Lake Tides
The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

Turning Back Toward the Water

Milwaukee's Hidden Water Story Revealed

By Michael Timm, Milwaukee Water Storyteller, Reflo

Salmon runs. Recreational boating. A nationally recognized beach. Youth reconnecting with nature. It's ALL happening in Milwaukee.

After decades of turning away from the water, Milwaukee's people – through government, nonprofit, academic, business, and community action – have turned back toward the water, embracing clean freshwater as a unifying element of Milwaukee's identity as a resurgent Great Lakes coastal city.

Illustrated by Tia Richardson

Meet Miranda, Milwaukee Water Storyteller, your map guide through interactive stories, basemaps, and deeper dives! https://refloh2o.com/

Milwaukee's water story is one of the best kept secrets in Wisconsin and runs far deeper than the legit tourism appeal. One compelling facet of that story is the transformation of public schoolyards from seas of splintered asphalt to islands of nature-inspired green spaces that manage stormwater.

Within an urbanized county that is home to almost a million people, an estimated 45% of the City of Milwaukee is covered with impervious surface – roads, roofs, parking lots. Milwaukee Public Schools – serving over 70,000 kids – maintains properties constituting over 500 acres of hard space.

Consider: If you spend your weekdays in a facility surrounded by asphalt schoolyards bounded by chain-link fence, what kinds of dreams would you have? What kind of world do you know? How would you relate with the natural world?

(Continued on page 2)

Reflo

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Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Less hard space and more intentionally located vegetation means less polluted runoff and less volume in the sewer system, which reduces the risk of overflows to Milwaukee's three rivers.

Protecting and improving the water quality of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee's main source of drinking water, is one key motivation for replacing schoolyard asphalt with intentionally designed green space. The basic logic is simple: land use impacts water quality. Less hard space and more intentionally located vegetation means less polluted runoff and less volume in the sewer system, which reduces the risk of overflows to Milwaukee's three rivers.

But, beyond maximizing the capacity of underground cisterns, bioswales, rain gardens, and trees to manage stormwater at schoolyards, nature-inspired spaces also offer oases of calm. Students breathe the open air at outdoor classrooms. They meander stone paths through rain gardens during recess. Kids play not on plastic slides, but climb over logs and tumble onto wood chips. During interdisciplinary classwork, teachers guide students to observe the incremental change of a colorful palette of plants that once flourished across Wisconsin's native prairies or poked from the clearings of her oak savannah woodlands. These beautiful spaces surrounding schools in some of Milwaukee's most challenged and densely populated neighborhoods provide daily hope for our next generation of Wisconsin's citizens.

Native pollinators attracted to green schoolyards provide precious pockets of focus.

Greener, healthier schoolyards provide kids with social-emotional ballast amid a sometimes oppressive or overwhelming urban background. They supply teachers with the tools and support to extend learning outdoors – even more valuable since the pandemic.

The hum of hummingbirds and buzz of dragonflies may not drown out the clamor of car horns or the serenade of sirens, but native pollinators attracted to green schoolyards provide precious pockets of focus. The slow growth of sunflowers may not slow down traffic, but they reorient attention to biological rhythms. Leafy spinach grown in raised-bed gardens irrigated by captured rainwater may not supplant fast-food franchises, but it reinforces the practical possibility of healthier food patterns. Planting trees may not prevent climate change, but their canopies provide shade and cooling that moderates the urban heat island effect. Schoolyards redeveloped with nature-inspired features bring the traditional "field trip" to the students. This is important in a city where many kids - predominantly students of color - live just a few miles from Lake Michigan, but for a range of reasons cannot easily go dip their toes in the Great Lake whose Ojibwe name is Michigami.

The benefits are accruing.

Seventeen Milwaukee schoolyards have transformed all or part of their properties over the past five years, adding 795,475 gallons of green infrastructure water storage capacity, and removing 280,483 square feet of hard surface. Another 15 schools have similar plans in the pipeline, with five schoolyards under construction every summer and five new schools entering the process every year. Over $16 million has been raised to support the effort from funders with diverse priorities, such as water quality, habitat restoration, and the social-emotional health of urban youth. Currently designed projects are poised to more than double the positive environmental impacts over the next three years!

Learn more:
https://refloh2o.com/schoolyard-redevelopment-projects
https://refloh2o.com/schoolyard-projects-map

Reflo

Milwaukee's Hidden Water Story, Continued: Partners Working Toward a More Sustainable Future

The Deep Tunnel

Did you know that Milwaukee has a "Deep Tunnel" some 300 feet below ground?

Actually, a miles-long network of tunnels constructed over several decades starting in the 1980s, the Deep Tunnel is an ambitious array of "gray infrastructure" that can store up to 520 million gallons of rainwater. Its purpose is to hold water during heavy rain events so the treatment plant is not overwhelmed. Water is later pumped up for treatment.

