



Self-Evaluation Checklist for Waterfront Runoff

By Deer Lake Conservancy, Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Harmony Environmental

Are all areas of your lot well covered with vegetation?

- ☐ **Yes** Good, a cover of vegetation prevents erosion to the lake.
- ☐ **No** Areas of bare soil may lead to significant erosion and deposition of sediment and nutrients in the lake. Let's see if there is a way to address the problem.

Consider the possible cause of areas of bare soil...

☐ **Foot traffic?**

Reroute foot travel off slope to stairs. Curved pathways can help to slow and divert water flow and reduce erosion. Add stepping stones to prevent erosion of soil. County permits may be required for stairs and pathways. Do not pave or cement the area - increased impervious surfaces result in more runoff and can increase erosion.

☐ **Shade?**

Plant native shade-tolerant vegetation such as big leaf aster or Pennsylvania sedge in sandy, dry soils or ferns in moist soils. This vegetation may not tolerate much foot traffic. You might also seed each year with fast-growing annual rye grass (available at hardware and garden stores).

☐ **Construction project?**

It is especially important to protect your property from erosion when areas are cleared for construction. Install silt fences down-slope of bare soil, and revegetate bare soil as quickly as possible. See page 9 for resources for additional construction site practices to prevent erosion.

☐ **Water flow?**

If water is washing away soil and vegetation, look uphill to the source. Identify the area that drains to your problem spot, and divert the flow of water to an infiltration practice as close to the source as possible.

There are no deposits of sand in flat areas.

- ☐ **Yes** This is probably a good thing. When the flow of water carrying sediment slows, particles of sand which are larger than other soil particles, will frequently settle out. If you have no deposits, it may mean that your runoff is clean. However, be cautious; it may simply mean that water doesn't have a chance to slow down, and runoff is carried all the way to the lake.
- ☐ **No** Deposits of sand show that runoff water carries a significant sediment load. It also probably means that smaller silt and clay particles that carry a higher nutrient load have made their way to the lake.

TIP: Try to divert water as close to the source as possible. It is easier to deal with smaller quantities of water before they pick up speed running downhill.

Message from the President

By Roger Noe, BCLRA

Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association

Board Members

- **Roger Noe, President**
North Sand Lake Association
715-635-6309, dknoe5@gmail.com
- **Susan Wallin, Vice-President**
Deer Lake Association
715-259-7766, swallin@eraparkside.com
- **Bob Baker, Secretary/Treasurer**
Lipsett Lake Association
715-635-3882, 651-777-6246
robert.w.baker@uwrf.edu
- **Tim Adair**
Birch Island Lake Association
763-263-3601, 612-518-9624
timadair@windstream.net
- **Marcia Crist**
Minnow Lake Association
952-380-0624, cristclan@gmail.com
- **Arne & Barb Enslin**
Hayden Lake Association
715-656-7217
arnenslin@gmail.com or
barbenslin@gmail.com
- **Buck Gooding**
Love Lake Association
715-656-7628, dvlovelake@gmail.com
- **Steve Johnson**
Fish Lake Association
612-386-5545
srjohnson@yahoo.com
- **Paul Kipping**
Rooney Lake Association
715-635-8692, pjkippping@centurytel.net
- **Bruce Marx**
Mallard Lake Association
715-866-5109, 763-792-8978
bassmarx@earthlink.net

About this publication:

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

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It's magical...spring time in Burnett County is a display of mother nature's magic. The shimmering waters, which have just transformed from ice, the critters who have emerged from where ever, and plant life that greens daily through warmth and water. It is a display worth waiting for far removed from the urban merry-go-round that seems to take these precious gifts for granted.

It has been a busy winter for Burnett County Lakes and Rivers (BCLRA). The highlights include a listening session, and a question and answer session with 25th district state senator Janet Bewley and Wisconsin Lakes Executive Director Michael Engleson. This session was held on March 11 and all Burnett County Lake Associations were invited. The session focused on the changes in environmental policy at the state level and how Burnett County could become more active. It is worth noting that Wisconsin Lakes is our lake leader in the state. Issues that pertain to you or your lake can be addressed to the Wisconsin Lakes group. Contact Mike Engleson at mengleson@wisconsinlakes.org. For other state issues in your area contact Senator Janet Bewley at 800-469-6562 or <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/25/bewley>.

