



**Friday, May 3rd, 2024 - Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>Registration</b>	
7:30 AM - 8:45 AM	<b>Refreshments and Light Breakfast</b>	
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM	<b>Optional Activities: Naturalist Led Bog Hike</b>	Join Naturalist Licia Johnson for one of the most unique landscapes in Wisconsin, the northern bog is home to intriguing plants, some of which are carnivorous. Learn about their amazing adaptations as we hike and experience this incredible wetland. This will be quite the sensory experience! Taste, touch, smell, see, and hear all the bog has to offer.
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>Opening Comments</b>	
9:15 AM - 9:40 AM	<b>Where the Land and Water Meet: Shoreland Habitat is Critical Fish Habitat</b>	<i>Stephanie Shaw, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Office of Applied Science, Fish Research Team</i> The most critical habitats for fish throughout their life cycle includes the shallow littoral zone of lakes, that area of the lake that is less than 10 feet in depth and parallel to the shoreline. The littoral zone of a lake includes spawning and nursery habitat for some of our most popular gamefish. This zone is teeming with life of all kinds, from plants to insects, and small to large fish alike. Shoreland habitat and habitat management practices directly influence fish. In this presentation we'll talk about how fish use the shallow littoral zone of lakes. We'll discuss different types of shoreland habitat and how these influence fish habitat availability within the littoral zone of lakes. Lastly, we'll talk about shoreland habitat management practices that support fish.

Time	Event	Presentation
9:40 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>Keeping High Quality Waters High Quality in Oneida County</b>	<p><i>JoAnne Lund, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department</i></p> <p>In 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources launched the Healthy Watersheds High Quality Waters (HWHQW) Action Plan. This plan strikes a balance between restoration and protection of water resources, with the emphasis on protection of those considered “already healthy”. The home of 1129 lakes, Oneida County contains some of the highest quality watersheds in the state, with over 85% assessed as priority healthy watersheds. Although the program is in its early phase, we share here our initial steps and vision for implementation of the HWHQW Plan in Oneida County. Efforts will include educational outreach (workshops, training sessions, and outreach publications), increased awareness and monitoring of sensitive areas and species, and developing a lakes classification system with protection activity guidelines. Our goal is to prioritize healthy watersheds and the high-quality waterbodies within them so they remain as such for generations to come.</p>
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>History in the Mucking</b>	<p><i>Paul Garrison, Onterra, LLC</i></p> <p>This talk will discuss how land use changes have impacted a lake's ecology during the last 100+ years. Indicators of many changes that have occurred in a lake's ecology are recorded in a lake's sediments. One particularly useful marker is the diatom community. This algae has a shell made of silica which is usually well preserved in the sediments. Many diatoms have narrow environmental conditions so that they are useful for reconstructing changes in a lake's phosphorus and other chemical concentrations. This talk will demonstrate how changes in a lake's watershed can have a significant impact on a lake's ecology. While agricultural activities often result in the degradation of lake's ecology, shoreline development also has a significant impact. Many lakes with development have seen an increase in growth of aquatic vegetation, especially a shift from low growing plants to those that take up a larger part of the water column.</p>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>Break</b>	

Time	Event	Presentation
10:45 AM - 11:10 AM	<b>Wake Boat Effects on Lakes</b>	<p><i>David Ortiz, Wisconsin's Green Fire</i></p> <p>Literature review of the effects of wake boats on lakes suggests that there needs to be more restrictions to limit environmental impacts. Negative impacts include elevated risk of aquatic invasive species transportation, increased rates of shoreline erosion, sediment resuspension, and disturbance of flora and fauna. Major proposed restrictions include keeping all wake boating activities to lakes that have 40 acres that are at least 20 feet in depth. Any point within the area that is sufficiently deep needs to be at least 600 feet from shore. As well as increased efforts to flush and disinfect ballast systems to limit spreading aquatic invasive species. These restrictions favor conserving ecosystem health while allowing wake boats to be a part of a long-term plan for protecting lakes.</p>
11:10 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>Wake Up! Where We Are, Where We're Going with Wake Boats</b>	<p><i>Scott Hassett, WDNR Secretary 2003 - 2007</i></p> <p>A summary of wake boat issues, and status report on what's happening in Wisconsin at local and state levels, as well as other jurisdictions throughout the country.</p>
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:45 PM - 1:05 PM	<b>The Basics of Wisconsin Lake Districts: An Enduring Tool for Protecting and Restoring Lakes</b>	<p><i>Eric Olson, Extension Lakes</i></p> <p>2024 Marks the 50th Anniversary of Wisconsin's unique lake district law. Since its passage, over 250 lake communities have determined that a taxing authority guided by property owners would be a valuable addition to their lake management strategy. This presentation will provide an overview of what lake districts are, how they are formed, and how they use direct democracy to guide major decisions around a lake. Several lake districts have recently formed in the Northwoods to finance aquatic invasive species management, and this presentation will summarize their stories. The audience for this talk is anyone who is involved in a lake management challenge who is wondering whether or not a lake district would be right for their situation. They'll leave understanding both the advantages and disadvantages of going the lake district route.</p>

