

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF KANGAROO LAKE

CONSERVING YOUR SHORELINE

It only takes one person to make the difference. The preservation of wildlife on your shoreline is in your hands. Just the simple act of planting one small tree, a few wildflowers, or a bush can motivate others to follow your lead. Your action multiplied by the subsequent actions of others, can help our lake return to its original "undeveloped look".

Did you know that lake shorelines in northern Wisconsin look different than shorelines in our part of the state? In the north there are trees, bushes and flowers right down to the shore, allowing an abundance of animal life. Cottages and houses are barely seen through the foliage. In the north, you'll find that every five feet, a fallen tree is lying in those lakes. These fallen trees provide resting places for frogs and turtles and cover for the fish living under them. Both the State of Wisconsin and the Kangaroo Lake Association have a new goal, to make our shoreline look as much as possible like one of the undeveloped northern lakes.

Let's face it many of us are "neatniks"! We want everything orderly and in it's place. Before coming here, many of us lived in towns and cities where neighbors often judge one another by the quality and thickness of green grass around the house, how often it is cut and whether tree branches and hedges are neatly trimmed. Then you discover and fall in love with a county noted for its natural beauty, its abundance of trees, plants and wildlife.

So, you buy a home on lovely Kangaroo Lake and suddenly, it's decision making time, should you plant grass, fertilize and spread pesticides on it, cut down every tree in front of the house to ensure a 100% unobstructed view or leave it natural. You ask, is it really your responsibility to make sure that the animals, squirrels, porcupines, mink, fox raccoons, skunks, all the critters and birds that have always lived here, can continue to live here? To do that, they need a place to hide and walk without being seen, access to plants that provide food sources such as berries and the ability to find worms and insects that haven't been polluted with pesticides. It can be a hard decision, the natural look or the city look. The natural look won't be neat, it's not supposed to be, but it can be attractive.

The following ideas might help when making choices about how to protect and conserve your shoreline.

YOUR NATURAL AREA: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommends that you plant native plants and trees from the shore, back into your lot about 30 feet. It is understood that you need a place to sit and access to the water, so a ten-foot opening on the shore is suggested.

NATIVE PLANTS: It will take several years to get your native plants established so don't get discouraged. If the plants "like" the spot you've chosen for them, they will spread after a few years. It takes a little time and someone who likes to garden a bit, but you can change your "grass to the lake" look, to one of trees, flowering plants and shrubs. Several nurseries, in Door County, carry native plants and trees and they can help you create a plan for your shoreline.

Did you know that much of the land around the lake is boreal forest? This means that **prairie** seeds and plants will have a difficult time growing on this side of the peninsula. However, all is not lost, as there are many native wildflowers and trees that do grow on this side and many of those that grow best around Kangaroo Lake will be shown on the enclosed sheets.



SEEDS: If you decide to collect dried seed from native plants be sure to leave some for birds and animals. Be aware that native seeds have their own growing timetable. Native seeds, *sleep*, *creep* and *leap*. The first year they are dormant, the second year they have a few leaves, but the third year is "the magic year", as they shoot up in height and flower. Keep in mind that seeds that are plump like those found on Bunchberry, Sarsaparilla and Jack in the Pulpit, should be planted while plump and juicy.



GRASS: Perhaps you decide that you can't live without grass AND besides which, the kids **need** grass to play on. Fine and dandy! Just keep the grass area back 30 feet from the lake. Grass really doesn't need fertilizer, weed control or pesticides. Your kids and pets surely don't need to be playing on a lawn that is covered with chemicals. The problem with grass is that the roots only go down $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch in the soil. This means that it has to be watered during dry spells and when it does rain, the water doesn't go down into the soil but runs off over the top carrying fertilizer and pesticides directly into the lake. Native plants, sedges and grasses don't need to be watered. Once they are