Since the Deep Tunnel came online in 1993, Milwaukee's annual sewer overflow volumes decreased dramatically. But, facing intense storms and flashy melt events associated with Wisconsin's warming climate, the Deep Tunnel is not a silver bullet to eliminating all sewer overflows or basement backups.

That's one reason the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, in 2013, articulated its vision of zero sewer overflows by 2035. The intent is to achieve this through the addition of hundreds of millions of gallons of new green infrastructure stormwater capacity.

Learn more:
https://www.mmsd.com/what-we-do/wastewater-treatment/deep-tunnel
https://www.mmsd.com/what-we-do/wastewater-treatment/overflows

MMSD
PARTNERS FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

The Milwaukee Estuary: From Concern to Care

Did you know Milwaukee is embarking on an epochal effort to dredge toxic muck from its river bottoms to make the water healthier for fishing?

Milwaukee's rivers are not alone in facing historic industrial contamination. Heavy metals, PCBs, PAHs, and other persistent pollutants are associated with river sediment across Great Lakes harbor cities. This legacy pollution is harmful to fish and aquatic life, leading to fish consumption advisories to protect human health, and it's often widespread and costly to remove.

WATERWAY RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Milwaukee Estuary, including the confluence and lower reaches of the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic rivers, and parts of the harbor where those three rivers converge, has been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an "Area of Concern" meriting cleanup since the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

After decades of documenting the extent of the problem, partners led by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have coordinated funding to tackle one of the biggest impairments to water quality in the Milwaukee Estuary: dredging up 1,900,000 cubic yards of contaminated river sediment and sequestering the toxic muck within a new facility off the Lake Michigan shore.

When filled, this facility will be larger in area than four Lambeau Field bowls with capacity to hold dredged material almost thirty feet deep. In future decades, it's expected this facility will be capped and its "made land" put to a public purpose.

Learn more:
https://www.mkewaterwaypartners.org
https://refloh2o.com/waterway-restoration-partnership-map

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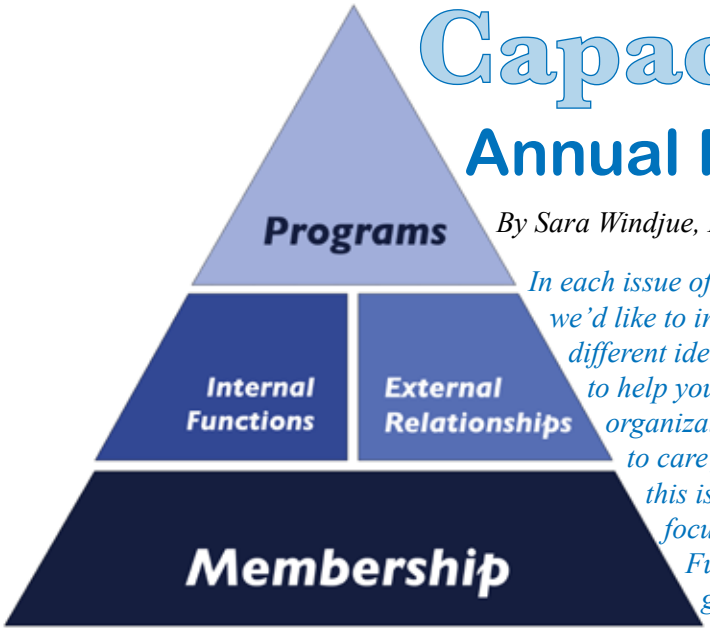
Capacity Corner

Annual Planning/Scheduling

By Sara Windjue, Leadership and Capacity Development Specialist, Extension Lakes



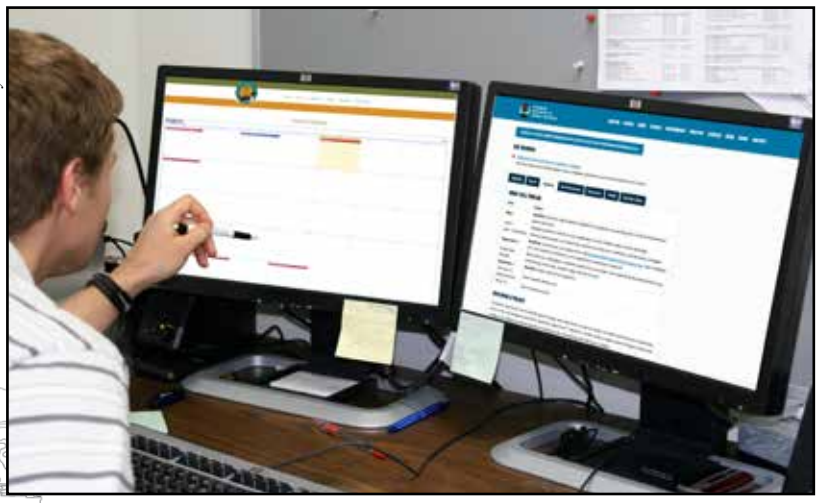
In each issue of Lake Tides, *we'd like to introduce you to different ideas and resources to help you increase your organization's capacity to care for lakes. In this issue, we're focusing on Internal Functions of a lake group.*

Similar to how we all have our personal or family calendars that help us track birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, etc., having an organizational calendar that outlines annual events, deadlines, and important dates is critical. Without having an annual organizational calendar, you might miss grant deadlines, not give yourself enough time to get the next newsletter out, or forget to publicly post annual meetings far enough in advance. Time flies when we're having fun…so we're going to review some important planning tools to help you organize your 2022 calendar or get an early start on your 2023 planning.

