



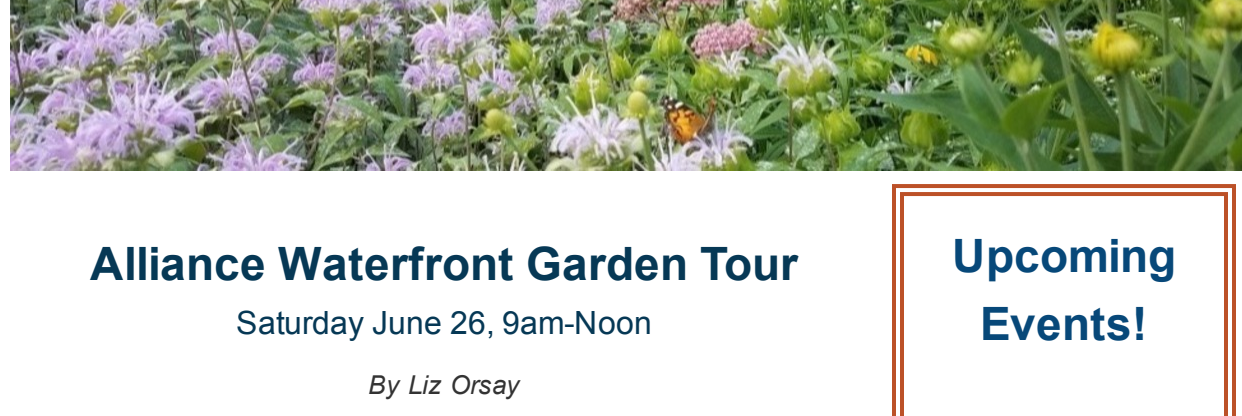
# The Alliance News

Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soil & Healthy Water

Vol. 1 No.3, Spring 2021

**The mission of the Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soil & Healthy Water is to build a community dedicated to soil and water health**

[Learn more about us!](#)



## Alliance Waterfront Garden Tour

Saturday June 26, 9am-Noon

*By Liz Orsay*

The Dodge County Healthy Soil/Healthy Water Alliance is sponsoring a garden tour of waterfront gardens in Fox Lake and Beaver Dam on Saturday, June 26 to showcase shoreline practices that can improve your home and our lakes. The garden tour will start at the Fox Lake Town Park on Blackhawk Trail at 9 AM on Saturday, June 26. The self-led driving tour will begin after a brief presentation / tour and will take place rain or shine. Buffer gardens, rain gardens and other shoreline practices will be shown. Our garden tour will feature six gardens along the shores of Fox Lake and Beaver Dam Lake.

**RSVPs are requested so we are able to plan routes accordingly. Call or text 630.997.2810.**

## From Our Co-Chair:

*Bill Boettge, Co-chair of Dodge County Alliance*

We are approaching our sixth anniversary of the passage of a motion by the Land & Water Conservation Committee to form a citizen's task force to "devise a workable plan to address the issue of nonpoint pollution."

Are we making progress? Let's take a look:

- We have two organizations that grew out of the citizen's task force; the Dodge County Healthy Soil – Healthy Water Alliance and the Farmers Group
- Over 2,200 farmers and lake property owners have attended 23 expos or field events presented by these groups that were focused on reducing runoff and improving soil health.
- According to best estimates over 6 percent or 18,000 acres of farmland in Dodge County now utilize cover crops
- We have formed strong partnerships with groups and organizations with similar missions including the Rock River Coalition, River Alliance of WI, Pheasants Forever and others.
- The Alliance has formed a community including farmers, lake organizations, the UWExt, the WI DNR, the Dodge County Land and Water Conservation Dept and the partners listed above. Over 25 people representing these organizations meet monthly to update and learn from one another and plan events and programs to meet our mission
- The two organizations are especially proud of the progress we have made where farmers and lake people are now working closely together for improvement in soil and water health...no more finger pointing.

As co-chair of the Alliance I thank and commend the members of the Alliance and Farmers Group for the progress that has been made.

## Upcoming Events!

### June 26: Alliance Garden Tour

See event details in this newsletter

### July 12: Alliance monthly meeting

Sign up [here](#) for more details!

