

LAKE--GRAM

FALL & WINTER 2022



Linda Nedelcoff
Clean Lakes Alliance
Board Chair & CUNA
Mutual Group EVP

MOVING FORWARD

How lucky are we to have five beautiful lakes surround our community? These bodies of water not only frame up fantastic photos, but they are usually one of the top reasons why Greater Madison continues to make “best places” lists year after year.

While I’m not new to the area, I am new to my board leadership role at Clean Lakes Alliance. I’ve been a board member for more than 2 years, and I’m excited to move into the board chair position.

Like you, the lakes are important to me, and I want to do everything I can to make sure they are healthy and accessible for our entire community. The work done by the 19-member Yahara CLEAN Compact team has led to the public release of *RENEW THE BLUE: A Community Guide to Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed*. This roadmap for stakeholder

action, along with some long-range strategic planning Clean Lakes Alliance is undertaking, will ensure we are moving in the right direction for the next several years. (For more information visit: cleanlakesalliance.org/renew-the-blue)

As summer turns to fall, I encourage you to continue to keep the lakes in mind. Whether it’s installing a rain barrel or rain garden to slow runoff, or raking your leaves out of the street gutter ahead of a rainstorm, all actions will add up to help water quality. Our efforts together will ensure that many generations will be able to appreciate and enjoy all that our lake community offers.

I hope to see you at our monthly Clean Lakes 101 Science Café, or at our famous Frozen Assets 5k and Festival - which is less than four months away! Thanks for your continued support to make the lakes the center of our community.



Volunteers and Clean Lakes Alliance staff planting along the shoreline of Lake Mendota

RECREATING NATIVE LAKESHORES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Close your eyes and imagine an untouched lakeshore. What do you see? What sounds and smells might you envision? Imagine lush plants of varying sizes and architectures bursting with color. Butterflies and bumblebees dance among flowers gathering nectar and pollen. Chattering songbirds dart in and out of the understory, guarding nests, and foraging for insects. With each gentle breeze, an intricate matrix of leaves and stems sway and whisper in excited response.

It is calming... beautiful... multi-dimensional... ALIVE!

This imagined, unspoiled lakeshore emulates nature at its best. We can appreciate its value and the way it makes us feel. We start to see more clearly how the health of the land connects to the health of the water. The shoreline is viewed less as a boundary separating two distinct worlds and more as a place where interdependent ecosystems merge and comele.

We are fortunate that what can be imagined can also be created, especially when you have a little help from your

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 94% of all lake life is born, raised, and fed within 30 feet of where the water meets the land. In addition, 80% of the plants and animals listed as endangered or threatened in Wisconsin spend all or part of their life cycle within the nearshore zone.

Executive Residence prior to native shoreline restoration



friends. A case in point is what is currently happening at the Executive Residence on the shore of Lake Mendota. The first phase of a 294-foot shoreland makeover concluded on Saturday, September 24th with a volunteer planting effort organized by the Rock River Coalition. More than 35 volunteers from across the state joined Clean Lakes Alliance and other project partners to convert a portion of this iconic shoreland property into a native wildflower garden.

This project serves as a statewide example of how shoreland gardens can slow stormwater runoff from reaching waterways. The adage that “many hands make for light work” was on full display in September as native plant plugs were installed and mulch and soil were laboriously moved into place. Project partners are now looking to complete the final phase of the restoration next spring. To support this ongoing effort, please visit: cleanlakesalliance.org/product/grant-fund

“We are glad to be moving forward on this important project for the health of the lake, the wildlife, and the community,” said Governor Tony Evers. “By planting native plants along the shoreline, we will help improve water quality and wildlife habitats, especially for native pollinators, and we hope this project will serve as a model for other folks along not only the Lake Mendota shoreline but shorelines across the state. Projects like this can help improve our state’s resilience and sustainability for the future, and I want to thank the many partners and advocates who have been working on this project for years.”

Lakefront owners: You can assess and learn ways to enhance your own shoreline property by using the online Shoreland Evaluation Tool developed by the Healthy Lakes & Rivers initiative. Access the online tool by going to healthylakeswi.com and clicking on “Score My Shore” in the top navigation bar.