Having a shared online calendar for everyone on your board to access is key to communicating important deadlines.

Shared Online Calendars

Having a shared online calendar for everyone on your board to access is key to communicating important deadlines. Shared calendars are common in email programs such as Outlook or Gmail. Your website platform may also have a calendar tool that allows you to have a public-facing calendar that people can view on a computer or smartphone. If a monthly calendar seems sparse, you can also share a list of important dates throughout the year as an annual agenda.



Amy Kowalski

How to Begin

The first step in getting all your important dates and deadlines into a shared calendar is to ask your board and members for their input. Each person will have different dates that are important to them. It is good to have some benchmarks as to what constitutes an important date. Here are some guidelines:

- Dates must relate to the organization's business (i.e. no personal birthdays).
- Federal or state holidays may be important dates for your calendar if you have events surrounding these holidays (i.e. Memorial Day picnic).
- Don't forget the dates that lead up to important deadlines (i.e. checkpoints).

Other Important Dates to Include:

- Member communications (i.e. monthly/quarterly newsletters or emails)
- Dates of board member elections
- Term expiration dates for board members/commissioners
- Committee meetings
- Important local and county meeting times for the town board, county land and water committee, county board meetings
  It might be important to avoid double-booking your lake group's meetings with other important events in the community.
- Lake district dates:
  - ✓ Annual meetings must be held between May 22 and September 8 with prepared and mailed written notice at least 14 days in advance of the meeting to all district property owners and electors.
  - ✓ Meetings of the Board of Commissioners are public meetings

(Continued on page 5)

(Milwaukee's Hidden Water Story, continued)

Sturgeon Return to the Milwaukee River

Did you know that lake sturgeon call Milwaukee waters home?

One of Wisconsin's most charismatic fish was pushed to the edge of extirpation, but lake sturgeon are back again in the Milwaukee River, thanks to years of dedicated effort from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Riveredge Nature Center, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Since 2006, tiny young fingerling sturgeon have been raised in a special wagon at Riveredge, along the northern reach of the Milwaukee River near Saukville in Ozaukee County, to imprint them to the chemical signature of Milwaukee River water. Then, each year, the public can help release tagged juveniles into Lake Michigan as part of "Return the Sturgeon." Sturgeon, an ancient fish species dating from the time of the dinosaurs, take over a decade to reach sexual maturity, so it's an exercise in strategic hope that these fish will return to the Milwaukee River to spawn.

After the last glaciation sculpted the stage for its watercourses and long before Wisconsin became a state, sturgeon were celebrated by generations of Native Americans as an annual food source harvested during spring spawning runs. Later, they were maligned by fishermen as "trash fish" that got entangled in nets, but by the late 1800s were overharvested for their profitable caviar. Sturgeon also suffered the disruption of habitat as dams blocked passage along the Milwaukee and other rivers. In just a matter of years during the 1880s, populations plummeted.

With the removal of the North Avenue Dam in 1997 and the Estabrook Dam in 2018, the hydrological connectivity of the Milwaukee River has dramatically improved, allowing more sustained spawning runs. With additional fish passage projects either completed or in the works further upstream, combined with improvements to water quality, fisheries managers are hopeful about the future of sturgeon in Milwaukee waters.

Cause for celebration: in 2021, a mature tagged sturgeon released as part of the 2007 class was confirmed swimming in the Milwaukee River!

Learn more:
https://www.riveredgenaturecenter.org/return-the-sturgeon/
https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/columnists/paul-smith/2021/04/10/fish-released-fingerling-2007-returned-spring-adult/7163399002/

(Capacity Corner, continued)

and notice should be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting in three locations likely to be seen by the general public.

- Surface Water Grant Application dates:
  - ✓ **May 1**: (lake associations only) Organizations should confirm their eligibility for grants with their WDNR contact and submit a Grant Eligibility Application Form 8700-380 with supporting documentation to their regional WDNR environmental grant specialist if needed. The environmental grant specialist has the right to review an organization's eligibility at any time, and it is best to confirm your eligibility before you apply for a grant. Visit the Surface Water Grants website for details (https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html). *Lake districts and other local units of government are automatically eligible.*
  - ✓ **September 2**: Every applicant must submit a project pre-proposal to DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov by this date. The pre-proposal is essentially a draft of sections one, two, five, and eight of the surface water grant application.
  - ✓ **November 1**: Final application deadline

We want to build our understanding of how you manage your calendars. Let us know what important dates you include on your shared calendars and what works best for you. Email swindjue@uwsp.edu with examples and ideas.

