

2008 Conservation Cooperator of the Year

Barbara and Darrel Tucker, Big Elk Lake, MN



Since moving to their lake home in 2002, Barb and Darrel Tucker have been actively involved in efforts to improve water quality in their area. Even before the building was started, Barb contacted the Sherburne SWCD to discuss her plans for the shoreline. It was immediately clear that she wanted to do what was best for the lake.

Since the time of building, their efforts have included an aerobic system to ensure that no additional nutrients would leach into the lake. They also planned a native shoreland buffer and protected the native plants and shrubs that were already present on the site. Shortly after the shoreland buffer was taking off, Barb took on the challenge of installing a 2,000 square foot rain garden and diversion to stop the road runoff from reaching the lake. To improve upon that further, they installed a dry river bed in the flow path to intercept overflow from the rain garden during very heavy rain storms.

Barb also served on the Brigg's Lake Association Board and participated in the Healthy Lake Program. Barb has been instrumental at encouraging others on the chain of lakes to consider their impact they have on the lakes and how they can lessen it by installing buffers. Barb and Darrel have always been very open to showing others what they have done and are willing to help however they can. As Barb would say, "too often, the reasons people move to the lake are destroyed by their actions after they get there."



Are you interested in learning more about shoreland buffers or rain gardens and how you can install one at your home? Please contact us at (763) 241-1170 ext. 3