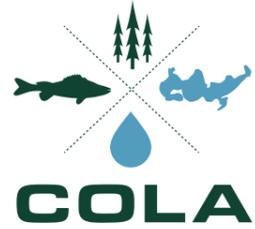


**Courte Oreilles Lakes
Association, Inc.**
P.O. Box 702
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843
www.cola-wi.org

Forwarding Service Requested



IS THIS WHY YOU COME TO THE LAKE?



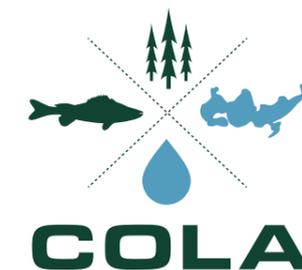
OR IS THIS WHY YOU COME TO THE LAKE?



STOP WORKING SO HARD AND START ENJOYING YOURSELF WHILE
PROTECTING THE LAKES WE LOVE.



WHY WORK SO HARD
WHEN YOU CAN HAVE THIS?



WHAT MAKES LAC COURTE OREILLES FUN FOR YOU?

Obviously, it's the water and what you do in it and around it. Boating, fishing, water skiing, sailing, kayaking, all require good water. Even the views of your cabin or lake home are probably oriented toward the water. Water is where it all happens.

But the water is at risk.

The lakes you love are only as good as the water in them and the shoreline that contains it. Damage the water and the pleasure derived from it is diminished.



WHAT'S AFFECTING THE QUALITY OF LCO'S WATER?

Too much phosphorous, for one thing. Phosphorous comes from nature but much of it is introduced by man in the form of fertilizer used in landscaping, seepages from faulty septic systems, phosphorous-laden water used by farming operations that drains back into the lakes, run-off from logging operations and run-off from streets, sidewalks and rooftops. If fertilizer helps grass and plants in your yard grow it stands to reason it also helps algae grow in the lakes. Too much algae clouds the water

resulting in poor water quality, which in turn alters the entire ecosystem of the lakes.

Another culprit is the destruction of the natural vegetation that grows at the water's edge. Every time you pull a log out of the water or clean out a bunch of cattails, you're destroying natural filtering and water retention capacity of your shoreline. You're also destroying important animal habitat.

The built structures on our properties also pose a problem by creating too many surfaces that don't allow storm water to permeate/infiltrate into the soil. These areas are called "impervious surfaces" and they significantly increase rate and volume of water run-off into the lakes. Reducing run-off is critical because it carries soil particles (sediment) that are the largest transporters of phosphorous into the lakes. That run-off also contains chemicals like pesticides, motor oil, and fertilizers that have a detrimental effect on plants and wildlife.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