WDNR & LMPN

Dedicated Staff Resources for Regional and Local AIS Support

By Jeanne Scherer, AIS Outreach Specialist and Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Coordinator, UW Madison-Division of Extension and Amy Kretlow, Aquatic Invasive Species Policy and Program Lead, Wisconsin DNR

With five Regional AIS Coordinators, we are able to have more consistency with roles and responsibilities along with a better communication flow.

Wisconsin's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program has historically been a leader in the field of AIS and continues to do so. In recent years, the program has made great strides in developing a consistent statewide model with the installation of five full-time Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Regional AIS Coordinators. Additionally, the program initiated the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network (LMPN) in 2021, an annual $1 million investment, which provides support to counties for lake monitoring and AIS prevention activities.

A broad program purpose is to operate under the "pathway lens" in order to fulfill Goal 1 of the Wisconsin AIS Management Plan, which is to "prevent the introduction of new AIS into Wisconsin." This new way of thinking aims to take a proactive approach by exploring specific pathways that are applicable to the state and then to provide the outreach and resources needed to close these gaps. The seven pathways include recreational activities and service providers, non-recreational fishing and aquaculture, organisms in trade, transportation and utility corridors, state and federal agencies, maritime commerce, and canals, dams,

It is an exciting time for Wisconsin's AIS program, and I am looking forward to seeing the program continue to grow in the coming years.

~ Shelby Adler

I am extremely grateful for our partners' local knowledge and boots-on-the-ground presence in AIS management.

~ Patrick Siwula

and diversions. A description of these pathways and their current management status is included in the Wisconsin AIS Management Plan which can be found at https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/.

Shelby Adler, Regional AIS Coordinator for counties in the Southern Mississippi Basin, says, "The new statewide model and LMPN are key to making Wisconsin's AIS Program as effective as possible. These changes will allow for strong partnerships to be made from the local partner up to the statewide level. It is an exciting time for Wisconsin's AIS program, and I am looking forward to seeing the program continue to grow in the coming years."

The AIS Program now provides WDNR AIS monitoring and prevention support statewide thanks to its new five-region staff model. With five Regional AIS Coordinators, we are able to have more consistency with roles and responsibilities along with a better communication flow. The WDNR AIS Coordinators work with the LMPN cooperators, traditionally referred to as County AIS Coordinators. Along with managing the LMPN, they perform duties such as monitoring and control on the landscape and develop new activities based on the goals of the AIS Management Plan for a more proactive approach to AIS prevention.

The LMPN Program, funded by WDNR Surface Water Grants, provides annual support to network cooperators for lake monitoring and AIS prevention activities. Network cooperators may be county AIS staff or organizations the counties choose at the time of application to become part of the LMPN as their designated agents for AIS-related work. The LMPN cooperators choose from a menu of core activities, including:

- Providing support to the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)
- Monitoring for the early detection of AIS
- Participating in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) Program
- Participating in the purple loosestrife biocontrol program
- Joining other AIS prevention campaigns and lake protection activities as approved by the WDNR

Patrick Siwula, Regional AIS Coordinator for the counties in the southeast Great Lakes region of the state, is excited about the LMPN and his complementary role. "Continuing to grow the LMPN to include more counties and partners will be incredibly beneficial for the statewide AIS program moving forward. With a large regional coverage area, I am extremely grateful for our partners' local knowledge and boots-on-the-ground presence in AIS management. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish together!"

Find Your Local Contact

Involved in any of these activities locally? Connect with the AIS coordinator in your area! Just go to DNR.Wisconsin.gov and search for "AIS contacts."

The LMPN Program, funded by WDNR Surface Water Grants, provides annual support to network cooperators for lake monitoring and AIS prevention activities.

An Update on APM

The DNR's Aquatic Plant Management Program is undergoing rule revisions for NR 107 and NR 109, relating to chemical, mechanical, physical, and biological control of aquatic species. The DNR held a public comment period from January 10-March 1, 2022 and a public hearing on February 22. The program is currently finalizing edits to these draft rules based on public input.

The DNR will update their APM Rules website, https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/rules, with guides to explain what changes were made to the rule package. To find out when those updates will be posted, please sign up for GovDelivery here: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new.

This June, the rule package will be sent to the Natural Resources Board for their approval. Individuals may sign up to speak about the rule package at the NRB hearing here: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/NRB.

Contact Madi Johansen (Madison.johansen@wisconsin.gov) or Carroll Schaal (carroll.schaal@wisconsin.gov) if you have any questions.