Volunteers work to improve lake water quality by improving Lake Mendota's shoreland



Volunteers plant native plants along Lake Mendota




Native shoreline restoration fundraising event at the Executive Residence in August 2022

OUR COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

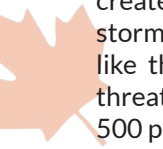
Clean Lakes Alliance is committed to funding and fostering these types of partnership initiatives that improve the quality of our waters. Native lakeshore plantings fall within the scope of action recommendations set forth in the recently published *RENEW THE BLUE: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed*. They also satisfy one of our Top 10 Ways to Help the Lakes at Home, which lists “planting native and diverse vegetation” as one of the best ways to reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff while increasing pollinator habitat.



LEAF-FREE STREETS FOR HEALTHY LAKES




Watching the leaves transform colors from green to vibrant oranges, reds, and yellows is one of the many joys of fall. But, while we may love to observe the changes in the seasons, the leaves do more than decorate our lawns.



Once the leaves fall and break down in the streets, parking lots, or other paved surfaces, they become a problem for our lakes. When rainwater runs through leaves in the street, it creates a phosphorus-rich tea that easily flows through the storm drains and into our lakes. Although it may initially seem like the phosphorus from the leaves is not a considerable threat, it only takes one pound of phosphorus to create up to 500 pounds of algae in our lakes!

In fact, keeping leaves out of the streets before it rains can cut back 80% of phosphorus in urban stormwater. In other words, leaves are a significant source of urban phosphorus that we must work together to prevent from reaching waterways.

Fortunately, managing leaves is doable! There are several ways you can handle the leaves on your property. To start, you can rake the leaves out of the street edge and onto the curb to keep storm drains and gutters clear. Plus, some communities offer curbside leaf pickup or waste drop-off sites.



If you want to take it a step farther, consider composting leaves in your backyard. When you compost, the nutrients from the leaves return to the soil, improving your yard's health and beauty! Similarly, you can save money by swapping the mulch from the garden center with a DIY mulch made from leaves. Whichever way you choose to show your love for our lakes, every little bit helps!

Learn more:
cleanlakesalliance.org/leaves



SUCK THE MUCK, THE NEXT PHASE

In August, Clean Lakes 101 Science Café attendees strayed from their cozy seats and fresh Edgewater pastries to visit Sixmile Creek, the current site of Dane County's flagship phosphorus-removal effort, also known as "Suck the Muck." Here, on the north side of Lake Mendota, Dane County will continue its investment in improving the health of the lakes by removing approximately 60,000 pounds of algae-fueling phosphorus contained within the sediment along this half-mile stretch of stream corridor.

The more than 100 attendees at the August field trip were able to walk the edges of the seven-acre dewatering basin which will be the final resting place of the 25,000 tons of legacy sediment that will no longer be vulnerable to reaching Lake Mendota. John Reimer, Assistant Director of Dane County's Land and Water Resources Department, and Watershed Manager Kyle Minks, co-led the walking tour. They fielded dozens of great questions from our engaged attendees and discussed the additional improvements to wildlife habitat and fish reproduction.

