NEWSLETTER

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Ideas for Protecting our Lakes and Watershed

Spring Focus: Plant Native

14 Mile Watershed Friends and Supporters . . .

Are you interested in beautifying your property and helping our lakes at the same time? Consider adding native plants to your property.

Why Plant Native Plants?

- **Clean water:** Native plants, with their deep root system, act both as a sponge and a filter. They help water soak into the soil and filter out excess nutrients and pollutants, improving water quality.
- Native plants **prevent soil erosion**, create topsoil and build soil fertility.
- Native plants are suited to our local climate and sandy soils.
- Natives **need less maintenance (once established).** This may be an ideal gardening situation for “weekenders”. Natives flourish without fertilizers or synthetic pesticides and rarely need extra watering after their first year or two.
- Helps local insects and wildlife by providing food, shelter and nesting spaces.
- **Clean air:** Even small plantings help filter the air around your home.
- **Shoreline native plantings deter geese!**

- More native plants and less lawn can **drastically reduce mowing time** which means more hours to enjoy the fun activities that draw us to lakes in the first place.
- They are **beautiful**!

Here is a great example of native plantings on Lake Camelot.
Help more rain soak into the soil and reduce runoff into the lakes. Native plants have deep roots that soak up rainwater and filter harmful pollutants from entering our watershed..

Ways to incorporate Natives into your Landscape:

- Establish a Rain Garden or a Shoreline planting.
- When a perennial dies, consider **replacing** it with a native that is similar in size, shape and flower
- **Consider a Healthy Lakes project**

What is the Healthy Lakes Grant Program?

Our 14 Mile Watershed committee has been involved in the DNR's Healthy Lakes grant program since 2017. These grants fund shoreline improvements that reduce nutrient runoff and soil erosion as well as improve habitat for fish. To date over 50 such projects have been completed or approved in our watershed.

This is a great program that is subsidized by the Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources. This program provides applicants funds and expert guidance to beautify their shorelines with gorgeous native wildflowers. This will allow you to do less lawn mowing, create a beautiful shoreline and humanely deter geese. The long roots of the plants will naturally filter the excess nutrients from entering our lake waters, which prevents overgrowth of algae and the more toxic blue-green algae.

To learn more and/or sign up for a Healthy Lakes grant:

email Dave Trudeau at: dtrudeau@wctc.net

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

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