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Goose Control

We will begin to go out on the lake locating and “treating” goose nests on North Lake. We apply for a permit every year that is issued by the USDA Wildlife Services for this purpose. The work is done by volunteers, and there’s no cost to the NLMD. As of 4/11, they have just begun making nests primarily on the south end but will spread during this warm up.

Our goal is to moderate the population of resident geese, i.e., those that stay for the duration of the summer, by limiting the number of hatchlings each year and reducing the mess that they make on peoples’ property. It is the geese with new broods of gosling that are sure to stay on the lake shoreline throughout the summer. Each year we remove and/or treat between 25 and 40 eggs in this process. We began this in the mid to late 90’s and there were more than 100 geese that stayed all summer at that time. We have been having 25-35 over the summer since we started this process.

The process limits the number of geese on the lake during the summer but won’t eliminate them (which is not our intent). The best way to discourage geese from grazing on your property is to have a natural buffer zone of tall grasses and other plants so that the geese can’t see the lake while they’re grazing. They prefer to have a direct escape route to the water, especially during the period of time they can’t fly (late May to mid-July). In addition to discouraging geese, these buffer zones help the water quality by limiting run off from properties. A great thing to coordinate with your neighbors.

Sadly, more shoreline is cleared of natural vegetation every year having the opposite effect – soil erodes into the water, and it’s a natural invitation for geese onto your property. Please don’t have landscapers mulch right to the water’s edge; that mulch just adds more nutrients into the water causing algae and weeds to proliferate.

There are some good resources on the NLMD website under shoreline; this is a link to one of them. <https://nlmddotorg.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/gwq014-shoreline-plants-and-landscaping.pdf> . This approach is much more effective than wires, flags, etc. at keeping geese off of your shoreline and has the other mentioned benefits. The DNR has information on the overall approach and what they refer to as “habitat modification” which actually infers restoring the shoreline to a more state. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/documents/managegoose.pdf>

Everyone can help with finding the nests by simply walking their property and looking. They nest close to water as they use this as an escape route and they like relatively secluded areas surrounded by bushes, tall grass, etc. if you have property

with a creek or other wetlands it's especially helpful for you to walk that area. We generally only walk the shoreline as we don't want to be intrusive. Seeing a lot of geese in an area is usually not a sign of nesting geese. There tends to be only one or two in the immediate area when they're nesting. **If you do see nesting geese, suspect there is a nest, or want to help please contact me via email to dan.aicher@embedtek.net or on my cell at 414-333-9415. Please call or email me directly, Dan Aicher. Also, if you're interested in helping in this effort please call or email me.**

If you do not want us and/or the nests treated on your property, please let me know at the number of E-mail above, or if you see us walking the shoreline. If you've responded in the past that you don't want us on your property, you don't need to call/contact us again – we remember.

It is usually just one or two of us (and maybe a dog) walking the shoreline and adjacent areas. The trash bag that I carry is for just that, trash that accumulates along the shore during the year....it's hard to walk past it and no trouble to just pick it up as we walk along. We'll be starting in the next few days, and, as always, **please don't shoot us!**