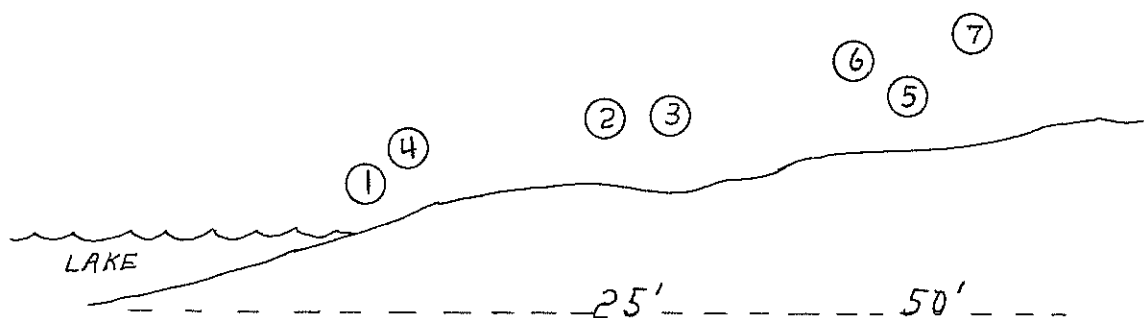
established, their roots go down deep into the soil and as the rain will follow the roots down into the soil, runoff is not a problem. Your grass may not be up to city standards but you will still have all the “**fun**” of mowing it and the kids will be able to play games on it.

TREES: If like most people, you would like to have a view of the lake, this can be accomplished with the removal of just a few branches that obscure your view of the lake.

If a tree falls into the lake (assuming it hasn't fallen on or near your pier or swimming area) leave it in the lake. If it's no longer attached to the stump just tie it to the shore until it becomes waterlogged and stays in place. Your kids and grandkids will love watching the turtles and frogs that will return to Kangaroo Lake.

What trees should you plant and where should you plant them? First, look around the lakeshore to familiarize yourself with the native trees growing there. Take a look in the woods and upland areas and you'll find that totally different trees prefer that location. It is preferable to plant native trees because they are adapted to our area, become established more readily and grow more rapidly than exotic trees.

The following diagram of the typical terrain along the edge of the lake can help you determine where to plant the different kinds of trees.

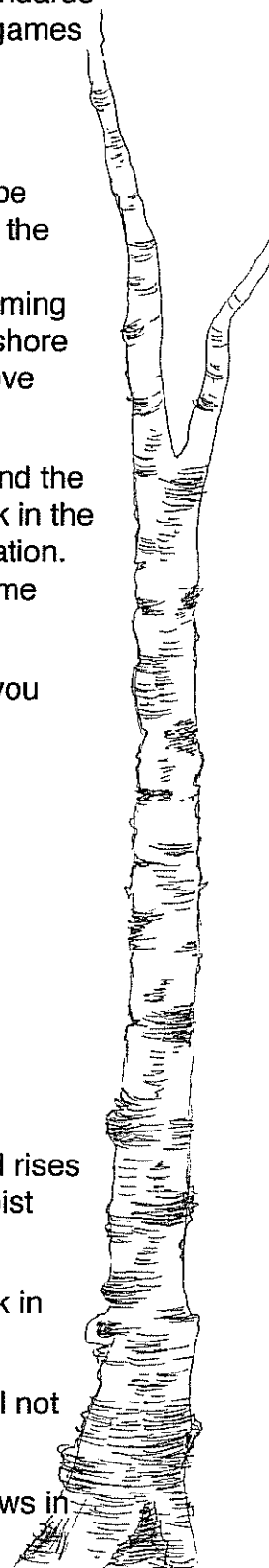


(1) White Cedar—plant from the waterline, back 40-50 feet and where your land rises 1-4 feet above the lake level. It does best in moist to wet areas, but tolerates moist upland area as well.

(2) Hemlock and White Pine—plant 15-25 feet back from the shoreline and back in moist upland area. White Pine will grow well in somewhat drier upland areas.

(3) American Larch—plant from waterline and back 20-30 feet in moist soil. Will not grow in dry or upland areas.

(4) White Birch—plant 2-4 feet from waterline. It prefers moist soil, but also grows in well-drained upland soil.



(5) Basswood and White Ash—grow best in moist upland areas 50 or more feet from the waterline. Basswood trees often grow as a clump. White Ash grows as a single trunk.

(6) Sugar Maple and American Beech—plant at least 30 feet or more away from the waterline. They grow best in moist to well-drained soil. They grow slowly or not at all when very close to the waterline.

(7) Oaks—plant 40 or more feet from the waterline in well-drained soil.

List of places in Door County that sell native trees and plants.

Bridenhagen Tree & Landscape, 2271 Old Lime Kiln Rd. Baileys Harbor. 920-854-5993

Briggsville Gardens, 3273 Mathey Road, Sister Bay. 920-743-1246

Door Landscape & Nursery, 6329 Highway 42, Egg Harbor. 920-766-9770

References:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 2010. Wisconsin Lakes Convention.

