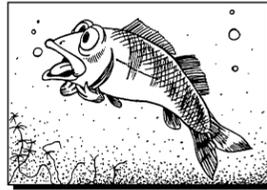


Take the Low-Salt Challenge

Winter salting of sidewalks, driveways and roads is a common practice during our season of snow and ice. While the safety reasons are obvious, the impacts of heavy salting on the environment can be much less evident. For example, salt runoff in the spring can be toxic to not only certain plants, shrubs and trees, but also to sensitive aquatic organisms like frogs and pollution-intolerant fish species. Chlorides can also enter our groundwater where increased concentrations can create public-health concerns.

To avoid these impacts, choose de-icing products carefully and use only sparingly. Sand is a good, inexpensive substitute for added traction but without the melting effect. Sodium chloride (NaCl) or "rock salt," while cheap, contains cyanide and stops working at temperatures under 15°F. Calcium and magnesium chlorides can be more costly, but require less product per area and work at lower temperatures. Products containing urea are less corrosive, but contain a form of nitrogen that can wash into and unnecessarily fertilize our lakes.



Don't "P" in the Lake Page 4

Lake lovers know that phosphorus (P) is to lakes as kryptonite is to Superman. It takes only a pound of phosphorus washing into a lake to produce up to 500 pounds of unwanted weed and algae growth. That's a weighty problem! Phosphorus is not only a troublesome pollutant, but also the focus of considerable lake-management effort, mainly because its reduction can lead to big improvements in water quality.

Fortunately, maintaining a lush lawn and protecting Lake Ripley do not need to be opposing goals. If you do choose to fertilize, make sure you or your lawn-care service use a zero-phosphorus product. The vast majority of soils in our area already contain much more phosphorus than is needed for a healthy lawn. Adding more does nothing for your grass, but it does cost you money and can do great harm to nearby lakes and streams.

Phosphorus lawn fertilizers are already banned in many communities, and a legislative bill was recently reintroduced calling for statewide controls. The Lake District, Town of Oakland and Jefferson County have all passed resolutions supporting such measures.

Presorted Standard
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Cambridge, WI
Permit No. 5

Ripples

Lake Ripley Management District
N4450 County Road A
Cambridge, WI 53523

Ripples



Vol. 17, No. 1

Winter-Spring 2009

FROM THE HELM

For the last 10 years, we have worked to improve and expand the Lake District Preserve that protects the inlet to Lake Ripley. The original land purchase allowed us to plug major drainage ditches and return most of the area back to wetlands, which help absorb floodwaters and maintain water quality in the lake. Yet we were still missing important elements needed to make the Preserve more functional. These included a heavily wooded 'hole' in the middle of the Preserve that we did not own and which limited access to much of the property.

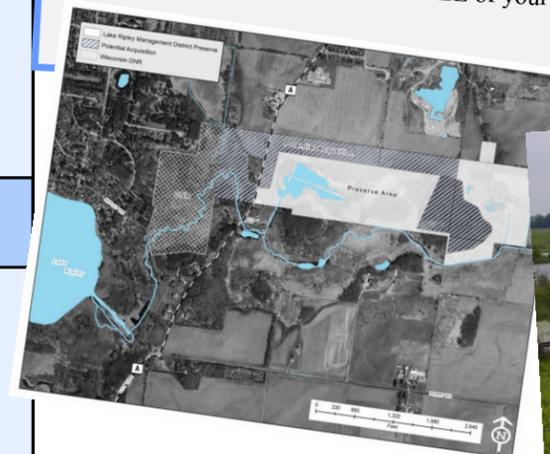


I am pleased to announce that in December we were able to close on an additional 66 acres. We now own the woods that formed the 'hole' in the original purchase, as well as increased wetland acreage bordering the lake's only inlet. We also acquired some adjoining upland fields that will enable us to improve the nature trail and expand our prairie restoration. Finally, with the addition of a small parcel on the west side of Highway A, the Preserve now connects to 40 acres of DNR conservancy land next to the lake. In total, the community has gained access to over 200 acres of outdoor recreational land that will play a permanent and vital role in protecting Lake Ripley.

