

Marathon County CPZ
210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

Do you have suggestions for articles or photos to share? Would you like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter? Please contact:
Lauren Nichols (715) 261-6027
lauren.nichols@co.marathon.wi.us

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The next best time is today.”

Lake Events and News

Native Mussel ID and Training
Saturday June 1st | 9am-1pm
CPZ Office, 210 River Drive, Wausau

Participate in a mussel salvage on the Wisconsin River! Learn about native and invasive freshwater mussels of the Wisconsin River, while relocating stranded native mussels back into the water. See more details on page 2.

Register at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/mussels/calendar.cfm>

Last Year for Shoreland Restoration Cost-Share Program

Are you thinking about restoring your lakeshore or making it more wildlife friendly? This growing season will be the last year that CPZ's shoreland restoration 70% cost-share program is offered. See page 3 for more details.

Contact Lauren Nichols at lauren.nichols@co.marathon.wi.us or (715) 261-6027 to learn more about this program or to schedule a site visit.



Featured Native Plant



Red Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata

This fragrant beauty is an all around wonderful plant. Growing in the moist/wet areas right along the shoreline, this 4' tall plant is a buffet for pollinators, attracting Monarch and Swallowtail butterflies, Hawk moths, Greater Fritillaries, skippers, and bumble bees. Monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed plants

(*Asclepias* genus). So, if you grow these, you're sure to see monarch caterpillars and butterflies all summer long.

While usually found along a shoreline, red milkweed also does well in average well-drained soils. You don't have to worry about this plant falling over either, as the stiff stems keep it upright throughout the season.

Other names are swamp and pink milkweed.

Are you interested in native plants? Check out Wild Ones at wildones.org and join the Central Wisconsin Chapter.



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Marathon County



Marathon County \$100,000 Lake Grant Awarded

By Lauren Nichols, Shoreland Protection Technician, Marathon County CPZ

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department (CPZ) was awarded a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake Protection Grant for \$100,000 for 2019-2021. Funds will go towards preserving and protecting Marathon County's lakes and rivers. Thank you sincerely to everyone who supported this grant.

One of the great services that this grant allows CPZ to continue to provide is free technical assistance to shoreland owners

for anything related to shoreland buffers—restoration plans, stormwater management, rain gardens, native plant recommendations, and erosion control. Contact Lauren Nichols for questions or to schedule a site visit at lauren.nichols@co.marathon.wi.us or (715) 261-6027.

Other grant projects include installing two large shoreland buffer demonstration sites on Lake Wausau as well as supporting the Eau Pleine Part-

nership for Integrated Conservation (EPPIC), a farmer-based watershed group in Western Marathon County who promote clean water practices to other farmers and landowners.



2019 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant Funding Awarded!

By Chris Hamerla, Golden Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

Golden Sands RC&D is pleased to announce we were successful in receiving funding from the DNR to continue the regional AIS program. A crucial part of that success is due to the financial contributions that local lake groups and county partners committed to. Thank

you! Another key element that was brought to our attention was the well thought out projects and goals our application contained. We actually heard that our grant was used as a model of sorts.

The reason we were able to

have well thought out projects and goals was largely due to the variety of quality lake and shoreland work you all do. Golden Sands RC&D strives to make our programs as useful, educational, and consistent with your

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Keep up to date with events, articles, and other lake news at our Facebook page!
<https://www.facebook.com/MarathonCountyLakes/>



2019 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant Funding Awarded!

By Chris Hamerla, Golden Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

needs as possible. We make sure the program goals align with the Marathon County Land and Water Management Plan as well as the County AIS Plan. With all this in mind we also stay flexible to needs that may change and ready if a new invasive species issue should develop.

So, what is planned for 2019?

First of all I'd like to introduce the new summer AIS Technician, Madeline Abbatacola. Madeline is a student at UW Stevens Point. She will be working with me this summer and conducting watercraft inspections on the weekends. She will be starting the first week of June

As you're reading this, the Marathon County's purple loosestrife (PLS) biocontrol program will be in full swing. Beetles are being raised at the CPZ building in Wausau and in a mass rearing cage just north of Marshfield. These beetles will be released in known PLS areas to help manage the spread of populations and the height of the plants. Shorter PLS means more sunlight for the native plants.

I am looking for help to sew netting material that is put over the PLS plants. The pre measured material needs to be sewn into a tube. No corners or curves, just one straight sew line running the

length of the material.

Wadley Lake continues to have only a handful of Eurasian watermilfoil plants every year. I really want to train someone local that could snorkel to remove them and monitor the lake sporadically throughout the summer. Please contact me to help out

Wadley Lake. This would be an easy opportunity for someone who likes to swim!

Big Bass Lake is fortunate that to date, no invasive plants have been observed. In 2015 a full lake aquatic plant survey was completed on the lake but since then there has only been casual monitoring. This summer Madeline and I will do a full early detection survey on Big Bass just to be sure we are staying current with our monitoring.

