

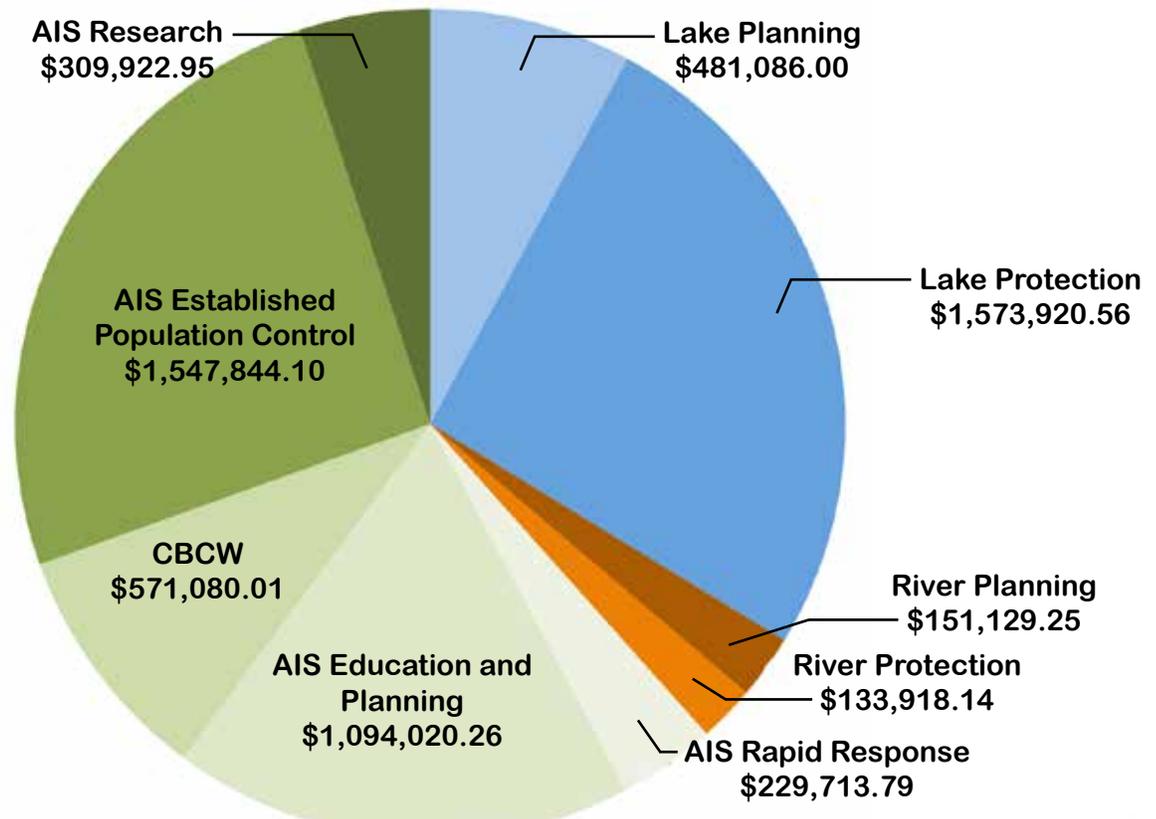


Lake and River Projects Get A Boost DNR Awards Nearly \$6 Million in Surface Water Grants

Healthier lakes and improved control of aquatic invasive species will result from nearly \$6 million in grants awarded to 245 groups in 47 counties by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The surface water grants, which originate from a tax on fuel used by watercraft, will leverage an additional \$5 million in matching funds from lake and river associations, local governments and nonprofit groups to implement the projects. These funds support control of aquatic invasive species (AIS), lake and river planning and protection efforts and other management activities.

“We are pleased that the DNR surface water grants help leverage significant private and community funds to expand the scope of work that can be done,” said Shelly Thomsen, Lakes and Rivers Team Leader with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). “These collaborative efforts combine the technical expertise of the DNR with the ideas and drive of local
(Continued on page 2)

Wisconsin DNR 2015 Surface Water Grants = \$6 million



organizations, enabling citizens to improve and protect our valuable water resources in Wisconsin.”