### July 17: Pontoon Rides on Fox Lake

See event details in this newsletter

## In This Issue

[Alliance Waterfront Garden Tour](#)

[From Our Co-Chair](#)

[What's Going on in the Field and on the Lake?](#)

[All Aboard!](#)

[Pheasants Forever Hires Specialist](#)

[Update from Rock River Coalition](#)

[Phosphorus Reduction in Tile Drainage Water](#)

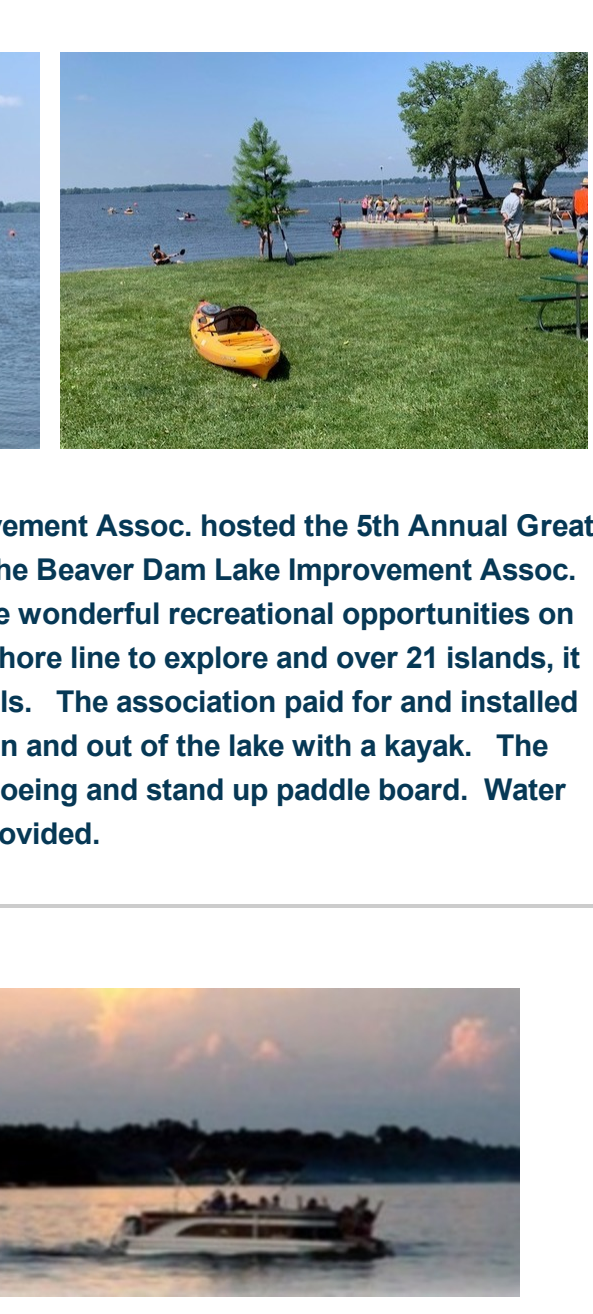
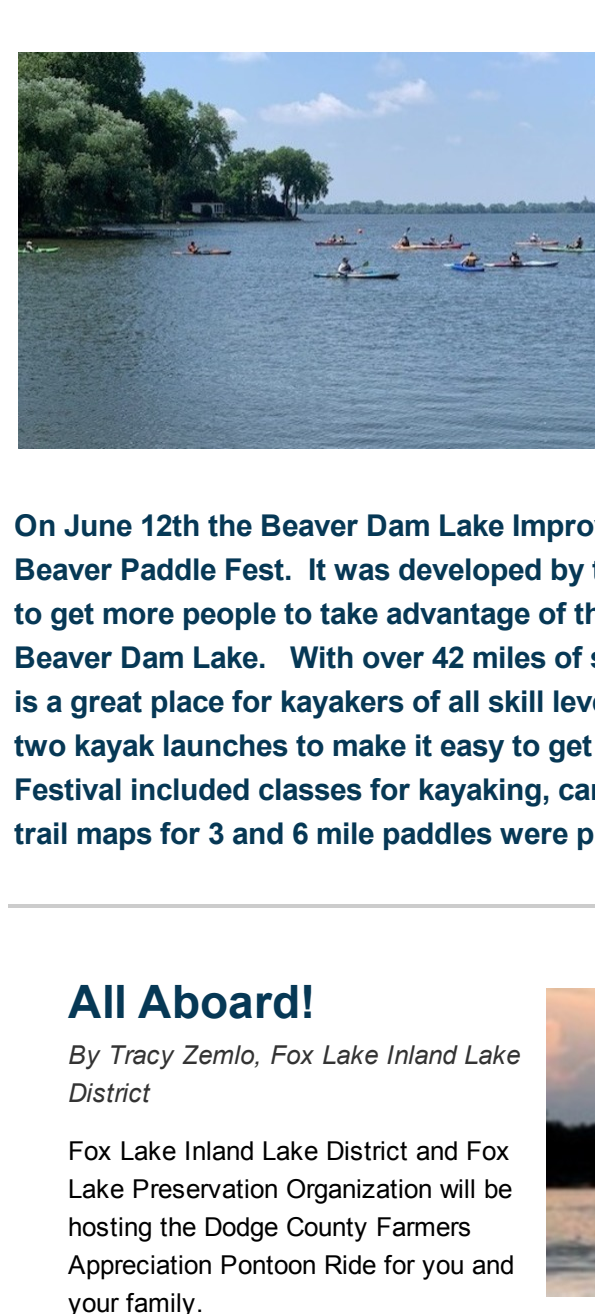
[Agency Updates](#)