On another issue, BCLRA was the recipient of the Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Award on March 31st. in Stevens Point. This award goes to an organization in the state which has demonstrated an aggressive commitment to the waters within their county or area. BCLRA received the award based upon its years of dedication towards the waters of Burnett County.

As we move into summer, lake life will continue to get busier. A couple thoughts worth noting...as lake associations plan their annual meetings, do not hesitate to call a BCLRA board member and offer an invitation to attend. The contact may help your overall good. Secondly, mark your calendar for Friday, June 24th to attend the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference at Spooner High School. You will not be disappointed.

Have a safe, fun, and enlightening summer with family and friends.



Shoreland Rules Clarified

**By Mike Kornmann, UW-Extension Community Development Agent
and Jason Towne, Burnett County Zoning Administrator**

Many changes were made to shoreland zoning regulations as part of Act 55, the state budget. Almost 30 questions related to conflicting laws and rules were identified. Since last summer, most of the issues have been worked out. The changes are as follows:

View corridors are now 35 feet per 100 foot of frontage. So if someone has a 300 foot lake lot they can now have a 105 foot wide view corridor. The County used to only allow a 30 foot view corridor no matter the lot width.

The County can no longer require shoreline mitigation on previously developed lots, we used to require this on additions to non-conforming structures.

Boat houses can no longer be banned, but the county can regulate size, color, materials, doors and more. Contact Burnett County Zoning for the detailed requirements at 715-349-2138.

All water bodies are now 75 foot lake setbacks. Previously 100 foot lake setbacks on class 3 lakes were required.

Minimum/maximum lot width per NR 115 is 100 feet, however the zoning district minimums still apply and our subdivision ordinance still requires 150 minimum lot width. So if zoned RR-1, the minimum lot width is still 150 ft, RR-2 minimum width is still 200 ft, and RR-3 minimum width is still 300 ft. You can check your property zoning designation

by visiting the County Zoning Office or calling 715-349-2138.

All legal non-conforming structures can be rebuilt, if they are non-conforming to lake set back. These still require permits from the county and still must meet floodplain, septic, and UDC requirements. Illegally placed structures are not allowed to be rebuilt. If the structure is non-conforming to some other setback (side lot line, road, etc) then we still can limit the rebuilding.

There is still one bill waiting to be signed by the governor (AB582) which makes some other shoreland zoning changes. We must have our ordinances revised by October 1, 2016. However all the changes from Act 55 had to be implemented immediately. Therefore if you read our ordinances they will not match what Act 55 requires. We are waiting for this final bill (AB582) to be signed so we can make all the ordinance changes at one time.

A key to maintaining healthy lakes is reducing and managing run off from impervious surfaces. This means using natural shorelines, rain gardens, and diversions to ensure that run off has a chance to filter through the ground before entering the lake. While the law now allows you to build a boat house to a list of standards, ask yourself if you really need a boat house. We hope you consider choices that reduce impervious surfaces so close to the lakeshore.

Largemouth Bass - A Great Eating Fish

By Mike Kornmann, UW-Extension Community Development Agent

A couple years back the size limit on largemouth bass was eliminated to help grow larger bass. One of the benefits of the "no size" limit was that it gave children and adults alike the opportunity to keep a pan sized bass for a family meal.

Some people say that "bass taste muddy" or some other comment not based on experience. The truth is Burnett County largemouth bass is a great tasting fish. Bass are similar in taste to the cod commonly served at fish fries. They are firm, flaky, and have a mild flavor. Here is my favorite recipe:

- Two bass filets per person
- Two cups of whole wheat flour
- Two cups milk
- Lemon-pepper
- Olive oil

Roll bass filets in milk and then in the flour. Fry in olive oil until golden brown. Serve on toast or with potato salad and coleslaw. Salt to taste. Another variation is to substitute one cup corn meal for one cup of whole wheat flour.

