



The Delavan Enterprise

DELAVAN'S ONLY LOCALLY PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER

ALSO SERVING **DARIEN**

Published weekly • Delavan, WI 53115

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

142 Years • No. 25

mywalworthcounty.com

In my opinion

DLIA helps lake front property owners obtain grants

By Mary Pat O'Connor
CONTRIBUTOR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a program called Healthy Lakes Grants, which awards lakeshore properties owners up to \$1,000 for each best practice installed at the waters' edge.

The most popular practice is native shoreline plants. For every 350 sq. ft. of contiguous area you can receive up to \$1,000 toward the restoration and planting of your shoreline. Grants are applied through the Delavan Lake Sanitary District. The District and the DLIA are working together to assist property owners with the process.

For the 2020 planting season 11 grants were awarded on Delavan Lake and we are now taking applications for 2021. Although the DLIA has promoted this program for several years, it is only now that we are seeing projects in action.

Jackson Park on North Shore Drive is a lake access community with 200 feet of shoreline. The Jackson Park homeowners were awarded three \$1,000 grants to restore their shoreline. The community worked together to obtain the grants, engage a landscaper familiar with lakeshore planting and begin the process of restoration

and planting. This project is ongoing, and the results of their work is contributing to shoreline beautification, creation of habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, as well as the control of erosion.

The neighboring community of Assembly Park is also currently engaged in the same practice restoring an additional 200 ft. of shoreline. That group was also awarded three \$1,000 grants. The entire project will create 400 feet of contiguous shoreline featuring native plants on the north side of Delavan Lake.

This valuable program works in conjunction with the other goals of the DLIA in the lake watershed. This includes working with farmers to install cover crop to slow agricultural sediment from seeping into the lake and partnering with the Town of Delavan and the Delavan Lake Sanitary District on projects such as the Mound Road Ponds dredging.

The DLIA is committed to help maintain the best water quality possible contributing to healthy fisheries, wildlife habitat and recreational activities.

The Healthy Lakes Grants offer opportunities for additional affordable and simple practices. These include the installation of fish sticks,

rain gardens, rock infiltration, and water diversion projects.

To learn more about how you can take advantage of the WDNR grants contact the DLIA at delavan-lake.org or the Delavan Lake Sanitary District. We have volunteers and staff to assist you in getting a project of your own started and implemented. The DLIA is here to advocate for maintaining this amazing resource we have in Delavan.

The lake contributes to the entire economy of Walworth County and its' health is of utmost importance to all property owners and visitors.

If you want to help the DLIA with their efforts and initiatives, feel free to donate or become a member. Visit delavan-lake.org to learn more.

Mary Pat O'Connor is president of the Delavan Lakes Improvement Association