

Dear Friends of Lac Courte Oreilles,

This past year has been very successful for COLA, working with the support of the Lac Courte Oreilles Foundation. We are now in our fifth year working together to improve and maintain the quality of our lakes. Highlights of the past year include:



www.lcofi.org

- *Successful treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed (reduced from 99 acres to 5 acres)*
- *Successful completion of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study*
- *The Environmental Protection Agency recognized Musky Bay as Impaired Water*
- *Completion of comprehensive septic survey*

Over the past five years, The Foundation has raised nearly \$500,000 that has been used in the aggressive planning and implementation of programs that pursue very high standards in addressing our lakes' quality. We are intent on leaving a legacy of pursuing high quality standards for our lakes for generations to come.

I strongly encourage you to visit the significantly enhanced COLA website at www.cola-wi.org; it's a comprehensive source for information regarding our lakes. Our lakes count on owners to understand our current challenges. Regarding progress in addressing lake quality, pay special attention to the following tabs on the website:

- *Must Know*
- *Lake Management Plan (See overview on reverse side of this letter)*
- *Impaired Water*

We have made great progress to date, but we cannot stop now! The Foundation's fundraising goal for 2014 is \$100,000, which is comparable to the average yearly amount raised in the prior four years. Our goal is to receive contributions from 300 homeowners this year, as compared to 264 last year. That would be almost one half of the homeowners participating! A list of lake homeowners that have contributed in the past is enclosed. If you have not yet contributed to this year's efforts, please consider doing so. We need your help.

The future of our lake depends entirely on significant financial response from our families. On behalf of COLA and the Lac Courte Oreilles Foundation, we sincerely appreciate your trust in us through your financial contributions. To make your 2014 tax-deductible donation, please use the attached form in this mailing. Thank you!

Sincerely,

John Berg,
President LCOFI

Lake Management Plan (LMP) Overview

Please visit www.cola-wi.org for additional resources and LMP details

The Lac Courte Oreilles Lake Management Plan (the "LCO Plan") was adopted by the COLA Board on April 22, 2011 and was subsequently approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The LCO Plan specifies long term water quality goals for big and little LCO that COLA intends to achieve by implementing eighteen (18) specific actions under five (5) broad lake management categories. The five lake management categories specified in the LCO Plan are:

- *Cranberry Discharges*
- *Changing Land Use in the LCO Watershed*
- *LCO Shore Land Development and Buffer Area*
- *Invasive Species Management*
- *Lake and Stream Monitoring*

Since adopting the LCO Plan, COLA has worked to establish an organizational framework and recruit volunteers to begin the job of implementing the action items. COLA established the "Lake Management Plan Implementation Committee" to coordinate and oversee lake management action item implementation. The Committee is made up of a number of current COLA Board members and other COLA membership volunteers. COLA also hired Frank Pratt the former "Fish guy" who recently retired from the WDNR, to help coordinate and advance the work of the Committee.

The ten action items that COLA is currently implementing are:

- 1 - *Work with Cranberry growers to eliminate discharges to LCO*
- 2 - *Evaluate feasibility of dredging/chemically treating Musky Bay to remove phosphorus*
- 3 - *Evaluate and make recommendations to form a "Lake Management District"*
- 4 - *Monitor and advance agricultural "best management practices" on farms within the direct drainage area of LCO*
- 5 - *Survey and establish shoreline buffer zones*
- 6 - *Survey Big and Little LCO septic systems and oversee followup*
- 7 - *Ongoing treatment of Curly Leaf Pond Weed/AIS grant coordination*
- 8 - *Maintain the "Clean Boats" program*
- 9 - *Conduct state of the art water quality and water flow monitoring*
- 10 - *Outreach to LCO watershed partners*

COLA intends to keep the membership fully informed of the progress in implementing the Lac Courte Oreilles Lake Management Plan through regular updates action item by action item in the Loon Call and on the COLA web site. The COLA Board is convinced that through implementation of these action items we can be well on our way to achieving the water goals that we have set for these unique lakes.

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³ in memory of Jan Lillyblad

⁴ in memory of Grace and Leslie Ellis

⁵ in memory of James Favel, Sr.

⁶ in honor of Bob & Doris Sanders

⁷ in memory of Mike Mason & James Favel, Sr.

⁸ in memory of George Paine

⁹ in memory of Mike Mason & Dennis Rahn

¹⁰ in honor of James Sommers

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¹³ in memory of Sigurd Sivertson

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