NEWSLETTER

Issue 35 April 19, 2024

View this email in your browser

Rome Annual 'State of Our Lakes' Lunch

All property owners in the Town of Rome are invited to attend a forum on Saturday, June 8th at the Rome Town Hall sponsored by the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance, the Town of Rome and the Tri-Lakes Management District to discuss lake and stream water quality issues in our watershed.

The June 8th forum will have exhibitors throughout the town hall and will feature presentations addressing the water quality in our lakes and watershed, followed by lunch and a question & answer period. At the end of the event, door prize, raffle and silent auction winners will be announced.

Please add June 8th 11:00-2:00 to your calendars. See you there!

Follow Fertilizer Application Best Practices for Lake Health

Everybody looks forward to the spring and summer months as it means enjoyable times spent on our lakes. Good water quality is something we all appreciate and want to achieve on a continuing basis. When conditions are right, algae blooms can occur and sometimes even result in toxic Blue-Green Algae.

Algae blooms are caused by high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. There is not a single cause that creates increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in our lakes. We, as property owners, can do our part to help stop nitrogen and phosphorus from our properties entering the ground water or running directly into the

lakes.

A HUGE contributor to this runoff is lawn fertilizer. Recognizing the importance of healthy lakes to our community, the Town of Rome encourages lake frontage property owners to consider use of lake water irrigation as a source of natural fertilization in lieu of applying commercial lawn fertilizer products.

Further, the Town has enacted a fertilizer ordinance that includes the following:

- **No fertilizer can be applied within 35 feet of the shoreline or to an established natural buffer zone**
- **Zero % phosphorus (the middle number on the package) is required by Wisconsin State Law**
- **Any fertilizer applied to impervious surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks needs to be immediately contained and either legally applied to turf or placed in an appropriate container**
- **No person shall apply any lawn fertilizer within the Town of Rome that is labeled as containing less than 20% slow-release nitrogen.**

Many of us come to our lake community from the city. Often there, pride in maintaining a pristine, weed-free green lawn is the norm. However, in lake communities, the opposite is required in order to affect the good water quality that we all desire.

The best practice for shoreline properties is to stop fertilizing or to switch only

to lake water irrigation. For those properties that are offshore, we recommend that you consider stopping fertilizing or using a fertilizer product with a high content of slow-release nitrogen.

Please join us in implementing these efforts to improve our lakes.

14 Mile Watershed Alliance

The 14 Mile Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of surface and groundwater in the 14 Mile Creek Watershed. See us at 14milewatershed.org and https://www.facebook.com/14MileWatershed

Copyright © 2024 14 Mile Watershed Alliance, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
1433 Rapids Trl., Nekoosa, WI 54457

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.