

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

VOLUME 19, ISSUE ONE



Protect Your Shoreline and Get Cash Back

By Mike Kornmann, University of Wisconsin-Extension

How often do you get cash back to do the right thing? In Burnett County, you can receive a cash refund annually for maintaining a natural shoreline. Preserving natural shorelines helps to preserve water quality. Un-mowed areas with native plants keep water clean by filtering runoff and holding the soil in place. They also provide a home for a diversity of wildlife. Almost 700 people have taken advantage of the Shoreline Incentive Program also known as SIP.

The program works by rewarding you financially for doing the right thing. Burnett County will pay you \$250 per parcel for enrolling in the program. The enrollment payment follows an inspection that certifies that your property meets the program standards. Your commitment to preserving your shoreline includes putting your natural shoreline and access corridor in a recorded covenant. Once recorded, you will receive a classy shirt that identifies you as a natural shoreline supporter. We'll ask that you place a small sign identifying your commitment at your shoreline (optional). And then, Burnett County will provide a little thank you each year by sending you a check for up to \$50.

What people like best about the program is that it is an incentive. Only the proper-

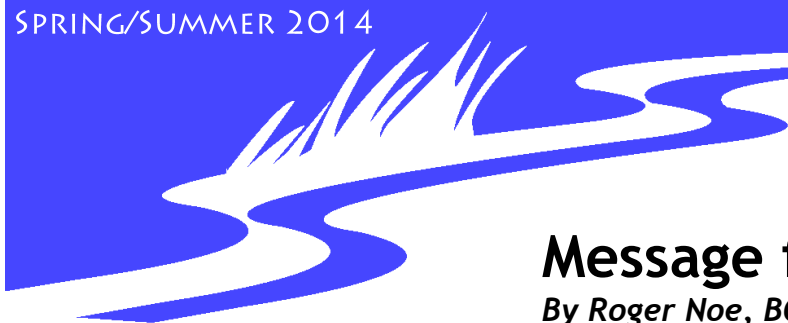
ty owner chooses whether to be in the program. Current participants also comment that they like to do their part

"Wearing the shirt and having the modest sign on my property lets others on the lake know that I am committed to preserving water quality."

and get recognized. One program participant said, "Wearing the shirt and having the modest sign on my property lets others on the lake know that I am committed to preserving water quality on the lake." Another participant commented that the assistance provided by the Land and Water Conservation office was very beneficial in helping to restore their

shore. And it all can start with a free "no strings attached" visit from a natural shoreline specialist. Call Ann today at 715-349-2186.





Message from the President

By Roger Noe, BCLRA

Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association

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williamyorkson@centurytel.net
- **Arne & Barb Enslin**
Hayden Lake Association
715-656-7217
arnenslin@gmail.com or
barbenslin@gmail.com

About this publication:

Editor: Mike Kornmann, University of Wisconsin-Extension
Community Development Agent
<http://burnett.uwex.edu>
715-349-2979
mike.kornman@ces.uwex.edu

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Finally, a winter we can really call winter. Whew!!!! What a ride. For those of you who persevered and endured the winter in Burnett County – God bless you!! May your spring be warm and your beer cold! A silver lining in our 100+ inches of snow might be the replenishment of our water table and a rise in lake levels. On the flip side however, with 30 inches of ice and significant snow cover, some of our smaller, more shallow lakes will surely see fish kills due to low oxygen levels. Mother Nature seems to always balance things despite man's manipulation.

As the ice goes out and lakes and rivers move towards summer, some things to think about:

BCLRA will host its annual meeting on Saturday June 28th at Forts Folle Avoine. Following the business meeting at 9:30am, Erica LeMoine from Northland College will present a session on loons. She will summarize loon activity in northern Wisconsin and highlight loon characteristics during the summer months. The presentation is adapted for children and should be fun. It will begin at approximately 10:00 am.

As we move into spring/summer, lake association chairmen/women should be receiving a contact from a BCLRA representative. All members of Burnett County lake associations will be receiving a "Pocket Guide", adapted from Sawyer County, to the out-of-doors. With advice from fish hook removal to pickled fish recipes – it is a great tool from BCLRA to you.

