



**WEST LAKE IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**

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April, 2010

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**WLIA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**NOTICE**

**Portage Public Library May 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM**



## Presidents Column

### **SUMMERS COMING!!**

And all of us West Lake Residents are looking forward to another great summer on our great lake.

Winter was kinda quiet, however, your lake association was busy working with the City of Portage to set up another 5 year assessment process. The Portage City Council has been very supportive of our efforts to maintain West Lake as one of the best inland lakes in the area. As you know by now, the assessment request was passed unanimously by Council and your directors will be working hard to maintain the lake over the next 5 years. Maintaining the lake at high quality helps to maintain our property values -- something that interests us all.

We have also been making plans for summer activities that can involve all of you.

Some of them are....

Annual Meeting -- May 12, 6:30 PM -- Portage City Library.

The agenda will include a speaker from the Sheriff's Department and we expect to have the County Drain Commissioner present along with Jennifer Jones from the Lake Management Company we have been working with to answer any questions you may have about water quality and lake management.

We will also be holding the annual election of new members to the board as well as re-election of present members who may wish to continue to serve.

This is your chance to ask questions and voice your opinions.

Annual Boat Parade -will be held once again on

July 4 -- we want to encourage everyone to participate, whether you decorate your boat or **not** -- come along and be part of the parade. More details will be available soon.

Annual Picnic -- will be held first part of August.

We are also discussing the possibility of a "poker run" party for all lake residents with proceeds going to charity.

If you have other ideas, please bring them to the meeting. We are all part of the lake community and we would like as many people as possible to participate in the activities.

### Web Site

Our new web site is just about ready to be launched -- the web site will provide the board with a better, more timely way to communicate with all of you.

### Membership Dues

It's that time again -- dues are due -- only \$25 -- please remit your dues to the address you will find elsewhere in this newsletter.

- Bob Erikson, President, West Lake Improvement Association

## MEMBERSHIP

The mission of the West Lake Improvement Association is to preserve and protect the beauty of West Lake, through conservation and water quality control and to protect land value of property owners.

The association works hard to complete our mission on your behalf but we do need your help.

Your association pays for all mailers, postage, newsletters, and pursuit of special projects.

Your dues of only \$25 helps us to accomplish our mission.

Please send your dues to the address below-- and please include your e-mail address so that we may communicate with you in a more timely manner when needed.

Thank you, Bob Erikson

### **WEST LAKE WEB SITE!**

The West Lake Association now has it's own web site for the West Lake Riparians! Please go to [www.westlakeassociation.com](http://www.westlakeassociation.com) and see for yourself - I'm not giving away any more information than that (you'll have to see for yourself <g>)

The web site will be updated often with new content, newsletters and all things West Lake! Please email suggestions you might have to me.

Thanks, Larry Lutz

### **YARD AND LAKE MANAGEMENT REMINDER**

It's a fact of life - When more nutrients are added to the lake, excessive algae and other plants grow. Nutrients, mainly phosphorous and nitrogen, come from many sources. Fertilizers, pet and goose waste, grass clippings, leaves and other yard wastes are all sources of nutrients

- do not rake leaves into the lake
- Avoid fertilizing when a rain storm is coming.

- Before you fertilize - have your soil tested to find out exactly what is needed.
- Then choose the correct fertilizer - ***one with no phosphorous.*** (Just 1 pound of phosphorous will support 750 pounds of algae.)
- Ask the professional fertilizer companies if they guarantee the correct fertilizer for the lake. If they won't, then do it yourself.
- If you fertilize too early in the spring, most of the fertilizer will run off, most likely into the lake. Late summer or early fall are the best times to fertilize.
- When you fertilize, sweep the excess which lands on the driveways and other surfaces back onto your lawn. Otherwise it will be washed into the lake when it rains.
- Plant a buffer of native plants between your lawn and the lake, which will help absorb excess nutrients and other contaminants so it doesn't reach the lake.
- Use slow release or time release pellets - more of the nutrients is absorbed by your lawn.
- Clean up your pet waste daily. And don't forget the pesky goose droppings near the lake and from your docks. Don't sweep the goose droppings into the lake.
- keep your lawn at least 3" tall and leave grass clippings on the lawn.

- by the WLIA Board

## GARLIC MUSTARD

There is another non-native plant that is overtaking our forest and natural vegetation areas. It is called Garlic Mustard. This is not necessarily a "water plant" but it is a very invasive plant that does affect the watershed and land around the lake.

Here is information from the King County, Washington website:  
(<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/garlic-mustard.aspx>)



Garlic mustard is an invasive non-native biennial herb that spreads by seed. It is difficult to control once it has reached a site; it can cross-pollinate or self-pollinate, it has a high seed production rate, it out competes native vegetation and it can establish in a relatively stable forest understory. It can grow in dense shade or sunny sites. The fact that it is self fertile means that one plant can occupy a site and produce a seed bank. Plant stands can produce more than 62,000 seeds per square meter to quickly out compete local flora, changing the structure of plant communities on the forest floor. Garlic mustard is also allelopathic, producing chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants and mychorrizal fungi needed for

healthy tree growth and tree seedling survival.