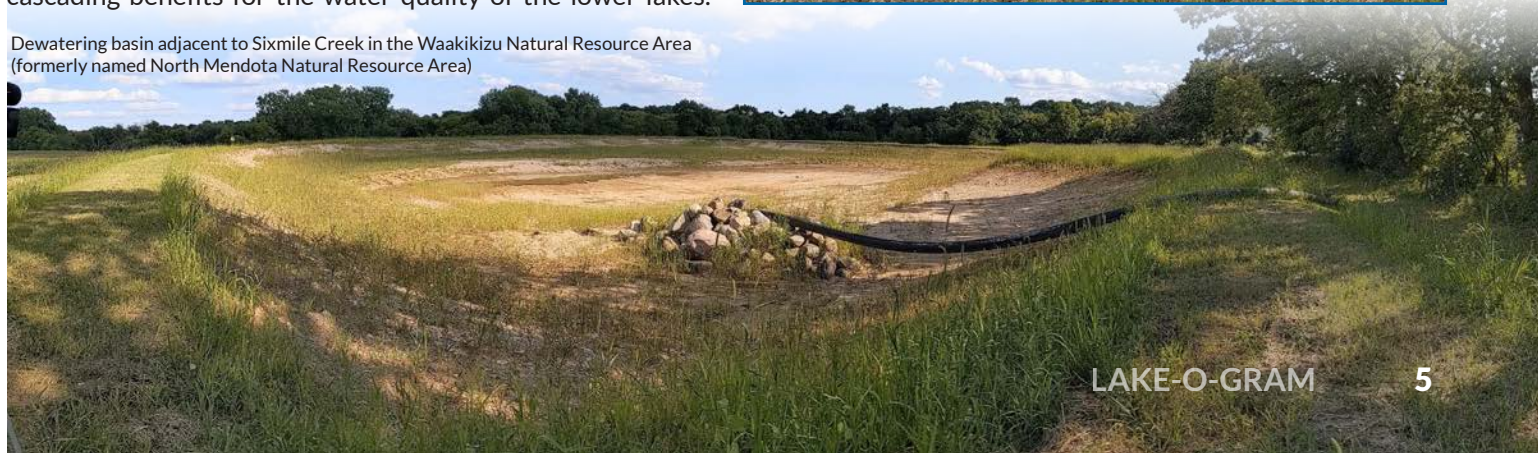
This effort won't just benefit Lake Mendota since phosphorus-reduction efforts in the northern part of the watershed have cascading benefits for the water quality of the lower lakes.

Dewatering basin adjacent to Sixmile Creek in the Waakikizu Natural Resource Area (formerly named North Mendota Natural Resource Area)

Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa receive 60%, 83%, and 76% of their phosphorus from their respective upstream lake's outlet (Lathrop and Carpenter, 2013). Suck the Muck will benefit the entire Yahara chain of lakes and surrounding communities.

Since 2017, Suck the Muck has occurred along sections of Dorn Creek and Token Creek. Following completion of Sixmile Creek, the effort will next tackle portions of the Yahara River, Door Creek, and Nine Springs Creek. Previous efforts have already made impressive headway by removing more than 100,000 pounds of phosphorus contained in the legacy sediment.

August 22nd field trip to the new dewatering basin where legacy sediment will be pumped. Assistant Director of Dane County's Land & Water Resources Department, John Reimer, explains the process. (Photo courtesy Dane County)





Watercraft Inspector Pharaoh Graham engages with an angler at Olin Park Boat Launch

CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS

Aquatic invasive species can wreak havoc on water bodies, with economic, recreational, and ecological consequences. Negative impacts caused by the presence of certain aquatic invasive species can include decreased water quality and clarity, increased cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) growth, and decreased recreational opportunities, like swimming, boating, and fishing. The observed effects of aquatic invasive species prompted the creation of laws in Wisconsin in relation to watercraft, trailers, and bait. The Clean Boats,



Clean Waters watercraft inspection program aids in the implementation of best practices of aquatic invasive removal, and educates boaters about how to prevent their spread.

Boats and trailers are one of the most common methods for “aquatic hitchhikers” to move between water bodies and establish new infestations. Watercraft inspection and proper invasive removal practices are the first lines of defense to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Clean Boats, Clean Waters

volunteers and employees conduct boat and trailer inspections at landings, educate boaters on best practices of invasive removal, and gather data about how boaters, and therefore hitchhiking invasives, are moving through and between Wisconsin’s water bodies.

Watercraft Inspector Alyssa Martin talks to a boater at Marshall Park Boat Launch



This summer, Clean Lakes Alliance participated in its first year of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Funded by a Wisconsin DNR grant, Clean Lakes Alliance was able to hire three part-time watercraft inspectors who operated at four boat landings across lakes Monona and Mendota, for a total of 100 hours spent at

each landing. At Warner, Marshall, Olin, and Olbrich boat landings, Clean Lakes Alliance watercraft inspectors contacted 3,604 boaters from May to September. The crew thoroughly enjoyed engaging with boaters about aquatic invasive species and best removal practices, and hope that they made a positive impact on the health and safety of the Yahara Watershed.