[Tell Us How We are Doing!](#)

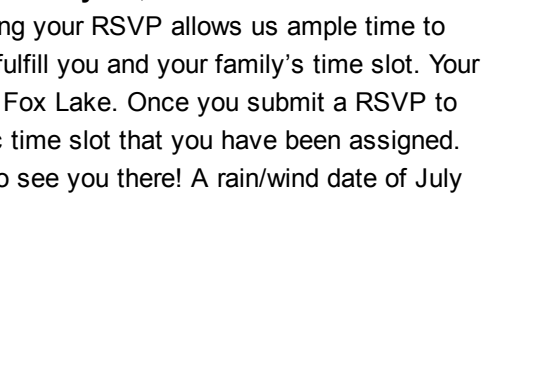
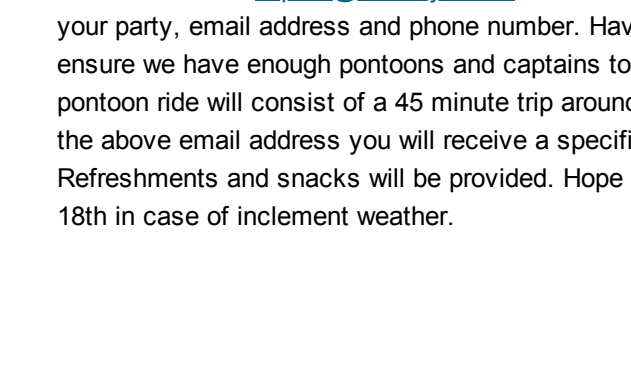
## What's Going on in the Field?

**This year, Roche Grain Farms planted their crop into a living stand of cereal rye that was established in the fall of 2020--we typically refer to this as *planting green*. To terminate the cereal rye after planting the crop, Roche Farms purchased a roller crimper (pictured below) to terminate the cereal rye. David Roche shared the photos below and tried crimping so that he can lower costs by eliminating any need for spraying. After the first year of trying this termination method, he shared that he could have waited a little longer to crimp the cereal rye, but they are looking forward to continuing this practice and learn how to make it fit their soil health goals.**

*Roche Grain Farms planting into standing cereal rye (left) and roller crimping cereal rye to terminate it (right)*



## The Lake Low-down



**On June 12th the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Assoc. hosted the 5th Annual Great Beaver Paddle Fest. It was developed by the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Assoc. to get more people to take advantage of the wonderful recreational opportunities on Beaver Dam Lake. With over 42 miles of shore line to explore and over 21 islands, it is a great place for kayakers of all skill levels. The association paid for and installed two kayak launches to make it easy to get in and out of the lake with a kayak. The Festival included classes for kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddle board. Water trail maps for 3 and 6 mile paddles were provided.**