As a lake association, think about hosting an educational session for the children on your lake... "big" kids and little ones too. Burnett County has a wealth of resources to help you. From frogs, to loons, to fish, to shorelines – help is out there to give kids and everyone insight and background to our natural resources. Here is a starter list for you:

- Mike Kornmann – UW-Extension Burnett Co., 715-349-2151
- Dave Ferris – Burnett Co. Land & Water, 715-349-2186
- John Haack – UW-Extension Washburn Co., 715-635-7406
- Chris Spaight – WDNR, Webster, 715-463-2897
- Jim Flanagan – Burnett Co. Zoning, 715-349-2138
- Roger Noe – BCLRA, 715-635-6309
- Northwest WDNR Headquarters, Spooner WI, 715-635-2101

From the BCLRA to all, we wish you a fun, exciting and safe summer. We hope to be able to contact all lake associations at some point during the year. If your group has not been contacted and would like to be, please contact Roger Noe at 715-635-6309.

Good luck fishing!!!

LakeLines Distribution Expanded, BCLRA Donation

By Mike Kornmann, University of Wisconsin-Extension

Over the years, the popularity of *LakeLines* was mostly documented through anecdotal evidence. Consistently throughout the county, people would comment how much they enjoyed *LakeLines* and the things they learned. Last fall, the University of Wisconsin-Extension surveyed *LakeLines* readers and got a better idea of the readership and the reader satisfaction with the newsletter. The survey revealed that 80% of our mailed newsletters get read by at least one person. Forty percent of the time, the newsletter is read by more than one person. Over 96% of the readership finds the reliability of information to be good or excellent. Fifty-seven percent read the newsletter cover to cover.

With the high satisfaction from the readers and high percentage of lakeshore owners reading the newsletter, Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association (BCLRA) and

the University of Wisconsin-Extension decided to expand *LakeLines* distribution. In years past, only property owners on lakes with lake associations received the newsletter.

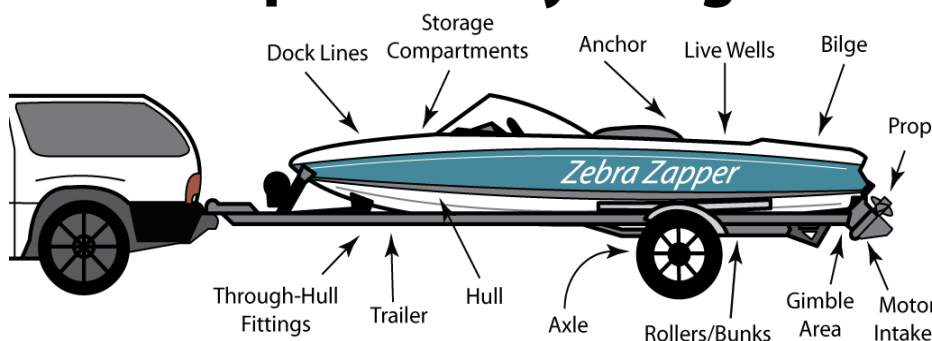
Now all property owners on
lakes in Burnett County will
receive *LakeLines*.

Both organizations, along with the County of Burnett, identified new resources so that now all property owners on lakes in Burnett County will receive *LakeLines* (5,500 copies mailed). We are happy to be able to get an important resource out to all lakeshore owners.

In other news, BCLRA continues to support the prevention of aquatic invasive species in Burnett County by sup-

porting clean boat, clean waters programs. At the April meeting of the County Natural Resources Committee, BCLRA presented a \$500 check to the B.C. Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) for summer intern support. Each year, natural resources majors from area universities help to educate lake users on the importance of checking boats for aquatic vegetation before and after launching. BCLRA intends to provide this \$500 donation annually. In 2014, four summer interns will be serving the county.

Before Leaving & Before Launching... Inspect Everything!



DONATE TO BCLRA

Our purpose is to promote the environmental protection of Burnett County's lakes and rivers and its wildlife resources, to share information, projects, and results. If you would like to help BCLRA fulfill its mission, please consider a charitable donation. Any amount is appreciated and helps to provide support to the many projects BCLRA is involved in.

SEND YOUR CHECK TO: 7410 Co Rd K, #107, Siren WI 54872 payable to BCLRA.