Lake Planning - 8%

These grants help lake groups develop management plans to protect and restore lakes and their watersheds. There are two categories of lake management planning grants: small-scale and large-scale.

Lake Protection - 25.83%

Lake classification and ordinance development

These grants help counties study lakes and assign them to different management classifications in order to guide plans for protection of the lakes and their watersheds.

Among the major projects, Green Lake County is implementing a shoreline inventory system to assess all the lake shorelines within the county. The effort will create a baseline to track shoreland development and restoration over time and to identify shorelines for preservation or restoration.

Lake protection

These grants help implement projects that protect or improve water quality, habitat or the lake ecosystem.

Among the key projects, Bone Lake Management District in Polk County will use grant funding to implement waterfront best management practices, develop a no-wake ordinance to protect sensitive areas, and install fish sticks (trees in the water) to improve fish and native plant communities while protecting shorelines. Also in Polk County, Deer Lake Conservancy is receiving funds to purchase conservation easements on 90 acres of undeveloped hardwood, fields, ephemeral wetlands and ponds in Johnson Preserve.

These grants also include the new Healthy Lakes Initiative to support installation of fish sticks to improve habitat, native plantings or diversion practices along the shoreline to slow runoff, and upland practices that manage runoff from structures and impervious surfaces. This grant cycle funded implementation of 100 best management practices for 48 properties on 15 lakes in nine counties.

Aquatic invasive species - 61.59%

AIS education, prevention and planning

These grants help broaden the public’s awareness and understanding of AIS threats and create plans to identify measures to prevent the spread of AIS.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)

Prevention is the first step in a strategic AIS management strategy. These grants help fund boat and trailer inspections at landings and information sharing on how to prevent the spread of AIS.

AIS established population control

These grants defray the costs of controlling existing aquatic invasive species populations and restoring habitat. The grants will help 18 lakes in 15 counties battle Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed while helping to manage wetland invasive species in five counties statewide.

AIS early detection and rapid response

These grants provide funds for the early identification and control of pioneer populations of AIS before those populations become established.

Deer Lake Conservancy is receiving funds to purchase conservation easements on 90 acres of undeveloped hardwood, fields, ephemeral wetlands and ponds in Johnson Preserve.



Another Way to Fund Major Lake and River Projects

Lake organizations can be financially intimidated by major projects such as repairing a dam, purchasing aquatic plant harvesters or acquiring land for conservation purposes. All of these expenses are eligible for low cost loans to lake districts or local governments through the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). Loan terms are very flexible (1 to 20-year fixed rate) and there are no fees. The application process is simple and transparent, with funds available 30-45 days from the initial application. The best part? Interest earned by BCPL is distributed to communities statewide for the funding of public school library materials. Check out the BCPL website to see the annual contribution made to your school district. This annual payment effectively reduces local tax levies by providing schools another source of funding. How many bankers or bond dealers can say that? Learn more at their website: <http://bcpl.state.wi.us/>



River Planning - 2.48%

These grants help river groups develop management plans to protect and restore rivers and their watersheds.

River Protection - 2.2%

These grants share the cost on projects to implement management activities that protect or restore the river ecosystem.

A major project this round includes an effort by the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Division to restore fish passage on Mineral Springs Creek by replacing outdated culverts.

By remediating one large-scale fish passage impediment on the creek, the project will restore aquatic life access to existing high quality spawning and rearing habitat upstream, improve genetic and biologic diversity of desirable fish species, and help reduce the need for artificial stocking or habitat manipulation in undesirable areas.

For a complete list of grant recipients and deadlines, search the DNR website at

<http://dnr.wi.gov> for *surface water grants*.

For more information: Shelly Thomsen, DNR Lakes and Rivers Team Leader, Shelly.Thomsen@wisconsin.gov, 608-266-0502. ♡

Did you know the American white pelican has made a comeback in Wisconsin?

