



Sand Lake Association, Inc. Newsletter

You can still **become a Member in 2017** and deduct your \$20 or more contribution from your taxes. The Association is now a 501c3 charitable organization. Your donation helps support its mission to keep Sand Lake and its surrounding areas clean, invasive species free and safe for all residents and visitors. Go to: <http://www.sandlakewi.com/>.

Keeping Sand Lake Clean

In this newsletter, our focus for keeping Sand Lake clean, is on having a healthy shoreline. Healthy shorelines are planted with trees, shrubs and native plantings to the water's edge instead of lawn. The benefits are to the lake water, the aquatic life and the land owner.

Native plantings along the shoreline help to filter out harmful chemicals that may run into the lake from lawn and garden fertilization or rain. These chemicals are harmful to the lake.

Sand Lake has been monitored for clarity, which is an indicator of the health of the lake, since the 1980's. The depth of clarity has been fairly consistent until this last year. It is unclear as to the reasons for the water to have less clarity, but we know that it can be greatly mitigated by keeping our shorelines as healthy as possible.

An additional benefit to native plantings and allowing our shorelines to remain as natural as possible is that **geese** will not cross these borders. Some of our home owners complain of geese invading their shorelines and by not placing easy access to the shore where they can eat the shorter grasses, geese are deterred.

A natural shoreline is also helpful to avoid erosion of the shoreline. A healthy shoreline has few areas where the shore has washed into the lake through erosion. Plants with deep root systems help avoid erosion.



Natural shorelines are easy to maintain once they are established. With less lawn to mow, homeowners can enjoy more of their lake time. Additionally, natural shorelines add beauty to the property. Determining the height and width of the natural plantings help enhance landscaping and can add to privacy. Ideally, the planting area should be 6-8 feet wide.



Native Plantings Resources

There are many good online resources available to know how and what to plant for a natural shoreline. The UW Extension has an excellent publication at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/watersedge.pdf> that can give you additional information.

Examples of Native Plantings

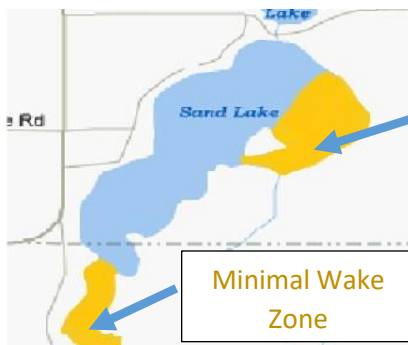
Evergreen trees and shrubs are some examples of plantings native to our shoreline. By looking at the wild areas around Sand Lake, you can see what trees and shrubs are good to plant. While looking at the wild areas, you will also see that ferns, hostas and phlox thrive along our shores. A variety of grasses and cattails are also prevalent along Sand Lake.

Do You Wonder?



Q: Who do you notify if you see something like a sunken boat that is leaking gas?

A: The Sand Lake Association has no enforcement abilities and therefore, something like a sunken boat that is polluting the lake water, should be reported to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



Minimal
Wake Zone

Minimal Wake
Zone

If you have an email address that you would like us to send an electronic version of future newsletters to, please send it to: info@sandlakewi.com.

Sand Lake Has a Water Quality Committee

This is one of several committees of the Sand Lake Association. The Water Quality Committee has been working on renewing the application for the Clean Boats Clean Waters grant for next summer. This grant provides paid students to monitor the boat landing for invasive species. The focus for 2018 of the committee is education and this newsletter is the first in a series to provide helpful information to our members. Another project is to revitalize the fish cribs and **Steve Johnson will be looking for volunteers this winter** for this project.

Loon Watch

The loons have flown south for the winter. It has been noted by a north end lake resident that the loons come back every year the day after the ice goes out on the lake. Does anyone know how they know when that happens, since it is different every year? The best things we can do to help our loons is to be good stewards of our lake waters. Please help those enjoying our lake be aware of the minimal wake zones located behind the reed bed at the north end of the lake and at the south end of the lake. These are nesting areas for our loons and waves can disrupt the nests and prevent the loons from having their babies.