
LAKE LORRAINE RESTORATION ASSOCIATION

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 2004

Lake Lorraine Awarded Class Grants

Lake Studies to Begin

C. Chmielewski

In May and September 2003, interested Lake Lorraine property owners, tired of fighting a losing battle to eliminate the Eurasian milfoil nuisance from the lake, met with Joshua Britton, project manager for The Limnological Institute. The purpose of the meetings were to discuss the current condition of the lake and what options, short and long term, were available to rectify the situation. Mr. Britton confirmed what many of the meeting attendees already knew, there are no short term solutions available, as these have all been tried and failed. It was stated that at this point in time, it was essential that we treat the lake as a whole and work together in order to be effective in our efforts to restore the lake to a useable recreational asset.

Mr. Britton discussed with the residents the possibility of working closely with the Limnological Institute in an effort to apply for and obtain Class Grants from the state of Wisconsin (see inset for information on class grants) and to work together

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Lake Monitoring Program Instituted

Comprehensive study begins

C. Chmielewski

Lake Lorraine water level and water quality monitoring began in earnest May 28, 2004. The Limnological Institute will be taking water samples during the course of the year from various areas around the lake in an effort to monitor oxygen and other essential nutrients/gas levels that are essential to a healthy ecosystem. In addition, Jim McGowan, a full-time Lake Lorraine resident, will monitor level of the lake and the amount of rain fall on a daily basis, in order to provide the Limnological Institute with this data. This data will provide the Limnological Institute with a comprehensive picture of what state the lake is in, and what options are available to improve the condition of the lake over time.

Lake Lorraine Restoration Association Interim Board Appointed

In order to ensure that we continue to be eligible for Class Grants, it is essential that a formal lake association be put in place. With the assistance of the Limnological Institute, a lake association is being formed. The Institute is assisting in the development of the association's by-laws and the seeking of qualification by the state of Wisconsin. In order to proceed with this effort, a interim board of directors has been put in place. The interim board consists of:

- Dorothy Camodeca - Director
- Richard Mikulecky - Director
- Bill Yoss – Director

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toward forming a lake protection association for Lake Lorraine. As a result of these meetings, the attendees authorized the Limnological Institute to work on the resident's behalf to submit the necessary applications to try and obtain a class grant.

Class Grants Awarded

On May 29, 2004, Lake Lorraine property owners met again with Mr. Britton to receive an update on the activities of the Limnological Institute. Mr. Britton informed the attendees that Lake Lorraine had been awarded 2 (two) grants, one in the amount of \$10,776.56 to study the water quality and the other in the amount of \$12,100 for the study and management of aquatic plants. The grants total \$22,876.56, with a total of \$17,157.30 to be funded by the state and \$5,719.26 to be funded by the Lake Lorraine property owners. As a result of the two studies, which will take approximately 1 (one) year to complete, a five (5) year lake management plan will be completed and published, at which point it is hoped that additional grants can be obtained to implement the plan.

Future News Letters

As we move forward with the Lake Lorraine restoration project, the function of this news letter will be to communicate upcoming meetings and events, issues and concerns, progress and all other important matters to Lake Lorraine residents and property owners.

The Lake Lorraine Restoration Association news letter will be published on a quarterly basis, or more frequently if need be. The current publication schedule is June 2004, September 2004 and December 2004. This news letter will be distributed via U.S. Mail, Email, and will soon be available on-line. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please send me an email at cchmiele2000-llrp@yahoo.com.

In addition, we would also like to hear from you. Please feel free to voice your opinion, keep us informed of important happenings, share your favorite lake story, fish story, anecdote, picture or recipe by sending them to me at cchmiele2000-llrp@yahoo.com. The cutoff dates are August 1 and December 1 2004.

Important Dates to Remember

An informal meeting will be held **Saturday, June 12 at 11:00 AM** in the Richmond Community Park Picnic Pavilion located on West Lake Lorraine Rd. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss next steps and fund raising. This meeting is open to all who care to contribute ideas, time and/or effort. Please mark your calendars.

The next full meeting will be held on **Saturday July 3 at 11:00 AM** in the Richmond Town Hall. Joshua Britton, from the Limnological Institute will be present to provide an update and answer any questions. Additional agenda items will include the status of; the association's by-laws, fund raising and lake monitoring activities. More information will be made available as the meeting date approaches.

