



Lac La Belle Management District

www.llbmd.org

SPRING 2009 ISSUE

Shoreland Restoration Opportunities

While most people restore their shorelines to bring natural beauty back to their property, there are other important reasons for shoreline restoration. Native shoreline vegetation is generally deep rooted which helps hold soil in place and out of the lake. After last year's floods, the concept of preserving our shoreland seems even more essential. This vegetation provides critical habitat to songbirds, reptiles, and other sensitive animals. Restorations are also referred to as buffers since they buffer the stormwater that runs off lawn areas before it enters the lake. Finally, shoreline plantings can offer screening and privacy to shoreline landowners. Trees, shrubs, and many species of grasses and flowers grow tall enough and dense enough to provide a buffer from neighbors, as well as noisy boats or jet skis out on the water. Buffers also can deter geese from coming on your lawn.

Shoreland restorations are designed specifically for the unique characteristics of the property. Some consist of taller grasses and flowers; some have shrubs and trees incorporated in the restoration area; different plants are chosen based on the amount of sun or shade present.

Care and maintenance of shoreline restorations is important. With any native planting, there is a commitment to water frequently the first year. In



addition, landowners should be on the look out for invasive weeds such as reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, grape vine, Queen Anne's lace, and honeysuckle. In successive years, landowners should re-mulch outer areas of the planting to keep it looking fresh and well maintained. These basic maintenance steps allow the true beauty of our lakeshores to shine through.

Shoreland restoration and native plantings are becoming very commonplace. You may be surprised to know that these types of projects are now very cost effective. The Lac LaBelle Management District has contracted with a local shoreland restoration expert, Lisa Reas, to help with our new shoreland restoration initiative. Lisa is the author of *The Landowners Guide to Controlling Shoreland Erosion*. Among her many accom-

plishments, she has worked with Green Lake for a number of years and they have over 75 shoreland restorations on that lake. Every summer they offer a tour of those restorations. For more information, check out the UW Extension's publication on Shoreland Restoration at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/shore.freshlook.pdf> and Ms. Reas' website at www.ljreas.com.

There are many reasons why shoreline restoration is important. *What's holding you back from restoring your shoreline?* This year, the LLBMD is offering a special program for people in our district. We will provide 75% cost sharing, up to \$2,000 to two lucky landowners for a shoreland restoration project on your property. Check out the details on the next page of the newsletter.

Want \$2,000?

Want to restore your shoreline to its natural, native state? The Lac LaBelle Management District (LLBMD) is seeking applicants for a cost-sharing grant opportunity for a native shoreland restoration project. LLBMD will pay 75% of a shoreland restoration project, up to \$2,000 for two lucky landowners!

Primary Criteria

- Property must have water frontage on Lac LaBelle
- Restoration site to be at least 800 square feet by 8 feet deep
- The site will be planted with 100% native to Wisconsin species
- The site will be highly visible and accessible
- Landowner must cooperate with terms/ agreement and provide additional volunteer labor for planting.

Services and supplies are included in the cost sharing. Services provided to the landowner by Lisa Reas of LJ Reas Environmental Consulting Corp. will include site specific project design, herbicide application, creation of project outlines on site, plant layout and oversight of planting, mulching, and two post-planting inspections and weed control application. Supplies may include native plants, aquatic vegetation, mulch, biologs, mats, natural design or shoreland features such as rocks or boulders. Landowner will be responsible for paying all costs up-front. LLBMD will reimburse the winning landowner(s) upon the successful completion of the project per terms and agreement.

Sites will be selected by criteria that will be determined by the LLBMD with the assistance of Lisa Reas. The final decision is at the sole discretion of the LLBMD and may include subjective factors such as visibility, overall design, estimated effectiveness, etc.

To receive more information, please fill out the form below or see our website at www.llbmd.org.

Interested? - Please respond by May 1

Yes! I am interested in learning more! Please send me additional information including a contract and official entry form.

Please return this form by May 1, 2009 to:

LLBMD, PO Box 511, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Name (Please print clearly)

Mailing Address
House # and Street

City, State, Zip

Property address if different
from above
House # and Street

City, State, Zip

Email address

Contact Phone number

How do our shoreland decisions affect property values, water quality, fisheries and wildlife?

by Lynn Markham, UW-Extension Center for Land Use Education

Extensive research exists describing how land use along lakes and streams affects water quality, fisheries, and wildlife. Here is a very brief summary of the research. This article is excerpted from the 2006 edition of the Zoning Board Handbook, available online at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/pubshandbooks.html.