Amount:	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100
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Existing Aquatic Invasive Species by Lake

By Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bashaw Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed
Purple Loosestrife

Benoit Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Big Doctor Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Big Sand Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Birch Island Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail
Purple Loosestrife

Burlingame Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Clam Lakes, Lower and Upper

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Clam River Flowage

Curly-Leaf Pondweed
Purple Loosestrife

Clear Lake

Freshwater Jellyfish

Crooked Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Danbury Flowage

Curly-Leaf Pondweed
Rusty Crayfish

Des Moines Lake

Banded Mystery Snail
Chinese Mystery Snail

Devils Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Dunham Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail
Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Falk Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail
Curly-Leaf Pondweed
Purple Loosestrife

Gaslyn Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Gull Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Ham Lake

Eurasian Water-Milfoil

Hanscom Lake

Purple Loosestrife

Johnson Lake

Freshwater Jellyfish

Little McGraw Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Little Trade Lake

Eurasian Water-Milfoil

Little Wood Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Little Yellow Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Purple Loosestrife

Rusty Crayfish

Long Lake (Siren)

Chinese Mystery Snail

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Long Lake (Webb Lake)

Banded Mystery Snail

Chinese Mystery Snail

Loon Creek

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

McKenzie Creek

Purple Loosestrife

McKenzie Lake

Banded Mystery Snail

Chinese Mystery Snail

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Purple Loosestrife

Middle McKenzie Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Purple Loosestrife

Minerva Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Mud Hen Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Phragmites (non-native)

Purple Loosestrife

North Fork Wood

River Phragmites (non-native)

Pine Lake

Freshwater Jellyfish

Point Lake

Banded Mystery Snail

Chinese Mystery Snail

Pokegama Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Purple Loosestrife

Prinel Lake

Freshwater Jellyfish

Rice Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Purple Loosestrife

Robie Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Rooney Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Round Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Eurasian Water-Milfoil

St. Croix River

Rusty Crayfish

Sand Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Shallow Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Eurasian Water-Milfoil

Spirit Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Spring Lake

Purple Loosestrife

Trade River

Rusty Crayfish

Twenty Six Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Unnamed (S of Lucerne Lake)

Purple Loosestrife

Viola Lake

Freshwater Jellyfish

Warner Lake

Chinese Mystery Snail

Freshwater Jellyfish

Wood Lake

Rusty Crayfish

Wood River

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Rusty Crayfish

Yellow Lake

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Japanese Knotweed

Purple Loosestrife

Rusty Crayfish

Yellow River

Rusty Crayfish



Japanese Hops - Undesirable Invasive Plant

By Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The plant, Japanese Hops (*Humulus japonicus*), might sound like another great variety for brewing beer or adding as a new ornamental to quickly spruce up the garden. But don't be fooled.

While Japanese Hops is impressive looking, it's not at all desirable for brewing or landscaping, and it's especially not desirable for our forests or stream-banks.

Japanese Hops cannot be used for home brewing because it lacks the oily resins that give hops their unique flavor and aroma. And while its vine-like growth appeals to many people as an ornamental plant, this species' uncontrollable nature and irritating hairs make it a highly invasive plant and Wisconsin's forests are severely threatened by its introduction.

This aggressive vine climbs over vegetation and forms thick monocultures of tangled vines up to several feet deep. They twist up and topple trees, crowd-out desirable species, and inhibit forest regeneration.

The first record of Japanese Hops in Wisconsin was from Crawford County, but it is rapidly spreading with heavy infestations in Grant, Crawford, Vernon and Lafayette counties. New reports also are being received in neighboring counties as well as in other parts of the state.

Japanese Hops plants are reported to grow over 35 feet in one year! Plants reproduce by seeds, which mature and disperse in early fall. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for over three years. This plant loves rich soils and sunlight, making river corridors a favorite habitat to invade. When populations go to seed, floating seeds are carried downstream colonizing new areas. The vines grow rapidly in the summer warmth and are killed off by winter chills, with new plants emerging from the previous year's seed dispersal. Infestations can spread as far as people, water and animals travel.

**This species'
uncontrollable nature
and irritating hairs
make it a highly
invasive plant.**

Hand-pulling is effective, especially in smaller populations. For large infestations, continual mowing or cutting prevents seed production. Spraying leaves with a systemic herbicide, such as glyphosate, is also effective in spring.



