

Newsletter from the Ecology Committee

Spring is coming

After a hard rain, check out what is washing into Buffalo Lake. What feeds our lawns and gardens also overfeeds the lake contributing to “Weeds”. Each of us can help reduce the weed population on the lake by taking simple steps when dealing with our lawns and gardens.

Leave natural vegetation zones near the lakeshore. By using native plants you help reduce the runoff that flows into the lake as the plants take up the nutrients washing by. Look into a Healthy Lakes Grant to help offset the cost of this.

Do you need to fertilize your lawn or use weed killer. When you fertilize right up to the lakeshore this contributes to nutrients washing into the water system that help the weeds in the water grow. On the flip side, if you put weed control down on your lawn that will also wash into the waterway. Though it may kill some of the weeds growing by your shoreline, it will also kill the healthy plants that are important to our lake ecosystem. You can get your soil testing by reaching out to the Marquette County UW-extension office at 608-297-3141.

Remove cut aquatic plants and plants that blow/flow in from the river. Do not push them out into the lake. Pushing them into the waterway only creates a nutrient rich environment for the weeds we are trying to get rid of. Do not mow your clippings or leaves into the water way. When they decompose, it adds to that nutrient rich environment and creates more silt.

All together we can make the difference.