

Quiet Lakes Connections



Summertime 2026 in the Quiet Lakes!

Let's start the summer of 2026 off by joining your Quiet Lakes community for the **FIRST EVER** Quiet Lakes Boat Parade on July 3, 2026!

This is a family-friendly boat parade and decoration contest to celebrate our amazing country's **250th birthday!**

Boats can line up at the O'Brien dock (12605 N. Tews Road), which is in the western bay by the channel in Thoroughfare Bay) at 4:00 pm. Or, if you prefer a shorter boat tour and still want to participate in the parade, feel free to join us as we pass your home--just line up with us!

After touring both lakes, we will end up in Steamboat Bay where we will tie up our boats (if you choose), enjoy each others company, share an appetizer or two and cheers to a wonderful holiday weekend ahead!

Gather your family, grandchildren & friends to join you in decorating your boat. The Seivert & Green families are donating prizes for this wonderful community event. First prize is a gift basket with an assortment of summer supplies **AND we will pay your 2027 QLIA Membership dues!** Runner-up boat will receive a gift basket with an array of summer supplies and goodies.

All boaters can participate in voting for "Best Decorated" prizes via a link we will share closer to the event. We ask that you please pre-register for the parade by using this link by July 1, 2026. Information needed is very basic, name, email address, type of boat and address (if we need to deliver gift baskets).

Questions, please email Shae Green at shaegreen29@gmail.com.



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Quiet Lake

H a p p e n i n g s



Teal River Dam. Your Quiet Lakes Improvement Association has the responsibility, authorization and liability to monitor and maintain the dam. The QLIA has carried the permit from the USDA Forest Service since 1954, and the permit is to expire in a few years.

The permit requires the QLIA to have water levels monitored by an engineering company and then report back our findings to the USDA Forest Service on an annual basis per our permit to maintain the dam. We have hired Flambeau Engineering out of Park Falls as our lake consultant for 2026 and 2027. Since one of their specialties is dealing with dams, we have also chosen to partner with them to assist us in maintaining our dam and permit.

Shoreline Assessment. We are planning to have shoreline assessments of Teal, Lost Land and Ghost Lakes. This assessment will identify areas where lakefront property could potentially be harming our lakes. The lake frontage from the shoreline out to a depth where the sunlight no longer reaches the bottom of the lake is called the Littoral Zone.

The Littoral Zone supports 80% of life in our lakes and is the beginning of the food chain. If we damage or even kill off the creatures that live in the Littoral Zone such as Dragon Flies, Mayflies, all types of beetles and dozens of macro invertebrates, we hurt everything in the food chain. Bluegills and crappies depend on this food source to grow and thrive. Muskie's, bass and walleye depend on the bluegills and crappies for food. If the Littoral Zone is not productive, this starts a negative chain reaction up the food chain to our top predator, muskies!

QLIA Annual Picnic. The annual appreciation picnic this year is being held at Boulder Lodge on Ghost Lake, off of Highway 77! We are planning a nice event with upgraded food options! Boulder Lodge has a wonderful open area for a cornhole bean bag tournament and other games, suggestions and ideas are welcome! Please email 3quiet.lakes@gmail.com with anything you would like to see happening at this annual event.

Annual QLIA meeting July 11, 2026. We have a lot happening at this year's Annual QLIA meeting.

Absentee voting is in place and we are ready to send out requested Absentee Ballots. To request a ballot, please email 3quiet.lakes@gmail.com. You can also visit our QLIA website for all details regarding absentee voting and procedures.

Voting will take place for two Board Seat Positions, Craig Pagenkopf for Vice President and Perry Cowan for Treasurer.

Vote on the seven Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaw changes. To review the contents of the Amendment of Articles, you can [click here](#).

Treasurer's Report & Financial Information

We have great news to report on the QLIA financial side! We are very fortunate to have generous members who support our continued efforts to keep our quiet lakes clean, healthy and QUIET!

Because of this, we are now in the best financial position we have been in our history. To see the updated budget, you can go to our Quiet Lakes website or [click here](#).

Quick Reference Budget Information:

Dues - \$6,350 - 127members

Tiers - \$20,295 - 37 members



Did You Know?

Did you know that according to the WDNR, Wisconsin is home to some 17,000 lakes. Of those, only 826 (roughly 5%) are considered "High Quality Waters," meaning lakes that are a unique or rare resource, attain state water quality standards, and have good-to-excellent biotic integrity. Teal, Lost Land and Ghost Lakes are all considered by the WDNR to be in that top 5% of the State's High Quality Waters. Furthermore, Wisconsin designates the very highest quality waters as "Outstanding Resource Waters" (ORWs). These are "Surface waters that...