Paul A. Smith, outdoor writer for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* had this to say about Burnett County bass, "When prepared with my standard walleye recipe, the bass were every bit as good as any Wisconsin fish I've kept and eaten. Seriously." The "seriously" part was the acknowledgement of the bad rap bass have had for many years. Don't miss out on a good thing. Keep a few bass for the frying pan.

For my family, a brunch bass fry is truly a family tradition. There is no better way to enjoy the freshest local food there is. Give it a try and start a new tradition with your family.

Environmental Stewardship Summer Camp

*By Beth Rank, UW-Extension
4-H/Youth and Family Development Educator*

Fun summer camp available for youth ages 8-13. Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association and the Washburn County 4-H Program will be offering an educational summer camp August 2-4, 2016. The camp will be at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary in Sarona, WI under the direction of Anna DeMers, Washburn County 4-H Educator.

Camp activities may include: canoeing, swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, games, archery, educational programs related to water and more! John Haack, UW-Extension Natural Resources Educator, will provide some educational programming for youth during camp.

One of the educational purposes of this camp is to increase the environmental stewardship of our future generations. Our hope is that youth will learn to enjoy and preserve nature, including lakes and rivers.

Research indicates that interaction with nature helps children to build sensitivity and knowledge that becomes the basis for expanding to concepts such as causes, connections, and consequences of environmental issues. Such a direct interaction with the world of dirt, bugs, and critters provides youngsters with an opportunity to stretch their imagination, play with abandon, and develop a sense of self. Furthermore, interaction with nature can measurably improve children's attention capacity and test scores. Both mental and physical health benefits can be gained when children have access

to and the freedom to explore outdoors. Environmental Education programs are based on a strong foundation of nature awareness and conservation education, and evolve to prepare older youth to analyze issues and choose responsible environmental behaviors.

The cost to attend this camp is \$100 for non-Washburn County residents. Cost includes meals, supplies, insurance and lodging. Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association may provide scholarships to offset a portion of the registration fee. Information about scholarships can be found on the Burnett County 4-H Youth & Family website: <http://burnett.uwex.edu/youth-families/>.

For more information about camp or to register, contact Anna Demers at 715-635-4444. The registration deadline is July 15, 2016.

Environmental Stewardship Summer Camp:

- Youth ages 8-13
- August 2-4, 2016
- Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Sarona WI
- \$100/camper
- Contact: Anna Demers, 715-635-4444
- Registration deadline: July 15, 2016



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The National Park Service Turns 100 in 2016

By St. Croix River Association

As the official Friends group for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, St. Croix River Association (SCRA) will be highlighting many events offered as part of the Centennial Celebration throughout 2016. We invite you to participate in Find Your Park Experiences to learn, discover, be inspired, or simply have fun in national parks. Find Your Park Experiences offer unique opportunities to explore national parks both in person and online. Check out the [St. Croix River page](#) or [search all experiences](#) to identify an opportunity that matches your interests. You can also share your national park story at [FindYourPark.com](#).

Centennial Paddle Challenge

As part of the celebration, SCRA is sponsoring the 2016 Centennial Paddle Challenge! Our St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, which includes both the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers, has over 200 miles of wild and scenic riverway for you to experience. Challenge yourself to paddle 2 miles for every 1 year of the National Park Service – 2 rivers, 200 miles!

Visit the [Centennial Paddle Challenge page](#) for more information on how you can participate!

Centennial Events Along the Riverway

- [Riverway Speaker Series: Life Lessons from Sigurd Olson](#). Saturday, April 23, 10:00 am - 11:00 am.
- [National Parks Centennial Celebration & Film Fest](#). Thursday, April 28, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.
- [St. Croix Flyway Bird Migration Celebration](#). Wednesday, May 11 - Sunday, May 15.
- [BioBlitz on the Riverway](#). Friday, May 20, 8:00 am - Saturday, May 21, 5:00 pm.
- [Paddle with a Ranger: Sunday Morning Coffee](#). Sunday, June 5, 7:15 am - 11:00 am.
- [2016 Paddle Namekagon](#), Saturday June 11 - Friday, June 17. For the past 5 years, the St. Croix River Association has sponsored a 6-day paddle on either the St. Croix or the Namekagon rivers. For 2016, we will be paddling the beautiful Namekagon River once again.

