People: Social Surveys, Messaging, One-on-One, and More

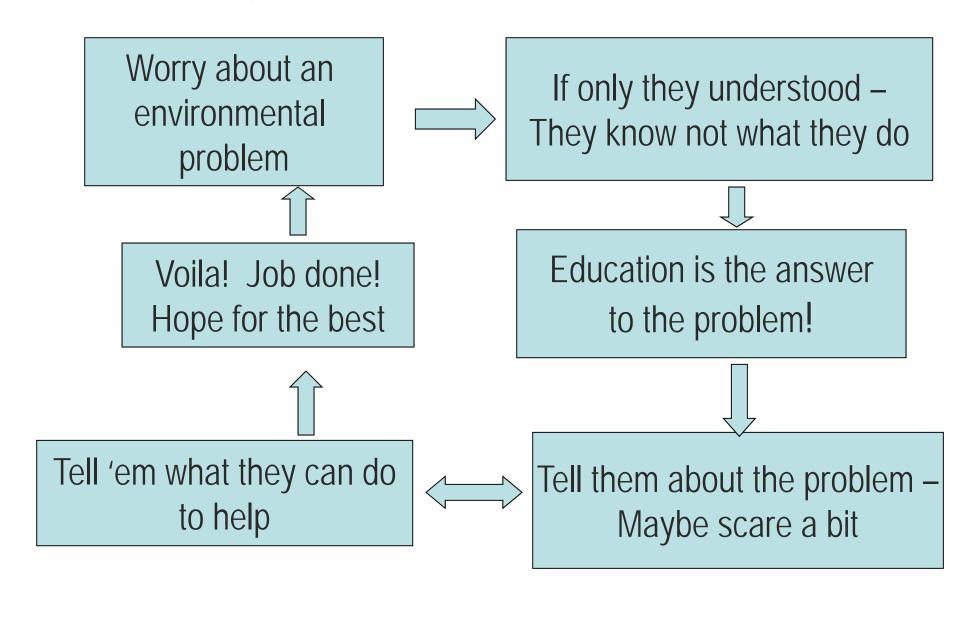




John Haack – Natural Resource Educator Pamela Toshner – Lake Biologist



Modifying Behavior: The Typical Education Model



Factors Related to Adoption

- Beliefs & Knowledge -alone don't get it done
- Varying levels of readiness
 - use tailored message v. 1 size fits all
- Perceptions: My shore is more natural than... (survey/biologist/ photos)
- Understand lake property owners
 - survey, focus group, interviews.

Social Surveys

- Simple to complex
- Grant funding available

Existing Natural Vegetation on Neighbors - Important

Vegetation on a shoreline was more strongly related to the amount of vegetation on neighbors' shoreline than to their property management goals or stewardship.



Conclusions from MN Survey

- 8% need little or no intervention
- 19% inclined to restore buffer
 - Assess barriers
- 51% potential target for communications strategy
 - beauty of buffers
 - water quality improvement
 - ability to keep up with maintenance- self efficacy
 - Self Efficacy belief: I can do it? Plant it, install it, keep up with maintenance...

Messaging Recommendations

Avoid "reactance"



 Providing objective feedback mildly (i.e. self assessment/worksheet, shoreland map ratings?)

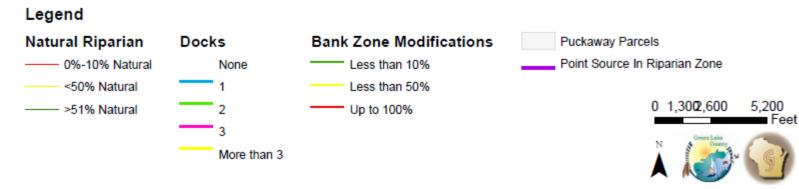
Messaging Recommendations Self-assessment worksheets



Lake Puckaway Shoreline Survey,







Messaging Recommendations

- Use outreach messages emphasizing social norms (informal rules of behavior)
 - -"Join your neighbors in adopting a natural shoreline to keep your lake clean"

-"Let's make Healthy Lakes together!"



Messaging Recommendations

- Emphasizing social norms cont.
 - -Shine a spotlight on good example
 - Shoreland signs, boat landings, parks, tours, feature articles...



