

Lake Wisconsin Alliance Hosts September Educational Program



The Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) hosted an educational program on Shoreland Erosion Practices on Thursday, September 10, 2015 in Harmony Grove. This free event focused on shoreland erosion practices that help to stabilize shorelines, prevent runoff, and create wildlife habitat.

Two sites were showcased on the tour and although they both had eroding shorelines, they were planned with different practices to address the erosion. Tim O'Leary, a Conservation Specialist with the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department was the tour leader and described the different practices used to stabilize shorelines including rip rap, bioengineering products, and shaping and seeding with native vegetation. Tim went over the permit process and explained that some factors, such as boat traffic and wave energy may make a site ineligible for rip rap and only bioengineering practices could be installed. The first site in Harmony Grove, was considered a low energy site and had to be stabilized with coconut coir logs and was also planned for shaping and seeding with native vegetation. The coconut coir logs are a bioengineered product that will stabilize the bank and will eventually decompose and break down. By the time the log decomposes, the bank will be stabilized by the deep roots of the native plants. Work had not yet started on this project so it gave those in attendance the chance to see what a project looks like beforehand. The second site was located between Sticky Bay and Harmony Grove and was considered a medium energy site. This site was planned to be stabilized with rip rap along with shaping and seeding with native vegetation. Live native plants were planned to be installed amongst the rip rap to help further stabilize the bank. Erosion fabric was also planned to be installed under the rip rap to help prevent water from cutting behind the rip rap which could lead to future erosion issues. This site was half way completed so it was a good opportunity to see a project in the works.

The Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization that endeavors to balance the diverse interests of the Lake Wisconsin community while improving water quality, recreational opportunities, and sustaining a healthy ecosystem within the Lake Wisconsin watershed. If you have questions about this event, or future education meetings, feel free to contact Melissa Keenan at 608-355-4838, or mkeen@co.sauk.wi.us.