



I am writing this on the day that is my oldest daughter Megan's 23rd birthday. Mary and I just spent the past week on Big Pine Key, Florida where Megan is using her Marine Biology degree to work at Newfoundland Harbor Marine Institute (nhmi.org). One of my observations while visiting was that there was no mandatory recycling program for an area that is under severe duress for all its unique ecological features. Having foresight to protect natural features and habitats is one aspect that sets Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners (LTPO) apart from other organizations.

As reported last month in this space, sediment traps that were established through funding provided by the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program needed to be cleaned out. 15 truck loads of sediment were removed from one trap, while another 7 were removed from the other. Imagine the negative impacts on our lakes had those traps not been established.

Speaking of LARE grants, LTPO will be receiving this year Aquatic Plant Management Awards in the amount of \$5,400 for planning and another \$20,000 for treatment. While those are significant amounts, additional dollars for treatment are still needed. The financial response from our lake residents for funding the LTPO aquatic plant management plan has been very strong, but can still use your assistance. See the LTPO website at ltpo.org for more information. Finally, Tippecanoe Lake and Watershed Foundation (TELWF) also received LARE grants totaling \$10,800. The money will be used specifically at Ridinger Lake, which will ultimately benefit our lakes as that water comes into the Tippy basin.

Please mark your calendars for May 19th. The LTPO board meeting will be held at Patona Bay at 8:00 AM and then our annual lake clean up will commence immediately following. When completed, participants are welcome to gather for refreshments and to share stories about the most unique treasures found. Here is way to improve our lakes with just a small amount of your time. More details to follow.

A recent publication made available by the Aquatic Habitat Coordinator through the Division of Fish and Wildlife at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is entitled "Protection of Significant Aquatic Communities (Ecozones) in Indiana Lakes and Rivers". I highly recommend reading this and it will be included in the mailing to lake residents advertising the public meeting on June 2nd regarding the proposed ecozone. And for the record, any residents that returned comments for the survey, those comments are on file with both the consultant and the Department of Natural Resources.

Two weeks until the inaugural ski; so have your boats ready!

Mark Ennes, LTPO President