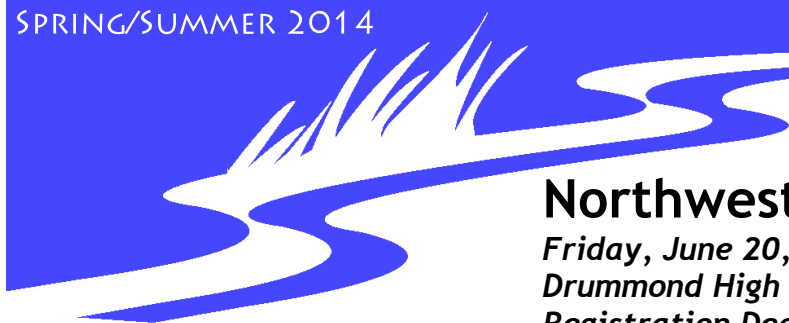
The following are some identification tips, but people should exercise caution when working with this plant because it can be very irritating to the skin.

- Vibrant green leaves have five to nine lobes and are very rough to the touch.
- The petiole or leaf stem is much longer in proportion to the leaf size than the native hops. Often, the petiole length is as long as or longer than the leaf itself.
- Climbing stems have rough downward-facing barbs or hairs on the stem. Run your fingers down the vine and then carefully try to rub back up against the prickly hairs.
- The plant lacks tendrils and climbs structures by twisting. Most hop vines climb clockwise, but Japanese hops are said to twist counter-clockwise.

Under the Invasive Species Rule – NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code – Japanese Hops is prohibited through most of the state. People who find this species are asked to report it. Collecting a specimen or taking detailed photographs of the petiole length and other diagnostic features

is extremely important for confirmation. Submit a report online or send the DNR an email at invasive.species@wisconsin.gov.

For more information, contact: Kelly Kearns, WI DNR, 608-267-5066, or the Burnett County LWCD at 715-349-2186.



Northwest Lakes Conference

Friday, June 20, 2014, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Drummond High School, Drummond, Wisconsin

Registration Deadline: June 14, 2014

Conference Cost: \$35, students free

The 2014 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference will take place on Friday, June 20, 2014 at the Drummond High School in Drummond, Wisconsin.

The conference cost of \$35.00 includes admission, program materials, continental breakfast, and lunch. Students attend free of charge. A vegetarian lunch is available.

Register online at <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/>, by phone at 800-542-5253, fax at 608-661-4314, or mail to: Wisconsin Lakes at 4513 Vernon Blvd., Suite 101, Madison, WI, 53705. Checks and credit cards are accepted for payment. The registration deadline is Saturday, June 14, 2013.

Conference Agenda

8:00 am *Registration, Continental Breakfast and Exhibits*

9:00 am **Welcome, Opening Remarks and Recognition**

9:10 am **The Round Goby** - Kate Weiss, Grantsburg Middle School

9:15 am **Outdoor Wisconsin - Celebrating Wisconsin Waterways** - Dan Small, Outdoor Wisconsin

10:15 am Break

10:45 am **SESSION I**

Current Lake Legislation - Michael Engleson & John Keckhaver, Wisconsin Lakes

Lake Eutrophication: Too Much of a Good Thing - Buzz Sorge, WDNR

Controlling Eurasian Water Milfoil - Michelle Nault, WDNR & Joe Skogerboe, Army Corps of Engineers

Partnerships Protecting Waterways: Namekagon River Partnership & Minong Town Lakes - Scott Peterson, Namekagon River Partnership & Russ Robinson, Minong Town Lakes

The Life & Challenges of the Common Loon - Erica LeMoine, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute

11:45 am Luncheon and Exhibits

12:45 pm **SESSION II**

An Overview of Shoreland Zoning and Shoreland Mitigation Options - Mike Wenholz, WDNR

Assessing Shoreland Habitat - Dan McVarlane, UW-Stevens Point

Curtailing Curly Leaf Pondweed - James Johnson, Freshwater Scientific Services

Partnering for Lake Ecology Education - Eau Claire Lakes POA Members & Drummond School Students

Improving Habitat with Fish Sticks - Scott Toshner, WDNR

1:45 pm Break

2:00 pm **SESSION III**

Dammed If You Do - Damned If You Don't: What Does it Mean to Own a Dam? - Bill Sturtevant & Miriam Anderson, WDNR

Loving a Lake to Death - John Ney, Virginia Tech Emeritus Professor

The History & Cultural Significance of Wild Rice - Wanda McFaggen, St. Croix Tribe

Lake Associations Protecting Lakes: Bone Lake & Deer Lake - Alex Chorewycz, Bone Lake & Jim Miller, Deer Lake

An Eye for Wildlife Photography - Larry Sampson, Wildlife Photographer

3:00 pm Adjourn



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Boat Registrations Fund Key Lake Related Services

By Christopher Spaight, WDNR Warden and
Mike Kornmann, University of Wisconsin-Extension

While most of us are familiar with and remember to register our automobiles, it is a lot easier to forget to register our boats. Boats are seasonal vehicles and in the rush to enjoy the lake, renewing the boat registration is not always high on the priority list. Renewing that boat registration, however, may be more important than you think.