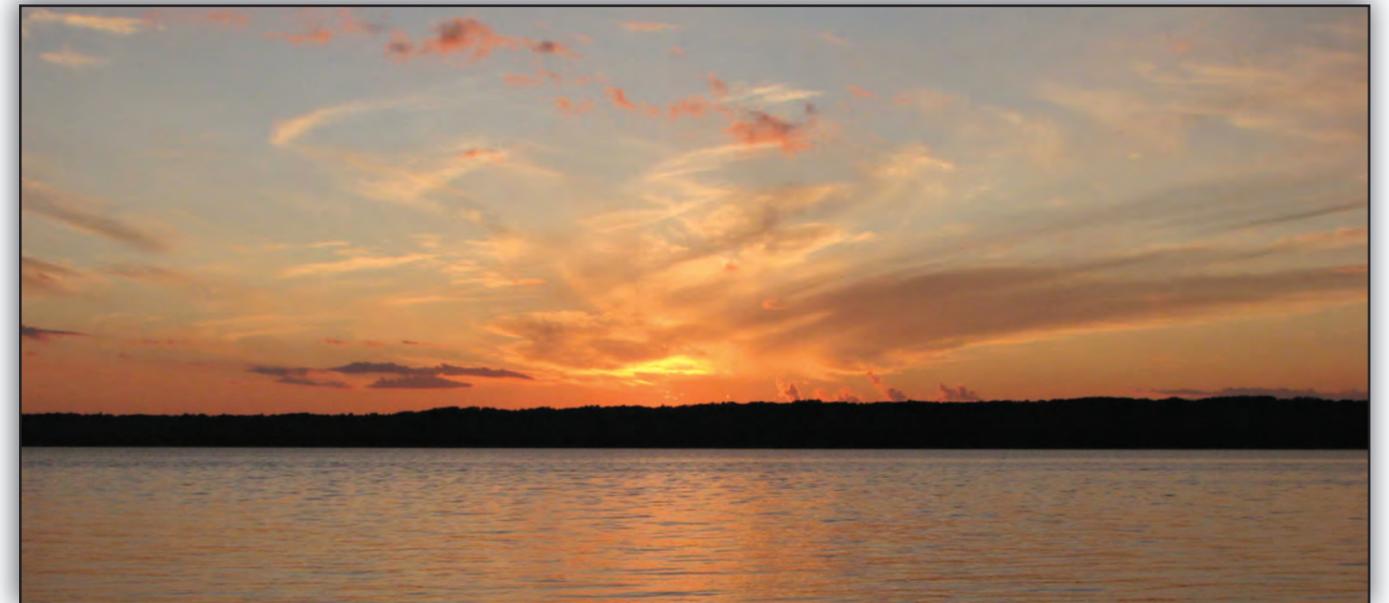
Establish a shoreline buffer. Stop working so hard and let nature take over part of the load. Consider giving back some of your lot to nature by establishing native plantings on your shoreline to offset the effects of run-off and prevent erosion. You don't need to give up your view, your dock, or your lawn and gardens to create a wildlife-friendly environment. In most cases your waterside appeal is improved and your property values actually go up. One study* shows an increase in value of \$200/frontage foot for properties with good water quality produced, in part, by a natural shoreline.



*UW Extension

RELAX

You owe it to yourself, your family and the lakes.

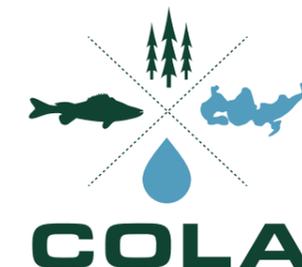


There is a Midwest work ethic. It means you work hard. When you're at home you mow your grass. You keep the weeds down. You make your place look, as one neighbor puts it, "Like somebody lives there."

That carries over to your lake place, too. And that's a shame. Just about everyone who buys a lake place starts improving it. They establish a lawn, just like in town. They put in a patio, just like in town. They pave the driveway, just like in town.

But this isn't "in town." This is the lake, and if you carry the clean-up, fix-up mania too far you start illegally tearing out bull rushes because they're "messy" and hauling in sand to make a swimming area the full width of your lot. You start increasing your footprint on the lake.

If it were just you that would be OK, but it's not just you. Many more people are living here permanently. As more and more people come to the lakes and do the same thing, eventually the footprint becomes too much for the lakes to handle. Nature's perfect shoreline is transformed into a perfect human ideal of a playground. The Nature is lost.



Here's what you can do to minimize effects of impervious surfaces:

- Minimize the amount of hard surfaces or covered areas that prevent water from seeping into the ground. For example, use gravel instead of asphalt or concrete for driveways and walkways. Choose stepping stones or patio blocks instead of solid concrete sidewalks and patios.
- Divert rain from paved surfaces into gravel-filled trenches or areas of vegetation to collect water and allow it to filter gradually into soils.
- Direct flow from drain spouts and roof gutters into water gardens or rain barrels instead of directly down the sidewalk or driveway.
- Vegetated shoreline buffer zones by the water's edge reduce the amount and force of the runoff from impervious surfaces reaching the lake.



Establish a rain garden. Rain gardens are simply low places in your lot where two or three inches of rainwater or snowmelt can accumulate and soak into the ground replenishing groundwater as nature intended. It is inexpensive and when planted with wild flowers or other vegetation, it makes for an attractive garden. The rain garden keeps run-off carrying sediment from running unabated to the lakes and no, it does not promote mosquitoes.

For more information on shoreline restoration, contact

Courte Oreilles Lakes Association

www.cola.wi.org

Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation Dept.