DYK

The American white pelican, a species once threatened by habitat loss, water quality decline, pesticide use, and human disturbance, continues to steadily recover as its population increases by more than three percent each year with an unprecedented number of nests in Wisconsin. It's believed the species was present in Wisconsin in the 1800s, but their numbers began to decline dramatically during the early 20th century as a result of human pressures and

excessive use of agricultural pesticides. Pelican sightings picked up again in Wisconsin during the 1980s, and their presence has been increasing ever since. A relative of the ocean-going brown pelican, white pelicans nest in colonies on sandbars, islands and peninsulas in remote, undisturbed areas. Unlike their brown cousins, white pelicans like to come together in groups of a dozen or more to fish and cooperate in corralling their meal. Instead of diving, they catch fish while swimming on the surface. On average, one pelican consumes three pounds of fish per day, including gizzard shad and emerald shiners, crayfish and amphibians.

The American white pelican is the longest bird in North America at approximately 4-6 feet, has the second largest wingspan (8-10 feet), and is quite striking with almost entirely bright white plumage. Its appearance grows even more impressive during the breeding season. From around March through May, the pelican's bill and the bare skin around its eyes, bill and feet changes from an orangey-flesh color to a vivid orange hue, and a laterally flattened "horn" develops on top of the huge bills of both males and females. Of all eight pelican species, the American white pelican is the only one to sport such an unusual projection.

Biologists believe that the pelican will continue to return to Wisconsin in ever-increasing numbers for the foreseeable future. Given the species' past struggle and their victorious return to our state, we all clearly play a role in whether or not the American white pelican remains.



Nancy Pierce

Powerful Ally for Lake Lovers

by Michael S. Putnam, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Reprinted from *Live from the Lakes: A Wisconsin Lakes Blog* at <http://lakes-l.blogs.govdelivery.com/>

In the 1920s, dams were built on northern Wisconsin rivers to provide electricity for Wisconsin residents. These dams created flowages and impoundments encompassing more than 35,000 acres of recreational opportunities and scenic wonders. Some of the most popular lakes in Wisconsin are the result of these dams. The management plans for these waterbodies can be of keen interest and importance to the landowners and recreationists who inhabit them. Yet, these water users have often been missing from the dam relicensing process and plan review. Now, Cheryl Laatsch of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Bureau of Watershed Management is creating an opportunity to give these parties a stronger voice in the process.

With oversight of hydroelectric licensing, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

(FERC) is the federal agency responsible for issuing and renewing hydroelectric dam licenses that are valid for 30 to 50 years. In addition, the license holder, often an electric company, must create a management plan for the dam and the lake it created. Increasingly, many impoundment management plans include provisions for managing aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Further, Cheryl's handiwork should reduce paperwork and redundancy through teamwork and partnerships. For example, the license holder's management plan might call for AIS monitoring within the impoundment. Instead of hiring a DNR staff person or consultant, the license holder could instead help fund the efforts of county AIS coordinators who are already monitoring invasive species. Likewise, the license holder might support lake groups that are monitoring water quality.

Three to five decades is a long time in which to accurately anticipate the management needs of a waterbody. Consequently, lake groups and AIS coordinators might want to be actively engaged with the management of these waterbodies, and participate in the public process for FERC licensed hydroelectric dams in order to offer their perspectives and expertise.

Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR



The 6,300-acre Willow Flowage was formed in 1926 when a dam was built by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company to provide electricity.

Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR



The movement of the water is evident in this photo of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage



Further, lake groups will want to be familiar with the project boundary of the hydroelectric dam because the license holder is responsible for various management actions within the project boundary. This boundary commonly extends beyond the waterline. Lakefront property owners would benefit from knowing where project boundaries lie and the FERC requirements therein. Further, the FERC license addresses issues important to lake enthusiasts such as water levels, dam operations, repairs and maintenance, recreation, timber management, wildlife, land management, fisheries and the management of both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. In addition, FERC deals with the management of drawdowns and fish kills.



Darrow Island in the Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County.

To get a sense of the scale of the lake and AIS management opportunities, consider that some 206,000 acres of surface waters occur at 147 dam sites monitored by DNR and 135 of them have management plans.

The ultimate goal of Cheryl’s efforts is to use better data sharing to increase efficiency and

improve the science guiding management of these important water resources.

