



Conservation, Planning,  
& Zoning Department

Marathon County



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## *Mission Lake Shoreland Restoration*



Mission Lake is truly one of the hidden gems of Marathon County. Located northeast of Bevent, this 108 acre lake brings in people everyday because of its strong fishery and beautiful county park. Over the years, the shoreline of Mission Lake has started to erode from wave action, foot traffic, and rain fall. So many people come to fish, swim, and spend time with their families and since this lake is utilized by so many, Marathon County's Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ) and Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Departments (PRF) partnered to restore the shoreland buffer along the waters edge.

A shoreland buffer consists of native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers along the shoreland. These vegetated buffers offer many benefits to our lake and river ecosystems. These benefits include erosion control, improvement to water

quality, and fish/wildlife habitat.

The shoreland restoration began early this spring, and was funded through the recent Lake Protection Grant CPZ obtained earlier this year. The restoration takes place along the northwest side of the lake located within the Mission Lake County Park and extends 500 feet along the shoreline heading towards the beach area. This project will serve as a "Demo Site" where the public can visit to educate themselves on the benefits of a shoreland buffer.

The idea of a Demo Site isn't new to neighboring counties but for Marathon County it is. Marathon County currently does not have a demo site where the public can visit to see a shoreland buffer restoration. Mission Lake is a prime location for a Demo Site for several reasons. The first reason is that Mission Lake

attracts a lot of people to its waters because of the amenities it provides (great fishery, nice beach, large open shelters, ample parking etc.). Another reason is that the park is a County owned property which means partnering with PRF will ensure the project is a success. The final and most obvious reason is that the shoreland buffer is deficient in some areas and bank erosion has occurred in several spots throughout the park.

Over the years the new plantings will flourish and fill in the open areas. This will ensure the shoreland is protected and the lake is preserved for many generations to come. CPZ and PRF would like to preserve this lake and shoreland so that the public can continue to enjoy the fishing and scenic beauty this lake provides.



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

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



## Point Intercept Aquatic Plant Surveys

Chris Hemerla ~ Regional AIS Coordinator

Two lakes in Marathon County had point intercept (PI) plant surveys completed (Big Bass & Wadley Lakes) and two more will be done in August (Mission and Mud Lakes). PIs are surveys using GPS points gridded onto a lake map. At each point the water depth, sediment type (sand, rock or muck) and aquatic plants are recorded. Since the GPS points stay the same the survey will be consistent every time it is done. This helps keep track of plant communities, changes in species, and the data used in lake management plans.

Each plant species is given a numeric value 1 through 10 based on how tolerant it is for where it can live. Some plants like coontail can live in a wide variety of conditions including poor water quality. Due to this tolerance coontail is given a lower number, 3. White stem pondweed is not as tolerant and needs better water quality so it is assigned a higher number, 8. When all the plants in a lake are looked at together they can help describe the water quality.

Big Bass, Mission, Mud and Wadley Lakes were chosen to have PIs from guidance

with the DNR. Big Bass was chosen because it is a long term trends lake for the DNR. Wadley Lake was chosen to continue surveying for the presence or absences of Eurasian water milfoil, EWM.

No invasive plants were observed in Big Bass Lake but there is a very dense bed of native pondweeds in the middle of the lake that makes navigation almost impossible.

Wadley Lake was treated for EWM in 2013 and since that time none has been observed. Unfortunately EWM was found during the PI completed on July 6,

2016. Approximately twenty plants were observed along the northwestern shore adjacent to HWY Y. All the observed plants are in less than six feet of water and a hand removal is being planned to eradicate the found plants. Mission and Mud Lake's PIs will be conducted within a few weeks.



Jasmine, a Golden Sands LTE, performing PI Surveys

## Updated County Ordinances

Dean Johnson ~ Zoning Administrator & Jeff Pritchard ~ Planning Analyst

On February 16, 2016 the Marathon County Board of Supervisors approved two new Ordinances: Chapter 17 - Marathon County General Zoning Ordinance and Chapter 22 - Marathon County Shoreline, Shoreland/Wetland and Floodplain Ordinance.

The goal of the comprehensive revision of Chapter 17 was to develop a modern regulatory land use policy and strategy for the rural areas of Marathon County that is consistent with local and county comprehensive plans. As of July 19, 2016, 12 Towns (Brighton, Elderon, Green

Valley, Hewitt, Holton, Hull, Knowlton, Marathon, Rib Falls, Reid, Spencer, and Wien) have adopted the new Chapter 17. The 7 Towns with county administered zoning remain under the old zoning ordinance. These Towns have until February 16, 2017 to determine if they will adopt the new ordinance by resolution. If the February 16, 2017 date passes without action by the Town, the Town will no longer have county administered zoning but could adopt its own zoning ordinance. Towns have the opportunity to adopt the County's zoning ordinance

by resolution at any time. As always, Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ) Department's staff is willing to meet with town boards or planning committees to discuss the new zoning ordinance and assist in the adoption process whether or not your town has no zoning, town zoning, or county administered zoning.

Marathon County was required to update Chapter 22 to reflect legislation passed by the state legislature during their last session. This update included regulations on structure setbacks and height, shoreland

vegetation, filling, grading and excavating, impervious surfaces, nonconforming structures/uses, and mitigation. All unincorporated shoreland areas fall under the jurisdiction of the new Chapter 22. With this update, permit requirements have changed and the CPZ Department requests that anyone contemplating a project within a shoreland area, wetland or floodplain, to please contact the office for assistance and to obtain any necessary permits and approvals (715) 261-6020 or [cpz@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:cpz@co.marathon.wi.us).