The quality of our lakes and streams is ultimately a reflection of how we take care of our land. Specifically, how our communities develop and redevelop the land around lakes and streams plays a large role in whether those lakes and streams remain healthy for generations to come or are degraded and become a detriment to the community.

Protecting water quality protects property values

A recent study of over 1,000 waterfront properties found that, when all other factors were equal, properties on lakes with clearer water commanded significantly higher property prices. In other words, people prefer clean water and will pay more to live on lakes with better water quality.

3 steps to protect water quality, fisheries and wildlife

Maintaining good water quality, fisheries and wildlife in lakes and streams depends on three steps:

1. Curb pollutants at their source—fertilizers, household toxins, eroding soils, malfunctioning septic systems.
2. Cut the amount of runoff that picks up pollutants and carries them to the waterway by minimizing the hard surfaces that create runoff.
3. Capture and cleanse pollutant carrying runoff before it reaches the waterway with shoreland buffers, rain barrels or rain gardens.

Curb pollutants

Curb pollutants at their source—fertilizers, eroding soils, malfunctioning septic systems, household toxins and agricultural runoff.

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plants. However, when too much phosphorus makes its way into our lakes and streams, it promotes the rapid growth of weeds and algae and decreases water clarity, often turning lakes green. Decaying algae also deplete oxygen in the water, so that fish can no longer thrive. Human activities contribute a great deal to the amount of phosphorus that enters a lake or stream.

Consider this—one pound of phosphorus in runoff can result in up to 500 pounds of algae growth! Phosphorus comes from soils and fertilizers, which are easily washed into lakes.

Since phosphorus is often bound to soil particles, one key to keeping phosphorus out of lakes and streams is to minimize the amount of land that is cleared or otherwise disturbed, so that soil erosion is minimized. Another approach is to attempt to capture the eroded soil before it enters the waterbody. Completely clearing a half-acre lot can add up to 36 pounds of phosphorus to a lake or stream.

In addition to phosphorus, many other chemicals—from antifreeze to zylene—can pollute lakes and streams.

Cut Runoff

Runoff is excess water that comes from hard surfaces like rooftops, driveways, parking areas, sidewalks, decks, and compacted soils. Gravel areas quickly become compacted and create nearly as much runoff as paved surfaces. Runoff water washes soil, fertilizer, car fluids and other pollutants into our lakes and streams. To reduce runoff, let water soak into the ground.

Lawns absorb little rainfall. In fact, a recent Wisconsin study found that lawns created much more runoff than wooded areas. As a consequence, the runoff from fertilized lawns carried eight times more phosphorus to the lake than the runoff from similar sized wooded areas.

Runoff also affects fisheries. Researchers studied 47 Wisconsin streams and found that fish and insect populations decline dramatically when more than 8-10% of the watershed is covered with hard surfaces such as rooftops, roads, and driveway. Streams that have more than 12% of their watershed covered by hard surfaces have consistently poor fish communities.

Not surprisingly, impervious surfaces closer to the water have a greater impact because there is less opportunity for the runoff from these areas to soak into the ground or be filtered before reaching the lake or stream. Hard surfaces harm fisheries because:

Warm runoff from roads and other hard surfaces raises water temperatures and decreases oxygen levels, eliminating some fish species;

Sediment carried in the runoff creates cloudy water, so fish that hunt by sight have a hard time finding dinner;

Sediment covers spawning areas and clogs the gills of some fish; and n Streams become 'flashy', meaning runoff occurs more quickly after a storm, peak flows become larger, and critical dry season flows decrease because less groundwater recharge is available.

Rethinking Yardcare

Many sources of water pollution originate right at home. For example, fertilizers and pesticides used near lakeshores can quickly find their way into the water directly by runoff or indirectly via the storm sewer system. This year, before you sign a lawn care contract or purchase your “weed and feed”, consider how you can save money and improve water quality by rethinking yard care.

Be wary of the “chemical fix”

Many people do more harm than good with their lawn care by fertilizing or using weed killers when the lawn doesn’t need it. Phosphorous in fertilizers affects water quality. Excess phosphorus in lakes causes algae blooms, and water quality decline.