If you are interested in becoming a FERC ally, Cheryl invites you to contact her to learn more, get involved and be part of the FERC network. She can be reached at cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov or (920) 387-7869. 📍

Q & A Lake Districts

We often get phone calls and emails from Lake Tides readers with a variety of questions about lake districts. Do you have a question about lake districts that you would like to see answered in Lake Tides? Send it to uwexlakes@uwsp.edu so we can include it in a future issue.

Q: Can renters vote at lake district annual meetings?

A. Yes, provided that their lake district residence is their regular voting location and they are not otherwise disqualified from voting. Article III of the Wisconsin Constitution provides that “Every United States citizen age 18 or older who is a resident of an election district in this state is a qualified elector of that district.” This rule applies to local districts, including towns, cities, villages, school districts, counties, etc. Because lake districts are also election districts (like school districts), the suffrage clause of the Constitution applies and ensures that a person does not need to own property in order to vote. In fact, it wasn’t until a statewide referendum was passed in November, 1980 that it became clear that property owners who are not electors within a lake district (i.e. non-residents) could legally vote in lake district affairs. That referendum asked: “Shall state law be amended to permit persons who own property in a public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district and who are U.S. citizens and 18 years of age or older to vote at meetings of the district?” It passed by a vote of 1,210,452 in favor and only 355,024 opposed. It remains one of the rare instances where residents of one state can legally vote in local elections and meetings in another state by virtue of property ownership.

For more information on lake districts, see *People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations*, www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/districts.



Stewardship Initiative for Vilas County Shoreland Owners

by Mary Platner, Director Emeritus, Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association

Photo provided by Sandy Gillum



These folks are proud owners of Shoreland Stewardship property in Vilas County.

Interested in adopting a shoreland covenant in your county? The leaders in Vilas County will happily share resources, materials and experiences!

If you are a shoreland lake or river property owner in Vilas County, you now have the opportunity to protect your shoreland restoration efforts in perpetuity.

The Vilas County Shoreland Stewardship Initiative is a new educational tool from the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) that can be voluntarily used to protect shoreland property that has been carefully conserved, and pass knowledge on to the next owner. The Stewardship Initiative provides protection of natural or re-vegetated shoreland through a Shoreland Stewardship Covenant, prepared by a licensed Wisconsin attorney, and customized specifically for shoreland properties in Vilas County.

Vilas' shoreland zoning ordinance was passed in May of 1999 and amended in November of 2009, and many waterfront properties were grandfathered-in. If you have property in Vilas County that meets or exceeds the four minimum county shoreland ordinances, you are eligible for the covenant (see graphic here).

The covenant is completely voluntary and runs for an initial term of 25 years, then automatically extends in increments of 10

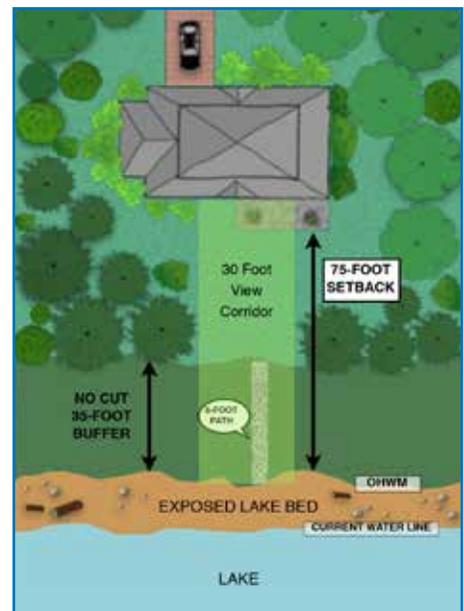
years. The covenant runs with the land and is revealed during a title search informing potential buyers of the county shoreland ordinances before they purchase property.

VCLRA partnered with a local title company to help answer questions and offer a notary. The association also received a small-scale grant from the Department of Natural Resources to reimburse shoreland property owners the \$30 it costs to register each covenant.

Any shoreland owner participating in this program can get a shoreland evaluation by the VCLRA Blue Heron Team and a free consultation with a shoreland professional. In addition, VCLRA will provide an attractive, enameled metal sign reading "Vilas Shoreland Steward" suitable for outside display.