Garlic mustard is a Class A noxious weed with a very limited distribution in Washington, and eradication is required state-wide. Most of the



known infestations in King County are on City of Seattle Parks properties or nearby private properties, but garlic mustard is moving into new areas and has also been found in a few other counties in Washington State. Early detection, containment and eradication of new sites is of the highest priority. If you think you see this plant, please contact our program as soon as possible.

First identified in Seattle in 1999 and listed as a Class A noxious weed in 2000, the King County Noxious Weed Program is working closely with landowners to prevent new infestations and eradicate existing infestations. Without cooperation we will lose the battle to keep garlic mustard out of woodland areas throughout western Washington.



Garlic mustard is a biennial herb that grows to about 3 feet tall. The small, white 4-petaled flowers appear in early spring and seed production soon follows. Seedlings develop into basal rosettes by mid summer. The plants overwinter as a basal rosette with kidney-shaped leaves. When the plants bolt in early spring, the mature leaves are triangular, becoming smaller toward the top of the plant. In early spring the roots and new leaves smell like garlic. Each plant usually produces one flowering stem. If a plant is cut or stepped on, many stems will form. Roots typically have a characteristic s-shaped bend that helps the plant hold on to the soil even on steep slopes with loose soil. Garlic mustard is competitive in a wide range of soils, sun, shade and moisture. It grows in wet soil near creeks and on dry, steep slopes. It can grow under the shade of other plants like nettles or in bright sunny spots. Flowering plants range in size from several feet tall to tiny plants with just a few seed pods. Seeds can last in the soil for at least 10 years.

Prevention is the recommended control option. Familiarize yourself with the flower, the plant and the habitat where it grows. Monitor sites regularly to remove plants prior to seed set.



### **Goose Droppings and Zebra Mussels:**

When you clean up your dock or lawn from the "dirty critters", please do not dump the droppings in the lake! The feces are high in bacteria and phosphorous.

When you clean up zebra mussels, do not dump them back in the lake - they will continue to reproduce.

--Remember, every bit helps!

## 2009/2010 WLIA Board of Directors

President	Bob Erikson		
Vice-President	Ralph Colwell		
Secretary	Mike Granchi		
Treasurer	Mike Marshburn		
Directors	Brian Somers		
	Janeene Hobbs		
	Chuck Nelson		
	Thom Phillips		
	Fred Welser		
	Larry Lutz		
	Patrick Duggan		

### ***2010 WLIA MEMBERSHIP FORM***

I want to be a member of the West Lake Improvement Association for 2010 and support our organization for lake improvement. Enclosed is \$25 for membership dues. (\*If the \$25 Membership fee is a hardship, please call Bob at. We still want you to join!)

We would like to hear your comments . (If you elect not to join WLIA, PLEASE let us know why. We cannot correct "issues" if we do not know what they are. Thank You!)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this membership form to:

Mike Marshburn,

OR: drop it off at any one of your West Lake Director's homes

**COMMENTS:**

## THANK YOU PAID 2010 MEMBERS!!

Austin, Robert & Jean  
Bauer, David & Barbara S  
Bennet, Tim & Betsy  
Berner, Kevin & Michele  
Blostein, Paul  
Bowman, John & Renee  
Caporal, MaryLouise  
Clapp, Raymond & Ellen  
Colwell, Ralph & Pat  
Compagnano, Lawrence  
Cornell, Shelly & William  
Dragoo, John & Lynn  
Duggan, Patrick & Kelly  
Ensfield, Robert & Kay  
Erikson, Robert & Sandy  
Everett, Dick & Juanita  
Flynn, Thomas  
Ford, Todd  
Forrester, Alan & Mary  
Foss, Enos & Teresa  
Furgason, Bill & Esther  
Geiger, Evelyn  
Gilbert, Paul & Chris  
Green, Rod & Amy  
Grosser, Gerald & Nellie  
Guichelaar, Philip & Alyce  
Hall, Andy & Evie  
Heinrich, Gary & Patricia  
Jager, Richard

Jones, Gerald & Sharon  
Judith & Todd LaPorte  
Julie Simonton & Larry Wentzel  
Kovach, Nancy  
Kuiper, Jane  
Lemmer, Paul & Elaine  
Lindsey, Gail  
Lutz, Larry & Tricia  
Marshburn, Jan & Mike  
Nelson, Mark & Nell  
Nuyen, Eric  
Ohlmann, Dan & Christy  
Phillips, Thom & Lane  
Predum, BJ & Leah  
Rob & Jean Kropf  
Robertson, Keith & Ardath  
Somers, Brian & Lindsey  
Susan, Justin & Amy  
Thompson, Brad & Susan  
Ufkes, Robert & Dorothy  
Vanderbor, Todd & Anne  
Vanwalbeck, Craig & Patti  
Wahl, Bill & Elaine  
Warner, Carol  
Watson, William & Cathy  
Welser, Fred & Sandra  
Willard, Louis & Pauline  
- as of 4/22/10