Goggin, P. 2010. UW-Extension Lakes. Native Plant Seed Collecting. Wisconsin Lakes Convention.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TYPE	HABITAT	HEIGHT	SUN/SHADE	FLOWER	BLOOM TIME
CANADA ANEMONE	ANEMONE CANADENSIS	FLOWER	FIELDS/ShORE	1-3 FT	PARTIAL SUN	WHITE	MAY/AUG
THIMBLEWEED	ANEMONE VIRGINIANA	FLOWER	WOODS/SAND	1-3 FT	PARTIAL SUN	WHITE	JUNE/AUG
WILD COLUMBINE	AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS	FLOWER	WOODS	1-3 FT	SUN TO SHADE	RED	MAY/JULY
JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT	ARISAEMA TRIPHYLLUM	FLOWER	WOODS	1-2 FT	P SUN/SHADE	GREEN	APRIL/JUNE
WILD STRAWBERRY	FRAGARIA VIRGINIANA	FLOWER	FIELDS/WOODS	TO 6 IN	SUN/P SUN	WHITE	APRIL/JUNE
HAREBELL	CAMPANULA ROTUNDIFOLIA	FLOWER	SANDY SOIL	4-20 IN	SUN/P SUN	BLUE	JUNE/OCT
JOE PYE WEED	EUPATORIUM MACULATUM	FLOWER	FIELDS/ShORE	3-5 FT	SUN/P SUN	PINK	JULY/SEPT
COMMON MILKWEED	ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA	FLOWER	FIELDS	1-3 FT	SUN/P SUN	PINK	JUNE/AUG
SARSAPARILLA	ARALIA NUJICAULIS	FLOWER	WOODS	1 FT	P SUN/SHADE	GREEN	JULY/AUG
BUNCHBERRY	CORNUS CANADENSIS	FLOWER	WOODS	4-8 IN	P SUN/SHADE	WHITE	MAY/JUNE
ROUGH SUNFLOWER	HELIANTHUS HIRSUTUS	FLOWER	FIELDS/WOODS	2-3 FT	SUN/P SUN	YELLOW	JULY/OCT
ST. JOHN'S-WORT	HYPERICUM KALMIANUM	FLOWER	SHORE	1-2 FT	SUN/P SUN	YELLOW	JULY/AUG
ORANGE JEWELWEED	IMPATIENS CAPENSIS	FLOWER	SHORE/WOODS	1-2 FT	SUN/SHADE	ORANGE	JULY/SEPT
WILD BERGAMOT	MONARDA FISTULOSA	FLOWER	FIELDS/WOODS	1-2 FT	SUN/P SUN	PURPLE	JULY/SEPT
RED-OSIER DOGWOOD	CORNUS STOLONIFERA	SHRUB		3-5 FT		WHITE	JUNE/JULY
AMERICAN HAZELNUT	CORYLUS AMERICANA	SHRUB		2-4 FT			
BEAKED HAZELNUT	CORYLUS COMUTA	SHRUB		2-4 FT			
MAPLELEAF VIBURNUM	VIBURNUM ACERIFOLIUM	SHRUB		2-5 FT		WHITE	AUTUMN

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TYPE	HABITAT	HEIGHT	SUN/SHADE	FLOWER	BLOOM TIME
GRAY DOGWOOD	CORNUS RACEMOSA	SHRUB		3-6 FT	SUN/P SUN	WHITE	MAY/JUNE
HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY	VIBURNUM TRILOBUM	SHRUB		3-5 FT	SUN/P SUN	WHITE	MAY/JUNE
SERVICE BERRIES	AMELANCHIER SSP.	SHRUB		3-6 FT	SUN/P SUN	WHITE	
WHITE CEDAR ARBORVITAE	THUJA OCCIDENTALIS	TREE	SHORELAND	OR MOIST	UPLAND		
HEMLOCK	TSUGA CANADENSIS	TREE	SHORELAND	OR MOIST	UPLAND		
LARCH, AMERICAN	LARIX LARICINA	TREE	SHORELAND				
SUGAR MAPLE	ACER SACCHARUM	TREE	UPLAND				
BEECH, AMERICAN	FAGUS GRANDIFOLIA	TREE	UPLAND				
WHITE BIRCH	BETULA PAPIRIFERA	TREE	SHORELAND	AND	UPLAND		
WHITE OAK	QUERCUS ALBA	TREE	UPLAND				
RED OAK	QUERCUS BOREALIS	TREE	UPLAND				
WHITE ASH	FRAXINUS AMERICANA	TREE	UPLAND				
WHITE PINE	PINUS STROBUS	TREE	SHORELAND	AND	UPLAND		
BASSWOOD	TILIA AMERICANA	TREE	UPLAND				