

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

VOLUME 14, ISSUE ONE



Learn to Create a Natural Shoreline

- with a free, no-strings-attached visit

A natural shoreline is a healthy, vibrant place for people, birds, and fish alike. The Burnett County Shoreline Incentives Program encourages preservation and restoration of natural shorelines.

Natural shorelines provide many benefits:

- keep the water clean by filtering runoff and holding the soil in place
- provide a home for a diversity of creatures
- create natural, northwoods beauty
- allow you to access and enjoy the water

Burnett County provides incentives to encourage restoring or preserving your waterfront as a natural shoreline. Over 600 parcels have been enrolled in the Burnett County Shoreline Incentives Program since it began in the year 2000. Owners of these parcels receive an annual property tax credit in return for ensuring permanent protection for the shoreline zone. Incentives provided for each parcel enrolled in the Shoreline Incentives Program

- An annual property tax credit of \$50
- An enrollment payment of \$250
- A free visit with a natural landscape expert
- Planting plans to restore a natural shoreline
- Payments that cover 70% of the cost of plants and materials
- An exclusive shirt or cap that identifies you as a Shoreline Incentives participant
- An optional sign to post at the water's edge



Amy Cronk

Interested in joining the hundreds of property owners who are creating a legacy of natural shorelines in the Burnett County northwoods? Contact the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department to arrange a free visit: Call 715-349-2186 or email lwcd@burnettcounty.org More information is available on line at www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline.

Free No-Strings-Attached Visit

What exactly does a property visit entail?

- Consultation with a qualified landscape expert
- Technical assistance with waterfront property concerns
- Individualized landscape designs
- Native plant lists specific to your property
- Step-by-step instructions for project installation
- Do-it-yourself guides and educational materials
- More information about the Shoreline Incentives Program



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Message from the President

In December my wife Diane and I had the opportunity to visit The Aldo Leopold Legacy Center located in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The center is truly a celebration of Aldo Leopold's life and the "land ethic" which Leopold fostered in the 1940's.

Leopold was a professor at UW Madison and a nationally recognized conservationist in the 1930's and 1940's. He purchased an abandon farm near Baraboo, Wisconsin which served as the family's getaway. His idea was to restore the farm to its natural state as his family lived, worked and played with nature.

Leopold's "land ethic" is a model for those of us who live, work and play in northwest Wisconsin's wonderful natural areas. The concept is that we are one with nature. We cannot live separately from the natural world, doing our own thing and not have an impact on nature much like the impact it has on us.

Think about the "land ethic" as you enjoy your lake or river property this season. When you fertilize your lawn, how are you impacting the natural world? When you pave your driveway, where will the rain water travel? When the beach is raked and cleaned, how does this impact the critters? When the lake bottom is raked at the shoreline, what does this do to fish habitat? Is your septic system outdated and contributing to lake or river pollution.

The "land ethic" is a simple concept indeed. Make an attempt this summer season to keep this simple but important formula in mind. We are indeed one with nature.

Roger Noe - *President BCLRA*

BCLRA Annual Meeting

9 a.m. on July 11, 2009

Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park

Food Donations Needed

Can Lake Associations Play A Role?"

Burnett County residents are experiencing a great need for help with food supplies within their homes. The Burnett County Food Shelf (Indianhead Community Action Agency), 7471 West Main St. Webster, WI (715-866-8151) is in need of food items - why not challenge your association members to bring a food item to your annual meeting to help local residents. There is a great need.

Burnett County Shoreline Incentives Program *Commonly Asked Questions — by Cheryl Clemens*



I am not sure if I want to enroll in the Shoreline Incentives Program, but I am interested in learning more. What should I do?

Visit the Burnett County web site (www.burnettcounty.com) to download publications with a wealth of information about restoring natural shorelines and reducing runoff from waterfront property. Arrange for a free visit to your property. We can describe the program in more detail.

There are too many signs in this world already. Do I need to post a sign on my property to participate?

Absolutely not! The signs are completely optional. Some participants are eager to spread the word about the program to encourage participation. If you don't want a sign, you don't have to have one.

I understand that the deep roots of native trees, shrubs and groundcovers prevent erosion on steep slopes. My shoreline is flat. Why should I participate in the program?

