

FIRST PETENWELL LAKE PLANTING DAY A SUCCESS

About 25 members of the public from Adams, Juneau, and Wood Counties showed up at the Chester Creek boat landing on June 27, 2012, to install about 1500 aquatic plants into two test sites on the lake. Plants installed included Hard-Stemmed Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), Three-Square Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), Pickerel Weed (*Pontederia cordata*), and Sago Pondweed (*Stuckenia pectinata*). All of these plants are known to have previously grown in Petenwell Lake.



The planting project was a coordinated effort of the PACRS (Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards), the Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO), the Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The PACRS and WRPCO both donated money to buy the plants, and Marshland Transplant Aquatic Nursery of Berlin, WI, donated additional plants.

Petenwell Lake, the second largest lake in Wisconsin, has been plagued with heavy algae growth for many years. Science has shown that aquatic plants compete with algae for nutrients, but the aquatic plant community in Petenwell Lake has diminished, leaving algae free rein with the nutrients available. Planting sites will be checked several times later this year to check on progress. If the plants seem to be taking hold, more planting is planned for next year and may continue to later years to help combat the on-going algae issues.



The Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards, (PACRS) a local citizen non-profit group, was formed to help improve the two lakes and is participating in a long-term study of the lake, Castle Rock Lake, and the Wisconsin River system to address some of the excess nutrient loading in the Wisconsin River (which includes Petenwell and Castle Rock Lakes). Anyone interested in improving these lakes and/or the Wisconsin River is welcome to join and participate! For further information, check out the PACRS website @ PACRS.org, or call 715-325-5561. For video from the planting, visit www.wisconsinrapidstribune.com.