Boat registrations are key tools in funding lake related services. They include:

- **Boating Safety** – This fund provides the resources for a statewide program of safety courses conducted by local instructors trained, certified, and supervised by DNR conservation wardens. Do you or your children want programs to learn boat safety?
- **Boating Enforcement Aids** – This fund helps to provide assistance to local municipalities like Burnett County to fund its outdoor recreation officers. By having a local presence on our lakes, county outdoor recreation officers help to protect resources, ensure water safety, and respond to rescue situations.
- **Customer Assistance** – funding from this area helps to provide on-line customer service programs including boat registrations.

Boat registrations are key
tools in funding lake
related services.

limited to boating safety and law enforcement purposes by court interpretation of this constitutional provision.

The following boats are required to be registered in WI.

- Equipped with any type of motor (gas or electric).
- Sailboats greater than 12 feet in length.
- The boat is used primarily in Wisconsin.
- The boat is kept in Wisconsin for more than 60 consecutive dates.

Please note: Canoes do not need to be registered unless equipped with a motor or a sail.

If you determine that your boat requires Wisconsin registration, please take action to get your boat into compliance. You may complete your boat registration online, by U.S. Mail, or in-person at a Wisconsin DNR Service Center.

You can find documents and information regarding how to register your boat at <http://dnr.wi.gov/>. Use the search keywords “boat registration.”

If you have any questions or need assistance in this process, please contact the Department of Natural Resources’ customer service office at the toll-free number -- 1-888-936-7463. The line is staffed 7 days a week from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Boaters also have the option of making a voluntary contribution of a minimum of \$2 for invasive species control activities and lake research. There are some limits on what funding from boat registrations can be used for.

Article IX of the Wisconsin Constitution specifies that the state’s navigable waters “shall be common highways and forever free” to Wisconsin and U.S. citizens “without any tax, impost, or duty therefore”. As a result the use of revenue from boat registration fees has been



Odds and Ends

Lake Resource Contact Information

Fire Danger/Burning Permits
1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876)

Burnett County:

- Zoning 715-349-2138
- Land & Water Conservation 715-349-2186
- University of Wisconsin-Extension .. 715-349-2151
- Non-emergency Sheriff 715-349-2121

WDNR

- Ranger Station-Webster 715-866-8201
- Ranger Station-Grantsburg 715-463-2897
- Ranger Station-Minong 715-466-2022
- Ranger Station-Spooner 715-635-2101
- WDNR TIP LINE 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)

Utilities:

- NW Wisconsin Electric 715-463-5371
- Polk-Burnett 800-421-0283

Handyman Services:

- Jake Holmstrom 715-790-1245
- Ron Bauer 715-566-1490
- Howard Wilson 320-384-7112

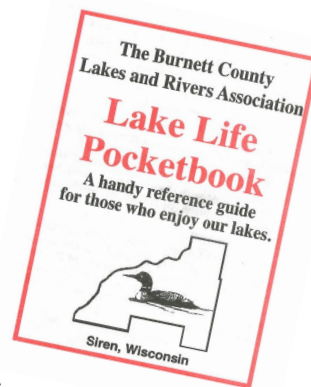
Destinations

- Crex Meadows Visitors Center <http://www.crexmeadows.org/>
- Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park ... <http://theforts.org/>

Household Waste: <http://burnettcounty.com/householdwaste>



© Zell am See-Kaprun Tourismus - <http://zellamsee-kaprun.com>



Burnett County Pocket Guides Available: Pocket Guides with helpful lake living information will be available this summer. BCLRA has published the guide to help inform lake recreationists about just about every topic from A to Z. You can get a free pocket guide from your local lake association or by contacting the University of Wisconsin-Extension Burnett County office at 715-349-2151.

BCLRA Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 21** at the Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park. Erica LeMoine from “Loon Watch” has agreed to give a talk on loons that should be entertaining to both children and adults and will include an actor in a loon costume. Start time for the loon program is **around 10 a.m.** (after the annual business meeting at 9:30 a.m.)