Although the Lake District Board, our Lake Manager, and the Friends of the Lake District Preserve worked long and hard to make this happen, much of the credit goes to the individuals and organizations who so generously contributed to this great cause. In addition to a \$200,000 DNR Lake Protection Grant, private citizens dug deep in these tough economic times and donated nearly \$11,000. The Cambridge Foundation, Oakland Conservation Club, Ducks Unlimited, and both of our local banks also played an important role. We thank everyone who has helped, and now look forward to the restoration work that lies ahead. Anyone who would still like to get involved or make a charitable donation should call the Lake District office for more information.

Although much of our energy has been focused on expanding the Preserve, we were also able to complete a floodplain study, which has established the 100-year high-water mark for Lake Ripley. As a result, a 100-year floodplain elevation was established that is two feet lower than what was proposed by the Wisconsin DNR, saving property owners on and off the lake from having to purchase expensive flood insurance. The cost of the study was covered by cash and in-kind donations from private donors, the Town of Oakland, the Lake District, Jefferson County, and the Cambridge State Bank. We greatly appreciate ALL of your contributions that make our work so much easier.

John Molinaro, Chair



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Jefferson County Rep.
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Paul Dearlove
(608) 423-4537

Lake District Preserve Land Acquisition

\$0- 99

Anonymous (2)	Donna & Paul Brunger
Dan & Pat Caccia	William & Anne Cattern
Walt Christensen	Tamara Collin
Matthew & Tracy D'Alessandro	Gene & Joyce Holmberg
George & Nancy Kledzik	Richard & Debra Kutz
Thaddeus & Joyce Lewandowski	Todd Lewandowski
Wendy Petkus	Sonja Nikolay
Richard Schrom	Kenneth & Kathy Smart
Thomas & Colleen Staley	Thomas & Elizabeth Stoffel
Bruce & Heidi Summers	Ted Swanson
Leonard & Sharon Tomasello	John & Joanne Wacker
Mary Patricia Walter	Judith & Robert Dillingham

\$100-499

Anonymous (2)	Michael & Theresa Baker
Jim & Deb Bowen	Don & Kim Catherall
Paul & Andrea Dearlove	Jim Dovgin
Robert & Katherine Gould	Gail Homberg & Henri Gillet
Lewandowski/Koperek/McGeown	Ann Kisow
Robert Lins	Dennis McCarthy
Meg Theno & Herb Nelson	Nina Neupert
Lesley & Reed Omary	Dick & Bev Pieritz
Andrew & Peggy Punsel	Jerald Nelson
Jim & Susan Rank	Todd Rank & Family
Wayne Ring	Thomas & Judith Smrcka
Michael & Christine Spellman	Brandon Taylor
Gary & Judith Vander Mause	Jim Womble

\$500-3,500

Anonymous	Badger Bank
Kent Brown/Jane Jacobsen-Brown	Pamela Dollard (Jim Dollard)
Georgia Gomez-Ibanez	Gene Kapsner
John & Patricia Logli	Lorden Family Foundation
John & Ann Molinaro	Oakland Conservation Club
Mike & Marilyn Sabella	Robin & Todd Touton

\$5,000

Ducks Unlimited

\$25,000

Cambridge Foundation

\$200,000

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (grant)

In-Kind Support

Friends of the Preserve

A dedication ceremony is tentatively set for **Saturday, July 18th**, at 11:00 a.m. at the Preserve's Highway A entrance. All are welcome to attend to help us celebrate the recent land acquisition and thank our contributors. Please stay tuned for further details.

100-Year Floodplain Elevation Study

\$100- 500

Steven & Carrie Andersen
 Kent Brown & Jane Jacobsen-Brown
 Cambridge Foundation
 Pamela Dollard
 Matt Kruswyk & Joy Sellstrom Kruswyk
 John & Ann Molinaro
 Jim & Susan Rank

\$1,000-2,000

Town of Oakland
 Cambridge State Bank

Rain Garden Workshop and Plant Sale

Back by popular demand! Registration is now open for the 2009 Rain Garden "Refresher" Workshop. The workshop will be followed by a plant sale featuring over 30 native species of wildflowers, grasses and sedges (open to the public). Get tips from an expert rain garden installer, see project examples, and enjoy special access to a wide selection of drastically discounted rain garden plants. You will also walk away with a do-it-yourself instructional manual, a few starter plants, and plenty of sage advice for creating and maintaining your own garden.

