



Deer Lake Conservancy
P.O. Box 1139
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024

Deer Lake Conservancy Report



Summer Edition



JULY 2014

Project Updates

WATERSHED 1 POND

A couple of years ago we announced the receipt of Wisconsin DNR funding for a project on the pond below the farm on the northeast side of the lake. At that time, we were excited to use a sand/iron filing system to remove dissolved phosphorus from the outflow of this pond. The source of dissolved phosphorus and fecal coliform was most likely the cows that were fed upstream of the pond.

Well, farm management has changed, and the cows were removed from this area. No cows, means little dissolved phosphorus present in the pond outflow. (Our water tests confirm this assumption.) It also means the sand/iron filing system treatment is currently not warranted in this location. The Conservancy strives to use water quality techniques that are cutting edge, but also cost efficient. As a result, a more conventional and much less expensive design has been chosen to complete this project.

The pond was dewatered and accumulated sediment removed from the pond bottom the last fall. As soon as things dry out, these sediment piles will be put to beneficial use elsewhere. The sides of the pond will be evened out and planted to native plants. Rock check dams will be installed in the ditch to slow water and remove sediments before they reach the pond. Finally, a riser pipe will be installed to capture more sediment before water exits the pond.

Thanks to property owners Barb Richardson and Tom and Barb Gartland for allowing these pond improvements to be completed on their properties.

WATERFRONT PROJECTS

The Wisconsin DNR has approved the design changes, and remaining grant funds will go toward projects in the direct drainage area of the lake. We, therefore, remain well-funded to provide technical and installation assistance for projects that reduce runoff and erosion from waterfront properties on the lake.

Our consultant, Cheryl Clemens from Harmony Environmental provides free site consultations to review your waterfront questions and concerns. This is a great way to ensure your property management has a positive impact on lake water quality!

2014 CONSERVANCY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Phillip Foussard, President	Mark Boyken	Tom McBride
Jim Miller, Vice President	Mollie Keys	John Patterson
Tom Pesek, Secretary/Treasurer	John Wright	Tom Walther

Dedicated to the Preservation of Deer Lake

The Deer Lake Conservancy is a tax exempt organization incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and also registered in Polk County. The purpose of the organization is to preserve Deer Lake and the surrounding land that contributes to its natural, scenic and recreational value. As a 501C (3) corporation, any contributions are fully deductible from federal and state income tax. Contributions may be in the form of cash, securities, property and land easements.

Contributions should be sent to
Deer Lake Conservancy
P.O. Box 1139
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024

Interested individuals may also contact Jim Miller by phone at 715-483-3338

FREE WATERFRONT SITE VISITS AVAILABLE

Contact Cheryl at:
Harmony Environmental
harmonyenv@amerytel.net
715.268.9992

White Pines for Deer Lake

The response to our announcement of free white pines for Deer Lake properties owners has been exceptional! These 3-4 foot trees will be planted free of charge on the lake side of your property this coming fall.

White pines are native throughout Wisconsin except for a small area in the southeast. These trees were the base of the early timber industry in the state. Large pines were harvested by hand and horse in the winter and floated down rivers such as the St. Croix in the spring.

When you see an eagle soaring overhead, it likely has rested in one of the large white pines surrounding the lake. The Deer Lake Conservancy wants to ensure that these majestic trees are present for future generations (both human and eagle) to enjoy. We hope you will take advantage of our offer of a free, professionally planted white pine for your property.

Think of your tree as part of your legacy for the lake. These trees can live to be 450 years old and grow to over 100 feet tall!



photo: Tom McBride



photo: Tom McBride



White pines tower above other trees on Hungerford Point

photo: Tom McBride

To request a tree, call or email Cheryl Clemens at Harmony Environmental (715-268-9992 or harmonyenv@amerytel.net).

Please include your name, Deer Lake address, telephone number and email address in your request.

We have a limited number of trees, and requests will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

Aquatic Plants Benefit the Lake

As a property owner on Deer Lake, you have probably been approached with offers of services to remove aquatic plants from your waterfront. While the need to navigate from your dock is understood, it is important to first consider the benefits that aquatic plants provide. Because of these benefits, please think about limiting removal to only the area needed to meet navigation needs.

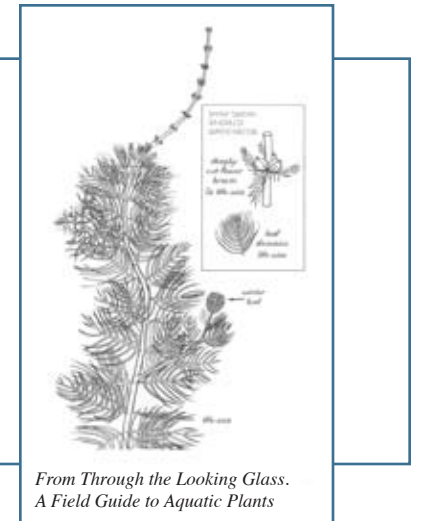
The perimeter of Deer Lake is considered a sensitive area by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. As a result, the maximum width of removal allowed in a corridor around (and including) your dock is 25 feet. Removal by rake or hand-pulling is preferred over digging plants from the lake bottom. The Deer Lake Aquatic Plant Management plan does not support chemical removal for individual waterfront properties, and chemical application is illegal without a DNR permit.

Northern water milfoil *Myriophyllum sibiricum*

Northern water milfoil is a common, native aquatic plant in Deer Lake. Not to be confused with its disparaged cousin Eurasian water milfoil, Northern water milfoil is a desirable native plant. The feathery leaves of the plant provide habitat for invertebrates, and beds of northern water milfoil offer shade, shelter and foraging opportunities for fish. This plant is generally found in clear water lakes.

Native aquatic plants serve these important functions for Deer Lake:

- 1) By covering the lake bottom, they prevent the establishment of non-native invasive species such as Eurasian Water Milfoil - just like good grass cover prevents weeds in your lawn.
- 2) Plant roots stabilize bottom sediments and shorelines, preventing suspension of nutrients and the resulting algae blooms.
- 3) Some aquatic plants take up nutrients from the water column also preventing algae blooms.
- 4) Native aquatic plants support aquatic life including fish and waterfowl. They also support the growth of zooplankton - small critters that eat algae in the lake.



From *Through the Looking Glass. A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants*



2014 Annual Meeting

Please join us for our Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 12th
9:00 a.m.

Trollhaugen
Convention Center



Annual Flagstad Farm Celebration

Hosted by the Deer Lake Conservancy

Join your Deer Lake friends and neighbors for live music and refreshments at the Flagstad Farm.

Saturday, July 26, 2014 • 6-9 PM

PRAIRIE TOUR!!

See the best view of Deer Lake! All ages and guests are welcome.