

## A Summer Evening At The Lake

On Thursday evening, June 18th, more than 150 DLIA members and friends gathered at the Delavan Lake Yacht Club for an evening of socializing and learning.

Attendees were greeted by displays about Aquatic Invasive Species from Audrey Greene at Walworth County and displays from Mary Knipper, President, and Michael Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes. James DeLuca, Administrator of the Delavan Lake Sanitary District and Maggie Zoellner, Program Manager of Kettle Moraine Land Trust brought displays as well as spoke to the attendees. The DLIA had a display with literature on the new Healthy Lakes program.



*Members and friends enter the Delavan Lake Yacht Club on June 18th, greeted by DLIA board members and many displays.*

Ryan Simons, Delavan Town Chair, also gave a talk. He spoke about the Town's efforts to preserve and protect Delavan Lake and its water quality. The Town, with assistance from Berrini & Associated, LLC and Northwater Consulting, is in the process of completing a Watershed Implementation Plan that encompasses the entire Delavan Lake Watershed. The purpose of this planning effort is



*Ryan Simons, Delavan's Town Chair, talks about the Town's watershed project.*

to identify opportunities for implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can reduce soil erosion and nutrient loading to Delavan Lake. This planning effort will complement and expand upon previous and ongoing efforts by other organizations

James DeLuca reported that the DLSD has received a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources land acquisition for property in the Brown's Channel area and they plan to work with universities on restoring the property to natural wetlands, which do a good job of filtering runoff before it reaches the lake.



*The guests gather to hear speakers, including Ryan Simons, James De Luca and Maggie Zoellner.*

Maggie Zoellner talked about the planning process for Jackson Creek, which is funded by a DNR grant and co sponsored by KMLT, DLSD and DLIA. The results of the plan will be to identify areas in the Jackson Creek watershed, which extends into Elkhorn, where best management practices would improve water quality downstream, including into Delavan Lake. A separate article in this newsletter explains the findings in more detail.

All of these in projects will significantly improve Delavan Lake's watershed resulting in better water quality. The DLIA will continue to bring you up to date on their progress and opportunities where you can get involved.

More information about these projects can be found on the Town's website, as well as DLIA's website.

## **The Jackson Creek Protection Plan: A Unified & Coordinated Approach**

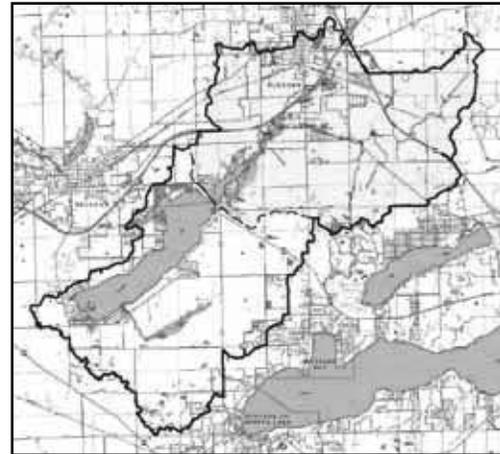
The Jackson Creek Protection Plan is a unified approach to voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems, seeking funding, and a coordinated public outreach and education program to accomplish both.

The protection plan is being developed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in partnership with the Kettle Moraine Land Trust and local and state technical advisors.

The plan recommends civic engagement, best management practices, information and education activities, and needed restoration to achieve habitat protection and improved water quality in the watershed. Estimated costs, potential funding sources, entities responsible for implementation, monitoring and measures to gauge success are also part of the plan.

### **Key findings from this work are:**

- An inventory of the stream bank condition of Jackson Creek identified 78 separate sites where erosion is occurring unnaturally.
- Identified 45 new grass waterways that could be installed to filter and infiltrate water to reduce sediment and phosphorus loads to the creek and ultimately the lake. This is a little more than 9 miles of grass waterways.
- Identified 124 acres of riparian buffers needed along the creek to curtail erosion and restore floodplain habitat.
- Of all the basins that make up the Rock River watershed, Jackson Creek watershed has the greatest potential to realize the rewards of restoring wetlands to improve water quality.
- Currently about 75% of the land in the watershed is managed by some type of reduced tillage practice. The recommendation is to increase the number of acres being farmed with no tillage from the current 10% to at least 50% of the watershed over the next 10 years.
- Cover crop usage should be increased from the current 5% of farmed lands to 50%.
- Nutrient management plans that use soil test results from individual fields to determine the amount of fertilizer need to produce crop revenue, should be implemented on all fields in the watershed. Currently about 25% of the land is managed with this practice.



*Map showing Delavan Lake and its watershed. The area around the Inlet and north is the Jackson Creek watershed, subject of the planning grant report. Besides the Creek itself, there are many small streams and creeks that feed into Jackson creek and eventually into Delavan Lake*

If implemented priority recommended practices and other recommendations found in the plan are estimated to result in significant reductions of pollutant loads to Jackson Creek. Modeling results indicate a 49% reduction in phosphorus and 25% reduction in sediment.

