



November, 2015

Volume 3, Issue 1

## *What is Happening with the Eastern Lakes Project*



Fall is in full force and the Eastern Lakes Project is entering a new phase: Lake Plan Implementation. Now that the Lake Management Plans are complete, Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ) can look at each individual lake and prioritize the goals and actions for implementation. Marathon County CPZ is currently engaging local lake stewards and gathering data so that assistance can be provided as needed. Community engagement will be a crucial element during the implementation phase of the Eastern Lakes Project.

### **Lake Implementation**

#### **Grants:**

Over the winter months CPZ staff will research and try to locate grants to help implement the goals that are within the Lake Management Plans. Funding for projects such as, shoreland restorations,

educational events, establishing habitat for fish/wildlife, etc. are being considered. These projects will help preserve and protect the lakes for many generations to come.

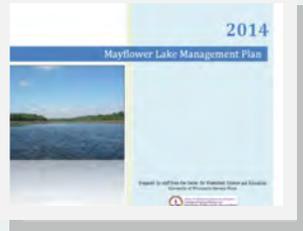
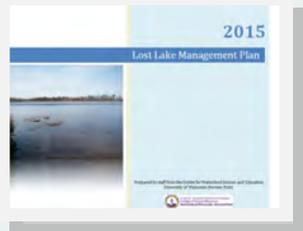
#### **New Staff Member:**

We are excited to have Tyler Betry as a new member to our team. He was brought aboard early this October. He will take on the role as Shoreland Protection Technician, focusing his efforts on the Eastern Lakes. During the past two year Tyler worked for Lincoln & Langlade County as their Shoreland

Protection Specialist so he will fit in very nicely with his new role. Tyler is an avid lake steward and “local boy”, growing up just outside of Elderon. His knowledge of the area will play an important role in community engagement. Tyler is very excited to get the ball rolling and work with the communities that enjoy our pristine lake gems. If you have any questions on the Eastern Marathon Lakes Project or anything regarding shoreland/lake health please contact Tyler at (715) 261-6027 or at [tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us).



# Completed Lake Management Plans



Recently, Lake Management Plans for eleven Eastern Marathon Lakes (LMP) were reviewed and approved by the Towns of Norrie, Reid, Elderon, Bevent and Marathon County. A Lake Management Plan is a living document that changes over time to meet the current needs, challenges and desires of the lake and its community. These plans will play important roles in the management of the each individual lake.

These documents identify goals and also the actions that will need to be taken to accomplish these goals. Each LMP is unique, dependent upon the conditions of the lake, its watershed, and the interests and capacity of the community.

Although each lake is different, to ensure a lake

management plan considers the many aspects associated with a lake, the comprehensive lake management plan addresses, at a minimum, a list of topics that affect the character of a lake. These topics include:

- Fish Community
- Aquatic Plant Community
- Critical Habitat
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Shorelands
- Watershed Land Use
- Recreation
- Communication & Organization

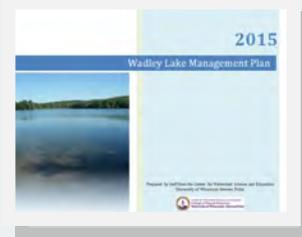
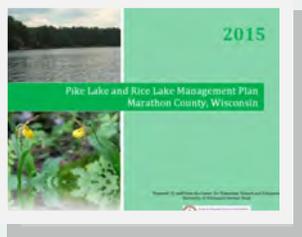
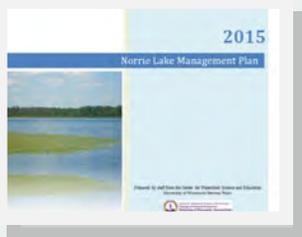
Many lake users value Eastern Marathon County Lakes for these topics that are covered in the plans. By evaluating these lake topics Marathon County (along with many lake stewards and lake organizations) can correct past problems, improve on current

conditions, and provide guidance for future boards, lake users, and technical experts by identifying which issues have been addressed and a way to measure success. These LMPs can help serve as a gateway for obtaining grant funding and other resources to help implement activities outlined in each plan.

