NEWSLETTER

Issue 41 November 13, 2024

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14 Mile Watershed Friends and Supporters . . .

How much do you know about the Tri-Lakes?
Test Your Knowledge!

1. **When were the Tri-Lakes developed?**
    a. During the Fifties
    b. During the Sixties and Seventies
    c. During the Eighties
    d. What? They've been here forever!
2. **How large is the 14 Mile Watershed?**
    a. Includes portions of Adams, Wood, Portage and Waushara counties
    b. Encompasses 55,000 acres
    c. Runs approximately 38 miles from Plainfield in the east to Lake Petenwell on the west end
    d. All of the above
3. **Excess nutrients (fertilizers), chemicals and other toxic substances that are applied anywhere in the watershed will affect water quality.**

    True _____ False _____

4. **What are the key nutrients that can lead to excessive algae growth in the lakes?**
    a. Nitrogen and hydrogen

b. Calcium and phosphorus
c. Nitrogen and phosphorus
d. Calcium and hydrogen

5. **The DNR will provide financial assistance to improve my lakefront property to manage erosion and runoff concerns.**

   True _____ False _____

6. **When salt runs off into our lakes, it can lead to permanent damage to fish and water quality.**

   True _____ False _____

7. **How can a property owner help to improve water quality?**
   a. Plant deep-rooted native plants and trees to absorb water, serve as a filter and reduce erosion
   b. Reduce or eliminate the use of lawn fertilizers; instead, water your lawn directly from the lake
   c. Reduce salt use on your property
   d. Plan a Healthy Lakes project for your lakefront
   e. All of the above

ANSWERS:

1. **B.** Lake Sherwood was the first in 1967 followed by Lake Camelot in 1969 and Lake Arrowhead in the seventies.
2. **D.** All of the above
3. **True** These substances will reach the groundwater and flow to the surface water of the lake.
4. **C.** Nitrogen and phosphorus, key ingredients in lawn fertilizers, are the essential nutrients for plant growth. Excessive amounts will runoff into the lakes and lead to both lake weed growth and algae blooms.
5. **True** Through the Healthy Lakes program, lake health can be improved by practices such as fish sticks, native plantings, diversions, rock infiltration and rain gardens. **The good news** – cost-sharing via a Healthy Lakes grant will help offset your costs. A representative from the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance will come to your site and help you

decide what improvements qualify and will even write-up the grant application for you. For more information, contact Dave Trudeau at dtrudeau@wctc.net

6. **True** High chloride levels in freshwater can be toxic to fish and other aquatic life, increase the potential for harmful algae blooms, disrupt the ecosystem of a lake, and also seep into our groundwater. Compounding the problem, chloride is a permanent pollutant. Once it reaches a body of water, it's nearly impossible to remove.
7. **E. All of the above!**

How did you do? Six or Seven correct: Excellent! Learning how each of us can play a part in improving our lakes is an ongoing process. I hope you had a little fun with the quiz and possibly learned a bit at the same time.

Reminder: 4th Annual Tree Sale Ends Soon!

The deadline for submitting your orders for the fourth annual **14 Mile Watershed Alliance Tree Sale** is **December 15, 2024**. This is a great opportunity to purchase native trees and shrubs to improve your property. So, get your order in soon!

Click *HERE* for a printable copy of the Order Form

Life is Better by the Lake

"Wisconsin has 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, 15,000 lakes, and more than 5 million acres of wetlands. This may be the number one reason that those of us who live here love it so much, and those who visit come back time after time.

We play on it. We swim in it. We drop a line and we fish in it. And of course, we drink it and bathe in it. Luckily, there is an abundance of it now, and forever. Right?

Wrong. . . . . ."

Click here to read the entire post recently published on the **Visit Rome Wisconsin** blog.

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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