**Week 5- Goal 1- Reduce Eutrophication**

**Conservation Corner**

***Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Al Murray, Land&Water Resources Technician at 715-478-3893 or by e-mail at*** [***lcc@co.forest.wi.us***](mailto:lcc@co.forest.wi.us)***.***

**Forest County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) Goal 1**: Remove and Reduce Lake Eutrophication

Eutrophication is a natural aging process of all water bodies. In Forest County this process is intensified by the heavily vegetated landscape of a transitional or mixed forest. Mixed forest are ecologically the richest on the continent. However when needles and leaves fall together, they prompt decomposers to produce organic compounds that are not present when either fall alone. This results in the acceleration of eutrophication. Accelerated eutrophication creates an accumulation of sediment, leaving lakes in a state where they are no longer swimmable. Fish also lose spawning grounds and overall water quality deteriorates with increased nutrients. Algae blooms are also caused by nutrient loading, especially phosphorus.

LWRMP objectives under this category are to restore swimmable conditions, restore spawning beds and remove nuisance invasive species by supporting legislation to allow dredging which will in turn reduce deposited phosphorus and nitrogen in existing sediment. The program goals are to facilitate cooperation between the county, towns and lake organizations for permitting of sediment removal operations and to make materials removed available for farmers. Also part of this goal is to obtain and maintain stakeholder status for the Upper Fox and Wolf River Watershed TDML projects.

Look for future installments to explain additional goals and objectives individually. To view the **Forest County Land and Water Resource Management Plan** please go to [www.co.forest.wi.gov](http://www.co.forest.wi.gov), click the departments tab, then click “Land Conservation”, a link to the LWRMP is on our website.