

SHORELAND RESTORATION

On Thursday, April 28th Melanie Leet and Chad Casper from Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) shared with Chapter members information related to the environmental benefits of creating and maintaining shoreland buffers developed from native plants. As a way of introduction, they first told us about the history of the Winnebago System which consists of Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan. It consists of 165,174 acres of water and provides approximately 17% of Wisconsin's total inland surface water. It also provides drinking water for numerous communities within the System.

Did you know that Lakes Poygan, Butte des Morts and Winneconne used to be large river marshes and not the open water lake system that you see today? Because the locks and dams placed on the Fox River raised the water levels 2 to 3 feet, these large river marshes became open water lakes.

Why do we want shoreland restoration? To prevent algae blooms (from high levels of phosphorus), pollution runoff (from lawns and sewage/stormwater systems) and shoreline damage (from ice shoves, waves caused by boats, development and wind fetch). We learned a new word "wind fetch." We were amazed to learn that wind fetch refers to the distance the wind blows over a body of water. The longer the distance and the stronger the winds, the higher the wave and the more wave action and energy will be exerted on the shoreland and the more damage can occur.

The LWCD will help Winnebago County residents develop shoreland vegetative buffers using native plants by providing not only counsel on designing and preparing



the site, but may also provide cost-sharing if the project is eligible. There is also financial assistance for construction of shoreline and stream bank protection which includes materials such as rock riprap and bio-engineering.

There is a similar program available for the development of rain gardens using native plants; cost-sharing is 70% up to \$500.

One last point of information — the Winnebago Pool system is listed as an impaired water (waterways that are too polluted or otherwise degraded to meet water quality standards) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). If you live on the Winnebago System, please maintain a native plant vegetative transition zone between your yard and the lakes and streams. Whether you live on the water or not, together, we need to do all we can to help waterfront residents understand the importance of providing this buffer zone between the land and the water. These projects can improve water quality, restore wildlife habitat, and protect our valuable drinking water source.

To find out more about the Shoreland Restoration Program contact either Chad Casper at ccasper@co.winnebago.wi.us or Melanie Leet at mleet@co.winnebago.wi.us or check out their website co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd.



Bringing Nature Home Video a Big Hit on Wisconsin Public TV

Two years ago at our annual Conference, Toward Harmony with Nature, Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home", was our keynote speaker. His presentation given in two parts, "The Value of Having Native Plants in Our Yards" and "Creating Healthy, Biodiverse Neighborhood Corridors" was videotaped, per our request, by the University of Wisconsin Fox Valley IT Department. The DVD was sent to Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) in hopes that they would air it.

For the past two years, WPT has been periodically airing both presentations as part of their University Place programming shown on the WIS channel, which many of you may have already seen. Just recently the IT Department heard from a representative of WPT, saying that they received several very favorable comments from email or

from people who called their Viewer Services number to speak with someone about programs that are aired. Generally speaking few people respond to programs and when WPT gets several calls about a program, they take special note because it shows viewers' interests and helps Wisconsin Public TV identify topics for future programs. The Wild Ones program fell into that special note category

If you have not seen the presentations and would like a copy for yourself or to give a friend, the DVD is available for \$8.00 at the WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI. It is also available on the Wild Ones website www.wildones.org/wild-ones-store/product-category/miscellaneous for \$10.00 (includes s&h).



Here are the comments they received after airing Doug Tallamy's presentations:

"Doug Tallamy, very good program, hope you can repeat it often...very glad it was on. Thank you."

"Wild Ones speaker Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home, excellent program, we are telling others that you showed it."

"I was very pleased watching the professor discuss native plants and gardening - Professor Tallamy. This kind of thing is what is going to make me excited enough to learn how to use the internet! Thanks for helping me find out how to watch the video again!"

"The program was named "Doug Tallamy: Bringing Nature Home" I think that the program was very educational, it should be shown to more school children so they get ideas about feeding the animals, so, I just wanted to say that was a very good program. Thank you."

"On June 11 I was watching on 21-2 a wonderful show by Doug Tallamy about bringing nature home and I want to applaud WPT for broadcasting the show."

Last evening I found a program with Doug Tallamy - The Value of Having Native Plants in Our Yards around 9 pm. I have to say it was an excellent program. We have done a lot of stuff to attract wild life in our own yard and it was extremely interesting to see all those pictures and hear what he had to say. Thank you."

"Urban ecosystems in diversity - great show and the best of topics. I hope to see more and this one again. Thanks."

"Thank you for having the University Place programs on "The Value of Having Native Plants in Our Yards" and "Creating Healthy, Biodiverse Neighborhood Corridors". I can't wait to share them with my brother in New York via online video. They are so great!"

"Hi I just wanted to call and make a comment I really enjoyed the program called "Wild Ones," the University Place lecture about native plants. I found it to be very interesting. I wish more people in the area where I live would be more conscious about indigenous plants and living with nature instead fighting it. I have a bluebird trail and I have wild spaces that I try to have habitat for better flies etc... It seems that everyone around me is always constantly using GMO type seeds or pesticides. I've seen that the bluebird population, which seemed to be some years ago had been on the rise, has been dwindling since it seems that insects that eat on the plant life that comes from GMO seeds just seems to be poisoning the environment for birds, etc... Anyway I really appreciated the program and hope a lot of people were inspired by it. Keep up the good work! I'd like to see more programs on living with nature and providing habitat for butterflies and songbirds, etc... Thank you again for having University Place and the program "Wild Ones."