If you are interested in becoming a Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer, or want to learn more about aquatic invasive species of the Yahara Watershed, visit: cleanlakesalliance.org/clean-boats-clean-waters



Alyssa Martin,
Watercraft Inspector



Pharaoh Graham,
Watercraft Inspector



Chloe Czachor,
Watercraft Inspector



Clean Boats, Clean Waters sign at Olin Park Boat Launch

Watercraft Inspector Chloe Czachor inspects a boat at Olin Park Boat Launch



This past spring, we introduced Annual Campaign co-chairs Courtney Kruger, vice president of Fiore Companies, and Dan Lee, vice president of the First Weber Group. The two set out to help Clean Lakes Alliance tackle its highest fundraising goal ever - \$650,000. We are in the final quarter of that goal and have an update from both.

Donate: cleanlakesalliance.org/donate

JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

BY ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS COURTNEY KRUGER AND DAN LEE

It's been a busy year for us as we worked to promote Clean Lakes Alliance to new people and new groups throughout the community. We've hosted friend-raising events at places like Buck & Honey's on the Yahara River and Stoughton Country Club on Lake Kegonsa. Additionally, we've met with more businesses and individuals to expand the reach of the organization.

As of September 15th, we have raised \$345,434 toward our \$650,000 goal, which will give us a solid foundation to be able to work on your behalf for the lakes. The good news is we are over halfway there. The challenge of course is raising the rest in the last three months of the year. We know it's not only possible, but also definitely achievable.

If you haven't renewed your 2022 Friend (individual) or Lake Partner (business/organization) donation, now is the time. As we start to plan projects for next year, funds that come in now will help us get a better understanding of what we can achieve. If you've made a commitment to the lakes in the past, we hope you will continue that commitment this year.

If you've never donated to Clean Lakes Alliance, we hope you will join a growing list of businesses and community members who have made the lakes a top priority. One of the easiest ways to give is to sign up for the 63Club. Starting at just \$8.63 a month, your monthly donation will create a direct impact toward lake improvement projects.

As two individuals who donate through our businesses and personally, we know Clean Lakes Alliance is making a difference in our community. Help us reach our goal so we can help the lakes for years to come.



Courtney Kruger

Courtney Kruger
Annual Campaign Co-Chair
Fiore Companies



Dan Lee

Dan Lee
Annual Campaign Co-Chair
First Weber Inc



2022 CLEAN LAKES GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL INITIATIVES

Since Clean Lakes Alliance's founding in 2010, the organization has awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants to fund a variety of lake-related projects and practices.

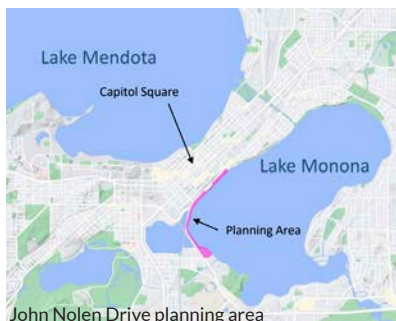
This year, Clean Lakes Alliance awarded \$100,000 in grants to community groups around our watershed looking to make a difference for our lakes. Below is an update on how some of those organizations have used the funds.

Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association

The benefactor of nearly \$1,000 of \$10,000 earmarked for Community Mini Grants, this group held a community-wide educational event called "Lake Wingra Watershed Gathering" to promote a variety of at-home actions and to highlight its recently created rain garden.



Lake Wingra Watershed Gathering



John Nolen Drive planning area

Friends of Nolen Waterfront Association

Charged with holding a design contest to reimagine the John Nolen Drive causeway and waterfront, this group received a \$10,000 grant from Clean Lakes Alliance to help facilitate the public input process. The new Master Plan will follow the John Nolen Drive reconstruction project starting in 2026.

Warner Park Community & Recreation Center

Each year, Madison Parks runs its Kids Need Opportunities at Warner (KNOW) program. The program provides youth the chance to explore and enjoy our lakes in ways that might not otherwise be available to them. Clean Lakes Alliance provided a \$10,000 grant to this program to expand lake-related opportunities. This summer, the grant provided several students their first fishing experiences on boats and from shore.



KNOW program fishing experience

Friends of San Damiano

Recently purchased by the City of Monona, the Friends of San Damiano received a \$10,000 grant for community engagement and master planning of the approximately 10-acre piece of property along Lake Monona. This summer, the Friends of San Damiano along with the City of Monona have hosted a number of activities on the property to gather feedback to help develop a vision for this new public space. The initial phase of community input will continue until the end of the year when an engineering firm will create conceptual plans geared toward the second round of public input in early 2023.