### **Recommended priority outreach and education efforts include:**

- Build citizen led capacity for problem solving. Watershed planning is a locally-driven mechanism for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions.
- Provide educational workshops on how to implement best management practices including incorporating under-utilized erosion control practices. Share emerging practices in the area of cover crop management, no till, and nutrient management planning.
- Promote independent decision making by the farming community.
- Provide information on water quality and conservation practices in the watershed area by targeting categories of landowners (riparian, resident, and nonresident agricultural landowners, elected officials and the general public) with specific action messages.

Meeting the goals of this plan will lead to improved water quality which supports a healthier and more resilient local economy. This plan, like the other successfully implemented plans across the nation, should be driven by a robust and engaged citizenry who takes ownership and is willing to

work collectively for the common good.

What are the next steps? When the report is complete, there will be a public meeting and anyone interested can come to hear the results and recommendations.

The plan will have a category of Responsible Party for each action item. These might be the Wisconsin DNR, the DLIA, the DLSD or other agencies... people who live here will have the opportunity to be involved too!

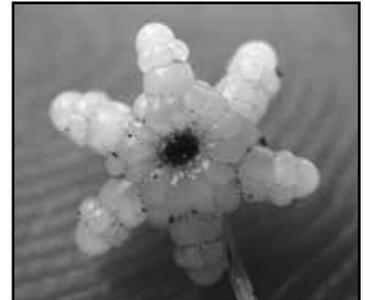
Maggie Zoellner, Maggie@kmlandtrust.org, July 2015

**Reminder from the Town of Delavan**  
Town ordinance requires your house address to be on the end of your pier. If you have questions, please contact the Town at 262-728-3471.

**New Invasive Species Alert**

Starry Stonewort has been found in 4 lakes in the area. It's a plant that looks like other native plants, with the difference that it has tiny bulbils or tubers on the underwater roots.

The DLSD recently conducted an extensive aquatic plant survey and no Starry Stonewort was found, but this is a reminder that when you see an unusual plant, please contact Audrey Greene at Walworth County, (262) 741-7902, or Charlie Handle at DLSD, 262-728-4100.



**Have You Renewed Yet? Have You Joined Yet?**

It's time for members to renew – or if you haven't joined the DLIA yet, it's time to join! Add your voice to this 121 year old organization that's relevant today – helping protect and improve our most beautiful natural resource – Delavan Lake. Fill out the application below, or go to our website ([www.delavan-lake.org](http://www.delavan-lake.org)) and join using Pay Pal.

**Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address (if different than mailing): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(NOTE: The DLIA does not sell or distribute address, phone or email lists)*

Do you wish to receive the DLIA Lake Notes Newsletter via email?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be included on the DLIA Email Alert List  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships:**

<i>*Patron - \$100 per year</i>	<i>Sustaining - \$50 per year</i>	<i>Regular - \$30 per year</i>
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*(\*Patron Membership carried by those members who wish to lend greater support to the work being done by the organization)*

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and send to the Delavan Lake Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 353, Delavan, Wisconsin 53115  
or see the website [delavan-lake.org](http://delavan-lake.org) to join online!**



**Attention Delavan Lake Property Owners!**

Are you interested in participating in a new program to improve the water quality of our lake? There is a new statewide program that offers grants of up to \$1000 for best management practices installed by homeowners.



**The five best management practices are:**

- **Fish Sticks** Place large dead trees in groups near the shore, in order to improve fish and wildlife habitat and prevent shoreline erosion.
- **350 Ft2 Native Plantings** Create a 350 square foot bed of approved native plants adjacent to the lake, in order to improve wildlife habitat, slow water runoff and promote natural beauty. (Think of the space as 10 x 35 feet.)
- **Diversion Practice** Intercept runoff from a path or road sloping towards the lake using various methods, in order to divert water runoff from going directly to the lake.

- **Rock Infiltration Practice** Create an excavated pit or trench filled with rock that stores runoff underground, in order to divert, clean and infiltrate runoff water.
- **Rain Garden** Create a landscaped shallow depression with loose soil and plants designed to collect roof and driveway runoff, in order to improve wildlife habitat, divert, clean and infiltrate runoff water, and promote natural beauty.

The Delavan Lake Improvement Association and Delavan Lake Sanitary District have partnered to help homeowners apply for these grants.

If you want to know more, please contact Sue Heffron, DLIA, or Charlie Handle, DLSD. Contact Sue at 262-781-9746 or sheffron@wi.rr.com and Charlie at 262-728-4100. Let them know by September 15th if you or your organization is interested.

Next steps will be help with planning the projects and applying for the grants. The grant application deadline is February 1st for 2016 grants.

More information can be found at The Healthy Lakes website <http://tinyurl.com/healthylakes>.

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