Interested in adopting a shoreland covenant in your county? The leaders in Vilas County will happily share resources, materials and experiences! Check out the VCLRA website at www.vclra.us or contact Rollie Alger, VCLRA Liaison, at 715-545-2711 or 715-367-1347 or Sandy Gillum, Grant Coordinator, at 715-617-0031. 🌊

Vilas County Minimum Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Distances



Graphic by Bobbie Kocin



New Lakeshore Habitat Restoration Training for Professionals Launched in 2014

By Patrick Goggin, Lakes Specialist, UW-Extension Lakes

Photo by Amy Kowalski

Wisconsinites increasingly understand the importance of lakeshore habitat to lake health and water quality. Long-term Wisconsin lake trend research identifies lakeshore habitat degradation and loss as a key stressor to Wisconsin lakes. This has also been shown through the recent Environmental Protection Agency National Lakes Assessment findings.

Thankfully, people across Wisconsin have recognized this negative trend and the need to take action; we are restoring lakeshore habitat all over the state. The inaugural 2014 Lakeshore Habitat Restoration Training for Professionals sought to bring statewide resources and knowledge to partners eager to learn the best management practices, state standards, and tools available to assist them in creating, designing and installing sound rehabilitation projects.

Sixty partners from throughout Wisconsin participated in the first two training sessions. Some 50+ attendees became certified in lakeshore restoration techniques and practices. Crew 1 graduates included many small business folks like nursery workers,



Partners from American Excelsior Company ErosionLab simulate stormwater flows in combination with assorted erosion control techniques during the training field day last September.

conservation consultants and landscapers, as well as common government partners in lakeshore rehabilitation work like zoning staff, land and water conservation department professionals, and state shoreland team members and water resource management specialists from the Department of Natural Resources. A lot of experience was shared among participants, which helped form a new network of lakeshore

professionals that will undoubtedly increase the amount of work focused on lakeshore rehabilitation projects across the state.

Two sessions of the training are being offered in 2015. Although the May training has already passed, you may still have a chance to register for the June 18-19 session at The Lodge on Crooked Lake in Siren. For more information on the training, go to www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes and look for Lakeshore Habitat Restoration Training under Events in the left navigation bar. 💧



Product representatives share information, specifications, and techniques for utilizing different types of erosion control materials.

Photo by Patrick Goggin



Starry, Starry Stonewort

Don't Live in My Lake's Little Bay

By Paul Skawinski, CLMN Statewide Coordinator, UW-Extension Lakes, with contributions from Tim Plude, Water Resource Management Specialist, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Adapted from
Don McLean's
Starry Starry Night

*Starry, starry stonewort
Don't live in my lake's little bay
Look out on a summer's day
With only native plants to sooth my soul*

Photo by Paul Skawinski



Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)—a non-native, aquatic macro-algae—was discovered last fall in Little Muskego Lake, Waukesha County. This species is the only non-native member of its family (Characeae) known in Wisconsin, joining many native, beneficial species in four other genera - *Chara*, *Nitella*, *Tolypella* and *Lychnothamnus*.

Starry stonewort was first documented in the U.S. in the Saint Lawrence River in 1978, and in eastern Lower Michigan in 1983. It is now known in well over 100 inland lakes in Lower Michigan. This species is known to form dense beds in Michigan lakes, and is suggested to have negative effects on spawning fishes. It has been observed in many depths of water from shallow to nearly 30 feet.

Lake specialists and researchers from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension Lakes and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and volunteers from Little Muskego Lake have been monitoring the starry stonewort population over the winter and early spring. They used under-ice surveillance and substrate

sampling, and an intense aquatic macrophyte sampling effort after ice-out, which indicated that all known starry stonewort occurred within one shallow bay of the lake. Additional lake-wide monitoring will occur this spring, and management options will be discussed after the management team and stakeholders fully understand the extent of the population.