While it is true that steep slopes are more likely to erode and contribute runoff to the lake, gradual slopes and flat areas can also erode without adequate vegetation. This is

especially true where there are lots of hard surfaces like rooftops, parking areas, and sidewalks. Erosion also occurs at the water's edge when waves wash against bare sand and muck. Vegetation also provides the food and shelter needed by the variety of creatures such as frogs, turtles, herons, and loons that live near and on the water.

I want to be able to see the lake. Can I still maintain my view if I participate in the program?

Yes, you can maintain a beautiful, filtered view to the lake with a natural shoreline. First of all, the program allows an opening or view corridor up to 30 feet wide that extends to the water. This view corridor can be strategically positioned to provide the best view to the lake from your favorite vantage points. Trees and shrubs can be carefully selected by height and placed to avoid obstructing views. And, with natural shorelines all around the lake, everyone has better views to enjoy.

I enjoy socializing, swimming, relaxing and playing with children near the water. How can I do this if I let my shoreline go back to nature?

The opening or corridor described above allows owners and landscape designers to consider and incorporate important uses of the property while restoring the benefits that natural vegetation provides. Natural places are vibrant, interesting, private places to enjoy with your family and friends.

Will more vegetation mean more mosquitoes?

In short, no. It is standing water, not vegetation that allows mosquitoes to thrive. Mosquitoes require about 5 days to complete their life cycle. Avoid stagnant water to reduce mosquitoes on your property.

Burnett County Leads The State in Aquatic Invasive Species Protection

by Dave Ferris, Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department

The Problem:

In the winter of 2007-2008 there was concern by lake associations, especially those participating with the landing camera monitoring project, that state laws governing aquatic invasive species (AIS) were not easily enforceable.

The Solution:

This concern led the Burnett County Board of Supervisors to pass a county wide AIS ordinance that provided penalties for launching, retrieving, or transporting a boat or boat/trailer combination with any aquatic plants on them. Burnett County also held an AIS saturation patrol weekend where the Burnett County AIS staff, County Conservationist, WI DNR Water Guard Warden, and the Burnett County Sheriff's Auxiliary were stationed at high use landings to inspect (or check) boats and trailers coming and going.

The Results:

This law, along with the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association sponsored land camera project and landing patrols, led to the issuing of six citations in the 2008 boating season for illegal transport of aquatic species. All six citations have been adjudicated. Five resulted in a paid fine of \$154.40 and one was dismissed. This represents more convictions than the



Burnett County Board of Supervisors passed a county wide AIS ordinance that provided penalties for launching, retrieving, or transporting a boat or boat/trailer combination with any aquatic plants on them.

entire state of Wisconsin has had since the state law was passed.

For 2009, we are going to continue to educate our boaters on the dangers of AIS and the penalties of transporting plants from one lake to another.

Grant Awarded to Fight Invasive Species

The Wisconsin DNR awarded an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant to Burnett County in August 2008.

This grant will provide a majority of the funds to support an AIS coordinator for Burnett County as well as continuing the AIS intern position that the county has had out on the boat landings for the last three years.

The coordinator will be able to assist lake associations and individual riparian owners with any AIS concerns

that they have including plant identification, assistance with aquatic plant management surveys and plans, AIS grant and any other support that may be needed to protect the county's lakes from AIS.

For more information or for requests, please contact the Land & Water Conservation Department at 715.349.2186. Any support you or your lake association can give to this project is greatly appreciated.

Top Ten Native Plants

Interested in beautifying your property and helping out the lake environment at the same time? Plant native plants! Look for the Burnett County Top Ten Native Plants enclosure in this issue. These plants were selected based upon years of experience assisting with native plantings in the county. Why plant native plants? Because native plants are suited to the local climate and soils, and local wildlife - from birds to butterflies - depend upon native plants for their survival.

This short list of native plants will help to make your planting project a success. The sandy soils of Burnett County make plant establishment a challenge. The selected top ten plants are suited for the harsh conditions the county presents. The rest is up to you. The most important advice for plant survival is WATER, WATER, WATER! Planting early (mid May to mid-June) and late (mid-August to mid-September) in the growing season adds to planting success. Finally, choosing plants suited to your site is critical.

