NEWSLETTER

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14 Mile Watershed Friends and Supporters . . .

Ideas for Protecting Our Lakes and Watershed
This Month's Focus: Native Shoreline Plantings

With winter finally loosening its grip on us, our thoughts in spring naturally turn to dreams of our garden and yards. Now is the perfect time to start planning before the busy-ness of the spring and summer months is upon us.

A Key Consideration to include in your plans that will benefit the health of our lakes includes:

Plant Native and Diverse Vegetation: Deep-rooted native plants and trees help to absorb water and hold topsoil in place during rain events. These deep roots also serve as a filter to reduce nutrients from entering the lake which helps to cut down on algae issues. As an added bonus, they will add beauty to your property and provide habitat for songbirds, butterflies and other pollinators. Forget about having a pristine lawn right down to the water's edge – lawns are for city properties, ***not lake lots***. Besides, if you don't have to mow the lawn, that leaves more time for enjoying the lake!

Native varieties require fewer resources and upkeep (think watering, fertilizing and mowing) than non-natives and they provide habitat and food for small fish, pollinators

and other wildlife. They help reduce air pollution and can increase property value. And if that's not enough, no-edge mowing (along the shoreline) keeps phosphorus and lake weeds at bay.

10 Best Lakeshore Natives for Our Sandy Soils

Name	Height	Location
Blue Flag Iris (Iris versicolor)	24 – 36"	Water's edge
Sweet Flag (Acorus calamus)	24"	Water's edge
Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus sericea)	6 – 9 feet	Shoreline shrub
Shrubby St. John's Wort (Hyperivum prolificum)	4 feet	Shoreline shrub
New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)	2 – 3 feet	Shoreline Shrub
Brown Fox Sedge (Carex vulpioidea)	12 – 36"	Lake bank
Ivory Sedge (Carex eburnean)	6 – 12"	Lake bank
Prairie Dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis)	2 – 4 feet	Lake bank
Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)	2 feet	Lake bank
Rough Blazing Star (Liatris aspera)	2 – 3 feet	Lake bank

Most of these native varieties can be purchased online at Agrecol.com or PrairieNursery.com. Locally, Foss' Garden Center carries some native plants.

A great example of a shoreline with native plantings

UPDATE ON OUR 'SOCKS FOR DOCKS' PROGRAM:

In our last newsletter, we described the 'Socks for Docks' project that we'll be implementing this summer. Instead of barley straw bags, we will be testing the effectiveness of using bags that contain biochar. These biochar bags absorb phosphorus and nitrates, nutrients that contribute to algal blooms. We've received grants to fund this program and will be able to install 250-300 bags on residents' docks. At the end of the summer, these 'socks' can be saved and reused up to two additional years.

In consulting with lake experts, we've been advised not to place the socks in close proximity to any of the nanobubbler units, as each of these technologies need to be evaluated on their own merits and effectiveness. Due to the many small nanobubbler units that will be placed on Lake Sherwood this summer, we will be placing Socks only on Upper Camelot, Lower Camelot and Lake Arrowhead.

We will be placing the order for these biochar bags in early April. If you are interested in participating in this program, please let us know soon by signing up on our website at *Socks*. For more information about these biochar bags please see the "Frequently Asked Questions" page on our website at *Biochar Bag FAQ*.

SEASONAL REMINDER:

We are approaching ***Spring Wildfire Season in Wisconsin***. The greatest wildfire risk occurs after the snow melts until full vegetation green-up, usually March through June. Strong spring winds increase fire danger by drying out vegetation, making it burn and spread easily. Taking precautions now to mitigate hazards on your property can increase the chance your home or cabin will survive a wildfire.

EVENT REMINDER

The Rome Annual 'State of Our Lakes' Lunch will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 11:00 - 2:00 at the Rome Town Hall

DONATE

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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