Native Garden Tour

Reported by Alice Publow

On June 28, 2025, over twenty lake residents were welcomed by Carolyn Case to her lakefront garden. She has carefully chosen each plant variety to be environmentally friendly. We applaud her for her contribution to a healthier Loon Lake. Here are some of her garden features and their importance.

- The grass in her garden is classified as 'no mow'. It is significant be cause of its ease maintenance. Also the root structure is much deeper than the usual lawn. This facilitie better absorption rain water thus preventing erosion and flushing of nutrients into the
- Carolyns garden is abundant with native wildflowers. These attract birds, pollinators a other insects, giving them food and shelter. The flower beds are also low maintenance established. The perennial plants regrow and annuals reseed themselves.
- The break wall consists of separate large stones with plants in between. This is an improvement to regular break walls that restrict access to essential environments for amphibians and other lake critters.
- The water is occupied by lily pads which supply shade and sources of food and protec for fish. Carolyn has also noticed a considerable reduction of muck in the cove where Watershield grows.
- Carolyn pointed out several types of vegetation that survive in the water when levels a highs and thrive on land when water recedes. These include Blue Flag Iris and Black Willow. Their super powers are soil stabilization and nutrient uptake

You are encouraged to explore the idea of native gardening geared toward improvi lake quality. Loon Lake Watershed Improvement Alliance has publications to share (cont Alice Publow at 710alice@gmail.com.)

P.S. Lake front vegetation helps keep geese off lawns.