We are pleased to let you know that these top ten plants will be available at local nurseries this year. Visit the following to try out some of the beautiful and beneficial plants on the list.



Austin Lake Greenhouse
(HWY 35) Webster

Grantsburg Family Foods
HWY 70 Grantsburg

Wayne's Foods Plus
Webster (HWY 35) and Danbury (HWY 77)

Wood River Nursery
HWY 70 East of Grantsburg

If you are ready for a more detailed list of native Burnett County plants go to:
www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline
For more detailed advice for native plantings, visit the web site or call the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department (715-349-2186).

For a more detailed list of native Burnett County plants go to:
www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline

Top Ten Native Plants of Burnett County



SWAMP MILKWEED
Asclepias incarnata



BERGAMOT
Monarda fistulosa



COLUMBINE
Aquilegia canadensis

BLUE VERVAIN
Verbena hastata



BLACK-EYED SUSAN
Rudbeckia hirta



PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE
Carex pennsylvanica



CHOCKECHERRY
Prunus virginiana



SNOWBERRY
Symphoricarpos albus

BIG BLUESTEM
Andropogon gerardii



BIG LEAF ASTER
Aster macrophyllus





Critters for Kids – The Bald Eagle

By Christian W. Cold - WDNR Ladysmith

How big is a bald eagle?

A bald eagle is as big as a turkey, but with longer wings and a larger head with a big, hooked beak. Its feet are about turkey-foot size, but the toes are thicker and tipped with big black curved claws (talons) for grabbing and holding food.

Where do eagles live?

Bald eagles live in forested areas with lots of water. That's where their favorite food is. They are usually found on large lakes and rivers, where most of the shoreline is wild and lined with big trees- especially pines.

What does an eagle eat?

Eagles are hunters. They eat animals....especially fish. They eat the whole animal....that includes the bones, guts, scales, feathers and fur. This gives them everything their body needs to grow and stay healthy. An eagle does not catch and kill every animal it eats. Much of its food is found already dead as carrion. This means they are both hunters and scavengers (like us).

Where can I see an eagle?

Your best chance of seeing an eagle (in the summer) is to visit a large lake or flowage in the northwoods. This is where most eagles gather to feed, nest and raise their families in Wisconsin. During the winter you should visit one of our larger rivers. Eagles gather just below the dams, where the water remains open.

How many eagles are in Wisconsin?

In 2008 there were about one thousand, two hundred nesting pairs of bald eagles counted in Wisconsin. This does not include the younger birds (brown ones- ages 1 to 4). If we were to count them too, the total would be well over three thousand eagles in Wisconsin!

Some eagle history:

Wisconsin eagles weren't always doing as well as they are today. About forty years ago they were in danger of disappearing from our stateand most of the continental United States too! At the time, they were unable to hatch their eggs because of their thin shells. This was caused by a poison called DDT. DDT was used to destroy harmful insects. The poison got into our waters and made the fish sick. When eagles ate the sick fish, they also got sick. Sick eagles laid eggs with thin shells. Eggs with thin shells would break when the mother eagle tried to sit on them.

We learned of the poison problem in time. We stopped using DDT and eagles started getting healthier. They started laying and hatching healthy eggs. Their numbers increased. Today eagles are no longer in danger of becoming extinct.



**Did
you
know?**

Eagles are protected by laws in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Actually, almost all birds are protected by the same laws. Some laws allow us to hunt certain birds for food. Birds that have no protection are alien invaders from other countries. Of course, as good citizens, we are always respectful of all living things.

Duck...Duck...GOOSE

By John Haack St. Croix Basin Educators – UW Extension
and Breanne Draxler



Most waterfront property owners can appreciate the waterfowl that call Balsam Lake home. For the Canada goose, however, the reception is not quite as warm. These bi-colored birds are a hassle for many property owners, but what is it about geese that make them so darn pesky?

Canada geese are...

PROLIFIC The average female goose lays 5 to 6 eggs per year, which means she mothers about 50 goslings in her lifetime.

POPULOUS There are 5 million Canada geese in United States today, and this number is increasing at a rate of 10 to 15% a year.