Exploring the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail

By Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Milwaukee's location along Lake Michigan made it a natural fit for a Great Lakes port, and Milwaukee's three rivers have always been important culturally and economically. Early settlers were drawn to the area because of the access provided by these natural pathways. Over time, the scenic wilderness was developed and roads, railways, and air transport gradually replaced rivers as the major routes for most goods. Increasing development and industrialization resulted in many waterways becoming polluted and ignored. In recent decades, however, people are once again embracing Milwaukee's rivers thanks to improvements in water quality and public access along the waterfront. While the landscape looks a little different today, paddlers are still attracted to Milwaukee's rivers, finding connections to both urban and natural areas along the way.

While the landscape looks a little different today, paddlers are still attracted to Milwaukee's rivers, finding connections to both urban and natural areas along the way.

The Milwaukee Urban Water Trail is a canoe and kayak route running through urban and interurban portions of the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers, as well as Cedar Creek. Established in 2006 by Milwaukee Riverkeeper, in partnership with several national, state, and local groups, the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail was designated as a National Recreation Trail by the U.S.

Photo provided by Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Department of the Interior. The purpose of the trail is to help paddlers find safe and legal access points, resting sites, and nearby attractions on Milwaukee's rivers. Water trails or liquid "pathways" are being developed in communities across the country with the same goal in mind.

The map of the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail provides more than 60 miles of paddling opportunities in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties. The map also offers public access locations for paddlers along 60 miles of Lake Michigan, extending from Bender Park Beach to Harrington Beach State Park. Both counties boast impressive park systems, which provide a scenic backdrop along much of the water trail, and opportunities for bird watching and wildlife viewing. If fishing is on your itinerary, improving river conditions and restoration work has helped over 40 species of fish flourish throughout much of the water trail area.

Whether you plan a full day trip, or want to explore the city of Milwaukee from a different point of view, the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail has a little something for everyone.

Learn more about Milwaukee Riverkeeper at: www.milwaukeeriverkeeper.org

Photo provided by Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Explore these exciting destinations along the trail:

When on the Milwaukee River:

- Downtown Milwaukee
- The Milwaukee RiverWalk
- The Bronze Fonz, celebrating TV's "Happy Days"
- The Milwaukee River Greenway
- Downtown Mequon and Thiensville
- The historic City of Cedarburg and Village of Grafton
- The Milwaukee Public Market
- Riveredge Nature Center
- Urban Ecology Center
- Lakefront Brewery

When on the Menomonee River:

- Harley-Davidson Museum
- Potawatomi Bingo Casino
- American Family Field, home of the Brewers
- The Twisted Fisherman
- City Lights Brewery

When on the Kinnickinnic River:

- Boat Marinas
- UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences
- The Harbor District
- Barnacle Bud's Restaurant

Milwaukee Urban Water Trails:

- Are managed with public-private partnerships, with volunteers as the key supporters and advocates of the trail.
- Promote stewardship/conservation of natural resources, and abide by the "Leave No Trace" code of outdoor ethics.
- Encourage wellness and well being, and accessibility for all.
- Connect people with places, both natural and human-made, and past to present.
- Help provide a "sense of place" for boaters within our watersheds.
- Have signage clearly marking put-in and take-out locations, portages, and safety messages.

Expanding the Wisconsin Early Detection Network

By Maureen Kalscheur, Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR

Wisconsin's aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention partners are expanding coverage through the new Lake Monitoring and Protection Network. One of the focuses of the network is to increase invasive species detection coverage through citizen trainings and partner monitoring. In 2021, the network monitored more than 1,000 locations, documenting over 100 new AIS populations with almost all new detections made by volunteers and partners.

Purchasing from local nurseries is one way to reduce the risk of introducing a new invasive species.

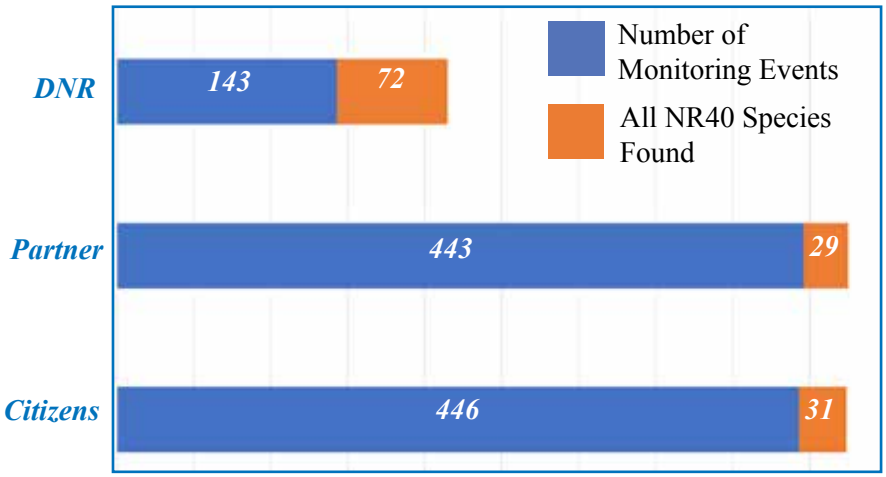
"Monitoring Wisconsin's natural resources is an 'all-hands' effort, and the support of volunteers and partners statewide is key to our success in controlling invasive species," said Maureen Kalscheur, the DNR's Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Coordinator.

