

Citizens Minding Our Waters

SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT – Waushara County

- District formed in 2001 to deal with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) - Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Curly leaf pondweed (CLP)
 - 2003 - Received DNR grant - first lake management study
- Resources used for lake management:
 - Golden Sands RC&D (DNR county-funded AIS Educational grant) support:
 - Education/Workshops – Aquatic plants, AIS, EWM Hand-pulling training
 - Lake surveys/mapping of AIS plants – validate/compare with vendor's results, DNA plant sample testing – ?EWM hybridization
 - Supervision – EWM Hand-pulling project workdays
 - Post workday AIS survey and follow-up
 - Resource materials – Plant ID sheets, AIS references, You-Tube video on hand-pulling techniques
 - <http://www.goldensandsrcd.org/>
 - Waushara County Land Conservation Department thru DNR Grants:
 - Initial Lake survey
 - Lake Management plans - all county public access lakes
 - DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) project
 - <http://www.co.waushara.wi.us/pView.aspx?id=13591&catid=636>
 - Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council membership:
 - Benefits of county-wide organization
 - Grant applications – county-wide
 - Speaker topics chosen by lake groups/lake property owners
 - State/county agencies access/support
 - Township of Marion support:
 - Webpage off Town of Marion website (no cost)
 - Cost-share towards AIS treatment expenses
- Spring Lake Volunteer Projects
 - AIS Control - hand-pulling method used since 2014
 - Experienced dive team, added local divers – Wautoma/Redgranite/Neshkoro fire dept., supported by lake district's volunteers
 - Trained volunteer property owner/son (certified divers) and local dive teams
 - GPS “waypoints” – from vendor's annual lake survey to locate AIS
 - Canary Reed Grass – lake volunteers removed from lake's outlet (improve flow)
 - Treated invasive/non-native cattails summer 2016 /removed winter 2016 (navigation)
 - Healthy Shorelines outreach/survey summer 2015 / provided handouts /results posted
 - Future projects - Fish cribs, Woody habitat improvements, Clean Boats - Clean Waters

Building a sense of “community” around Spring Lake

Positives:

- Personal attachment / ownership in a healthy lake and active participation as good stewards
- Develop pride in lake’s health / quality of life experienced by families, public/community
- Expand a lake community to include larger neighborhood around a lake
- Increase the volunteers willing to help with projects

Activities Completed:

- 2015 Healthy Lakes / Healthy Shorelands Project – summer grant for UW-Ex Lakes/UW-SP Watershed Science & Ed Dept. (Waushara, Portage and Marathon Counties)
- Shared/trained divers (↓\$) – local fire dept. dive teams, identified lake volunteer diver(s)
- Coffee Hour following Annual Member Meeting
- Annual Garden Walk
- Annual Newsletter from Chair
- Established ***Friends of Spring Lake*** as a “support arm” of lake district
 - District Projects
 - Social Activities
 - Fund established for specific projects (donations ear-marked)
 - **Facebook** summer 2016:
<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofspringlakewausharacounty/>
 - **Next Door** neighborhood fall 2016 www.nextdoor.com/ - free private social network
 - Logo designed – volunteer t-shirts, additional logo items - fund-raising

Activities Planned/Pursuing:

- 2017 Summer Canvas/Survey/Flyers
- Clean Boats-Clean Waters inspections
- Expand Garden Walk to include garden + arts/crafts in our “village” area
- Tour friends’ butterfly garden, and a prairie garden with “Garden Group”
- Plan Summer 2018 4th of July – picnic/10 year-parade with neighborhood
- Summer 2018 boat parade