RESIDENTIAL Although they do migrate, geese tend to return to the location of their birth, year after year, to nest and feed.

MESSY On a daily basis, an adult goose consumes 4 pounds of grass, digests it, and deposits it onshore in the form of 1.5 pounds of greasy white lawn décor.

The bottom line is that there are a lot of geese, they make a lot of excrement, and they aren't going anywhere anytime soon. But fear not! There is something you can do to keep Canada geese off your waterfront property:

GOOSE-PROOF LANDSCAPING

Native flowers and grasses planted along the shoreline can act as a fortress to protect your property against these avian invaders. Not only will geese be unlikely to break through the barrier, but they will be too afraid to try. Tall plants are a warning sign for geese to be aware of concealed predators, and therefore steer clear of your property.

For the most effective goose-proofing, choose species of native plants that are 20 to 30 inches high. The planting area should be 6 to 10 feet wide, and run the length of your shoreline. As an added bonus, the shoreline plants will also help to slow runoff and improve water quality in the lake!

Need a hand?

Burnett County LWCD is here to help! Whether you are concerned about goose poop, waterfront erosion, or lake water quality, call or send an e-mail to set up your very own property visit. Visits are free, non-regulatory, and have no strings attached.

What exactly does a FREE property visit entail?

- A visit to your Burnett County property
- Technical assistance with waterfront property concerns
- Individualized landscape designs
- Native plant lists specific to your property
- Step-by-step instructions for project installation
- Do-it-yourself guides and educational materials

For more information: **Burnett County LWCD**
(715) 349-2186 or LWCD@Burnettcounty.org

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop

WashburnCounty/BurnettCounty

Saturday, June 6, 2009

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Spoooner Ag Research Station

Pre-registration Suggested: 715-349-2186

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www.siren-websterrotary.org

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Special Events:

May 23/24 Opening Weekend
June 16-Golf Tournament
July 24, 25, 26 – Fur Trade Rendezvous
Aug. 9 BBQ Fest
Aug. 27 Garden Tea

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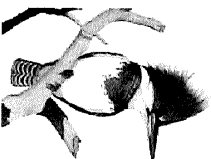
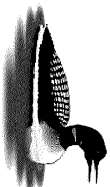
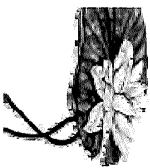
Cell: 715-570-8308 Home: 715-463-3673

2009 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference

Friday, June 19, 2009 – Telemark Resort & Convention Center, Cable, WI

AGENDA

- 7:30 am **Registration, Buffet Breakfast & Exhibits**
 7:30 am **NW Wis. Waters Consortium Annual Meeting** – Waldo Asp
 8:45 am **Welcome & Opening Remarks** – Earl Cook, WAL and Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Assoc. and MaryJo Gingras, Iron Co. Land Conservation
 8:55 am **Balance and Harmony on the Shore** - Lucas Stemmann, Siren Middle School
 9:00 am **The History of Conservation** - Randy Stark, WDNR
- 10:00 am **Break**
- 10:15 am **Session I**
- **Basic Lake Science 101** – Pamela Toshner, WDNR and Tim Asplund WDNR
 - **Legal and Legislative Update** – Earl Cook, WAL and Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Assoc. and State Representative Nick Milroy
 - **Tree Management on Your Lakeshore Property** – Jason Fischbach, UWEX
 - **Care and Feeding of Your Lake Association** – Jim Brakken, Bayfield Co. Lakes Forum
- 11:15 am **Break**
- 11:30 am **Session II**
- **Fireworks Over Lakes** - Bob Korth, UWEX and Patrick Goggin, UWEX
 - **Zoning for Shoreland Owners** – Lynn Markham, UWEX
 - **Shoreland Buffers Step-by-Step** – MaryJo Gingras, Iron Co. Land Conservation
 - **Marketing Lakeshore Protection** – John Haack, UWEX and Bret Shaw, UWEX
- 12:30 pm **Luncheon**
- 1:15 pm **Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle Invited**
- 1:30 pm **Session III**
- **Conservation Star Home Project** – Dale Olson, Sawyer Co. Land & Water Conservation and Donna Gilbertson, Sawyer Co. Lakes Forum
 - **Zoning Enforcement Challenges** – Bill Bussey, Bayfield Co. Corp. Counsel; Ruth King, Washburn Co. Board of Adjustment; and Web Macomber, Washburn Co. Zoning
 - **Lakewide Conservation Stories** – Carol LeBreck, Bony Lake Assoc. and Jim Miller, Deer Lake Conservancy
 - **So You Want to Help Your Lake – Fitting the Organization to the Lake** – Bob Korth, UWEX and Patrick Goggin, UWEX
- 2:30 pm **Break**
- 2:45 pm **County Aquatic Invasive Species Program Reports** – NW Wis. Co. Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinators Panel
- 3:45 pm **Adjourn**



