



Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group

www.millelacswatershed.org

130 Southgate Drive
Aitkin, Mn. 56431
218-927-6565

TOPIC OF THE MONTH - MAY 2017

Join The Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Compass Movement

Compass- It's something you are going to be hearing a lot about around the Lake. **Compass** is a shore land stewardship program developed by the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (MLLWMG). **Compass** will help point people in the right direction to actively protect the health of the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed.

Bronze – Silver – Gold How Does It Work?

Lakeshore property owners will be recognized by their friends and neighbors for the good things they are doing to help keep Mille Lacs Lake healthy. Depending on how much they are doing, they will be recognized for a Bronze, Silver or Gold level of achievement. They will receive a lawn sign so their neighborhood knows they are a good steward of the lake and they will be recognized on our Facebook page and Website and maybe get their picture in the paper! They will also receive a free Shoreland Stewardship Plan that will help them reach even higher levels of stewardship! **Compass** members will be invited to special events and workshops and eventually may be trained to conduct **Compass** Lake Health Surveys themselves! They might even be eligible for financial assistance to complete projects from their free Shoreland Stewardship Plan.



How Do I Start?

Ask one of our **Compass** Specialists to survey your lakeshore property for Best Management Practices (BMP) that Filter, Absorb and Capture storm water runoff before it reaches the lake. You will also be surveyed for BMPs that protect the lake from Aquatic Invasive Species like Zebra Mussels.

1. A **Compass** Specialist will survey your lakeshore property with you. This a chance for you to ask questions and start conversations with a trained technician about how your property can actively protect the lake.
2. A **Compass** Lake Health Survey will be completed by you and the **Compass** Specialist.



3. A stewardship level will be confirmed based on your **Compass** Survey score (Bronze, Silver or Gold). To score Bronze you just need to score a point in all four Survey categories.
4. If you want to do even more to protect the lake, **Compass** will help you get it done.
5. **Compass** will work with you to create a Shoreland Stewardship Plan based on your goals for your property.
6. Use your Lake Stewardship Plan as a guide to reach the next level (Bronze to Silver, Silver to Gold). Receive further recognition and become more involved in community efforts to protect the lake.
7. Talk to your neighbor about the **Compass** sign in your yard and start a conversation about how they can work with you to protect the health of the Lake Mille Lacs Watershed.

The **Compass** program was developed by the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group. For more information or to schedule a **Compass** Survey for your lakeshore property, call 218-927-6565 or 320-983-2160.

Information provided by Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD Conservation Technician

