



Conservation, Planning,
& Zoning Department

Marathon County



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Marathon County Awarded DNR Lake Grant!



Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department (CPZ) is pleased to announce that on April 1st the DNR awarded Marathon County \$100,000 through a Lake Protection Grant! This grant will further the efforts of the Eastern Lakes Program and will help continue and enhance the lakes program. CPZ is very excited about continuing lake protection efforts and working with people interested in protecting and preserving the Eastern Lakes.

How will the grant funded be utilized?

The funding from this grant will be utilized to promote water quality protection efforts/activities primarily throughout the Eastern Lakes. These efforts consist of restoring shoreland buffers on private and public lots, implementing the eleven recently adopted Eastern Lake Management Plans, and building community capacity through educational events. The

proposed start date for the grant is April 15th, 2016 through December 31st, 2018.

What can you expect this summer?

Throughout the first summer, CPZ's Shoreland Protection Technician (SPT) will be meeting with several shoreland owners who are interested in participating in the shoreland restoration program. Restoration plans will be created for each individual site and the restoration will be implemented mid summer or early spring next year depending on the size and scale of the restoration. The SPT will work hand-in-hand with the shoreland owners to make sure they have a successful restoration. The best part about the shoreland restoration program is that through this grant Marathon County can **cover up to 70% of the final cost** for shoreland restorations! This will help ease the financial burden for

individual shoreland owners.

Another scheduled project will be the implementation of a 575 foot shoreland restoration along the banks of Mission Lake at the County Park. The project is a joint effort between CPZ and the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department (PRF). The restoration work will begin this spring.

How do I become involved?

If you would like to participate in the shoreland restoration program or if you would like more information about the Lake Protection Grant please contact Tyler Betry, Shoreland Protection Technician via email tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us or by phone (715) 261-6027.

Thank you for everyone who shared input during the Eastern Lake meetings. Your input greatly helped shape the grant application that was submitted to the DNR for approval.



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

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



Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species

Chris Hamerla ~ Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development

The eleven eastern lakes are blessed to have such diverse aquatic plant communities. Several Eastern Lakes contain unique aquatic plants that are considered species of special concern. These unique plants are small purple bladderwort, Farwell's milfoil, water-thread pondweed and spiny hornwort. Unfortunately, nine of the eleven eastern lakes contain one or more different types of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Eight different AIS have been identified in these nine lakes. The invasives that can be found in these waters are: banded mystery snail, Chinese mystery snail,

narrow-leaf cattail, purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, rusty crayfish, yellow iris, and Eurasian water-milfoil.

You can prevent the spread of AIS by:

- Removing all attached aquatic plants and animals from boats, trailers, & equipment.
- Drain all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- Never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

For questions about invasive species or native plants in your lake or if your lake would like a free,

interesting and informative presentation on invasive species and native plants contact Chris Hamerla, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at 715-

343-6215 or chris.hamerla@goldensandsrco.org



Banded & Chinese Mystery Snail



Narrow-leaf Cattail



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Curly-leaf Pondweed



Rusty Crayfish



Purple Loosestrife & Yellow Iris

New Panfish Regulations

Over the last five years the Department of Natural Resources solicited public input on all aspects of panfish management. Throughout public meetings and the input they received, overharvesting of panfish was the public's main concern. So the DNR developed a regulation package to increase panfish size on 94 selected lakes where overharvesting has been an issue in the past. The new changes in regulations went into effect April 1st of 2016 on the 94 lakes. Thorough evaluation will be conducted in 2021 to see if the change in

regulations created a better and bigger panfish population in the 94 lakes.

The new regulations are restrictive enough to affect the harvest but are still socially acceptable.

Here are the three options of regulations:

1. **(25/10)** - A total of 25 panfish but no more than 10 of any one species.
2. **(15/5 seasonal)** - A total of 15 panfish but no more than 5 of any one species during May and June. 25 panfish in total for the rest of the year.

3. **(15/5)** - A total of 15 panfish but no more than 5 of any one species.

These new regulations affect three lakes in Marathon County (Lake Wausau, Pike Lake, & Mud Lake), two of which are eastern lakes. To the right are the new regulations for these three lakes:

Lake Wausau - (25/10)

Pike Lake - (15/5 seasonal)

Mud Lake - (15/5)

If you would like to receive more information, or keep up-to-date on panfish management visit dnr.wi.gov and search "panfish plan."



The following information and figure is brought to you by the WI DNR.

