present the steps necessary to affect a native shoreland buffer.

Did you Know?

The Economics of Wisconsin's Lakes (reprinted from Wisconsin Year of Water web site)

Did you know that Scenic beauty and relaxation were the top reasons tourists gave for visiting Wisconsin and spending \$11.4 billion in the state in 2001. Tourism supported 380,000 full-time jobs and generated nearly \$1.8 billion in revenues for state and local governments. Without state and local revenues yielded from travel expenditures, each household would have to pay an additional \$932 in taxes to maintain existing services.

Sport fishing alone in Wisconsin generates a \$2.3 billion economic impact in Wisconsin, supports more than 26,000 jobs, and generates \$90 million in state sales, income and fuel taxes to help pay for important state services such as health care and education.

Wisconsin farmers now irrigate more than 340,000 acres, three times the number of acres they irrigated in 1969.

400 Wisconsin business executives surveyed in 2000 on Wisconsin's business climate gave Wisconsin its highest

rankings relative to other states for its quality of life, government services, and loyalty to area. "Availability" and "quality of water" were the highest ranked quality of life topics.

Assessed property values increased the most in northern Wisconsin in 2001, fueled by vacation, retirement and resort property growth. Fifteen counties recording double-digit percentage increases were led by water-rich counties: Menominee (16.9 %), Bayfield (15.8 %), Sawyer (15.3 %), St. Croix (15 %), and Burnett (14.1 %). Surveys consistently document that water-based recreation is an important factor in attracting recreational and retiring homeowners.

The assessed value of Lake Michigan Lake shore property in just one Wisconsin county—Door County—is almost \$2 billion.

Each year, Wisconsin's 12 active harbors on Lakes Michigan and Superior handle a total of more than 40 million tons (40 billion kilograms) of commodities valued at more than \$7 billion.

Find more Wisconsin water facts on the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters and the Wisconsin Environmental Decade's Wisconsin Year of Water web site: <http://www.wisconsinyearofwater.org/tool/facts.html> ([Exit DNR](#))