Join us on a wild and scenic adventure. Expect to unplug and reconnect with the natural world. You'll chal-

lenge yourself, be inspired, and build lasting relationships. River communities will welcome you, each sharing their unique personalities. In addition, every night at camp you'll be inspired and informed by a variety of educational programs.

The journey will last 6-days and cover 92-miles. It is perfect for both canoe or kayak. This is a partially supported paddle; we'll haul your overnight gear and provide other limited services.

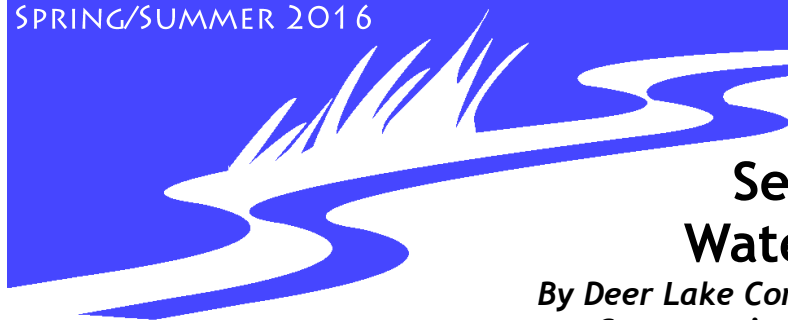
Read more about the trip, find tips for packing, and register today at [scrapaddle.org](#)!

Contact the St. Croix River Association by

- Phone: 715-483-3300
- Email: info@scramail.com
- Website: <https://www.stcroixriverassociation.org/>



St. Croix River by [Tarsurion](#), CC BY 3.0



Self-Evaluation Checklist for Waterfront Runoff - *continued*

By Deer Lake Conservancy, Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Harmony Environmental

(Continued from page 1)

Does water flow across your lot evenly?

During or after a big rainstorm is a good time to check. You can sometimes see the pathway of water flow by looking for leaves or pine needles that have washed downhill or grass that is laying flat.

- ☐ **Yes** Avoiding channelized flow of water will help to reduce erosion and minimize pollutants that reach the lake.
- ☐ **No** If there are obvious paths of water flow, look uphill to the source of water. Could water be diverted to an infiltration practice?

Do you have natural, wild vegetation near the lakeshore?

- ☐ **Yes** Good for you! Your property is an example for other lakeshore property owners. You are helping to keep the lake clean while providing habitat for the many creatures that live near the water's edge.
- ☐ **No** Please consider a natural shoreline buffer of native vegetation. Lawn grasses have shallow root systems and short stems. The deep roots and tall stems of native vegetation slow runoff flow preventing erosion and allowing infiltration.

Want to do more? Help is available.

- ☐ **Arrange a free site visit.**

For Deer Lake in Polk County:

Please contact Cheryl Clemens at
Harmony Environmental
Phone: 715-268-9992
Email: harmonyenv@amerytel.net

For Burnett County:

Please contact Burnett County LWCD
Phone: 715-349-2186
Email: LWCD@burnettcounty.org

Other owners may find free assistance from their county land conservation department.

- ☐ **Get help from a landscaper.**

Many local landscapers have attended training to learn about rain gardens and other native landscaping and infiltration practices. Check local listings and ask about expe-

rience and qualifications.

Water diversion practices

Create ways for water to flow to an infiltration practice and/or away from the lake.

- ☐ **Rain Gutters.** Rain gutters should discharge at the back of the house away from the lake, or to a rain barrel or infiltration area.
- ☐ **Berms.** Gradual berms or bumps can retain or move water.
- ☐ **Drain Tile.** Drain tile, perforated plastic pipe, allows some infiltration as water is moved to an infiltration practice.
- ☐ **Path Diversions.** Divert water across a pathway or driveway at intervals using pipes or channels.

TIP: Plant lists for Deer Lake are available at deerlakewi.com. Plant lists for Burnett County are available at burnettcounty.com; go to the Land and Water Conservation Department web pages.

Infiltration practices

Create places for water to soak into the soil.