2009 NWLC Registration Form

Name(s)* _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone # _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Lake Organization _____

*Submit names and addresses for each registrant.

Conference Registration Fee:

The conference registration fee is \$45.00 per person and includes buffet breakfast, lunch and materials.

Vegetarian Meal ☐



No. Attending: _____ x \$45 each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Return registration form and check made payable to
WAL-NWLC to: Wisconsin Association of Lakes

4513 Vernon Blvd., Suite 101
 Madison, WI 53705-4964

Credit Card Payment:

Method of Payment: ☐ **VISA** ☐  ☐ 

Credit Card # _____ Security code _____

Expiration date _____

Cardholder's name _____

Signature _____

You may also register:

online at: www.wisconsinlakes.org

by fax (credit card only): (608) 661-4314

by calling (credit card only): 1-800-542-5253

Registration Deadline: Saturday, June 13, 2009

For more information contact the Wisconsin Association of Lakes at 1-800-542-5253 in Wis. or (608) 661-4313 or www.wisconsinlakes.org.
 Planning Committee contact: John Haack, john.haack@ces.uwex.edu or (715) 635-7406.



Vision for Lakes, Rivers, and Natural Resources Developing

By Mike Kornmann, Community Development Educator - UW Extension Educator

Burnett County's comprehensive planning process has continued since the kick off last fall. The Burnett County Comprehensive Planning Committee has worked diligently on developing a set of draft goals, objectives, and policies. A comprehensive plan, defined by state statutes, will have nine elements. To date, the committee has developed draft goals based on existing plans, trends, and focus group input. Revisions will continue throughout the process until adoption.

Goals are defined as broad statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). Goals are value-based statements that are not necessarily measurable. A sample of a few goals addressing lakes and rivers follow. More goals and also policies can be found in the Agriculture, Natural, and Cultural Resources section of the draft at www.burnettcounty.com/compplan.

Goal 2: Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the County's ground and surface water.

Goal 3: Preserve the natural and scenic qualities of lakes and shorelines in the County.

Goal 4: Balance future development with the protection of natural resources.

To go along with these goals are objectives and policies. Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. When you review the policies you will see policies that support lake associations (educational non-regulatory organizations) and lake districts, continuations of county shoreland zoning, protection of shoreline buffers, storm water management, and inspection and compliance of privately owned waste treatment systems.

What do these draft policies mean for the lakeshore owners, lakes, and rivers? It means that our lakes and rivers will continue to be protected as will lakeshore property values. Lakeshore owners can expect development in a similar manner as it currently exists. Proposed policies will likely be implemented in a multitude of ways including education, incentives, and regulation. All three of these methods are currently used.

How you can participate:

Public Information Meetings

Check web site for future dates

Submit written comments to:

*Burnett County Comprehensive Plan
7410 County Road K #107
Siren, WI 54872*

***Or via email through website at:
www.burnettcounty.com/compplan***

Through future citizen survey

If you would like to provide further comment on the Burnett County Comprehensive Plan you can submit comments as noted in this article or contact your county board supervisor. The Burnett County Comprehensive Planning Committee is made up of eight county board supervisors and an ex-officio member from each local unit of government and the St. Croix Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Statewide Slow No Wake Ordinance Passed

The state legislature recently established a statewide slow no wake zone for motorboats within 100 feet of a lake's shoreline. A provision within the bill allows local boating ordinances (towns) to extend slow-no-wake zones farther away from the shore. An exemption is also included for water-skiers pick up and drop off zones. To help enforce the ordinance you can video tape the violator and contact a WI DNR warden or the County Recreation Officer.