## All Aboard!

*By Tracy Zemlo, Fox Lake Inland Lake District*

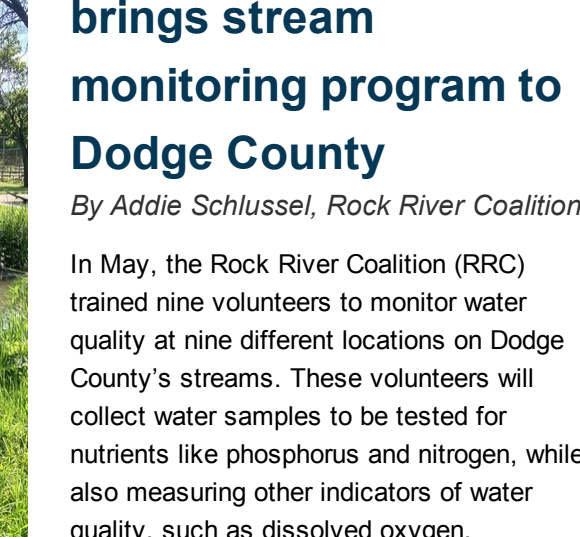
Fox Lake Inland Lake District and Fox Lake Preservation Organization will be hosting the Dodge County Farmers Appreciation Pontoon Ride for you and your family.

Date: Saturday, July 17th

Time: 2-5pm

Pickup location: Fox Lake Town Park, Blackhawk Trail (Once you arrive, please check in under the pavilion)

Please RSVP to [fillpard@centurytel.net](mailto:fillpard@centurytel.net) **no later than July 1st**, RSVP should include # in your party, email address and phone number. Having your RSVP allows us ample time to ensure we have enough pontoons and captains to fulfill you and your family's time slot. Your pontoon ride will consist of a 45 minute trip around Fox Lake. Once you submit a RSVP to the above email address you will receive a specific time slot that you have been assigned. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Hope to see you there! A rain/wind date of July 18th in case of inclement weather.



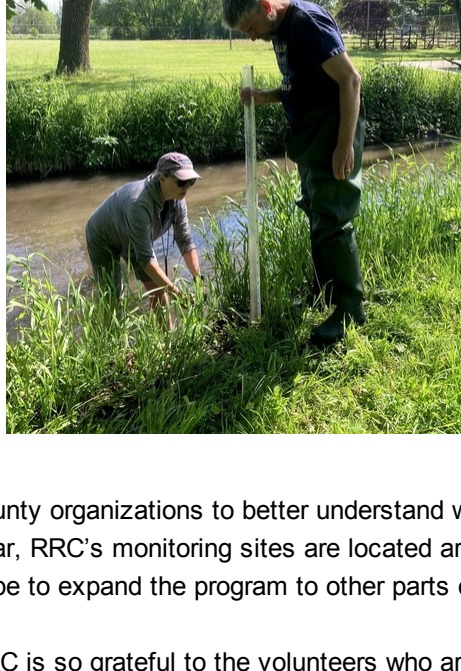
## Pheasants Forever Hires Second Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist in Southern Wisconsin

*Josh Bendorf, Pheasants Forever*

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever have expanded their working lands initiative in Wisconsin with the hiring of Josh Bendorf as a Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist (PACS) based in southeast Wisconsin. He will provide ag profitability analyses for farmers with the goals of increasing farm profitability and sustainability by implementing conservation practices on less profitable crop acres. This position was made possible through a partnership with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Clean Lakes Alliance, and American Society of Agronomy.

In his main role, Bendorf will collaborate with ag producers to conduct business planning on Wisconsin farms by using precision agriculture technology – targeting return-on-investment (ROI) at a sub-field scale – to define areas where alternative farming and/or conservation practices are more profitable for producers than traditional row crops.