Native Plantings

Brenda Koshollek ~ Majestic Farms Landscaping LLC

Have you noticed more and more native plants being utilized in landscaping in your neighborhood? Are you wondering what kind of benefits they offer and if natives are right for your yard or shoreline? Native plants offer many benefits to the homeowner and to nature when you start to incorporate them into a landscape, whether that be around your house, yard, or shoreline.

Native plants require very little care and rarely ever have to be watered, fertilized, or mulched once they are well established. Since they are adapted for local conditions, they are

able to withstand whatever Mother Nature throws at them – including drought and extreme temperatures. Besides the hardiness of these plants, birds and butterflies love them and will use them as a local food source and habitat.

Native plants are also great for replacing areas that are dominated by only grass such as yards. Grass requires constant maintenance, the mowing alone is very time consuming. It takes a little thinking outside of the box to plant large areas of native and prairie plants, but it is a very fun and rewarding activity once everything is

established and blooming. When the native plants are finally established, think of all the time you will be saving. You can finally enjoy your morning cup of coffee while admiring the wildlife visiting your native landscape instead of running a noisy lawnmower for hours cutting grass.

Native plants along the shoreline of a body of water can also offer a beautiful array of colors that will lure wildlife and make your neighbors jealous of its beauty. Your shoreline can now take care of itself by thickening the population of the plants year after year while also preventing the

shoreline from eroding. Whatever your setting, we encourage you to plant a few or as many as possible native plants this year on your property and enjoy the many benefits they offer the landscape!



Norrie Fisheree

February 20th was a perfect sunny and warm day to hold the Norrie Fisheree. Fishermen and women came from all over the region to support the Norrie Sportsman's Club and to catch some fish in the process. This year's Fisheree had an all time high attendance according to the Club. All of the money raised through food sales, raffles, and memberships will be utilized by the Club so that they can purchase and stock Norrie, Mayflower and Mud Lakes with walleye or small mouth bass. This year they raised over \$5,000! The efforts for those who supported the

Sportsman's club by participating in the Fisheree made the event spectacular. Without people supporting the Fisheree, Norrie, Mayflower, and Mud lake would not have as high of a fish population and diversity as they do now. Thank you again for all who volunteered and participated in the Norrie Fisheree!

Here are the following winners for largest fish of each species during the 2016 Norrie Fisheree:

Largemouth: 20"
Harry Bushkowski

Perch: 8 1/2"
Jeff Amundson

Walleye: 22 3/8"
Tyler Koepke

Bluegill: 9 1/8"
Long Yang

Crappie: 13"
Paul Holum

Northern: 24"
Aiden Schacht



EASTERN LAKES TIMES

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Do you have suggestions for articles or photos to share? Or would you like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter Please contact:
Tyler Betry (715) 261-6027
tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us



Keep on the lookout for Marathon County's new logo for lake protection efforts. You may see this logo on publications, newsletters, signs, and posters throughout the county!

Lake Events

Here are a few events about to happen in or around the Eastern Lakes area. If you know of or would like to have any future lake events announced in the Eastern Lakes Times please contact Tyler Betry at 715-261-6027.

Pike Lake Sportsman's Club meeting - May 28th

PLSC is holding their first meeting of 2016 at 9am at the Town of Reid Town Hall. The town hall is located just north of Pike Lake on County Rd Y.

Shoreland Planting Mission Lake - Spring

CPZ is looking for volunteers to help with the shoreland restoration at Mission Lake. If you would like to participate please contact Tyler Betry at 715-261-6027.

Big Bass Lake Annual meeting - May 28th

Big Bass Lake is holding its annual meeting at 8am at the Bevent Town Hall located on Highway Y three miles south of Bevent.



Featured Native Plant

Wild Columbine:

Aquilegia canadensis

Spring is in full swing and we are finally starting to see some color popping around the Eastern Lakes. One of the first woodland flowers that will start to bloom during this time is the Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*. This flower can grow up 10 inches tall and it displays a bright red and yellow bell shaped flower. It can be primarily found in open hardwood stands but it also grows very well along shorelines in sunnier areas too. These showy flowers enjoy soil that is sandy and not too rich in nutrients so its an easy plant and estab-

lish and maintain. The flowers are also known to attract pollinators such as hummingbirds and bees. Wild Columbine is very well suited for different types of landowners and landscapes due to its versatility. Be wary though, they these flowers are short lived so enjoy them while you can!

Wild Columbine - *Aquilegia canadensis*



Makin, Julie