Monitoring efforts also identified new populations of NR40-prohibited species, mostly confined to private ponds and small localized areas.

Fortunately, most discoveries in 2021 were of commonly managed species like Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Monitoring efforts also identified new populations of NR40-prohibited species, mostly confined to private ponds and small localized areas. These new discoveries included brittle naiad (*Najas minor*), bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemicum*), European frogbit (*Hydrocharis morus-ranae*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), New Zealand mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), and parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

Every new invasive species discovery triggers the DNR's Invasive Species Response Framework to ensure that consistent evaluation and recording steps are followed. When small, isolated AIS populations are discovered, they can be easily contained and possibly eradicated or controlled before they have a chance to spread to public waters. Likely sources of these species are from contaminated gear or water garden stock; purchasing from local nurseries is one way to reduce the risk of introducing a new invasive species.

To learn more about AIS and the steps you can take to prevent their spread, become familiar with the Wisconsin AIS Early Detector Handbook, available through the Extension Lakes online bookstore (uwsp.edu/uwexlakes), and let your regional WDNR AIS Coordinator know if you find anything of interest (see page 6). You can also join our AIS early detection team and participate in programs like AIS Snapshot Day, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, Water Action Volunteers, and Project Riverine Early Detectors.



Monitoring Fieldwork Events - 2020 AIS Network

Invasive species monitoring fieldwork events conducted by the Aquatic Invasive Species Network in 2020. Citizen programs include UW Extension Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, UW Extension Water Action Volunteers, and AIS Snapshot Day. Partner and DNR programs include early detection and response monitoring.

Get Involved in AIS Prevention

Interested in a hands-on way you can help protect Wisconsin's waters? Save the date for this year's Snapshot Day: August 20, 2022! Snapshot Day is a one-day hunt for aquatic invasive species (AIS). Volunteers gather at a training site in their area, receive free training by a local AIS professional, and then head out to local monitoring sites to search for AIS. Learn more and stay tuned for registration: www.wateractionvolunteers.org/events

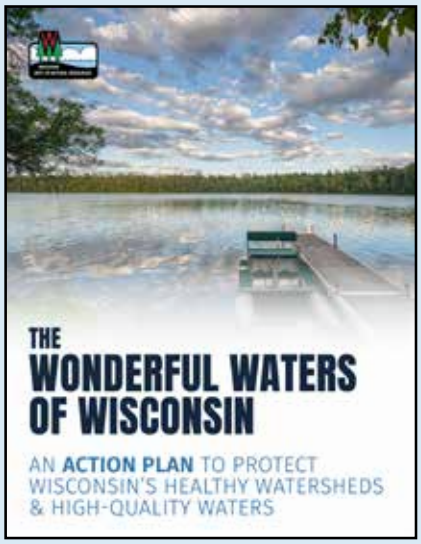
Snapshot Day
August 20, 2022

Let's Make Healthy Lakes & Rivers Together!

The Healthy Lakes & Rivers initiative is a statewide effort providing outreach, technical assistance, and funding for five simple and inexpensive best practices that are appropriate for most lakeshore properties. Pitch your Healthy Lakes & Rivers feature story to Pamela Toshner (pamela.toshner@wi.gov) or Amy Kowalski (amy.kowalski@uwsp.edu).

An Update from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Waters Team

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Waters Team is pleased to share our final Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters (HWHQW) Action Plan, Technical Report, and Interactive Conservation Mapping Tool. The team completed a multi-year modeling and assessment effort, engaged partners in spring 2021, and consolidated that feedback into the Action Plan – an aspirational roadmap describing the steps needed to keep 100% of our healthy watersheds and high-quality waters protected through 2030.



Some actions are ready to go, while others will take more time and effort. Most of the actions can be implemented by multiple partners – sometimes independent of the Department. Please check out the HWHQW webpage to review the Action Plan and to learn more about the initiative by going to https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/ and searching for "HWHQW".

Thank you to the Healthy Waters Team, formed in 2019, and the many colleagues and partners who helped us reach this milestone. Stay tuned for opportunities to continue to work together to protect the Wonderful Waters of Wisconsin!

2022 Convention Wrap-up

Protecting What We Love for the Future

We had a wonderful time reconnecting with all of you at the Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point in April. We wanted to provide this recap and continue to move forward to protect what we love for the future. You can check out the Convention archives at uwsp.edu/uwexlakes under *Events*. There is even a searchable database of Convention presentation PDFs and videos that goes back to 2007!