Mud Lake is in a similar situation in that no invasive aquatic plants have been recorded there. Madeline and I will complete an early detection survey there as well.

As some of you may be aware, a section of the Wisconsin River will be drawn down to allow repairs on the Wausau Dam. During this period the river section from the Wausau Dam upstream to Brokaw will be lowered approximately fourteen feet. Zebra mussels and corbicula (an invasive clam) are not

known to be in the river but this will be a great opportunity to monitor for them. This will also be a perfect time to learn about the native mussel population. (Please note that this section of the WI River is closed to fishing during the drawdown.)

I am planning a native mussel identification and monitoring event for **Saturday, June 1st**. This event will go from 9 am to approximately 1 pm at the CPZ office, 210 River Drive, Wausau. DNR mussel expert Jesse Weinzinger will lead an informational and identification presentation to start things. Following the presentation we'll head to one of the local parks on the river and see

what we can find. You'll likely want to have a canoe or kayak for monitoring, however the ID portion will be done at the park so everyone can see what is found. Register for the event at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/mussels/calendar.cfm>

These are just a few highlights of the 2019 AIS plans for Marathon County. If you have questions about your lake or are interested in participating in an event please email me at chris.hamerla@goldensandsr.cd.org or call (715) 242-6215

Have a great summer!

-Chris Hamerla



Mussels' often drab shells hide an inner beauty.

Photo by Chris Barnhart



Until recently, mussel shells from the Mississippi River were harvested commercially for the cultured pearl industry.

Photo by FMCS

<https://dnr.wi.gov/news/features/article?id=68>

Last Year for Shoreland Cost-Share Program

By Lauren Nichols, Shoreland Protection Technician, Marathon County CPZ

In 2016, CPZ received our first Lake Protection Grant from the WI DNR. Through this grant, we have offered a shoreland restoration cost-share program for any shoreland owner in Marathon County. Now that CPZ has a new grant and with it new projects, this growing season is the last that this cost-share program will be offered.

How does the program work?

The first step is to contact me for a site visit. During the site visit, I will measure out the 35 foot shoreland buffer and

viewing/access corridor. Then I will survey the native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses that are growing within the buffer area.

With this information I will design a restoration plan detailing what additional native plants should be planted and where to plant them. Plant selection is based on the homeowner's preferences (wildlife attracting plants, low-growing plants, pollinator species, soil stabilizers, etc.), and Marathon County's shoreland buffer standards of 1 tree, 2 shrubs, and 70 groundcovers

(wildflowers, grasses, ferns) for every 100 square feet.

After the plan is completed, the homeowner orders and installs the plants. Once the restoration is installed, the homeowner will be reimbursed for 70% of the cost.

What costs are shared?

The grant can cost-share 70% of native plants, compost, mulch, and some erosion control materials.

This is a great opportunity to stabilize your shoreline, attract wildlife to your shore, and pro-

tect the water you live on.

Contact me at lauren.nichols@co.marathon.wi.us or (715) 261-6027 to learn more about this program or to schedule a site visit.



A heron sign standing amongst blooming purple coneflowers at a restored shore. Photo by Sandra Ruston.

Did you know it takes thousands of caterpillars to feed a family of chickadees?

By Mitchel Block, UWSP Student, Reprinted from Lake Tides 42(4)



It may sound crazy, but it's true. In fact, chickadees have been known to catch over 500 caterpillars in a single day in order to feed their young.

Since chickadee young usually take around 16 to 18 days to fledge, that adds up to a mind boggling 6,240 to 10,260 caterpillars to fledge a single clutch. It's even more impressive when

you take into consideration that adult chickadees only weigh the equivalent of about four pennies. That's a whole lot of caterpillars for such tiny birds! And that's just chickadees. Take into account all the other birds that frequent your backyard, and the amount of caterpillars needed to support them becomes inconceivable.

But why caterpillars and not other insects? Well, it turns out caterpillars contain the high protein that the young need to grow. In fact, caterpillars contain even more protein than beef does! Much like the chickadees, these caterpillars are

picky eaters themselves. More than 90 percent of caterpillars only eat specific native plants or plant groups. So in order to keep caterpillar populations high and help out the chickadees and some of our other feathered friends, here are a few things you can do:

- Plant native plants in order to satisfy the hungry caterpillars. The top 5 best woody plants for birds are oaks, cherries, willows, birches, and poplars (all native ones, of course!)
- Stop the use of pesticides, as these kill the caterpillars and

make food for birds much harder to find.

- Keep goldenrods around your house, because insect larvae love to hide in them, and they make great "buffets" for birds.

Where can you find native plants? Search "native plant nurseries" on the dnr.wi.gov website to get a Wisconsin listing, or go directly to this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/er/er0698.pdf>

