

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2005 Issue



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Lake Lines

Shoreline Incentives Program Focus on Shoreline Restoration

by Cheryl Clemens

Imagine the view from your dock across the lake. What do you see? Clear water, tall trees, and wildlife? Or your lake neighbor's home and mown lawn? Now imagine looking back toward your own property. What view do your lake neighbor's see? Does the property provide cover and food for wildlife?

Photos and descriptions of restoration projects are available in a brochure called *Natural Shorelines Restoration Stories*. The brochures are available free of charge from the Land and Water Conservation Department (715-349-2186). The Department also has native plant guides, planting videos, and other information available for your use.

These are perhaps hard questions to ask ourselves, but they are important considerations for the health of our lakes. A diverse cover of trees, shrubs, and native plants near the water provide natural views, filter runoff water, and offer a place for wildlife to feed and rest.

Bob Williams, Clam Lake landowner, is a big fan of shoreline restoration. Bob loves to talk about the beauty of his flowering native plants and shrubs and the wildlife that enjoy his shoreline buffer. He is now considering methods to add in-water plantings to add additional benefits for wildlife.

Could 2005 be the year to make natural improvements on your property? In addition to offering incentives for preserving natural shoreline buffers, the Burnett County Shoreline Incentives Program offers funds for shoreline restoration. The Land and Water Conservation Department provides experienced assistance to draw up a plan and recommend native plant selections for your property. Once planting is completed according to the plan you help develop, your property may be eligible to receive tax and other incentives offered through the Shoreline Incentives Program.

If you are interested in shoreline restoration for your Burnett County waterfront property, please call the Land and Water Conservation Department for more information. They will arrange an on-site visit with Burnett County's shoreline consultant at no charge to you. She will work with you to prepare a natural restoration plan for your waterfront. Your choice of whether or not to participate comes after you review the plan. Please call the Land and Water Conservation Department for more information (715-349-2186).

Grants from the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection ensure program funds are available for shoreline restoration projects in 2005. Shoreline restoration cost sharing pays up to 70 percent of the cost of the project once it is complete according to the plan. It allows credit for landowner labor, or funds to pay a landscaper to complete the project.

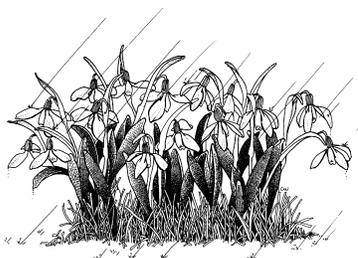


Table of Contents

Shoreline Incentives Program -Restoration	1
Dragonfly Study	2 & 3
Invasive Species Funding	3
Letter from the President	3
BCLRA Board Members	3
Insects	4
Annual NW WI Lakes Conf.	insert



Dear Burnett County Lake and River Associations,

The Grantsburg High School Science Club is writing to request volunteers for a study on dragonflies that we will be conducting this summer. The Wisconsin DNR has granted our group \$9,000 to fully fund our project that will look at dragonfly communities on the St. Croix, Yellow, Clam, Trade and Wood Rivers. In 1989, two new species of dragonfly were discovered on the St. Croix, and little is known about their habitat requirements or if they are even found in the tributaries that run through our county. Because so little is known, and because there is so much water out there to be covered, our group is actively seeking volunteers to adopt a shoreline of a lake or preferably river to collect dragonfly exoskeletons. Each year in late May or early June, over the course of only 4-6 days, approximately 85% of the dragonflies emerge from the water, break out of their exoskeletons, inflate their wings and fly away. Our group is looking for these shed exoskeletons because from them, we can identify the animals to species and thus learn who is living where. Later this summer, we will return with SCU-BA gear to select locations and do detailed habitat studies of the lake and river bottoms as well as shoreline in these areas. If you wish to volunteer, know of anyone that would be interested, or if you would just like more information on the project please call **Matt Berg, GHS Biology Teacher and Local Project Coordinator at (715) 689-3197 (home) or (715) 463-5165 ext. 112 (school).**



Thanks in advance for your association's support!

GHS Science Club.

Who to contact?

If you wish to volunteer, please call Matt Berg at the numbers listed. Together, we will determine where is easiest for you to collect. I will make arrangements to meet with you, decide on a plot to be censused, mark the edges of the plot, and make arrangements to get the samples from you once they are collected.

Where to collect?

Depending on the type of bottom in the lake or river, you may have many or few species, and many or few individuals. **Our sites will be set up in increments of 100 ft.**

Study plots on rivers and lakes with variable gravel substrate will be only 100 ft. If the bottom is pure sand or muck, we will increase the plot size to 200 ft of shoreline. In order for our results to be statistically significant, we need to gather several hundred exoskeletons from each study site. This will allow us to compare total density (dragonflies/ft) species density (ex. St. Croix Snaketails/ft), dragonfly community composition at each site (5% Green Darner, 15% Widow Skimmer, etc.) as well as make comparisons between sites and rivers.

