

# LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT SAINT GERMAIN, WI

## Elected Commissioners

Steve Sward, President  
Erv Stiemke, Treasurer  
Carole Kaldoff, Secretary  
5844 Prince Court  
Lisle, IL 60532

## Appointed Commissioners

Ted Ritter, Town of Saint Germain  
Jay Verhulst, County of Vilas

## MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 31, 2003

The 2003 annual meeting was called to order by Steve Sward at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Germain Community Center with approximately 60 people in attendance. All five commissioners were present.

### AGENDA

**Motion:** Jane Powell, second Doris Acker to approve agenda.  
**Discussion:** None  
**Action:** Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

**Motion:** Hank Kosanda, second Dick Engstrom to approve 2002 annual meeting minutes.  
**Discussion:** None  
**Action:** Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### FINANCIAL REPORT presented by Erv Stiemke (as mailed in advance with meeting notice).

Erv also explained that an independent audit of the financial records was recently completed by Marion Janssen at no cost to the District and that all records were found to be in order.

**Motion:** Greg Lesch, second Larry Acker to approve financial report  
**Discussion:** None  
**Action:** Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### EXOTIC SPECIES UPDATE presented by John Manki

Steve Sward introduced John as our new volunteer coordinator of exotic species management for our lake. John emphasized the importance of managing these invasives as they have the ability to take over a lake with serious detrimental affects if allowed to grow unchecked.

**Curly-leaf pondweed report:** John explained that the first exotic recognized in our lake was curly-leaf pondweed early in the summer of 2002. It had been in the lake for an unknown number of years and had become the dominant aquatic plant with heavy surface matting in much of East Bay by the time it was identified. A management plan was developed and scheduled for implementation in May of 2003. Aquathol was applied to the high density curly-leaf beds on May 14 with very impressive results. The management plan had included mechanical harvesting in June of any curly-leaf plants that had survived the herbicide treatment. However, post treatment monitoring indicated that no curly-leaf plants had survived and that there was no need for mechanical harvesting. The success of the 2003 management efforts should not be interpreted as having eradicated curly-leaf. The roots are still viable and will generate new growth, perhaps as early as this fall or next spring. It is important that monitoring for new growth continue and that we be prepared to repeat the herbicide application next spring to whatever extent growth dictates.

**Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) report:** Fragments of EWM were detected floating in West Bay by

WDNR personnel in early May of 2003. SCUBA diving expeditions donated and conducted by Mark Hiller confirmed substantial infestation in a total area of approximately three acres in the immediate vicinity of the public boat landing. Within three weeks of the plants being detectable only by diving, they had grown to the surface in water depths up to 12 feet. A permit was granted by the WDNR to treat the three acres with 2-4,D in an effort to slow the spread of EWM caused by heavy boat traffic in the infestation area. Treatment was done in early July with positive results. In the meantime, subsequent diving had confirmed that EWM had spread throughout much of West Bay in the relatively shallow water depths along the shoreline. A second permit was granted to treat a 30 foot strip of water around all of West Bay. Funding for this was provided from the unused portion of the curly-leaf pondweed management plan. Treatment was applied in early August, again with positive results. The two treatments done this summer have resulted in control but not eradication of EWM. It is unknown whether this extremely opportunistic invader has spread into other bays of the lake. Water clarity in all but West Bay makes it impossible to effectively monitor the lake until the water clears later in the summer. Monitoring this fall and next spring will be critical to early detection. The extent of future management of EWM in our lake is unpredictable at this time but it is advisable that we be prepared to apply control methods wherever and whenever EWM is found growing.