DATE: Saturday, June 20th
TIME: 8:00-9:30 a.m. (workshop)
 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (plant sale)
LOCATION: Oakland Town Hall
 N4450 County Road A
 Cambridge, WI 53523
INSTRUCTOR: LJ Reas Environmental Consulting
COST: \$10/person

Register to find out how you can help your property and Lake Ripley at the same time. Checks should be made payable to Lake Ripley Management District and sent to the address above. Registration will remain open until June 1, 2009, or when space is filled.



2008 workshop testimonials:

"I appreciated learning what plants were appropriate for different soil types and site conditions."

"The speaker did a great job, and was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic."

"Terrific handouts!"

"Wow! The instructor gave an excellent presentation covering all the aesthetic and practical aspects of building a rain garden."

"Cost was very reasonable. It was helpful to see lots of real project examples. I also appreciated the complimentary starter plants."

"I got answers to all my questions. I only wish we had more time to browse the plants before the sale was opened to the public."

Efforts are currently underway to develop an updated management vision and rehabilitation plan for Lake Ripley. Why? Because ongoing and adaptive planning is essential to a successful lake-improvement program. It allows us to better understand problems and target limited resources. It helps us set goals, adjust to changing conditions, and measure our long-term progress. It is also a prerequisite to obtaining various grants and permit approvals.

Planning is performed in recognition that lake and watershed conditions change over time. Projects get implemented. New policies and behaviors are adopted. Public opinions and priorities evolve. Old problems give way to entirely new threats. Strategies get refined as better information or technologies become available. Only by accounting for these changes can we proceed forward in a deliberate, cost-effective manner.

With the help of a \$20,000 grant, we will complete the following in 2009:

1. Assess past and present lake conditions.
2. Diagnose current problems and emerging threats.
3. Evaluate the status of prior planning mandates.
4. Use the latest science and public-opinion surveys to re-focus management priorities.
5. Develop realistic goals, tracking indicators, and performance targets to guide future action.
6. Review applicability and effectiveness of available lake-improvement strategies.
7. Set forth a detailed, science-based course of action with specific monitoring protocols and performance measures.



Your participation and feedback are needed now more than ever. There is no better time to learn more about the status of Lake Ripley, the challenges we face, and what it's going to take to enhance this valuable community resource. We welcome your involvement whether you're an angler, swimmer, boater, or a property owner who wants to better understand and advocate for a healthier Lake Ripley.



We will be discussing key findings, goals and recommendations at each of our monthly, televised Board meetings. All Board meetings are open to the public. In September, a public hearing will be held to present a draft plan, answer questions, and gather feedback. The public hearing is tentatively set for **Saturday, September 26th**, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Our Mission

The Lake Ripley Management District seeks to preserve and enhance Lake Ripley's ground and surface water quality, its fish and wildlife habitats and communities, and its general ecological health, while ensuring safe, balanced and sustainable opportunities for public use of the lake.



A Practical Vision for the Future

We envision a clean and naturally scenic water body that enhances regional property values, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and local quality of life. A healthy aquatic plant community and high-quality shoreland habitats support an ecosystem that is rich in native fish and wildlife.

Shared recreation occurs so that the competing demands and expectations of diverse user groups are equitably balanced. The mix of lake uses is compatible with the general public interest, identified community priorities, and the lake's estimated physical and ecological carrying capacities.

The watershed that supplies surface water to the lake contains high-functioning wetlands and protected environmental corridors that help safeguard water quality and general lake health. Development and land-use practices incorporate effective conservation measures that control soil erosion, preserve wetlands and groundwater-recharge areas, and minimize adverse impacts to the lake.

Local residents, property owners, government entities and other stakeholders are aware of Lake Ripley's economic, recreational and cultural value. The public maintains a vested interest in the lake's long-term protection and rehabilitation. There is broad understanding and support of ongoing management designed to address problems and threats through cost-effective action.