To Do's and Not To Do's

There are things that can be done now that will help the lake as we plow ahead with the restoration efforts. One thing that can make a big difference is to use phosphorous ***free*** lawn and garden fertilizers only. Phosphorus promotes the growth of weeds in the lake, so if we eliminate the use of phosphorus, we should help slow the spread of weeds.

In addition, it is important to develop the habit of thoroughly cleaning the hull and motor of your boat before putting it in the lake and when taking it out. This helps minimize the spread of weeds from one lake to another. The spread of non-native and invasive weed species is most often caused by weed pods/seeds/pieces that cling to the hulls/motors of boats. So let's do all that we can to stop the spread of nuisance weeds to our lakes.

Many people have been inquiring about using chemicals to help reduce the weed density. This is an option, but it must be done to the entire lake. Individual treatments are ineffective and expensive. If at all possible, we ask that while the lake studies are being performed that you refrain from treating your lake frontage.

During the summer months, it is a good thing to clean your shore line by raking the weeds that have floated in. Try to avoid harvesting the weeds, as pieces of weed that break loose can take root elsewhere in the lake. But come October, let nature take care of the weeds.

LAKE PROTECTION & CLASSIFICATION GRANTS

Wisconsin is poised at a turning point in the history of the management of our lakes and waterways. The past decade has seen an unprecedented increase in the demand for ownership of shore lands and use of our waters. What will life around our lakes look like in the future?

The ecological health of our lakes and our lake communities will be determined by our degree of environmental responsibility and how well we manage the demand for waterfront property. The sheer number of lakes dictates that much of the management of lakes in Wisconsin must rely on citizen and local government action and cooperation.

Lake Protection & Classification Grants were designed to assist lake users, lake communities and local governments as they undertake projects to protect and restore lakes and their ecosystems.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE?

This is a reimbursement grant program that provides up to 75% state cost sharing assistance up to \$200,000 to carry out lake protection, restoration, and improvement projects. A 25% local share is required. *This program is authorized by ch. 281.69, Wis. Stats., and administered under NR 191 of the*

Wisconsin Administrative Code.

WHERE DO THE FUNDS COME FROM?

The source of funds for these grants is a portion of the state excise tax on gasoline consumed by motor boats.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

- The purchase of property or a conservation easement that will significantly contribute to the protection or improvement of the natural ecosystem and water quality of a lake.
- The restoration of wetlands or lands draining to wetlands that will prevent degradation of a lake's water quality or its natural ecosystem.
- The development of local regulations or ordinances to protect lakes and the education activities necessary for them to be implemented (these grants are limited to \$50,000).
- **Lake classification projects** that allow counties to design and implement local land and water management programs that are tailored to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures (these grants are limited to \$50,000).
- **Lake improvement projects** recommended in a DNR-approved plan including watershed management, lake restoration, diagnostic feasibility studies, and pollution prevention and control projects.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Dam Repair, operation or removal, Purchase of property on which a dam is located,
- Water safety patrols, as defined in s. 30.79(1)(b), Wis. Stats.,
- Dredging,
- Design, installation, operation or maintenance of sanitary sewers,
- Most chemical treatments or mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants.

- Tony Novack – Treasurer
- Christy Chmielewski - Secretary

Did you Know

The town of Richmond was a part of Whitewater Township until 1841, when by an act of Legislature it became a separate township. Early settlers named it Richmond for a town of the same name in Rhode Island.

We Need Your Help!!!

Last year when we began trying to raise funds to cover the Lake Lorraine property owner's portion of the Class Grants, a number of full- and part-time residents donated very generously. We are still in need of funds to cover our portion of the Class Grants. If you would like to contribute to this worth while effort, you can send your tax deductible donation to: "The Lake Lorraine Restoration Project, c/o The Limnological Institute, P.O. Box 304, LaCrosse, WI 54602-0304. Please make your checks payable to the Lake Lorraine Restoration Project. All donations, regardless of size, will help considerably.

**The Lake Lorraine Restoration Association
Quarterly News Letter
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Help Save Lake Lorraine!!!

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