**Week 14- SHORELAND HABITAT RESTORATION**

**Project**

**Conservation Corner**

***Conservation Corner is a regular article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Al Murray, Land&Water Resources Technician at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at*** [***lcc@co.forest.wi.us***](mailto:lcc@co.forest.wi.us)***.***

Forest County’s lakes and streams offer an escape for residents and visitors alike. From ﬂowages to glacial lakes, our waters provide abundant recreational opportunities, as well as a chance to simply get away from the sights and sounds of an urbanizing society.  
 The escape has become so popular that many lakeshores and streambanks are now growing more houses than trees, often with more consequences than meet the eye. Soil exposed during construction can wash into the water, and the development itself permanently alters a portion of the natural landscape. Buildings and access drives replace vegetation, increasing the amount of storm water runoff and pollutants entering the lake or stream.  
 Owners of existing and new homes typically bring with them traditional landscaping ideas centered on the conventional yard. Too often that means manicured lawns extending to the water’s edge, along with the fertilizer and pesticide applications that are the norm in the cities and villages left behind. Over time, and combined with other sources of pollution, shoreline  
development can have profound impacts on water quality. The impacts can be minimized, however, with a landscaping plan that places less emphasis on lawns and incorporates a variety of plants adapted to conditions near the water’s edge.

The Forest County Land Conservation Department has now expanded its ability to assist with shoreland habitat restoration plans and has developed listings of native trees, shrubs, and ground layers which would benefit the shoreland habitat on your property. This type of planting will benefit wildlife and fish, add natural color and plants and assist to stabilize the soils to preserve water quality.

Go to [www.forest.co.wi.gov](http://www.forest.co.wi.gov) , click on the “Land Conservation” tab on the left side and then click on “INFORMATION FOR RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS” for more information or give us a call. We also have cost share programs which may provide assistance in these programs.