

Winnebago lakes shoreline projects promoted

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance is developing a shoreline restoration program among its initiatives to improve water quality in the Winnebago lakes.

The program is being developed and coordinated by Emily Henrigillis, who has experience working on lakes around Wisconsin with a special interest in native plants.

"Native plants provide water quality benefits in addition to helping our butterflies, birds, and bees. The addition of

native plants near shore can also help with keeping geese out," says Henrigillis, Winnebago Waterways program coordinator.

Services for interested shoreland property owners include providing information about cost-sharing and grant opportunities, conducting site visits to assess project feasibility, training on installation and maintenance of shoreland plantings, and technical assistance. Shoreland practices include native plant

buffers, small-scale infiltration and diversion practices, rain gardens and fish sticks.

Henrigillis plans to create demonstration sites in public spaces to showcase planting designs, coordinate and grow a volunteer-based native plant growing program, hold workshops and provide educational opportunities, and implement a Winnebago Waterways Shoreline Stewards recognition program.

The Winnebago lakes suffer from harmful algal blooms, low water clarity, eroding shorelines and degraded habitat. These issues are the result of several factors; including phosphorus and sediment pollution.

The new program is partially funded by a DNR Surface Water Grant to kick off a regional effort guided by the Win-

nebago Waterways Lake Management Plan completed last year.

"We are here to assist landowners with questions they may have regarding shoreline and raingarden projects and assist with applications for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant program" Henrigillis said. "We are also in search of shoreline stewards. These are people who have already taken the steps to improve the run-off leaving their property."

The Watershed Alliance is undertaking other projects to reduce phosphorus and sediment pollution from agricultural and urban sources and to enhance habitat in the system. Information about those projects is available at www.winnebago-waterways.org.

New North workplace award nominations sought

Applications are being accepted for the 2021-22 New North Workplace Excellence Award that recognizes organizations within the 18-county region that are improving their competitive advantage through people practices.

A collaboration between New North Inc. and Right Management, the award program evaluates submissions on orientation and assimilation; recruitment, selection and retention; culture management; engagement; diversity, equity and inclusion; development/performance management; employee communication; and succession/knowledge transfer. Business outcomes criteria include savings, growth, increased profitability and human resources impact outside the organization.

The award application consists of three phases. The form can be

lence2021-22. Responses on the first phase are due by Oct. 1 to lisa.smith@right.com.

"There are many organizations in the New North region doing great things," said Barb LaMue, New North president. "The Workplace Excellence Award allows us the opportunity to highlight the best of the best in our region. We encourage everyone to apply."

Winners will be announced at the annual New North Summit set for June.

New North is also seeking input from partners as it works to develop a proposal for the state's Workforce Innovation grant. Gov. Tony Evers announced the \$100 million initiative July 14 to deal with post-pandemic workforce needs. Ideas and recommendations for the proposal New North is building can be submitted through bit.ly/NewNorth-2021.

African violet contest set, foliage for sale

The Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs will hold its 57th annual African violet show and sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 11 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 12 at St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall.

Council president John Milroy said the annual event is a showcase of magnificent grown plants and artistic designs by members. Plants in the show will be evaluated by judges trained and recognized by the African Violet Society of America based in Beaumont, Texas.

There also will be a large selection of plants, leaves, potting soil, pots and other supplies for sale. Members will be able to answer questions and help those who

would like to grow African violets.

Judged categories include standard plants, green foliage, variegated foliage, blossom color, miniature plants, semi-miniature plants, plants with trailing foliage, original specie plants, new cultivars, plants in unusual containers, and plants in the same family other than African violet. The design section will feature blooming plants or blossoms removed from the plant displayed in a niche.

The show will also feature container gardens such as terrariums, dish gardens and natural gardens using blooming African violet plants, and designs using blossoms displayed underwater.

Tunes for Recovery benefit show slated