Anyone wishing to contact John Manki for more information about our exotic species management efforts or to volunteer to assist with periodic weed sampling or any other aspect of the management program can reach him by e-mail at: [jemanki@kcc.com](mailto:jemanki@kcc.com) or by telephone at his Appleton home at 920-749-1993

**EXOTIC SPECIES FUNDING UPDATE** presented by Jay Verhulst

The Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department (LCC) passed a resolution in 2002 intended to initiate a state wide recognition of the need for development of programs to help fund management of invasive aquatic species. Sixty-nine other counties followed suit at the state gathering of county LCC departments later that same year. Efforts then began to bring this issue to the attention of state legislative representatives throughout the state. 34<sup>th</sup> District Dan Meyer responded by finding two million dollars in the WDNR coffers that he attempted to divert to invasive aquatic species programs in the pending state budget. However, between defensive actions by the WDNR and the veto pen of Governor Doyle, nearly all of the two million dollars disappeared from the budget. Only a small portion survived and its use is limited to education and training purposes. Consequently there is little likelihood of financial assistance from the state during 2003 and 2004 for management of exotic species in our lake.

Current funding in the Vilas County Shoreland Restoration grant program will be considered for application to aquatic exotic species management efforts in the upcoming September meeting of the LCC. Jay will keep the District informed of the outcome of this consideration.

The Vilas County LCC will also continue efforts through Representative Dan Meyer to find state funding from within the current budget. Dan is a critical player in this endeavor and needs to hear from his constituents to aid his efforts. District property owners are encouraged to call Dan on his direct Madison phone line at 888-534-0034 as well as other state representatives. Calls to Fred Radtke and Charles Marquardt (Saint Germain Representatives on the Vilas County Board of Supervisors) should also be made with encouragement to support efforts to find funding to help area lakes manage invasive aquatic life forms.

**NATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT UPDATE** Presented by Erv Stiemke

There is some uncertainty regarding what happened to the weeds in No-Fish, East and Upper East Bays this year. For whatever reason(s), weeds are all but non-existent in those areas. The weeds in South Bay were to have been harvested this year and money had been budgeted for that harvesting. However, plant growth throughout the summer was slower than expected and the weeds did not grow near enough to the surface to justify harvesting. The \$15,000 that had been budgeted for harvesting will be carried over into next year's budget and plans will once again include harvesting in South Bay. In the meantime, property owners are encourage to pick up washed up weeds from shorelines and dispose of them away from the lake in an effort to help reduce the release of algae producing nutrients from decaying plants.

**AERATION SYSTEMS UPDATE** Presented by Erv Stiemke

The Upper East Bay system has been operational for two winters. The system in the northern portion of South Bay became operational this past winter. Both systems are producing excellent results. Late winter USGS monitoring for dissolved oxygen has confirmed that Upper East Bay and the northern half of South Bay have very high levels of dissolved oxygen which will significantly benefit the health of the lake. The South Bay system is producing limited benefit to the southern half of that bay due to the shallow water over the sand bar that divides the bay. The oxygenated water passing over the sand bar remains near the lake surface as it spreads into the south half of the bay. It is impossible to force the dissolved oxygen back down to deeper water after it passes over the sand bar. Consideration should be given to cutting a trench through the sand bar which would allow oxygenated water at lower depths to spread into the deeper water on the south side of the sand bar. The small aeration system near the Muskellunge Creek inlet is also producing limited results due to the shallow depth of the water at the system site. Consideration should be given to extending the aeration pipe and relocating the aeration field in deeper water to improve the effectiveness of that system. No plans have been developed for either of these suggested enhancements.

More help is needed in managing the aeration systems. The 2004 budget will include compensation for someone to manage all aspects of the aeration systems.

**LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN** Presented by Ron Mackowski

Ron volunteered this summer to perform supplemental water samplings for the final phase of the USGS water quality study. Results from his samplings will be included in the USGS report due to be completed in 2004.

Ron also volunteered to implement a WNDR self help monitoring program for our lake this summer. He has been conducting basic water quality evaluations in accordance with year one program objectives. Year two evaluations, which will begin next summer, will include water chemistry analysis. The purpose of this program is to build a long term base of lake data from which trends can be established and changes can be detected. Lakes with self help monitoring programs are more likely to receive help from the WDNR for future projects than lakes who have not participated in the self help program. More volunteer help is needed to keep this program on track. Anyone willing to assist with the necessary procedures is encourage to contact Ron at 479-4164 or by e-mail at [havefun@estroldresort.com](mailto:havefun@estroldresort.com).