When to collect?

I will be watching for the beginning of emergence. Once it starts, I will call each of you to let you know that it is time to start collecting. We would like each site to be collected 1 time/week through July 1. If you can do more that's great, but you don't have to. If you notice a rain event/strong wind day is coming, and you can get out to collect, that would also be great as these tend to wash/blow the exuviae away.

What do I look for?

Dragonfly exuviae shapes look somewhat different depending on the family of dragonfly, but they all share some things in common. They are generally brown in color, may be anchored to cattails, reeds or other plants along shore where the dragonflies hauled themselves out of the water before they flew away. The majority will be found on plants or on the ground within a few feet of the shore. Boat houses, docks, ice houses etc. may also have large numbers so be sure to look there as well.

Where can I find more information on my own?

The following is a link to the Michigan Odonata Society that gives further information on dragonflies in general, <http://insects.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/MICHODO/mospubs/entnote27.pdf> and on collecting exuviae. <http://insects.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/MICHODO/mospubs/entnote26.pdf>.

A complete list of the dragonflies of Wisconsin is also available at <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/wes/pubs/dragonfly.htm>

Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Secured

by Dave Ferris

The Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department is pleased to announce an increased focus on invasive species over the next few years. Burnett County is on the list to receive a three-year aquatic invasive species prevention grant from DNR. The project will fund summer staff to inspect watercraft at boat landings, survey for Eurasian Water Milfoil and other invasive species, assist lake associations with their monitoring efforts, and conduct educational activities such as presentations to lake associations. With Eurasian Water found in two Burnett County lakes last year, the project is particularly important.



From the President

Welcome back to our Burnett County Lakes and Streams. We have several GREAT educational opportunities around the local area for you this spring. Please put these on your calendar now, and come learn some ways of helping keep our "waters" healthy. Several of these programs require only a very small commitment of your time.

May 7: Jeremy Williamson will speak to us on how insects indicate the health of our "waters." I heard his presentation last fall and know that you will want to hear his talk. His primary emphasis is on streams; however, there are several lake correlations, and maybe Burnett County folks can help prove this! (see page 4)

Another great volunteer opportunity involves the Grantsburg High School Science Club. See the article on page 2 for full details.

Interested in hearing about the recent changes in Wisconsin Aquatic Plant Management Law? Frank Koshere from WI DNR will be

speaking on this issue Wednesday, June 1, 2- 4 pm at the Polk County Justice Center, County Road I & Highway 46 in Balsam Lake. Contact Karen Engelbretson at 715-857-5134, if interested.

Please plan on attending our annual meeting on July 23. We will meet at the Burnett County Government Center at 9 am. If you are interested in becoming involved and active in BCL&RA please contact me or one of our board members. Lake leaders are still encouraged to contact me via email to maintain a "hot" lakes issues email link. To be a part of this, send me a note at frkruger@juno.com.

Please take a serious look at the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference insert in this issue. This is a terrific lakes conference - close to home and priced for our budgets!

Finally, please thank our advertisers who are helping us pay for the mailing of our newsletters! Have a great Summer!!!!

Fred Kruger, President
Burnett County Lakes & Rivers
Association

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Insects and the Health of Our "Waters"

by Fred Kruger

Aquatic insects are frequently used as environmental indicators because they are found in most aquatic habitats. They are a size that makes them easily collected and can be used to describe the water quality conditions or health of the "waters" we live on.

Aquatic invertebrates can tell us more about water quality than nearly anything else. Some survive only in clear, cold water, while others will reside in warm, sludgy areas.

They do not move around much, so they have to adjust to their habitat. While some prefer woody debris, submerged logs and leaf packs, others like undercut banks and cobble bottoms. Their habitat also includes the food that's available, the predators around and the speed and/or temperature of the water. When one or more of these conditions change, some types of invertebrates will die, or will be unable to reproduce, whereas others may move in or expand their population.

For these reasons invertebrates are excellent indicators of what has happened in a body of water over the last four to six months. Fish may swim away, and swim back within a few days of a pollution event; but these events may wipe out an entire population of invertebrates. Invertebrates not only indicate the health of your water, but they maintain it.

Invertebrates & What They Mean To You

Jeremy Williamson

BCL&RA Spring Meeting

Burnett County Government Center

May 7, 2005

9:00 a.m.

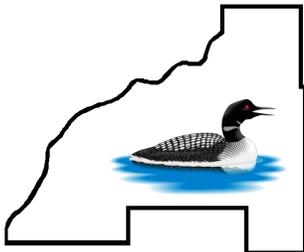
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