Wetland Critters for Kids The Great Blue Heron

By Christian W. Cold - Wildlife, WDNR - Ladysmith

What is a blue heron?

The great blue heron is our largest wading bird. It stands a full 4 ½ feet tall and has a wingspread of over 5 feet.

Where can I find one?

You will find this bird quietly standing along the shoreline of practically any lake, pond, marsh, river or stream.

What does a blue heron eat?

Heron are predators (hunters) that have a special appetite for fish, frogs, tadpoles, small snakes and just about any small animal that ventures too close.

What eats a blue heron?

Bald eagles and great-horned owls occasionally make a meal of a heron, but they must be especially careful to avoid the stabbing thrusts of its fearsome beak.

Where does it nest?

Great blue herons gather in small nesting colonies (rookeries) to raise their young. Rookeries are usually found in a stand of large, dead trees near water.

Are there any threats to blue herons?

Like most birds, herons are protected by laws. People may accidentally disturb these birds while they are nesting. When shorelines are developed with too many houses, herons may find it difficult to find a proper place (habitat) to build a nesting colony. Lead sinkers, fishing line and hooks may cause mischief when herons accidentally swallow fish entangled with fishing tackle.

What “good” is it?

If you see a heron, that is probably very good evidence that there are fish, frogs and other wildlife in your area. Scien-

tists might say that herons are indicators of healthy and productive wetland habitat.

Try this...

In early summer, if you see a heron flying overhead in the late afternoon, put a little arrow on a map which marks the location and direction of travel. Do that at least 3 or 4 times and then extend all arrows with lines until they cross each other. That point should be at (or near) the rookery location. It is important to view rookeries from a great distance (with binoculars). Remember...we don't wish to disturb these amazing birds...especially while they are nesting.

Keep a journal (a “nature diary”) which describes the animals and their activities in your area. Share your adventures and discoveries with others.



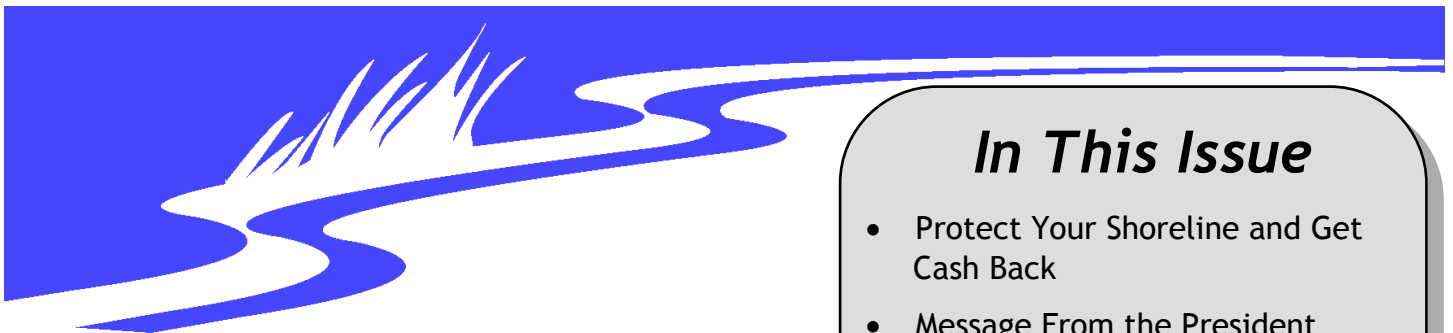


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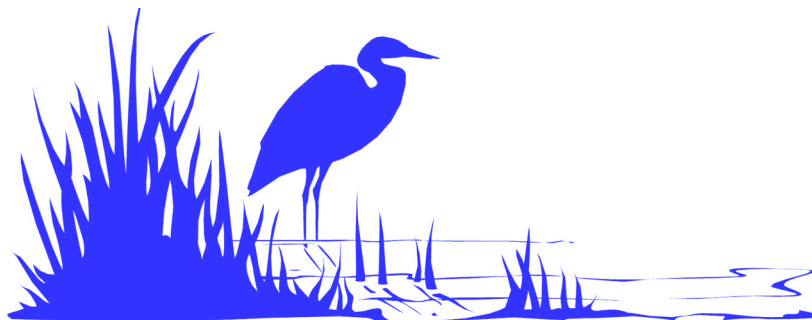
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LAKELINES

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LakeLines is now featured online at www.burnettcounty.com/LakeLines