Ron has also initiated a project to develop a comprehensive lake management plan. The purpose of this effort is to document and record all lake management activities in support of a long range management plan that will assure continuance of all aspects of managing our lake in the future. This project is substantial in magnitude and will require the assistance of numerous people. Anyone wishing to learn more about this project should contact Ron.

**PROPOSED BUDGET** presented by Erv Stiemke

The proposed tax levy of \$82,000 was reduced by \$15,000 to \$67,000 to reflect the carry over of unspent money allocated for 2003 weed harvesting.

**Motion:** Dick Engstrom, second Bill Radostits to approve the 2004 budget of \$82,000 and supporting tax levy of \$67,000.

**Discussion:** Ted Ritter reported that the newly created Saint Germain Lakes Committee of the Saint Germain Town Board has submitted a resolution to the town board that address the role of the community at large in helping fund efforts to manage invasive exotic aquatic life forms. If adopted by the town, our district could receive up to \$25,000 from to help manage Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian water-milfoil during the summer of 2004. The results of the resolution will be known in time to reduce the lake district levy by whatever amount the town commits to during its annual budget development this fall.

**Action:** Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**ELECTION OF COMMISSIONER TO REPLACE TED RITTER AS OUTGOING SECRETARY**

Ted Ritter explained that the duties of Secretary do not include all of the activities he has been involved with over the years. Secretary duties are primarily to record the activities of the district and to see that compliance with various state statutory requirements is maintained. While it may be preferable for the secretary to be a full time district resident, it is not absolutely necessary as the job could be performed from an out of town location with the exception of attendance at meetings held in Saint Germain.

After a considerable period of silence from the audience, Carole Koldoff offered to serve as secretary. She was promptly elected by unanimous voice vote following her official nomination and a swift motion and second to close nominations. Transfer of duties from Ted to Carole will occur in an orderly fashion during the next several weeks.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS**

Robert Nussbaum requested that a detail of year to date expenses compared to the budget be included in the mailed notice of the annual meeting. Steve Sward acknowledged the validity of the request and suggested that the detail be provided in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Robert Nussbaum, second by Ken Kaldoff to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ted Ritter, departing Secretary

**DNR SELF HELP PROGRAM**

Overall Goals:

- Learn more about your lake
- Collect valuable data
- Watch for long-term changes in lake water quality

Year 1:

- Volunteers observe and document lake water quality
- Every week to 10 days
- Measuring water clarity with a Secchi disk
- Track you lake's clarity over time
- If problems are detected action can then be taken

Year 2 and beyond:

- Continue the water clarity monitoring
- Obtain water samples for chemistry analysis
- Four to five times per year
- No charge for the analysis
- Tests for phosphorous, chlorophyll, temperature, dissolved oxygen
- Information helps determine overall health of the lake

Other volunteer opportunities:

- Aquatic plant monitoring
- Lake facilitator
- Lake monitoring opportunities for youth
- Island watch
- Loon watch

More volunteers are needed for lake monitoring activities!!

**COMPREHENSIVE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Goals (Why have a plan?)

- Understand the lake
- Protect the lake
- Manage the lake
- Restore the lake (if necessary)
- Protect/Enhance property values

Components (What's in a plan?)

- Inventory of relevant information
- Analysis of the information and development of management goals
- Recommendations
- Action plans

Topics or areas of interest

Physical characteristics (basic date)

Lake size and Characteristics  
 Shoreline length  
 Lake volume  
 Watershed map  
 Flushing  
 Groundwater flow  
 Water budget  
 Water levels  
 Soils  
 Geology  
 Lake map  
 Lake bottom

Exotic Species

Plant identification  
 Mapping  
 Density  
 Annual treatment plans

Aquatic and shoreline vegetation

Plant identification  
 Mapping  
 Density

Fishery

Fish survey data  
 Creel census data  
 Fish management activities

Wildlife

Populations & habitats  
 Endangered species  
 Birds  
 Mammals  
 Amphibians  
 Reptiles

