

# Shoreland Naturalization

An Atypical Journey  
On Squash Lake?

Dan Butkus

# Why “Atypical”?

- There really is no “typical” project.
- Larger than many – 6300 sq ft (35’ x 180’) vs 1050 sq ft for a typical viewing corridor
- Divided into 3 phases carried out over 3 yrs vs all at once.
- Both DATCP and DNR Healthy Lakes grants used (for separate areas)
- Less altruistic (healthy lakes) more personal.  
????

# Why Did I Naturalize My Shore?

- Because it was beneficial to the lake and environment?
  - No! Even though it is.
- Because I wanted to prevent run-off?
  - No! But we did accomplish that.
- Because it was inexpensive to do?
  - No! But it wasn't as bad as I thought.
- Because it was easy?
  - No! But it really wasn't that hard.
- So, why?

# Why?

- Well, just have a look.



# Problems to be fixed

- Exposed – Not just visually, but to the elements and for privacy.
- Nostalgia - We remember it when it was natural.
- Lazy/Safety – Mowing a 20% slope.
- No-mow – Ineffective and slow recovery.
- Ugly – Sure, we had a view of the lake, but is that something others want as their view looking at us?
- Attracted the wrong kind of wildlife
- None of these has anything to do with “doing the right thing”...it was all personal

# Where to Start?

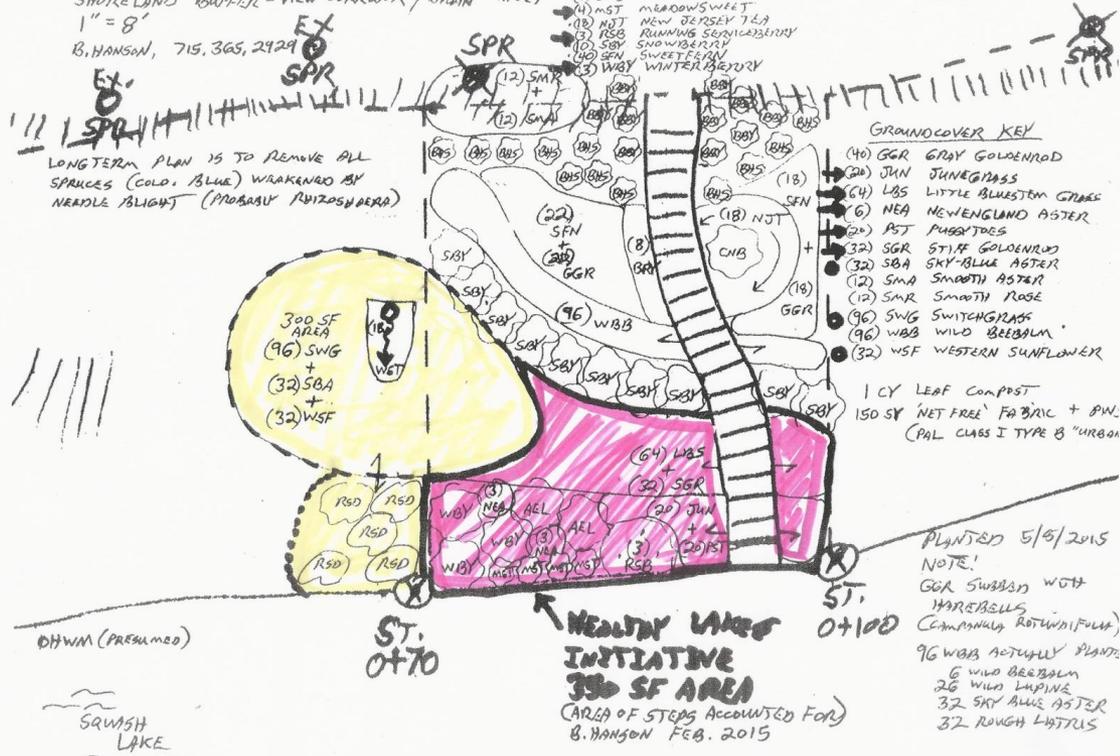
- Planting plan.
  - Not necessary, especially for small projects.
  - Not necessary if you're good at gardening choices.
  - Well worth the money for a professional plan if you do it yourself or hire someone.
- Hire a contractor? Can do some work yourself too.
- Keep in mind, for a viewing corridor, low plants/shrubs at the top of the slope and gradually taller as you move down slope to the shore.
- Native plant selection appropriate for area.

# Planting Plan

DAN ANJKUS  
AUGUST 2014

NATIVE PLANTING PLAN, AREA B  
SHORELAND BUFFER - VIEW CORRIDOR / DRAIN OUTLET  
1" = 8'

B. HANSON, 715.365.2929



# Planting Plan



# Funding Options

- Funding.
  - County grant through Dept of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).
    - Typically up to 50% of cost covered.
    - Must keep deer fencing in place at least 2 yrs.
  - WiDNR Healthy Lakes
    - Up to \$1000 per practice: rain garden, shoreland planting, and run-off abatement (also includes fish sticks but that's another talk)
    - Can have more than one type of practice.

# What Did We Do?

- Split the work into 3 phases installed over 3 yrs.
- Used DNR Healthy Lakes for funding viewing corridor.
- Used DATCP/Oneida Co for remaining.
- Purchased a planting plan from a local landscaper.
- Hired the landscaper to install.
  - Let go of the details, even though I'm a control freak.
    - Minimally involved in plant choices – leave it to professionals
    - Last minute changes in plant choices (due to availability) was up to landscaper
    - Tried not to “hover” (the most difficult for me)
  - Installed the fencing and irrigation myself to control costs.

# After Installation

- Regular watering, per landscaper instructions
  - Twice a day
  - Half hour to 45 minutes each watering
  - Drew from lake
  - Pump on timer.
- Weeded non-natives as they grew
- Deer fencing up for 2 yrs (3 yrs on the last phase)
- Replaced some plants that didn't make it, but not many.
- DON'T FUSS or OBSESS!!!

# August 2019



# Lessons Learned

- Let the experts guide you.
- Plan, plan, plan.
- Some things just die and may or may not need replacing.
- Let go. Resist being a control freak 😊
- There are resources to help you.
- Before you take the fencing down, decide if you're a
  - “Protect it from deer at all costs” person, or a
  - “Eh, they're native plants, let the plants and deer duke it out like they do in nature” person
- Patience. It isn't instant gratification.

# Some Pleasant Surprises

- The plants “rearrange themselves”
  - The plan may look contrived or unnatural
  - After awhile, you’ll never notice the underlying plan
  - Constantly changing
- Surge of opportunistic natives
  - Oak and maple saplings filling in.
  - Native flowers (monkey flower and others), and shrubs appeared from “nowhere”
- Attracted beneficial insects, but fun to observe
  - More butterflies, bees, and dragonflies

# Some Pleasant Surprises

- Attract birds
  - Song birds more prevalent
  - Humming birds love the native honeysuckle
  - Killdeer, ducks, herons, and cranes returned to the shore
  - Birds began nesting in the native shrubs
- More bats
- Fewer mosquitoes
- NO GEESE!!!!

# Thank you to....

- Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Dept.
- Oneida County Conservation and UWEX Education Committee
- Oneida County Zoning
- Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes Initiative
- Hansen's Garden Village
- Foley's Tree Service