Plenary Speakers

We were honored to have exemplary keynote speakers this year, including Charlie Wooley, Midwest Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Chad Pregracke, Living Lands and Waters Founder, Governor Tony Evers, and Sarah Berry, Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

"The keynote speakers were excellent!"
- 2022 Convention Participant

Lake Stewardship Awards

Three very deserving lake stewards were recognized at the awards banquet during the Convention. Both Candy Ramsay and Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation are eligible to be considered for international recognition through the North American Lake Management Society – stay tuned.

"The concurrent sessions were great because there was a lot of diversity in subjects and presenters."
- 2022 Convention Participant

2023 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention

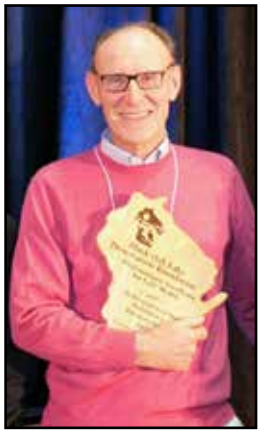
Mark your calendars for April 19-21, 2023, when we will again gather for the statewide Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point. Next year's theme is *Building Trust Around Water Together*, and we are currently accepting presentation proposals. Just go to wisconsinwaterweek.org and click on *Lakes and Rivers Convention* for more information.

BUILDING TRUST AROUND WATER TOGETHER

wisconsinwaterweek.org

Larry Keller accepts the Excellence in Public Engagement Award on behalf of ***Candy Ramsay****, Spider Chain of Lakes, from Cathie Erickson, Wisconsin Lakes President*

Bill Boettge*, Beaver Dam Lake, received the Excellence in Building Partnerships Award*



The Programmatic Excellence for Lake Health Award was presented to Keith Montgomery on behalf of ***Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation***

Native Shoreline Reboot at the Executive Residence

Stalled Project Receives New Push to Support Water Quality Improvements on Lake Mendota

From the Office of the Governor, State of Wisconsin, April 26, 2022

Governor Tony Evers announced the Executive Residence will be moving forward on a project to restore the property's natural shoreline along Lake Mendota by planting native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees to provide erosion control, prevent runoff, enhance the wildlife habitat, and support pollinators. Phase one of the project, which has been developed to serve as a model for other lakeshore owners throughout the state and to improve water quality in the Yahara Watershed, received final approval from the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board (SCERB) in late April.

"This project has been in the works for more than a decade and we are glad to be moving forward on this important project for the health of the lake, the wildlife, and the community," said Gov. Evers. "By planting native plants along the shoreline, we will help improve water quality and wildlife habitats, especially for native pollinators, and we hope this project will serve as a model for other folks along not only the Lake Mendota shoreline but shorelines across the state. Projects like this can help improve our state's resilience and sustainability for the future, and I want to thank the many partners and advocates who have been working on this project for years."

The project was first approved by SCERB in 2011 but ultimately stalled. In February 2019, SCERB approved the restoration project to move forward under its previous approval. Preliminary plans are currently in the works for Phase 1 of 2, which includes plantings on the full length of the shoreline by Fall 2022. The second phase of the planting is planned for 2023.

Several partners have been advocating for this project for more than a decade, including the Clean Lakes Alliance, Yahara WINS, the Rock River Coalition, Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Extension Lakes, Dane County Land and Water Resource Department, and Resource Environmental Solutions. The project will be privately funded with some assistance from the Wisconsin Executive Residence Foundation (WERF), plants will be donated, and volunteers will do the planting.

This project is counting on generous people like you who want to see this happen! Donations should be sent by check to Wisconsin Executive Residence Foundation, 99 Cambridge Road, Madison, WI 53704; include "Shoreland Native Plants" in the memo.

Lake Leaders Graduates from Crew 7 (2008) were integral in initiating and continually supporting this shoreline restoration project. Find out more about the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute at uwsp.edu/uwexlakes!

This is the result of a lot of perseverance and patience.
~ Eric Olson, Director, Extension Lakes

An online version of this release is available at https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/314fd2a

Amy Kowalski

Let's Get Together for Lakes!

By Mike Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

WISCONSIN LAKES

All of us at Wisconsin Lakes were so excited and energized following the first in person Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention since 2019! It was so good to see old friends and make new ones and we thank everyone who helped make it a success.

Wisconsin Lakes staff and board presented on a range of topics, including gaining wild river designation for the Totogatic, managing recreational impacts to lakes, water policy, and boater attitudes towards watercraft cleaning options to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Spirited discussion was enjoyed throughout the week.

It was a great three days and we can't wait to start planning the 2023 convention next month!

If you missed that great event, don't worry, Wisconsin summers feature excellent regional lake and water events and many are back in person for 2022. Wisconsin Lakes is proud to serve as a partner and/or presenter at these awesome gatherings.