715-634-8288

www.sawyercountygov.org

Wisconsin DNR

<http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/shoreland/documents/nativeplants.pdf>

UW Extension

888-893-9892

www.uwex.edu

A Homeowner's Guide to Native Shoreline Gardens

www.co.walworth.wi.us

If you have 100 feet of shore, consider reverting 70 feet of it back to Mother Nature. The easiest way to accomplish this is to stop mowing and let nature take over. The remaining area is more than adequate for docks, swimming areas, and lake views. You can still have a lawn for games and lounging up by your house or cabin. You can still enjoy your flower and vegetable gardens. And contrary to popular belief, you don't get mosquitoes and bugs with increased planting along the shore.

You can have it all. Less work, improved property values, and more scenery while supporting wildlife and improving LCO's water quality.

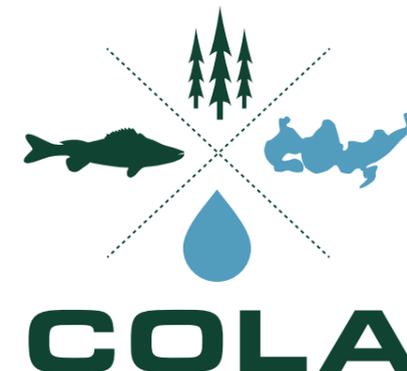
Cut down on the use of fertilizer and pesticides. We talked about how fertilizer can affect water quality and the ecosystem as a whole. Too much is a very bad thing. In a similar way, pesticides used in moderation are good and even necessary. Pesticides help us control insects, unwanted weeds, and furry little critters that like our homes. Poorly managed, however, pesticides can have damaging effects on lakes. They can kill the insects necessary to provide food for fish. They can kill natural aquatic plants that provide shelter and food for fish.

- Use pesticides only when necessary. Is the problem bad enough to justify the use of a toxic chemical? Are there alternative ways of treating the problem?
- Use Less Toxic Pesticides - Use those chemicals that are least poisonous to aquatic life.
- Pay particular attention to warning statements about environmental hazards on the label. Look for: "This product is toxic to fish." If you see such a warning, consider another pesticide or an alternative control method.
- Never wash spray equipment in lakes, ponds, or rivers. If you use water from natural ponds, lakes, or streams, use an anti-siphon device to prevent backflow.
- If you are applying pesticides near water, check the label to find the recommended buffer zone. Buffer strip widths between the water and the treatment areas vary.

Reduce "impervious surfaces" that increase run-off into the lakes.

When a lake lot has structures (roads and parking lots, buildings, patios, and sidewalks, etc.) on it, and a mowed and manicured lawn, it sheds water like an umbrella. As more of the lot area is covered by structures, the volume and velocity of storm water run-off carrying sediments, nutrients, and pollutants to lakes increases. This increases erosion on the shoreland and degrades the water quality.

When you establish a native shoreland buffer, it improves water quality by serving as a buffer between what you do on the rest of your property and the lake. Plantings also keep your valuable lake shore from eroding away.



