



"We are blessed with an abundance of clean water and need to do whatever we can do to preserve it"
Rick and Kathleen Blake

Beier's, NCROC, and Itasca Waters Partner for Native Plants



This past winter, Itasca Waters approached Blake and Bonnie Stotts of Beier's Greenhouse in Grand Rapids about growing a few native plants appropriate for planting along the lakeshore. We are pleased to announce they have in stock: swamp milkweed, boneset, northern blue flag, blue vervain, golden alexander, brown fox sedge, and cord grass. Feel free to mention to them that you heard about these plants from Itasca Waters.



Itasca Waters is also partnering with the North Central Research and Outreach Center (NCROC) to begin growing a variety of native plants and grasses for use in future lakeshore restoration projects. Boreal Natives, a subsidiary of Prairie Restorations based in Cloquet, has donated high quality local origin seeds that are being grown in NCROC's greenhouse. These plants will be available in the 2021 growing season. Below are links to the greenhouses and nurseries that will be providing native plants this summer.

[Beiers Greenhouse and Nursery](#)

[Morning Sky Greenery](#)

[Prairie Restorations, Inc.](#)

[Sunshine Gardens Nursery and Landscaping, Inc.](#)

Helpful Information About Native Plants

Would you like to know more about how to preserve or restore your shoreline? Check out this powerful tool: [Restore Your Shore](#).

Have a listen to Itasca Waters board member Jesse Davis interviewing Minnesota Extension native plant specialist, Karen Terry, [on KAXE](#).

If you're wondering where to find native plant nurseries and consultants, [here's just the list for you](#)

The Shoreland Advisors Program is Back

With lake ice finally gone and the days beginning to grow longer, Itasca Waters is excited to be preparing for the second year of its Shoreland Advisor Program. We have been receiving inquiries from interested property owners about having a shoreland advisor visit and assess their property. Advisors consider in their evaluation: runoff and erosion, the shoreline, location of the septic system, the aquatic area, and potential use of rain gardens and rain barrels. The advisors will use safe distancing. If you prefer, advisors can do a property evaluation by phone while walking thru your property. They can also do a telephone contact with you to learn of concerns and schedule a visit at a later date. Call Zack Simpson at 218-256-5998 to schedule a visit.

Spreading Shoreland Awareness

Back in early March, Itasca Waters set up shop at the Northern Minnesota Builders Association's 25th annual Home & Cabin show in Grand Rapids. This premier event brings over 100 vendors from across the State and was attended by over 1,400 people. Itasca Waters handed out over 250 shoreland guides and signed up four interested property owners for future visits with an advisor. Itasca Waters was fortunate to have its booth manned by dedicated volunteers. Pictured at right is Master Gardener, Jane Hillstrom. A big thank you to all of our volunteers for making this a successful event for Itasca Waters!



Willow Wattle and Rain Barrel Demonstration

In addition to handing out shoreland guides and informing the general public about the mission of Itasca Waters, a series of demonstrations were also held at the booth. One was a session about the construction and use of willow wattles to secure slopes along shorelines led by Dave Lick and Steve Melin (pictured at right). A second demonstration, led by Gary Seigford, showed audiences how to construct their very own rain barrel to help reduce the amount of stormwater runoff on their property. Itasca Waters thanks Gary, Dave, and Steve for lending their time and expertise to these informative demonstrations! If you would like to build willow wattles and need help or more information, contact zacksimp@itascawaters.org



[Learn more about willow wattles at the MNDNR](#)

Promoting Healthy Shorelines

Building upon the success of the NMBA Builders Show, Itasca Waters embarked on a public outreach campaign with messages about the impact of shorelines on healthy water by placing: (1) 1,000 advertisements on local radio stations KAXE /KBXE and KOZY, (2) a billboard south of Grand Rapids on Highway 169 that says, "Protect Your Shoreline" and (3) an article in the Grand Rapids Herald Review

[The Herald Review article can be viewed here](#)



Pollinator Friendly Lawns



alarmed by pollinator declines, launched a three-year, \$900,000 pilot program offering to reimburse people up to \$350 if they are willing to add bee-friendly plants to their home turf. The response has been overwhelmingly positive with more than 5,000 applicants.

[Learn why the perfect green lawn is a buzz kill](#)

Another great resource from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is their **Planting for Pollinators Design Guide!** This guide offers a plethora of information and answers to common questions about starting a pollinator garden. To access the guide, [visit our Shoreland Advisors Webpage](#). The link is on the bottom right-side of the page.

Events Canceled / Postponed



2020 Youth Water Summit Cancelled

Back in March, after speaking with school officials and reviewing CDC recommendations, Itasca Waters made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Youth Water Summit. This decision was not made lightly, but one that had to be made in order to ensure the health and safety of the students and our volunteers. In the meantime, we look forward to planning the 2021 Youth Water Summit!

Rapids Brewing Event Postponed

The Shoreland Presentation that was set to be held in mid-March at the [Rapids Brewing Company](#) has been postponed indefinitely due to the impact of COVID-19. We will reschedule once the State of Minnesota reopens and it is safe to hold events.



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2019 Annual Report

Itasca Waters's 2019 Annual Report has been completed! Check it out to learn more details about the work that you helped to accomplish. It can be found on our website under About/Reports.

[2019 Annual Report](#)

Thanks for Your Support

We thank you for your continued support and interest in preserving and protecting our beautiful lakes and waters. If you have not already shared your email with us and would like to, contact Zack Simpson, Itasca Waters' Coordinator at: zacksimp@itascawaters.org or 218-256-5998. Our Central Square Mall office is only accepting scheduled appointments at this time to the coronavirus pandemic. Itasca Waters places a high value on protecting our staff, board members, and community members from Covid 19. We will follow all recommended guidelines to ensure your safety and ours. Stay well and continue to enjoy our great outdoors! Please allow time for a response as Zack's position is part time.