Management & maintenance projects

Buoys  
 Aerators

Water quality

Historical  
 Current  
 Ongoing projects  
 Self-help monitoring

Please contact Ron Mackowski if you can help in any of these areas  
 479-4164 or [havefun@estoldresort.com](mailto:havefun@estoldresort.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For Further Information, Contact:  
Rep. Dan Meyer (608) 266-7141  
Email: [Rep.Meyer@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Rep.Meyer@legis.state.wi.us)

July 25, 2003

## **Meyer Blasts Doyle**

**Doyle cuts funding for invasive species – Expands power of the DNR**

**(MADISON---) State Representative Dan Meyer today blasted Governor Jim Doyle for his shortsighted veto of funding to fight aquatic invasive species. Meyer had fought hard during the budget process to establish funding for an Aquatic Invasive Species Initiative and to get the Department of Natural Resources to place a higher priority in fighting the exotic species attacking our state's lakes and rivers.**

**“Jim Doyle just doesn't get it when it comes to managing our state's valuable water resources,” said Meyer. “Instead, he continues to place a priority on having the DNR buy more land instead of properly managing what the state already owns.”**

**The Eagle River Republican introduced two motions in the Joint Committee on Finance during executive action on the state's budget bill establishing the funding for the initiative. The first motion increased funding for the invasive species management program by \$500,000 per year above the level of funding provided by Governor Doyle and funded a position to coordinate statewide invasive species prevention and education efforts. Although Governor Doyle left in place this funding he vetoed language from the second motion that Rep. Meyer introduced to provide \$750,000 in funding for projects related to the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species, and for education and inspection programs at boat landings.**

**“It is a shame that Governor Doyle does not realize the negative impact that invasive species can have on our state's tourism industry,” said Meyer. “Instead of using a state plane to fly to Milwaukee all of the time, maybe he should visit Northern Wisconsin and see first hand the problems that can be caused by invasive species.”**

**In an unprecedented move Gov. Doyle also greatly expanded the power of the DNR when it comes to land purchases, by removing oversight of state land purchases by the State Legislature. In the future, land purchases recommended by the DNR's board will be sent directly to Gov. Doyle's desk for his signature. “He can give the DNR a blank check to buy \$60 million worth of new land a year, but slashes the funding to fight exotic species invading our state's waters,” said Meyer. “It is important that we start to manage the resources we already have. The DNR must face reality and begin to tackle the problem of invasive species.”**

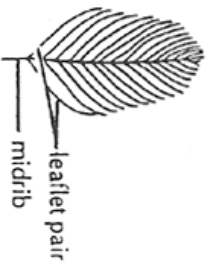
## Recognizing Eurasian Water Milfoil

As Wisconsin waters warm up this spring, one of the first submersed plants to start growing is Eurasian water milfoil. This is a good time to check your lake for this non-native problem plant while water clarity is still good. The best opportunity to control Eurasian water milfoil is when it first appears in a lake and the pioneer colonies can be removed. This illustrated guide should help you distinguish Eurasian water milfoil from native plants that are commonly confused with it.

### Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Eurasian water milfoil is a submersed aquatic plant with feather-like leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on the stem.

There are usually more than 14 pairs of leaflets per leaf.



The leaves have a distinct feather-like appearance, with the lower leaflet pairs about half the length of the midrib. The leaflets are more equal in length than those of northern water milfoil, creating a more uniform leaf margin.

Stem tips are tassell-like. No winter buds are formed.

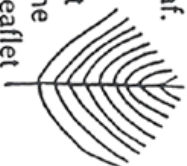
Branching is abundant in water 3-10 ft. deep.

### Northern water milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)

Northern water milfoil is a submersed aquatic plant with feather-like leaves arranged in whorls on the stem.

There are usually less than 14 pairs of leaflets per leaf.

The lower leaflet pairs of each leaf are often almost as long as the midrib of the leaf. Because the lower leaflet pairs are longer than the upper ones, the overall shape of the leaf is "tree-like".