- ☐ **Rain Gardens.** Rain gardens, sunken gardens planted with native flowers, capture runoff water and add beauty to your yard. Rain gardens are designed to capture runoff from rain events and absorb water over several hours to a few days. Absorbed water is filtered and purified by the soil. When rain gardens are planted with a variety of colorful native flowers and grasses, they attract humming-

(Continued on page 9)

Self-Evaluation Checklist for Waterfront Runoff - *continued*

By Deer Lake Conservancy, Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Harmony Environmental

(Continued from page 8)

birds and butterflies to your yard. Place a rain garden on a relatively flat area of your yard for maximum effectiveness and ease of construction.

- **Infiltration Areas.** Infiltration areas may be flat areas of woods or tall grasses or constructed pits or trenches. Where the slope is flat and the soil is sandy, it may be possible to simply divert water to an area where it can soak in. Other times infiltration areas are constructed by digging a pit or a trench, lining it with porous landscape fabric, and filling the void with 1-2 inch clean rock. The size and depth depends upon the size of the area draining to the infiltration area and the type of soil beneath it. Do not encourage infiltration over a septic drain field, near a drinking water well, or within 10 feet of the foundation of your house.
- **Natural Buffer Zones.** These areas of tall vegetation slow runoff flow, allowing it to soak into the soil (especially on gradual slopes.) Shoreline buffers are areas of native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Natural buffers of shoreline vegetation have many benefits. They keep the water clean by filtering runoff and holding soil in place, create natural, northwoods beauty, and provide a home for the diversity of creatures who live near the water. Shoreline buffers can be designed so that you can still access and enjoy your view to the water.
- **Rain Barrels.** Rain barrels capture water from a rain gutter downspout for watering gardens and potted plants. Many styles are available for purchase or you can build your own. Be sure that your rain barrel is covered to prevent mosquitos from laying eggs and reproducing.

Learn more

Many useful publications are available to download from the internet.

- **Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Department**
<http://www.burnettcounty.com/burnett/lwcd>
 Publications available in .pdf format:
 - *Shoreline Buffer Restoration A Guide for Landowners*
Includes plant lists, plant sources, and instructions.
 - *Natural Shorelines Restoration Stories*
Includes before and after pictures of restoration projects.
 - *Controlling Runoff and Erosion from Your Waterfront Property*
Describes runoff diversion and infiltration techniques.
- **Deer Lake Improvement Association**
www.deerlakewi.com
Controlling Runoff link includes plant lists and describes technical and financial assistance program.
- **Publications About Rain Gardens**
clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/
 Go to *Home and Garden Clean Water Practices* and choose *Rain Gardens*.
- **Vascular Plants of Wisconsin**
<http://www.botany.wisc.edu/herbarium>
 Plant ID and photos
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CAUTION:

Call Diggers Hotline 1-800-242-8511 to locate utility lines before you dig!

Permits may be required for waterfront landscaping and construction.

Contact your local zoning office to determine which activities require a permit.



Northwest Lakes Conference

Friday, June 24, 2016, Spooner High School, Spooner, WI

Conference Agenda

- 8:00 am Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Exhibits
- 9:00 am Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Recognition—Jeremy Bates, WDNR
- 9:10 am Shallow Lake Weevil Monitoring/Rearing Project—Kela Vicich, Island City Academy
- 9:15 am Water Tension and The Great Lakes Compact—Peter Annin, environmental journalist and author
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 am SESSION I
- Conservation Land Easements for Lakes—Bryan Pierce, Northwoods Land Trust
 - Aquatic Invasive Species Successes and New Threats—Bob Wakeman, WDNR
 - Lakeshore Habitat: Key to Protecting Your Lake—Patrick Goggin, UWEX
- 11:15 am Break
- 11:30 am SESSION II
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: Implications for Lakes and Water Quality—Jason Fischbach, UWEX
 - Drawdown to Control Aquatic Invasive Species—Jim Krietlow, WDNR
 - Lake Restoration: Before and After—Carol LeBreck, Bony Lake Assoc.; Travis Tulowitzky, Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation; and Sarah Boles, Northern Native Plantscapes
- 12:30 pm Luncheon and Exhibits
- 1:15 pm SESSION III
- Shoreland Zoning Update: Impact of New State Statute on Northwest Wisconsin's Lakes—Mike Engleson, Wisconsin Laks; Rob Schierman, Bayfield County Planning and Zoning; Jason Towne, Burnett County Zoning and Land Use; and Web Macomber, Washburn County Zoning
 - Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Detection and