Overall the purpose of the Lake Management Plans are to learn about each lake and implement the steps that are identified as important for each individual lake community and for the protection and improvement of our lakes.

**Review Lake Management Plans at:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/lakeplans>

“The new lake management plans for the Eastern Lakes represent a collaborative effort of property owners, lake groups, towns, and the county... all interested in the protection and enhancement of these valued water resources.”  
 ~Becky Frisch, CPZ Director



# Looking to Beautify your Shoreland Property?

Did you know that many native flowers and shrubs that are used in shoreland restoration are actually very beautiful?

One of the most common misconceptions about restoring a shoreland buffer is that the native plants being used or the plants that are regenerating are going to look like “weeds”. However

this statement is in fact false. Native plants used for shoreland restorations come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. These plants can be utilized to naturally landscape your property and at the same time create a healthier waterbody. Beautifying your property with native plants will attract more wildlife,

prevent bank erosion, and will save you time when it comes to maintenance.

All the plants you see on the right are native species you can find along shorelines throughout Marathon County.



## Fish Sticks

Until the last century, when shoreland development expanded, trees stayed where they dropped along lakes and rivers and provided excellent near-shore fish habitat. These fallen trees are crucial for sustaining a diverse/healthy fish population.

Fish Sticks are projects intended to restore the woody habitat in lakes by

adding single or grouped trees to the near-shore areas. These fish structures are secured to the shore using steel cables so that the structures stay in place.

The best time to place these fish stick structures is when the lakes are frozen over so that they can be easily situated on the ice. When the ice melts the fish sticks

fall into the lake and establish themselves on the lake bed.

The fish sticks can either be fully or partially submerged depending on what kind of habitat you want to provide. Many different types of fish species utilize the submerged portions of the trees some point during their lifecycle while turtles

and ducks utilize the portions above the water so that they can sun themselves.

Fish sticks are a new conservation practice that helps to restore the woody debris that was once a part of our inland lakes.

Placing tree on the ice mid winter.



Ice thaws and trees become submerged.



Submerged trees provide fish habitat.



## EASTERN LAKES TIMES

*Marathon County CPZ  
210 River Drive  
Wausau, WI 54403-5449  
715-261-6000*

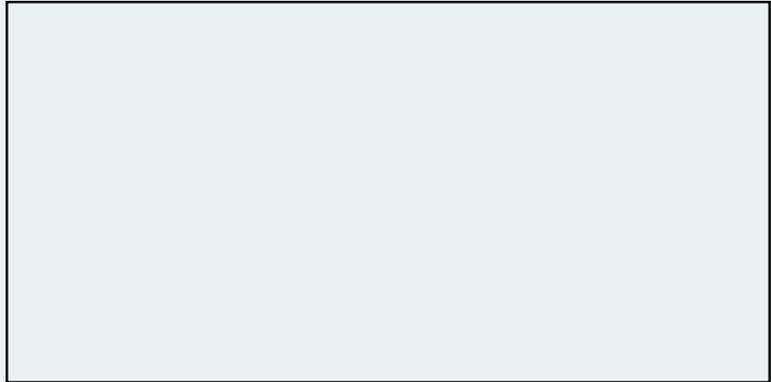
Do you have suggestions for articles or photos to share? Please contact: Tyler Betry 715-261-6027  
tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us

Keep up to date with events, articles, and other lake news at our new revamped Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/EasternMarathonLakes/>



If you would like to receive an electronic copy to save on paper let us know. Please email tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us



## *Healthy Shorelands Pike Lake Tour*

On August 29th, shoreland property owners came together on Pike Lake to share experiences and listen to a featured guest, Patrick Goggin (UW-Extension Lakes Shoreland Specialist) discuss options for shoreland protection & health. During this event property owners toured the lake via pontoon boats or by car to other properties along the lake where Patrick discussed ideas on how to reduce shoreland erosion, beautify shoreland properties, and improve

water quality & habitat.

Participants met and enjoyed some refreshments at the Pike Lake Resort before heading out on the waters to visit neighboring shoreland properties.

Overall the event was a great success with many Pike Lake property owners showing up and partaking in this event.

If you would like to host a lake event please contact the Conservation Planning and Zoning Dept.