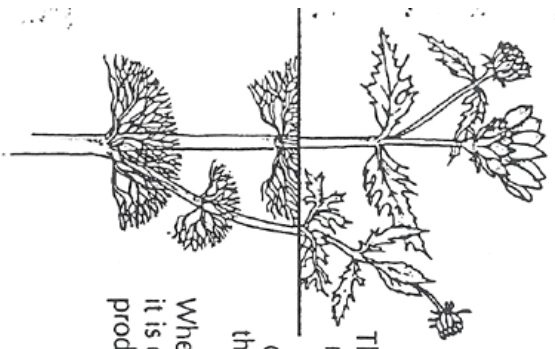
Stem tips may have a knob-like appearance.

Winter buds are formed that taper to a point.

Branching is sparse in water more than 3 ft. deep.

# Native Aquatic Plants Sometimes Confused with Eurasian Water Milfoil

**Water marigold**  
(*Megalodonta beckii*)



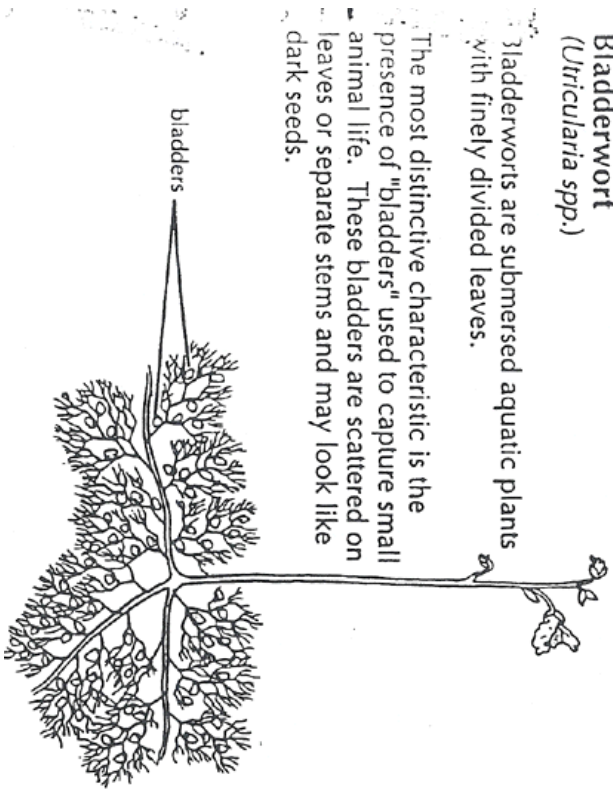
The submerged leaves of water marigold are arranged in whorls and cut into many thread-like divisions. Leaves that grow above the water surface are not divided. When water marigold is in bloom it is easy to recognize because it produces yellow, daisy-like flowers.

**Coontail**  
(*Ceratophyllum demersum*)



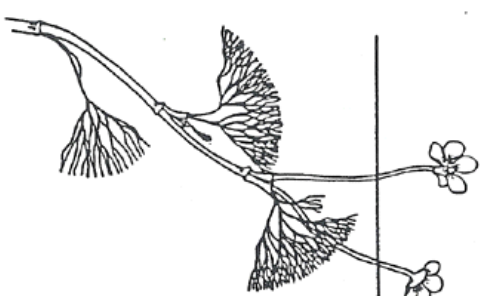
Coontail is a free-floating aquatic plant without roots. It may be completely submerged or partially floating on the surface. The leaves are stiff and arranged in whorls. Each leaf is divided in a repeatedly forked pattern and the leaf divisions have teeth along one margin. Leaves are more crowded toward the tip of the stem creating the "coontail" appearance.

**Bladderwort**  
(*Utricularia* spp.)



Bladderworts are submerged aquatic plants with finely divided leaves. The most distinctive characteristic is the presence of "bladders" used to capture small animal life. These bladders are scattered on leaves or separate stems and may look like dark seeds.

**Water Crowfoot**  
(*Ranunculus* spp.)



Water crowfoots are submerged aquatic plants with finely divided leaves. Leaves occur alternately along the stem, not in whorls. Small buttercup-like flowers are produced that stick up out of the water.