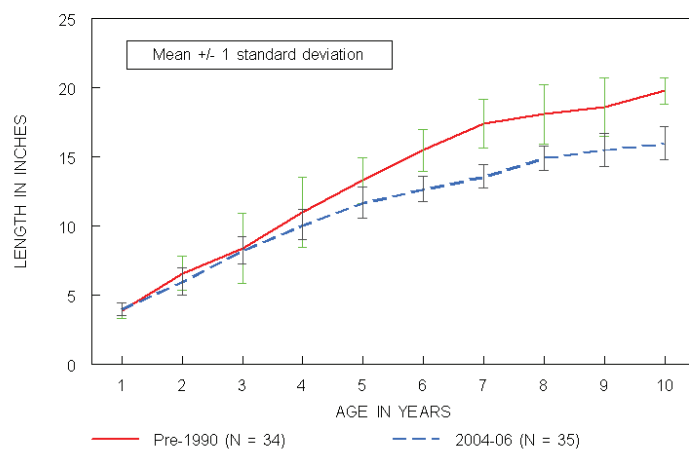
Do Size Limits Affect The Size of Bass In Burnett County?

By Larry Damman, Wisconsin DNR - Spooner

These are lake rich counties in northwestern Wisconsin with 12 % of the state's 4,151 largemouth bass lakes. Relatively few lakes here have smallmouth, walleye or muskie populations. Largemouth abundance has increased under size limits, but angler complaints of poor size quality have become a major issue. There has been a very substantial decline in largemouth growth rates which has resulted in poor size structure. The adjacent figure compares pre-size limit growth to all the randomly selected monitoring surveys conducted from 2004 to 2006 for these specific counties.

The declining growth affected all types of lakes regardless of size or fertility. 83% of area lakes exceeded the 14 inches by age 6 growth criteria in the Wisconsin Administrative Code before size limits but only 9% do now. Because growth has slowed the maximum size largemouth bass can reach in a life span is reduced. Prior to size limits regulations (1989), 42% of lakes here met the state strategic goal. The state has established a goal of 30% of the bass stock being greater than or equal to 14 inches in fall surveys. Only 16 % of lakes meet that goal now. On average, the decline in the percentage of legal bass was proportionally greater

BURNETT AND WASHBURN COUNTIES
LARGEMOUTH BASS GROWTH HISTORY



“Today, many lakes in Burnett County have fewer bass greater than 14 inches than before size limit protection (1989).” Larry Damman – WI DNR

than the increases in total abundance. That means, today, that many lakes have fewer bass greater than 14 inches than before size limit protection. This is in spite of having many more bass in our lakes.

Bass Size Limit May Change As Result of Vote

One of the many questions at this year's advisory hearings was a question asking for the bass size limit in Burnett County to be changed to “no size limit.” The question was put on the ballot at the request of Burnett County citizens. The question was asked of all people present at hearings throughout the state on April 13, 2009. The result of the statewide vote on this question was 2,316 in favor of no size limit on bass in Burnett County and 1,354 opposed. Sixty-two out of 72 counties passed the question.

The question will now go on to the full Conservation Congress for a vote. If passed, then the question will go to the Conservation Congress Executive Board for a vote. If passed, the rule will be included in the 2010 fishing regulations.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Hearings are held each year on a Monday in April. The hearings give citizens a voice in managing natural resources. Wisconsin residents and nonresidents are allowed to vote at the hearings. For more information visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/>

The Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Department is again available for your lake association's meetings. If you would like us to present an educational talk or if your members have questions about the lake, give us a call. We'll be happy to speak with your association on a variety of conservation topics such as water quality, runoff issues, etc.

LWCD DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE

- 11 — Bass update
- 10 — Comprehensive Planning
- 9 — Northwest Lakes Conference
- 7 — Duck...Duck...GOOSE – Goose Proofing Landscaping
- 6 — Kid Friendly Critter
- 5 — Shoreland Incentives
- 4 — Burnett County Leads The State in Aquatic Invasive Species Protection
- 3 — Top ten Shoreland Plants
- 2 — President's Column
- 1 — No strings Attached Shoreland Visits

In This Issue:



LAKE LINES
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