- Polluted runoff washes phosphorus off lawns, streets, and fields into lakes.
- Polluted runoff is impairing or threatening an estimated 90% of inland lakes
- It takes 20 parts per million (ppm) of soil phosphorus to grow healthy turf; 25 parts per **billion** (a quantity 1000 times smaller) can promote excessive algae growth in lakes

Recent data estimates phosphorus levels in residential Wisconsin lawns have, on average, twice the amount of phosphorus (105 ppm) than the average farm field; that’s five times more phosphorus than a healthy lawn needs

Your lawn may not need any fertilizer, but if you choose to apply, make sure it is phosphorous free (the middle number on the bag of fertilizer should be 0; for example 22-0-15). The legislature is considering a statewide ban, currently all municipalities on Lac LaBelle have banned the use of fertilizers with phosphorous. Have your soil tested before applying fertilizers. The UW Soil and Plant Analysis Lab (<http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu>) offers inexpensive testing.

Without thinking about it, many homeowners reach for the “solution” that should be the last resort. The serious warning labels on many pesticide products clearly indicate the hazards to songbirds, aquatic life and even humans. Use lawn and garden chemicals carefully and sparingly. These products can kill or sicken other living things beside their targets. Try natural products such as pre-emergent herbicide made from corn gluten. Don’t forget good old weeding — get out and pull weeds or crabgrass. Support a healthier lawn by mowing high, leaving grass at a height of 2-1/2 to 3 inches and leave your clippings on the lawn for a natural fertilizer. Consider leaving a no-mow buffer along the shore to filter pollutants and reduce runoff.

These tips are from UW Extension Publication, *Rethinking Yard Care* and the phosphorous facts are from Tami Jackson at the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. For more tips and information on protecting our lake, go to the UW Extension website at www.uwex.edu.

Goose Roundup Opt Out Form - 2009

The LLBMD *does not* have my permission to enter my property to catch geese.

Name (PRINT) _____

Lake Address _____

Phone _____

Signature (Mandatory) _____

Please return form as soon as possible, no later than June 1, 2009!

Send to:

Lac LaBelle Management District
PO Box 511
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

4th Annual LLBMD Carpfest Contest—June 5-7, 2009

Where:

Lac La Belle,
Oconomowoc

Contest Hours: Friday,
June 5th, 12 Noon – Sunday
June 7th, 4 pm

Prizes: Top 3 by category

Two Categories:

1. **Bowling/ Spearing**
2. **Angler's**

Two Age Groups:

1. **Children 13 & Under**
2. **14 years— adult**

Two Simultaneous Contests:

1. **Largest Carp by weight presented**
2. **Greatest Number of Carp caught and registered**

Prizes for 13 & under for all categories are as follows:

1st Place - \$100 iTunes gift card or cash

2nd Place - \$50 iTunes gift card or cash

3rd Place - \$25 iTunes gift card or cash

Special bonus payout to all registered fishing participants of 50¢ for each Carp caught and registered.

Prizes for 14 - adult for all categories are as follows:

1st Place - \$100

2nd Place - \$75

3rd Place - \$50

Special bonus to all registered fishers of 50¢ for each Carp caught and registered.

Registration: Free registration with Valid WI Fishing License. To register, please go to our website at www.llbmd.org and click on the Carpfest link, or fill out and return the registration form below, or register in person at the weigh-in table during the contest.

Weigh & Register your Carp: Present your carp(s) to the contest organizers at the Lac La Belle Boat Launch, 324 West Wisconsin Avenue on **Friday** 4-5pm, **Saturday** 7am – 8am, 4pm – 6pm, and **Sunday** 7am – 8am, and 3pm – 4pm. A dumpster will be available at the launch for disposal of fish.

Please note:

No discharging of bow and arrow within 40 rods (220 yards) of the Island or City Beach, per statute; No fishing from the city boat launch piers.

CarpFest - 2009 Registration Form

Name (PRINT) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Please return form as soon as possible, no later than June 1, 2009!

Send to:

Lac LaBelle Management District
PO Box 511
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Lac La Belle Management District

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Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Goose Round-Up

LLBMD will continue its efforts to reduce the goose population. This year, the US Fish & Wildlife Department will round-up as many geese as possible in mid-June (while the geese are flightless) and provide them to food or animal pantries for consumption.

If you live on the lakeshore, and do not want the geese to be gathered on your property, please complete the Goose Opt-Out Form on page four of this newsletter and return it to LLBMD at PO Box 151, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066 as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

We also need to know where the geese hang out. If you frequently have problems with the geese on your property, please let us know by either including the information on the form below, or by contacting us through our website at www.llbmd.org.

Your LLBMD Commissioners

Paul Carpenter —Chairperson
Richard Paul—Vice Chairperson
Ryan Myhre—Treasurer
Sally Keefe—Secretary
Julie Larsen—Commissioner
Jan Husak—Town Representative
David Falstad—County Representative

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