- "...provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality and are not significantly impacted by human activities."
 - "...warrant additional protection"
 - "...require WI to adopt policies to prevent any lowering of water quality – especially in those waters having significant ecological or cultural value."
 - "...receive the state's highest protection standards"
- * Teal Lake is one of only 97 lakes (0.6%) out of the 17,000 in the state of Wisconsin to qualify as an ORW.

* Lost Land has been monitored by CLMN volunteers since 1993 & Teal has been monitored since 1992. Volunteers monitor water clarity with a black and white Secchi disk, lowering the disk in the water and measuring the depth at which it can no longer be seen. They also record water temperature and dissolved oxygen values at 3-foot depth intervals at sampling locations on each lake & collect water samples to test for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll content. Samples are sent to the State Lab of Hygiene in Madison to be analyzed.

* One measure of a lake's health is called its Trophic State, which relates to the amount of algae in the water. This amount is determined using Chlorophyll data from water samples collected by our Citizens Lake Monitoring Network. For Lost Land and Teal Lakes, the average summer Trophic States for the last 5 years was 44 and 52, respectively. For Shallow Lowland Lakes like ours, these levels are considered Excellent.

* The Trophic State/water quality trends for Lost Land and Teal are shown in the graphs. Lower numbers mean clearer water, so the Lost Land Lake graph shows that the water is actually getting clearer (containing less algae and phosphorous and having deeper Secchi disk readings) over the past 5 years. For Teal, the indicators have trended very slightly downward but mostly held steady at healthy levels. It is too early to know yet what the data will look like for the 2026 season, but volunteers have already been busy collecting data and water samples that will contribute to this year's look at our lakes' health.

Quiet Lakes Improvement Association Executive Board

Kevin Kroll - President (Term Expires 2027)
reellivinresort@gmail.com - (920) 539-7637

Craig Pagenkopf, Vice President (Term Expires 2026)
craigp@psarep.com - (913) 544-5402

Perry Cowan, Treasurer (Term Expires 2026)
pncowan@gmail.com - (815) 289-0140

Lisa Carpenter, Secretary (Term Expires 2027)
stonesmom@att.net - (630) 777-5843

John Wittenberg, Director at Large (Term Expires 2027)
johnrwittenberg@gmail.com - (773) 425-0929

Currents & Queries

Welcome to our new Q&A column! We know that spending time on the water sparks a lot of curiosity from people of all ages.

From the bizarre habits of local aquatic life to the nuances of state shoreline zoning and regulations, there is always something new to learn. Whether you are a weekend angler, a property owner, or a passionate environmental advocate, living on a Wisconsin lake comes with plenty of mysteries.

This column is your direct line to getting your questions answered by our local consultants and seasoned board members. Send your questions to Kelly Seivert at kellyseivert1961@gmail.com for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

Lake Committee Information ~ Volunteers Needed to Preserve Our Lakes!

We rely on a dedicated team of volunteers who help us manage our lakes! If you'd like to volunteer, please reach out to one of the chairs of the following committees or email us at our website quietlakes.org:

Absentee Voting

Kevin and Stacy Kramer

Water Quality Monitoring

Michelle Keil - Program Coordinator & Lost Land Lake Monitor
(715) 462-3422

John Wittenberg - Program Coordinator, AIS Water Quality
(773) 425-0929

Facilities

Jerry Oltman

Fundraising & Membership Committee

AmyJo Wittenberg - (708) 207-8820

QLIA Newsletter

Kelly Seivert - (651) 491-2014

Email - kellyseivert1961@gmail.com



The Shoreland Stewardship Series

Number 1

Which Tradition?

Owners of shoreland property often bring with them traditional landscaping ideas centered on the conventional residential yard. Sometimes that means a manicured lawn extending to the water's edge. Unfortunately, that carpet of green can cause serious problems for the adjacent lake.

A natural shoreline is a bridge between two worlds. Studies show that there can be as much as 500% more diversity of plant and animal species along a natural shoreline compared to upland areas. When we change a natural shoreline to a lawn, we damage more than that rich mosaic of life. We could also be contributing to water pollution. Building a home and establishing a lawn can cause seven times the amount of phosphorus and 18 times the amount of sediment to enter the water compared to a natural shoreline.

Lakeshore property owners can help prevent these negative effects by rethinking the idea of tradition. Instead of transplanting urban traditions to the natural lakeshore getaway, why not retain the traditional Wisconsin lakeshore by leaving a buffer of natural vegetation along the shore?



Compared to a conventional residential yard, a naturally landscaped yard can be better for the waterway and less work to maintain.