Monitoring: Five Years 1,000 Lakes—Maureen Ferry, WDNR

- Wisconsin Lake Leaders Program—Eric Olson, UWEX; Carol LeBreck, Bony Lake Assoc.; and Karen Engelbretson, KJE Design LLC

2:15 pm Break

2:30 pm SESSION IV

- In a New Light: Life Changing Photography—Ben Thwaites, Northwest Passage
- Northwest Wisconsin's Raptors: Amazing Birds—Elsa Hansen, Cable Natural History Museum
- Lake Association Communication—Karen Engelbretson, KJE Design LLC

3:30 pm Adjourn

Northwest Lakes Conference:

- Friday, June 24, 2016
- Spooner High School
801 County Highway A
Spooner, WI 54801
- \$45/attendee, students free
- Registration deadline: June 15
- Register online at
<https://www.northland.edu/sustain/soei/lakesconference/>

AIS on My Mind

By Brad Morris, AIS Coordinator, Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department

The ice is off the lakes and they will once again be busy places of recreation. But being on the lake is not all fun and games. With the coming of spring, so come the many projects that the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) does for water quality and invasive species protection. These projects include Clean Boats Clean Waters, Citizen Lake Monitoring, Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring and developing Aquatic Plant

Management plans. Numerous lake associations in Burnett County, as well as other counties across the state, have been very active in these programs.

Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring, prevention and management is at the top of the list of projects being done during the spring and summer months. Summer interns spend a great deal of time on boat landings checking trailers for invasives using the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, with special attention to the lakes with existing Eurasian Water Milfoil infestations. All of the landings are checked twice a year for invasives. The busiest boat landings have been surveyed to determine what aquatic plants (including invasives) are present at each location. Purple loosestrife and knotweed control, as well as phragmites monitoring, is being done across the county. A tremendous amount of time is being spent monitoring for new invasive species infestations. LWCD also works in cooperation with the DNR to sample lakes for spiny water flea and zebra mussels. Each summer for the last 5 years, several lakes have been targeted by the DNR and are surveyed for these two invasive species, as well as any other invasive species that are found.

Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department provides training to lake associations interested in conducting aquatic invasive species monitoring.

Burnett County LWCD also provides training to lake associations that might be interested in conducting their own monitoring. Several lake associations around the county have participated in these vital trainings. After all, the folks who live on the lake are more likely to spot an invasive species before anyone else.

Another project that LWCD does is to assist in the development of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plans for lake associations. Several associations in the county have worked with LWCD to develop aquatic invasive prevention and management strategies and to address water quality issues in and around their lakes.

If you have any question or are interested in any of these programs, please feel free to call Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department at 715-349-2186 or lwcd@burnettcounty.org for more information.



Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department staff sampling for aquatic invasive species



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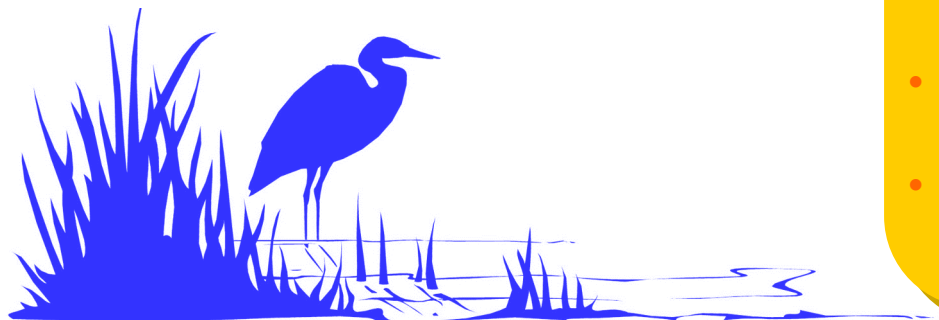
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LAKELINES

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

VOLUME 21, ISSUE ONE



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