



VILAS COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



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Vilas County Land & Water Conservation announces a three person staff

The Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department welcomes a new face to their staff. "I am pleased to announce that Mariquita (Quita) Sheehan has been hired as the new Lake Conservation Specialist", says Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservationist. "Quita is just finishing up on her first full week on the job and I am impressed by her willingness to learn and the incredible energy level she brings to tackle the demands of the position." Scholl says that with the department now fully staffed, they can focus on offering a full spectrum of Conservation Department services to the Vilas County public.

Sheehan completed high school in the Republic of Singapore and earned a bachelor's degree at Wittenburg University in Springfield, Ohio. "I developed a strong interest in botany early in life, so after college I decided to pursue graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in Plant Ecology", said Sheehan. Quita brings a wealth of botanical knowledge to Vilas County and will have the opportunity to apply this knowledge to many of the county's conservation projects. In addition to completing graduate level coursework in botany, Quita has had strong work experiences with county partner agencies including the Lumberjack Resource and Development Council, Michigan Technical University, the US Forest Service, Environmental Consulting businesses, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Quita and her husband Patrick Goggin (former Vilas County Conservationist) reside in Phelps.

Sheehan says that she looks forward to the challenges ahead and working with the existing Land and Water Conservation Department staff Carolyn Scholl and Ted Ritter. The primary duties of the Lake Specialist will shift between providing technical advice and project plans for cost share participants and aquatic invasive species field monitoring efforts within Vilas County waters. The county is partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to fund the Lake Specialist position, and as a result of this unique state partnership, some of Quita's time will be spent monitoring lakes to check for the presence or absence of spiny waterfleas and zebra mussels within in Vilas County waterbodies. She will also be involved in the Clean Boats / Clean Waters program throughout the summer and will conduct watercraft inspections at several Vilas County boat landings.

Ted Ritter, the Invasive Species Coordinator will continue to focus his summertime energies with partnership building within the county. "I plan to allot my time on three primary tasks, first - continue to develop the fledgling terrestrial invasive species WHIP partnership [Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership], strive to work out an agreeable memorandum of understanding with all the partners of that group, and third, maintain the incredible momentum of the existing countywide AIS partnership", said Ritter

Programs that Conservationist Carolyn Scholl oversees in the Department include the newly revised Land and Water Resource Management Plan, the department budget, the Wildlife Damage and Abatement program, conservation education programs, and an array of services to lake groups that range from grant assistance to the formation of lake organizations. One of the main goals of the Conservation Department is to help maintain and enhance the quality of the Vilas County's surface water resources. "Now that the Department is fully staffed, we can make great strides to reach our resource management plan goals", said Scholl.

For information on any of these programs or for assistance on a particular conservation issue, contact Carolyn Scholl, Quita Sheehan, or Ted Ritter at the Land and Water Conservation Department at (715) 479-3747.



Three person staff of the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department: front: Ted Ritter (Invasive Species Coordinator), Quita Sheehan (Lake Conservation Specialist), and in back: Carolyn Scholl (County Conservationist)

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