

The Shoreline Review

Integrated Lakes Management

January 2012



Special Interest Articles:

- Avoid a Fish Kill
- Bur Oak
- EPA Awards



How to Avoid a Fish Kill

Winter fish kills are an unpleasant, and unfortunately, fairly common event. There are many factors that can create a fish kill in a lake or pond. Read below to get some helpful tips in preventing this from occurring.

1. **Plow lanes or open areas in the snow-** A lot of winter fish kills are caused by low dissolved oxygen levels. This drop in oxygen can be caused by the aquatic plant life not getting enough sunlight, and thus not producing oxygen. Simply removing snow can help allow sunlight into the water and help promote plant production.
2. **Keep water open-** Low dissolved oxygen levels can also be combated with open water. This is achieved most commonly by installing some an aeration system which will distribute oxygen from the bottom of the pond to the surface, and keep an open area on the ice. This is only recommended on ponds that are not used for recreation, as the open water can create weak ice and be unsafe.
3. **Have Proper Fish Populations-** An unhealthy fish population is particularly vulnerable to stress. Over populated species are more likely to suffer from disease, or other negative influences.



Three sites awarded Conservation and Native Landscaping honors!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness honored the winners of the 2011 Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards during a ceremony hosted by the Chicago Botanic Garden on December 7. The Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards recognize sites that are exemplary in the use of native landscaping, ecosystem restoration and protection, and/or conservation design. These practices create and protect habitat for a variety of native plant and animal species and result in important environmental benefits for both people and nature. The award recipients were honored for their exemplary implementation of ecosystem restoration and/or native landscaping on sites ranging from restored prairies and parks to developments. Three projects that ILM has been involved in were recognized:

Cont. on Back Page



Shoreline Review

Cont. from Front Page



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Lyman Woods Streambank Stabilization Project

Lyman Woods is a 159 acre nature preserve that includes woodlands, savanna, riparian areas and wetlands. The streambank stabilization project implemented three Project Site Areas in a phased plan over a five year period. The Best Management Practices implemented at Lyman Woods have resulted in Lacey Creek effectively capturing, storing and filtering stormwater prior to discharging into the 2 Lacey Creek tributaries off site. Maintenance efforts such as herbicide applications, mowing, prescribed burning, native seeding and native planting have been completed by ILM since 2006.

Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association, Sanctuary Pond - A Refuge for Threatened and Endangered Fish Species

In the fall of 1998 ILM in conjunction with Loyola University, Liberty Prairie Foundation, Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association, Illinois DNR, Applied Ecological Services, Lake County Health Department (LCHD) Lakes Management Division, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed and implemented a project to create a secondary refuge for state endangered and threatened fish species. The purpose of the project was to protect the regional genetic pool of native fish. By introducing these fish into Sanctuary Pond it was hoped that their range would increase. Since that time the species have thrived and have provided a source to Lake Leopold in Prairie Crossing and also for several Lake County Forest Preserve lakes. The fish species have also been found downstream of Prairie Crossing in Bulls Brook, which drains to the Des Plaines River.

Lake County Forest Preserves, Spring Bluff Nature Preserve

Owned and managed by Lake County Forest Preserves, Spring Bluff became a dedicated Nature Preserve in October 1992. It comprises 274 acres and lies adjacent to the Lake Michigan shoreline at Winthrop Harbor. The area is a unique dune and swale community encompassing savanna, coastal sedge meadow, emergent marsh and four diverse prairie habitats - mesic, dry-mesic sand, mesic sand, and wet sand.

Restoration of the site was started in 1982, however the current major push for invasive wetland plant control was instigated in 2007. Since then, 112 acres of Cattails, Common Reed, and Reed Canary Grass have been controlled within the site; 5.6 acres of invasive woody stems have been cleared; 14,970 native wetland plant plugs have been planted within the sedge meadow; surface water flow during storm events has been improved; and two monitoring wells have been installed to help observe the influence of the altered surface water flow within the Preserve.

Bur Oak *Quercus macrocarpa*



Bur Oak is a large, native tree that often reaches over 100 feet tall. In the open it becomes a very wide, spreading tree.

Acorns are quite large (1 1/2 inches long) and enclosed in a warty cap that has a long-fringed margin, maturing in one growing season in late summer and fall. The bark is ashy gray to brown in color and quite scaly, but noticeably ridged vertically on large trees. Being fire resistant, the Bur Oak is often called the tree of the prairie.