A Fresh Look at Shoreland Restoration

Shoreland restoration, as its name implies, is the practice of restoring the healthy transition between land and water. Typically, a plan will include a shoreland buffer zone – an area of native vegetation along the water's edge. It can extend both onto the land and into the water. The goal of creating or restoring native vegetation in a buffer zone is to bring back the healthy habitats that are reduced or lost by traditional lawns.

Shoreland restoration differs somewhat from the traditional gardening approach. Rather than modifying the site with garden fertilizers and continuous, long-term cultivation, the restoration approach seeks to re-establish native vegetation that once grew with the existing soil, moisture and sunlight conditions. Once established, native plants are superior to non-native plants for the conditions found along your shoreline.

Vegetative buffers can return or maintain many desirable features to your shoreline. At a minimum, shoreland buffers present a seasonal array of colors, textures, aromas and wildlife activity. They can maintain or restore the natural qualities that keep us so strongly attracted to our living shores. ■

A Fresh Look at Shoreland Restoration

What is the best way to restore shoreland to protect water and wildlife? There are a number of ways, depending on site characteristics and desires of the property owner. At right are some points to consider:



No-Mow Zone

Creating a buffer zone by simply not mowing along the shoreline is the easiest and least expensive method. Turf grasses will grow 12-24 inches tall before going to seed. Creating a curving edge that separates the buffer from your lawn and any pathways to the water will also give your shoreland a pleasing, natural appearance. Over time, shrubs and trees will naturally fill in and provide a more diverse plant cover.



Keep it in the Family

Native wildflowers, groundcovers and trees along the shore add seasonal color and diversity. Native vegetation, once established, will discourage undesirable, exotic species such as purple loosestrife from overtaking your property and can deter Canada geese from loitering on your lawn. Properly placed, native plants will frame views, muffle the noise of lake activities, protect water quality and wildlife, and restore the natural beauty of native shorelands.

Reviving your shore

Restoring all the functions of natural buffers takes time and effort. By far the best solution is to **protect natural shorelands** whenever possible. This includes leaving logs and beneficial vegetation in the water as well as protecting upland areas from mowing and other continuous disturbances that compact soil or eliminate groundcover plants, shrubs and trees.

When looking to create a view of the lake, consider only **selective removal** of branches, trees, shrubs and groundcover. A path with an opening for your dock or swimming area may be all that you need. As times change and your use of the lake evolves, you may consider

letting vegetation spread and grow on its own. This option requires less maintenance and provides additional habitat benefits.

In the water, aquatic vegetation can quickly recolonize sites previously cleared or disturbed, once the disturbance is eliminated or reduced.

- Consider docking or boating activities that allow portions of the shallow water areas to remain relatively undisturbed.
- If possible, observe what is growing in the shoreland zone at undeveloped sites near your property. These lush, natural sites provide good examples to follow when restoring your own shoreline.



Much can be done to enhance the natural characteristics of areas that are currently mowed lawns. However, areas of full sun and well-established lawns often require substantially more effort to restore. In these areas, expect serious turf competition. A technique called **accelerated recovery** can be used on these sites



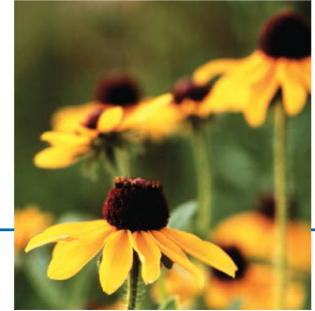
Roll Up Your Sleeves!

"Do-it-yourselfers" no longer have to wonder where to start. Many local nurseries and garden centers carry native plant stock and can recommend the best plants for your site. Local University of Wisconsin-Extension or Department of Natural Resources offices, and some county zoning and land conservation offices also have excellent information on how to go about the job.



Hire a Pro

Shoreland restoration is a rapidly growing field among landscape professionals. Combined with better availability of native plant stocks, many landscape nurseries are now able to provide waterfront property owners with full-service shoreline restorations. Waterfront property owners can expect this service to include a detailed site analysis, a resulting site plan developed with the owner, and professionally installed (and even maintained) plantings.



A well-planned landscape with natural vegetation and fiber logs along the shore can reduce soil erosion, preserve the views and allow access to the water.

to jump-start natural vegetation. This approach may include controlling the existing turf and planting plants, rootstock or live stakes. For information on the process of accelerated recovery, refer to *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* (listed on the back of this publication).

If the area is shaded or very damp, remnants of natural vegetation are likely present and will begin to re-establish if the site is left alone. Eliminating mowing, foot traffic or other disturbance in these areas may be all that is needed to establish the process of natural recovery.

Nature Abounds

Perhaps the most compelling reason for restoring our shorelands to their natural splendor can be found among the living plants and animals. Although shorelands are relatively small parcels of land, they host an incredible number of species which depend on us to protect their habitat.