WILD BERGAMOT



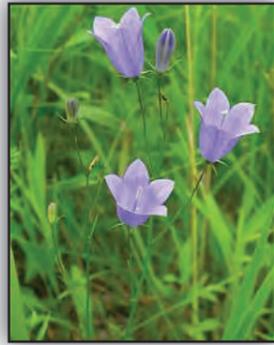
M. Black

PAPER BIRCH



K. Sytesma

HAREBELL



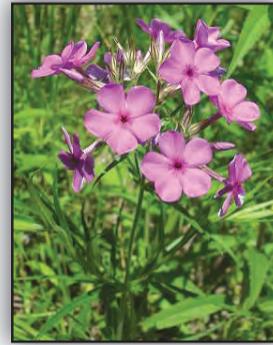
M. Black

PARTRIDGE PEA



S. Sauer

DOWNY PHLOX



M. Black

CUP PLANT



J. Schoenecker

TAMARACK



M. Black

FOREST VIOLET



M. Black

PRAIRIE DROPSEED



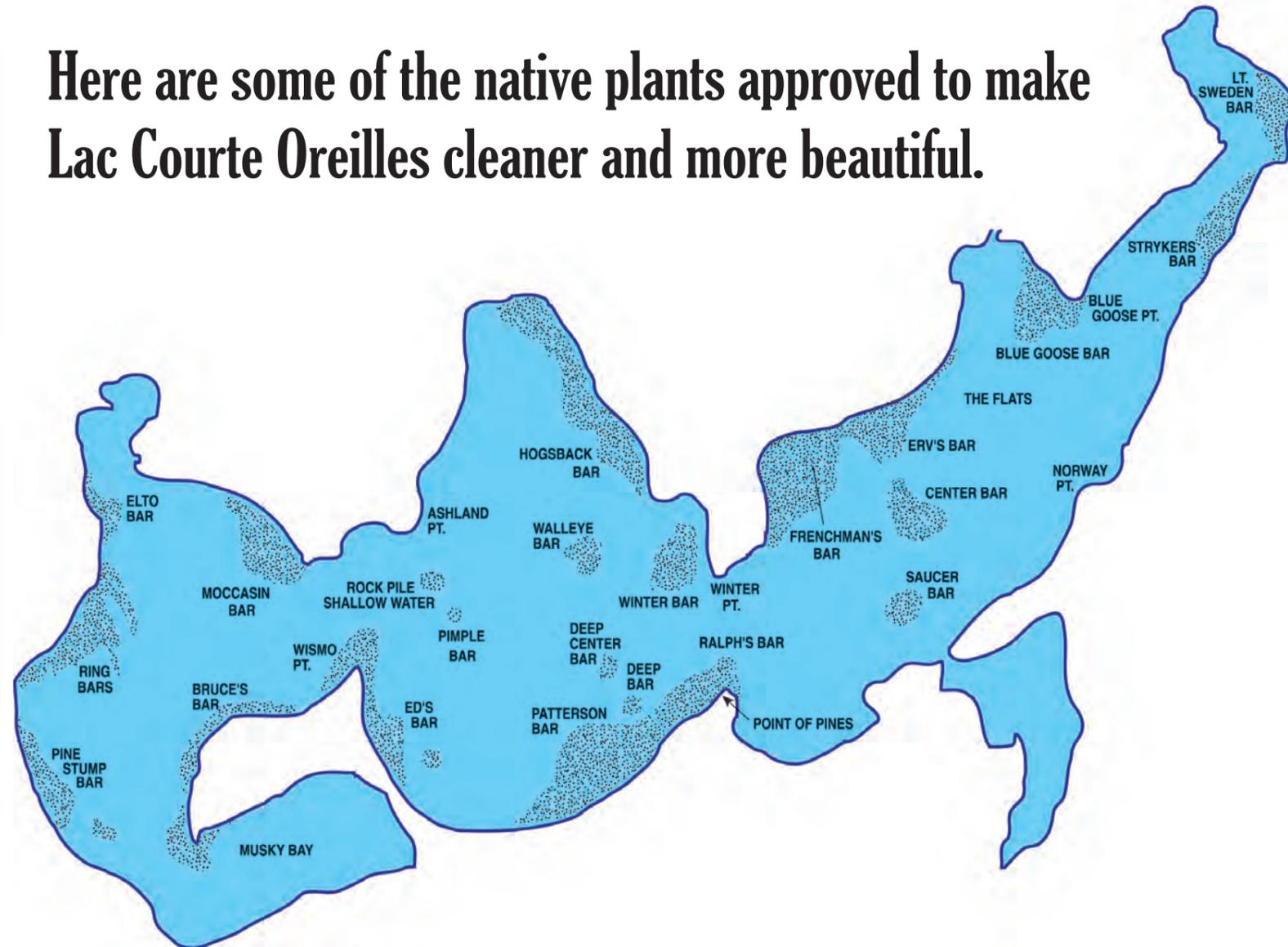
M. Black

WILD LUPINE



M. Black

Here are some of the native plants approved to make Lac Courte Oreilles cleaner and more beautiful.



WILD COREOPSIS



P. Drobot

PRAIRIE SMOKE



D. Anderson

LIZARD TAIL



R. Freckmann

PAGODA DOGWOOD



R. Freckmann

HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY



R. Freckmann

TURKS CAP LILY



K. Sytesma

BLACK CHERRY



M. Wagner

For a more detailed list of native plants suitable for the lakes, please go to the COLA website Shoreline Restoration section. www.cola-wi.org