

Stewardship is taking a personal ownership of and responsibility for the environment. It means caring for the land in a responsible way to ensure that healthy ecosystems are passed on to future generations. To ensure that this special group of plants remains in NS there are a few simple actions we can take to help. ACPF are threatened by habitat modification from activities such as shoreline development, road building, infilling, and nutrient run-off. These species occur in low nutrient environments where competition from other species is low. They can become displaced if water nutrient levels increase and allow more common and competitive species to move in. Many people already know or have learned about these species and are taking actions to help them. If you live or work near this special group of plants become a steward and help these species by participating in the actions below.



## YOU CAN HELP BY

- Recognizing these species and the habitats they depend on.
- Maintaining the natural vegetation around lake shorelines and wetlands.
- Reducing or eliminating lawns, especially if they are on the lake side of the house/cottage.
- Planting only native species to discourage the spread of invasive species.
- Driving off-highway or all-terrain vehicles on designated trails only, and avoiding all sensitive habitats (lake shorelines, wetlands, beaches).
- Avoiding rock wall installation, raking, mowing, or infilling the lake shoreline.
- Ensuring that septic systems and agricultural operations do not impact water quality.
- Eliminating chemical use and buying phosphate-free cleaning products.
- Ensuring that you are aware of provincial and municipal laws, regulations, and permits.
- Telling your friends, families and neighbours what you are doing and how they can help.
- Volunteering your time and becoming a steward!



Volunteer Diana taking a water quality sample © MEGAN CROWLEY



Sherman sharing his knowledge and love of plants © MEGAN CROWLEY

Learn more in “Healthy Lakes and Wetlands for Tomorrow” (page 90).



ATV tracks along a shoreline with ACPF

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Steward Jerome learning about ACPF

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