Quite often, our attention is focused on the larger, more visible members of the lake community, such as deer and eagles. However, a complete view of the lake environment includes the smaller but more numerous members, which provide the foundation for those higher up the food chain. Tiny plants and animals called plankton provide food for insects, which in turn become food for fish, frogs and birds. The living members of our lakeshores exist in an interdependent web. Removal of one will likely affect the lives of others. Indeed, when shorelands are altered or cleared, this whole idyllic scene undergoes subtle changes that are hard to detect at first, yet the effects become devastatingly obvious as time goes by. ■

A Fresh Look at Shoreland Restoration

Our canoe glides over the shallow waters of a bay, passing by dozens of saucer-sized nests excavated in the sandy bottom. Each nest houses bluegills guarding the eggs that hold their unborn young. The distinctive cry of an eagle fills the air and a great blue heron dips its beak into the clear water. A splash along the shore reveals a family of otters bobbing along the lakeshore in search of entertainment and a meal. The canoe continues slicing through the calm waters, past a log crowded with painted turtles competing for space to catch the morning sun. As the sun rises higher, the trilling of American toads gives way to the banjo-like strum of green frogs seeking attention from suitable mates. A gentle popping sound is evidence of fish inhaling a breakfast of insects off the water's surface. Near the shore a cluster of delicate blue flowers emerges on stalks surrounded by the glossy leaves of pickerelweeds. Beyond this splash of color, a stand of bulrushes and cattails marks the meandering shoreline. The breeze softly rustles through the maples that overlook the bay.



Make a Difference – Restore Your Shore

Sights and sounds such as these reflect the spectrum of life typically found on a healthy lake or river. Here, natural shorelands provide food, clean water and habitat. Fortunately, waterfront property owners can restore or maintain many

of the ecological functions of their lakeshore if a shoreland buffer zone is established or maintained. These areas not only protect our lakes, they can actually solve many problems for homeowners. As an added bonus, this rich mosaic of vegetation, water

and wildlife creates a highly desired landscape that inspires our affections and increases property values. Our lakes are a place to live or vacation – for us they are a chosen landscape. For the wildlife that live there, however, our lakes are their only home. ■

Additional Resources

Landscaping for Wildlife and Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality – Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, 1-800-657-3757.

Life on the Edge: Owning Waterfront Property – Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, (715) 346-2116.

The Water's Edge: Helping fish and wildlife on your waterfront property – UWEX Publication GWQ040 available from county UW-Extension offices or Cooperative Extension Publications 877-947-7827, and DNR publication WT-FH-428 available from local DNR service centers.

Rain Gardens, a Household Way to Improve Water Quality in Your Community – UWEX Publication GWQ034 available from county UW-Extension offices or Cooperative Extension Publications 877-947-7827, and DNR publication WT-731 available from local DNR service centers.

Through the Looking Glass: A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants – available from UW-Extension Lakes 715/346-2116

Restore Your Shore website – www.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyoursore

Shoreland Stewardship Series:

This is the third fact sheet in the shoreland stewardship series. The entire series is available from county UW-Extension offices or Cooperative Extension Publications 877-947-7827 and online at learningstore.uwex.edu, and it is available from DNR Service Centers.

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www.uwsp.edu/UWEXLakes

The Wisconsin
Lakes Partnership



College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point



RIVER ALLIANCE
of WISCONSIN

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Quiet Lakes Member Resorts and Businesses'

*Remember to visit & support our many
Quiet Lakes member resorts and businesses'!*



Reel Livin' Resort

12463 N. Reel Livin' Drive
(715) 462-3822
<https://www.reellivinresorts.com/>

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - 3:00-9:00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday - Noon-9:00 pm
Friday & Saturday - Noon-10:00 pm
Sunday - Noon-5:00 pm



Boulder Lodge

7296 W. State Road 77
(715) 462-3002
<https://boldlodge.com/>

Thursdays - 4:00-10:00 pm
Fridays & Saturdays - Noon-10:00 pm
Sunday - Noon-4:00 pm

Spider Lake Motel and Suites



11991 N. Upper A Road
(715) 558-9732
<https://spiderlakemotel.com/>



Wilson Bay Resort

8845 Wilson Bay Drive
(715) 462-3813
<http://wilsonbaylodge.com/>

Northland Lodge



9181 West Brandt Road
(715) 462-3379
<https://northlandlodge.net/>

Ghost Lake Lodge

Intentionally quiet, pleasantly private!

12355 N. Scheers Road
(715) 462-3939
<https://www.ghostlakelodge.com/>
Open Daily - 3:00-9:30 pm
Closed on Tuesday



*"Get outside, discover, have fun and remember to leave
only footprints when enjoying our natural resources!"*

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