Visitors enjoy a sunset at San Damiano community engagement event

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department

Converting the newly-acquired, 160-acre, former agricultural land in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy to a "platinum prairie" requires a large diversity of native plants. Clean Lakes Alliance granted \$25,000 toward this year's planting, which took place in April. The planting covered the second of four quadrants in the new property.

Ceremonial seeding at Pheasant Branch Conservancy, March 2022



Pheasants Forever

Clean Lakes Alliance awarded Pheasants Forever \$1,000 as part of a five-year, \$5,000 commitment for an agriculture and conservation specialist. The position works with private landowners and partners to identify and promote conservation practices on farmland that is not currently making a profit. Having this position has helped improve relationships in the watershed as well as bring new business partners into the conversation to help spread conservation practices.

Pheasants Forever outreach event at Sassy Cow Creamery



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our Volunteer Day program is one of the many ways Clean Lakes Alliance works with partners, supporters, and community members to build awareness and take action for our lakes. Running from spring to fall each year, this near-weekly program connects volunteers with several locations around the Yahara Watershed for hands-on, lake-benefiting work.

We partner with local organizations that act as host-site partners in order to facilitate this volunteerism and connect those who want to come together to make a positive difference in the health of our lakes. Host-site partners include Dane County Parks, City of Madison Parks, City of Middleton, Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Holy Wisdom Monastery, UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve, and the UW-Madison Arboretum.

In 2022, we worked with 27 businesses and organizations at 10 different locations around the Yahara chain of lakes. Projects included:

- Beach and litter cleanups at Olin Park, Tenney Park, Warner Park, and James Madison Park
- Seed collections at Holy Wisdom Monastery, Lake Farm County Park, and Yahara Heights County Park
- Invasive species removal at the UW-Madison Arboretum, UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve, and Pheasant Branch Conservancy

Clean Lakes Alliance is always working to make our lakes the center of our community. These volunteer events can have far-reaching benefits for the health and wellness of both our lakes and the people that live, work, and play around them. A huge thank you to our volunteers and host-site partners for their dedication to our lakes and being a part of our Volunteer Day program!



Invasive removal at Pheasant Branch Conservancy with Alliant Energy Foundation

Cleaning up Warner Park lagoon with Lerdahl Inspired Workplace Interiors



Lands' End Volunteer Day at Pheasant Branch Conservancy



CG Schmidt and Sprinkman Real Estate volunteers clean up Tenney Park



2022 PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Alliant Energy Corporation	Lerdahl Inspired Workplace Interiors
Alliant Energy Foundation	Madison Community Foundation
American Transmission Company	Monona Bank
Baker Tilly US	National Guardian Life Insurance Company
CG Schmidt	Nations Lending
Chummy, Inc	Perkins Coie LLP
Destination Madison	Rotary Club of Madison
EcoWash	Shive-Hattery, Inc
Foley & Lardner LLP	Sprinkman Real Estate
Hovde Properties, LLC	State Bank of Cross Plains
Hy Cite Enterprises, LLC	Yahara Software
Hydrite	And many other volunteers!
Illumina, Inc	
John Deere	
Johnson Financial Group	
Lands' End	



2022 Frozen Assets 5K Run/Walk
Courtesy Eric Baillies

WINTER IS LAKE SEASON TOO!

Aerial view of Lake Monona, January 2022
Courtesy Robert Bertera



Mendota Freeze Contest

The 11th Annual Mendota Freeze Contest begins on Thursday, December 1st, and brings attention to the year-round importance of our lakes. The contest asks people to guess the official ice-on date for Lake Mendota. All entries to correctly guess the date will be entered to win a prize.

To enter a guess and view the contest rules, visit mendotafreeze.org

Frozen Assets 5K Run/Walk

Join us on Saturday, February 4th, 2023 for the 4th annual Frozen Assets 5K Run/Walk. Shake up your fitness routine and see Madison from a whole new perspective – from frozen Lake Mendota! The Frozen Assets 5K Run/Walk truly is a bucket list experience – this event is one of the only races worldwide to be held ENTIRELY on a frozen lake.

Learn more: cleanlakesalliance.org/5K



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CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE LAKE-O-GRAM FALL & WINTER 2022

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