Choose Words Selectively

- Not just what you say but how you say it
- Water Words that Work

www.waterwordsthatwork.com

- "Swap the shop talk"
- Emphasize:
- Inclusivity WE, OUR, SHARED...
- Water Protection and Preserving CLEAN Water Quality
- Future Generations...
- Keep people in the Picture- benefits for people



Choose Words Selectively

The Language of Conservation

Bad Words to Avoid	Good Words to Use
Environment	Land, air and water
Ecosystems	Natural areas
Biodiversity / endangered species	Fish and wildlife
Regulations	Safeguards/protections
Riparian	Land along lakes, rivers and streams
Aquifer	Groundwater
Watershed	Land around rivers, lakes and streams

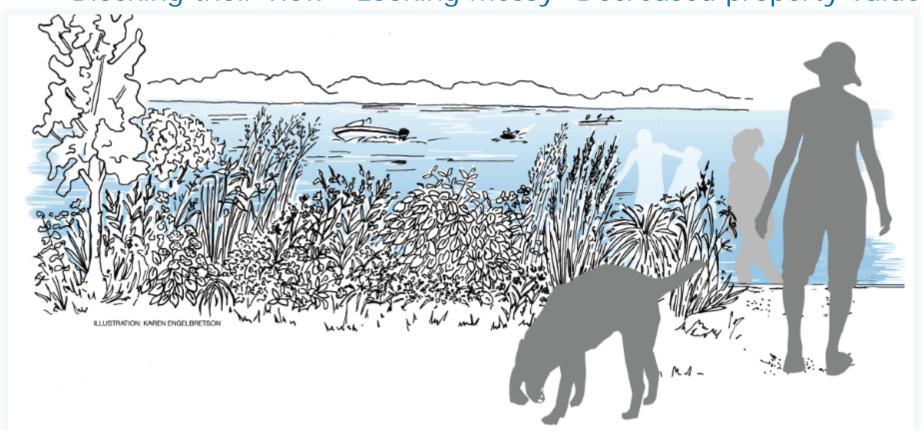
Small Message Difference Make a Difference

- Native plant coupon promotional effort
 - \$Off or Free v. Free or \$Off
 - "Free" double coupon redemption



Native Plants are Good

- Emphasize positive outcomes landowner care about (barriers/ benefits)
 - Habitat for desired wildlife Potentially less undesirable wildlife
- Address outcomes they don't want
 - Blocking their view Looking messy -Decreased property value



Address Landscaping Goals

- Neatly groomed landscape, not messy- clean edges along more natural areas
- Clear view of the lake
 lower natural
 vegetation
- Ticks- mulched pathways
- Cues to care



Apple River Flowage, Polk County

Promote Natural Shorelines to Attract Desired Wildlife

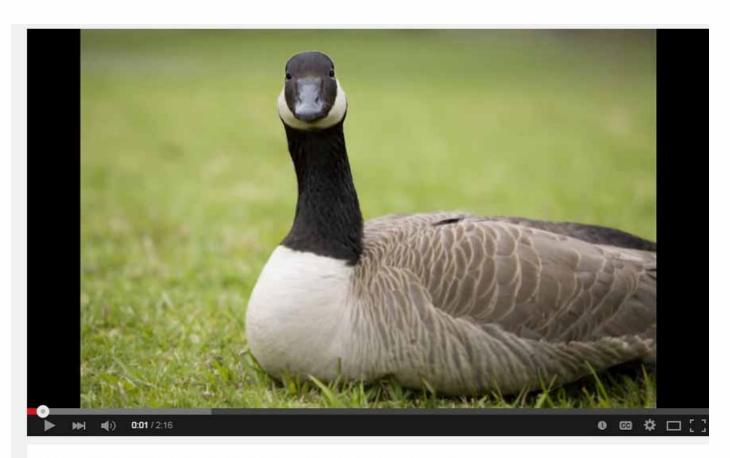
- Highlight the species most meaningful to property owners you work with:
 - Song Birds
 - Frogs
 - -Fish
 - -Loons etc...



Benefits/ More Frogs



Benefits/ Prevent Geese



Sebastian the Goose Encourages Natural Shorelines



Carefully pick your messenger.

- Reactance Theory- is greatest when messenger is government or perceived untrusted source.
- 2. Many folks prefer to hear from someone similar to themselves the "target audience."