Time	Event	Presentation
1:05 PM - 1:25 PM	<b>The State of Culverts in Vilas County</b>	<p><i>Quita Sheehan, Vilas County Land &amp; Water Conservation Department</i></p> <p>There are hundreds of road/stream crossings (RSX) in Vilas County, and the majority of them are accomplished with a culvert or two. The size, shape condition and placement of culverts can have an impact on the function of the stream, movement of aquatic organisms and water quality. It can also affect the safety and longevity of the road. The Vilas County Land &amp; Water Conservation Department has been surveying these culverts across the county and sharing the results with those responsible for their maintenance. The results of the survey are kept in an online hub that is available to the public to review as well. Quita will share what the survey entails, what the results mean for local water quality, how to find the results for a specific culvert.</p>
1:25 PM - 1:45 PM	<b>Using Weevils to Control Eurasian Watermilfoil on Upper Buckatabon Lake in Conover</b>	<p><i>Cathy Higley, Lakes Conservation Specialist, Vilas County Land and Water</i></p> <p>This presentation will go over the process, costs, permits, and results of rearing weevils to control EWM in Upper Buckatabon Lake from 2020-2023.</p>
1:45 PM - 2:00 PM	<b>Preserving Aquatic Ecosystems: Integrated Pest Management Strategies for Lake Conservation</b>	<p><i>Nick Johnson, Aquatic Plant Management LLC</i></p> <p>This presentation delves into the delicate balance of preserving aquatic biodiversity while effectively managing AIS threatening these ecosystems. It will explore diverse management techniques, highlighting their efficacy in controlling invasive species without compromising the lake's ecological integrity.</p> <p>Key Take-Aways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding the critical role of biodiversity in sustaining healthy lake ecosystems.</li> <li>2. Exploring the multidimensional approach of Integrated Pest Management for sustainable AIS control.</li> <li>3. Emphasizing the importance of community engagement and stakeholder collaboration in successful pest management initiatives.</li> <li>4. Recognizing the significance of continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies for long-term lake conservation.</li> </ol>
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>Break</b>	
2:15 PM - 2:25 PM	<b>Northwoods Land Trust: Leaving a Legacy</b>	<p><i>Frank Schroyer, Northwoods Land Trust, Inc.</i></p> <p>Learn more about the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) and how they accomplish their mission to permanently conserve natural shorelands, woodlands, and other natural resources. Staff and board members will showcase the history of NWLTL, the current work they do, and tell stories of conservation successes here in the Northwoods.</p>

Time	Event	Presentation
2:25 PM - 2:35 PM	<b>Ecosystem Focused Property Management</b>	<p><i>Dani DeCloux, Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc</i></p> <p>Join Dani DeCloux, the Environmental Operations Manager from Steigerwaldt Land Services for a brief introduction to the tenants of ecosystem driven management for forests and wetlands in the north woods. An ecosystem focused management approach combines ecological concerns, economic capacity, social concerns, and creative strategies to make sure your land has long term benefits for you and the environment.</p> <p>Are you interested in restoring the native plant communities on your property to enhance habitat or aesthetic? Join us to hear more about the ecosystems present on your property, invasive plants and plant diseases in your area, and how targeted plantings can help boost the beauty and utility of your land</p>
2:35 PM - 2:45 PM	<b>WHIP That Weed! Recognizing and Managing Your Terrestrial Invasive Species</b>	<p><i>Rosie Page, Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP)</i></p> <p>Have you noticed any new “weeds” appearing along your roadside, driveway, or woods? Do you want to protect your land from aggressive invaders like Japanese knotweed, buckthorn, or garlic mustard? The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP) can help! We are a 15-partner cooperative (including counties, DNR, USFS, and more) working in Oneida, Vilas, and Lincoln Counties to achieve invasive species management across jurisdictional boundaries. If you’re a private landowner, we can offer a site visit, management recommendations, and often help with control work. Come learn about us and see how we can work together this year to keep our landscape as native as possible.</p>
2:45 PM - 2:55 PM	<b>Preserving our Woods and Waters</b>	<p><i>Jamie Van, North Lakeland Discovery Center</i></p> <p>Explore how collaborative efforts with lake volunteers, lake associations, towns, counties, consultants, and regulatory agencies, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, have been instrumental in the success of our Woods and Water program. Discover how our program has effectively raised awareness about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), shoreline protection, and the critical importance of lake conservation through educational initiatives. Learn about the hands-on approach our program takes in removing aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, ensuring the sustained vitality of our cherished lakes.</p>
2:55 PM - 3:05 PM	<b>Turtle River and its Chain of Lakes</b>	<p><i>Mike Shouldice, Spider Lake Association</i></p> <p>The Turtle River starts near Michigan's Upper Peninsula and flows through a dozen lakes in Vilas and Iron County. Several lake associations are engaged in efforts to protect the river and its chain of lakes through education, invasive species management, shoreline protection and other initiatives. Learn about these volunteer organizations and the support and guidance they receive from the towns and counties.</p>
2:05 PM - 3:15 PM	<b>Closing Comments</b>	

Time	Event	Presentation
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	<b>Optional Activites: Underwater ROV</b>	Join the Woods and Water team down at Statehouse Lake to explore and test drive an underwater remote operated vehicle (ROV). Do you think like an engineer? Try your hand at building your own ROV. This activity is suitable for coming and going as you please. Stop by!
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	<b>Optional Activities: Historic YCC Tour</b>	The Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps was created and shaped to help carry out work through the Wisconsin Conservation Department (DNR). The first YCC Camp was Statehouse Lake in Manitowish Waters. Today this property is the site of the North Lakeland Discovery Center, and the YCC legacy lives on today. Join local historian, Kay Krans, on a walking tour of the Discovery Center campus to learn about the history of the camp and the labor, mission, and dedication of the young people of the YCC.
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>Social and Appetizers</b>	Join the conversation in the Main Lodge to converse about all the new opportunities we have unfolded today. Indulge in appetizers and sweets. Beer and wine will be served at the bar for donations.