June 3, 2022 - Oconomowoc

Join us for the Healthy Lakes Conference (lakecountrycleanwaters.org/events), put on by Lake Country Clean Waters. Topics this year include wake boat impacts on shorelines, a presentation from Wisconsin Lakes' Executive Director Michael Engleson, and even a boat ride.

June 17, 2022 - Spooner

Stop over to Spooner High School for the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference (nwwislakesconference.org). Author and lakes journalist Ted Rulseh will offer the keynote address, with breakouts on wake boat impacts, algae blooms, capacity building, and the annual water policy update from Wisconsin Lakes. Wisconsin Lakes is proud to serve as a partner organization on the planning team for this great event.

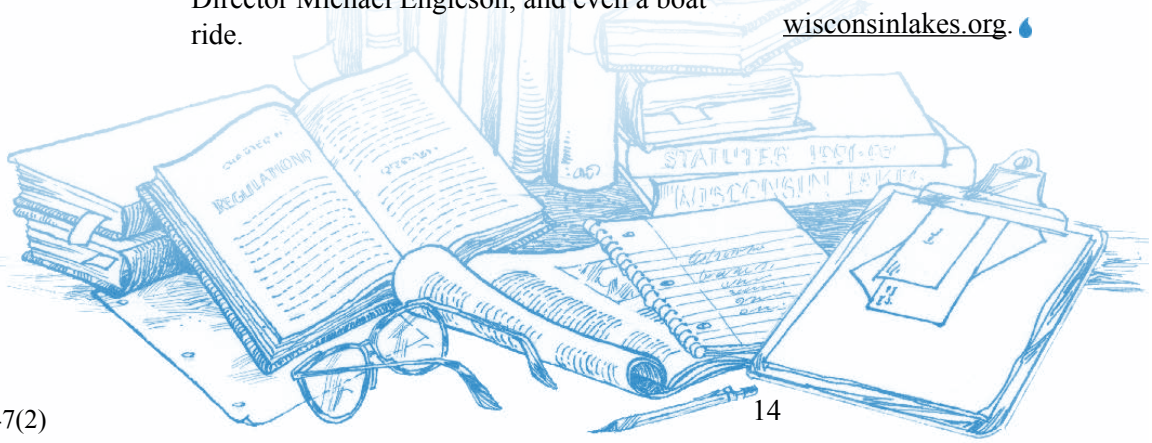
July 15, 2022 - Rhinelander

Six counties in north central Wisconsin will come together for a gathering at Nicolet College in Rhinelander, hosted by the Vilas and Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Associations (oclra.org, vclra.org). Wisconsin Lakes will be there to present, network, and enjoy the company of lake lovers in the Northwoods.

And, looking forward to 2023, plans are already underway for the Red Cedar Watershed Conference on March 9 at UW-Stout.

Getting together and talking about our lakes and waters is so important to increasing understanding of the issues and creating enthusiasm for lake stewardship. In addition to bigger events like these, Wisconsin Lakes staff and board would love to join you at your meeting! Contact Mike Engleson at mengleson@wisconsinlakes.org to request a visit! And learn more about Wisconsin Lakes at wisconsinlakes.org.

Getting together and talking about our lakes and waters is so important to increasing understanding of the issues and creating enthusiasm for lake stewardship.



Video Resources

Will you help monitor your lake?

The Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) has produced a series of videos that you can check out to learn more about what CLMN volunteers do to monitor their lakes! Current volunteers can also use these videos as a quick "refresher" before starting a new season of monitoring. Wondering if any volunteers are already monitoring your lake? Visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov and search for "Citizen Lake Monitoring" to find out.

Find these videos and other training resources at uwsp.edu/uwexlakes - just click on *Citizen Lake Monitoring Network*, then *Resources*.

Video Series Highlights Invasive Species, Their Management, and Some Success Stories

A new animated video series developed by the Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS) and Michigan Sea Grant tells the story of how some of the Great Lakes' worst aquatic invasive species were introduced to the region – and highlights management victories and the future of research along the way.

Learn more about these videos here: https://bit.ly/3kUQ7n8

CALENDAR

June 3 – Healthy Lakes Conference, Oconomowoc, WI
For more information: https://lakecountrycleanwaters.org/events

June 17 – NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference, Spooner, WI
For more information: https://nwwislakesconference.org/

July 12-14 – Climate Intersections Conference, Duluth, MN
For more information: https://northcentralwater.org/climate-intersections-conference/

July 15 – Northwoods Six-County Lakes Meeting, Rhinelander, WI
For more information: https://vclra.org/

August 20 – Snapshot Day, WI
For more information: https://www.wateractionvolunteers.org/events

Stay up-to-date with lake events across the state with our online calendar. Don't see your event listed? Let us know by clicking "Add an Event" at the top of the page and fill out the short form!
https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/calendar.aspx

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Reflections

"Water links us to our neighbor in a way more profound and complex than any other."
— John Thorson