# The Lilly Lochness

Tyler Betry ~ Shoreland Protection Technician

Growing up around the Village of Elderon during the summer months you would either find me on the baseball/softball field or out fishing on Lilly Lake. Elderon is graced to have this remote 82 acre lake that holds so much history. Ever since I launched my kayak for the first time in that lake I heard of rumors that this lake was inhabited by the infamous Lilly Lochness, a giant northern pike that has only been seen but never hooked by several of my friends.

I have fished Lilly Lake over the years and have caught some pretty decent fish but

the Lilly Lochness still eluded me and many others. Several years ago I was paddling my kayak into the bay located on the northern side of the lake. That day I witnessed something I won't forget... a duckling that was struggling to keep up with its siblings and mother was violently taken under by a monstrous northern pike, the biggest I've seen. I knew right then and there that the rumors were true.

To this day I have yet to catch the mysterious Lilly Lochness, but I still believe it is out there cruising the shallows. You may think

that this is just a fisherman's tall tale or maybe you actually witnessed the Lilly Lochness for yourself. Either way the allure of the Lilly Lochness will continue to be one the great mysteries of this prestigious lake.

The other day I was kayaking the lake and came

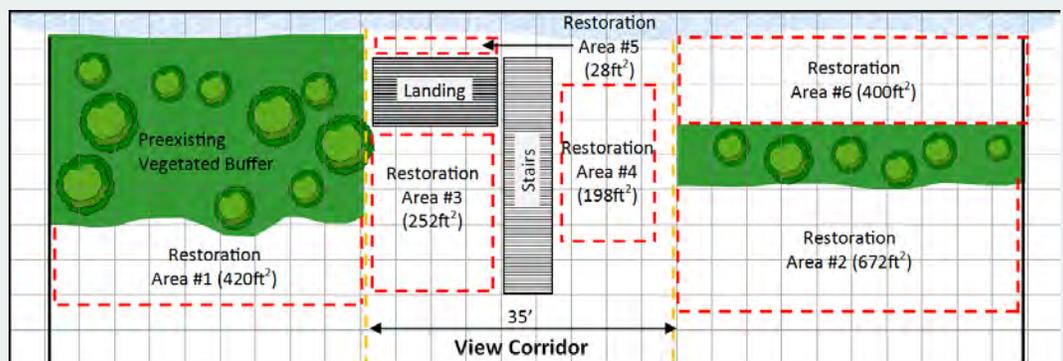
across an old log that reminded me of the Lilly Lochness breaking the water's surface going after the duckling. With a little imagination you can see the log has a beady little eye and gapping mouth just like a northern.



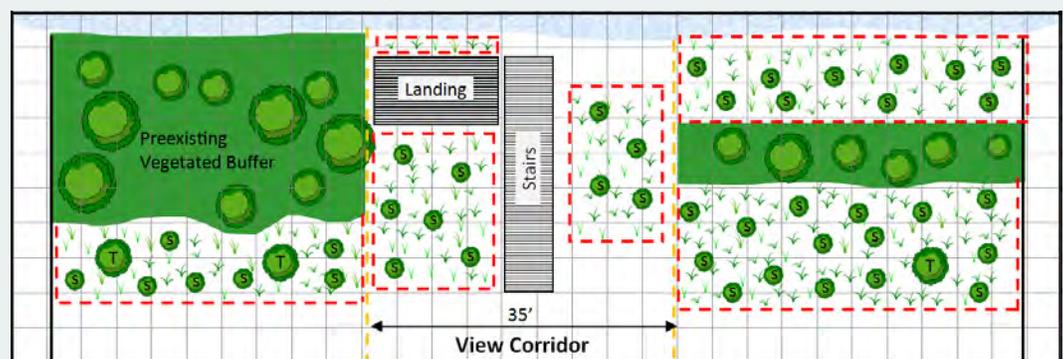
## Private Shoreland Lot Restorations

To date, there are 11 interested Eastern Lakes shoreland owners who are participating in the shoreland restoration program. There is still time and funding if you are considering restoring your shoreline as well. If you are interested in participating in the program please contact the CPZ office, 715-261-6027. Even if you are just curious, our staff will be able to come make an on site to review your shoreline and offer preliminary advice. Flourishing shorelands provide some of the most effect protection for the lakes and streams of Wisconsin.

Current Shoreland Vegetation Conditions



Shoreland Vegetation Conditions After Restorations



## 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? 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 the 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.

#### Mayflower Lake Annual meeting - Aug 20th

Mayflower Lake is holding its annual meeting at 10am at the Norrie Town Hall located on Highway D.

#### Norrie Sportsman Club Meeting - August 15th 7pm

The Norrie Sportsman Club will be hosting a public meeting with Tom Meronek, DNR Fish Biologist, to discuss future fish stockings within Norrie Lake.

#### Mayflower Lake Annual raffle/lunch - Aug 13th

Mayflower Lake is holding their annual raffle & lunch at the Wildlife Bar (located north of the lake). Raffle tickets are \$100 dollars each.



### Featured Plant

#### Low Bush Honeysuckle: *Diervilla lonicera*

Don't confuse *Diervilla lonicera* with the invasive Tatarian Honeysuckle *Lonicera tatarica* that has been invading Wisconsin. Low Bush Honeysuckle is a hardy native Wisconsin shrub that is perfect for shoreland restorations. This shrub consists of dense deep green leaves that change colors from green, to orange, to red when fall arrives. It grows only 2-3 feet in height and can tolerate full sun or full shade. It can also tolerate all soil conditions from fertile soil to rocky/sandy soil. What makes this plant so special is

that it has a dense root system so its perfect for shoreland stabilization and since it can handle all planting conditions it's almost perfect. The downfall to this plant is that the deer tend to love it. So when planting, make sure to use some form of deer repellent or fencing to keep them from making a snack out of your new plant.

Low Bush Honeysuckle  
*Diervilla lonicera*