Bendorf will be based at the USDA Area Office in Juneau, WI. For more information regarding precision agriculture & conservation, contact Josh Bendorf at [jbendorf@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jbendorf@pheasantsforever.org), or by phone at (608) 574-7558. Follow him on Twitter at @joshbendorf95



## Rock River Coalition brings stream monitoring program to Dodge County

*By Addie Schluskel, Rock River Coalition*

In May, the Rock River Coalition (RRC) trained nine volunteers to monitor water quality at nine different locations on Dodge County's streams. These volunteers will collect water samples to be tested for nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, while also measuring other indicators of water quality, such as dissolved oxygen, transparency, and macroinvertebrate diversity.

This information will be used by state and county organizations to better understand watershed protection and restoration needs. This year, RRC's monitoring sites are located around Wildcat Creek and Lake Sinissippi, but they hope to expand the program to other parts of Dodge County in coming years.

RRC is so grateful to the volunteers who are helping paint a clearer picture of the health of our local waters. If you're interested in getting involved, email [addie@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:addie@rockrivercoalition.org).

## Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

With support from Dodge County and Wisconsin DNR, the Rock River Coalition (RRC) is launching a program to prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Dodge County. Volunteers will monitor lakes and assist in early detection of AIS, and RRC staff will reach out to lake groups, bait shops, and community members about AIS prevention measures. One upcoming event is AIS Snapshot Day on Saturday, August 21. At this statewide event, volunteers help take a "snapshot" of the extent of AIS on a single day.

As RRC develops this program, they are seeking input on local AIS needs. If you have input or would like to get involved, email [addie@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:addie@rockrivercoalition.org).



*Phosphorus Reduction System at Hammer and Kavazanjian Farms*

## Phosphorus Reduction in Tile Drainage Water

*By Bill Stangel, Board of Director for the Alliance*

To understand phosphorus in tile drainage systems, a field drainage tile demonstration project began in cooperation with Hammer and Kavazanjian Farms of Beaver Dam, Kunkel Engineering and Arizona State University - Center for Biomediated & Bioinspired Geotechnics Center. The primary objective was to evaluate a field scale phosphate ( $PO_4^{3-}$ ) through a phosphorus removal structure. The structure is designed to intercept phosphorus in the tile water by filtering through slag that adsorbs the phosphorus in addition to a settling basin.

Analysis from Oct. 2020 shows the filter is removing soluble P from the tile drainage water. Incoming water  $PO_4^{3-}$  concentration was 0.15 mg/L and exiting the system at 0.03 to 0.05 mg/L. The system is performing as intended with effective P removal. However, the targeted water flow through the system has not been achieved, resulting in a reduced volume of water treated.

Ongoing monitoring will observe changes in the filter bed to detect accumulation of precipitates, sediment, and P saturation.

## Updates from Agency Partners

### Dodge County Land and Water Conservation Dept

*John Bohnek*

Trees were distributed the last week of April for our annual tree sale program. It was another successful year as we sold 22,700 trees and 1,200 tree tubes. Orders for next year's program will begin this fall. Seven landowners rented our tree planter, planting an additional 18,975 trees in Dodge County. This year we received \$43,500 for cost sharing the construction of conservation practices. We currently have more projects lined up then we have money. Construction has already started on some of them.

### US Dept. of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency

*Matthew Peplinski*

USDA FSA reopens RRP continuous sign up 55 and general sign up 56 on June 14, 2021. Producers need to resubmit offers for general sign up 56 by July 23, 2021 and August 6, 2021 for continuous sign up 55 to be eligible for higher rental rates. Spring crop reporting deadline is July 15, 2021. Contact the Farm Service Agency in Juneau at 920-386-9999 for more information.

### University of WI-Madison, Division of Extension--Dodge County:

*Michelle Probst*

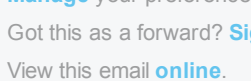
As summer begins, and we return to a more normal looking summer, I am very excited to get back out in the field. I was very excited to get into a soil pit at Gault Valley Farms in Neosho at the Dodge County Forage Council Twilight meeting. It was great to get out and see some familiar faces.

The Extension Dodge County [website](#) has information about local upcoming programs.

[Tell us how we are doing!](#)

Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soil & Healthy Water  
[dodgecountyallianceforhealthywater.org](http://dodgecountyallianceforhealthywater.org)  
email: [contact@healthysoilhealthywater.org](mailto:contact@healthysoilhealthywater.org)

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

PO Box 51  
Beaver Dam, WI | 53916 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.