

Inside This Issue

Shoreline Fires

Fallen Trees in Water

Status of Shoreland Protection

Potpourri

A Floating Solar Power Plant

Global Positioning Survey of Lake Winnebago

2013 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention archives online

Shoreline Fires

Too much algae is a bad thing and excessive algae causes the formation of scum, foul odors, low oxygen in water, and offensive views.

So how do shoreline fires and algae relate?

Wood ash contains nutrients required by plants for good growth including one to two percent phosphorous. Phosphorus is a powerful growth agent. It is estimated that only one pound of phosphorous can generate 500 pounds of wet algae.

It is recommended that when you burn, don't do it on the shoreline. If you burn leaves, scrap wood, tree limbs, paper, or other trash, help out the lake by burning away from the shore, where it won't blow or wash into the lake. Thirty-five feet is a recommended distance if you don't have a fire pit.

If you have a fire pit, remove the ashes from the pit to prevent them from getting into the lake. Remember, you can use the ashes as an amendment to your compost pile.



Fallen Trees in Water

University of Wisconsin researcher Tim Kratz reported that removing fallen trees from a shallow water basin in the Little Rock Lake made a difference. The difference was that the yellow perch population decreased, largemouth bass grew more slowly, and the diets of the fish shifted.



Tim Kratz says the findings confirmed that wood in shallow water is often a great habitat for fish and other aquatic life and has helped shape best practices for shoreline management.

Status of Shoreland Protection

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced over a year ago that it was seeking to revise NR115. NR115 is the state administrative code that establishes minimum standards for county shore land zoning ordinances across Wisconsin.

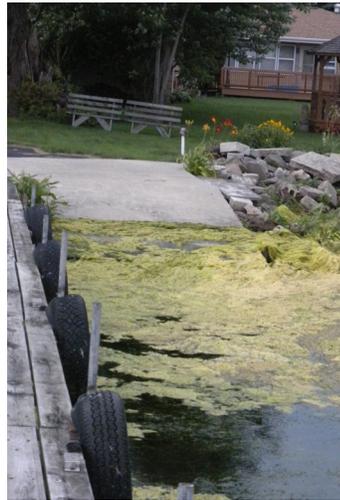
The proposed rule changes will ease rules relating to the percentage of impervious surfaces in a lot within 300 feet of a lake or river, exempt some lots that currently must meet the impervious standard, and allow for a one-time side-to-side expansion of nonconforming structures inside the 35 foot setback from the water's edge.

The existing rules came about as the result of a long series of difficult negotiations between conservation organizations, business interests, developers, and the state. The rules were finalized in 2009 and became effective in 2010, but the actual deadline for counties to have ordinances in place has continually been pushed back to its current 2014 date.

Potpourri

Summer's warm weather can spur blue-green algae blooms. State and local public health and water quality officials advise that high temperatures typical of late July into August can spur these blooms.

There is a new statewide permit available for cleanup of accumulated plant and animal nuisance deposits. A quicker, less expensive permit process is now in place to allow waterfront property owners statewide to more quickly and easily clean up accumulations of zebra mussels, dead fish, alga, dead and decaying plants and other nuisance type deposits from their shoreline. This new process now allows property owners on all water bodies to have the same streamlined process that has been in place for Great Lakes property owners since 2008. The streamlined permit process, previously only available to some waterfront property owners, will now be available for all.



Global Positioning Survey of Lake Winnebago

Garmin, a company known for its global positioning system equipment, is currently surveying Lake Winnebago for the first time.

The boats surveying the lake can be seen moving very systematically as they collect data, covering approximately 2,000 acres a day. They began in June and it's anticipated to take several months to survey the 137,000 acres of Lake Winnebago.

A Garmin spokesperson reported that the newer side scan transducers have a nearly 180 degree view of the lakebed and gathers more accurate data providing a more complete image of the lakebed and submerged structures for fishermen and boaters.

A Floating Solar Power Plant

Australian green energy company, *Global Environmental Infrastructure Technology Solutions* (GEITS) has been talking with Adams County officials who want to clean up polluted Lake Petenwell. They propose building a five-megawatt floating solar power plant to suck the phosphorous out of one of Wisconsin's largest flowages.

GEITS would establish their operations in the city of Adams, building a factory in the industrial park, where they would produce the power plant components. The city would use the technology to clean up its own wastewater.

There are hurdles ahead including getting approval from the DNR to put a privately owned floating structure on a public waterway.

GEITS has used the technology in other countries. This would be the first time it is used in the United States.

If you missed the 2013 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention and want to see what was up, or wish you could see materials from a particular session, the archives are now online and ready for viewing!
<http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/conventions/2013/archive.asp>