Thankfully, only male starry stonewort has been observed in North America. Therefore, no sexual reproduction is occurring here. Instead, starry stonewort disperses via starchy, clone-forming structures called bulbils, which reside in the sediments. These star-shaped bulbils are attached to the parent by colorless filaments called rhizoids; the unique shape of the bulbils make them very useful for species identification. Fragments of the stem (thallus) can also form clones of the parent. Since starry stonewort is most likely to be dispersed by transport of small fragments or bulbils, it is crucial that boat anchors, trailers, and other equipment are thoroughly cleaned between water bodies to avoid dispersal of this and other aquatic invasive species. 🌊



Photo by Paul Skawinski

Since starry stonewort is most likely to be dispersed by transport of small fragments or bulbils, it is crucial that boat anchors, trailers, and other equipment are thoroughly cleaned between water bodies to avoid dispersal of this and other aquatic invasive species.

Join the Volunteer Force!

You can make a difference in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by volunteering to talk to your fellow lake lovers at a boat landing as part of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspection program. You can also monitor your lake's water clarity or chemistry, as well as its AIS or native plant populations through the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. Find out more at www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes.



AIS - How Do They Get Here? Part Three

By Tim Campbell, AIS Communication Specialist, UW-Extension and Dept. of Natural Resources



Live Specimen Release

The end of the school year brings about a time where classroom pets might be sent home with students. With no students to

care for the pets over the summer, a few lucky teachers take the pets home and care for them. Unfortunately, some of these new pet parents realize that they may not be cut out for the daily rigors of pet care or that their new pet crayfish isn't as exciting as they thought it would be. They then take their pet outside and release it to be with its other crayfish friends.

As innocent as that sounds, it can actually cause large environmental and economic problems. Many of the crayfish available for use in classroom activities are potentially

invasive species. The red swamp crayfish, native to the southern U.S., is often used as a classroom specimen and has a destructive burrowing behavior. They were discovered in one Germantown pond in 2009. Since that discovery, nearly \$750,000 has been spent containing the red swamp crayfish. While experts are unsure of how it was introduced, release by a student is certainly a possibility.

Wisconsin is well equipped to prevent invasions through this pathway. NR-40 regulations prohibit the sale of commonly used invasive plants and crayfish in Wisconsin. This reduces the number of invasive organisms available. To address the release behavior, UW-Extension, UW Sea Grant, and the Department of Natural Resources are working with both teachers and pet owners to let them know that there are alternatives to pet release.

Live plants and animals in the classroom are a great thing. It helps connect students to their environment and it helps them learn about those organisms first hand. By helping teachers make smart choices about what they use, and by providing convenient alternatives to release, we can prevent the spread of invasive species through this pathway. 💧



Habitattitude™
PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS
FISH • EEL • TURTLE • CRAYFISH • BOATS USA YEAR
www.habitattitude.net

Pet owners with animals they can no longer care for are encouraged to give the animal to a friend, seek out an animal rescue, or call a pet store to inquire about a return.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

There are many options to pet release. Whatever you do, just don't let it loose!

Help Protect Your Lake with a Landing Blitz

With boating season upon us, it is time to start thinking about the 7th Annual Clean Boats, Clean Waters 4th of July Landing Blitz. The Landing Blitz coincides with the busiest time of the boating season and is a great way to help educate boaters on measures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

The 2015 Landing Blitz will offer the same support from the DNR and UW-Extension. Landing Blitz participants will receive outreach pamphlets, "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" towels, and ice packs for safe transport of fish as a way for volunteers to reward boaters who are practicing the AIS prevention steps:

- INSPECT** boats, trailers and equipment.
- REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles and equipment.
- NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

We encourage you to head down to the boat landing and have a conversation with your fellow lake users. Join us in keeping AIS out of the lakes and rivers we enjoy and value so much.

To register for the 2015 Landing Blitz visit <http://goo.gl/hlbRxZ> or contact Chris Diaczun, DNR/UW-Extension AIS Outreach Assistant, at Christopher.Diaczun@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-8034.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

In 2014, Landing Blitz volunteers contacted over 28,000 people and inspected nearly 12,000 boats!



Lake Tides 40(2)

2015 Convention Wrap-up



You can view videos of the plenary and lunch talks in the convention archives at www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes

Over 500 lake lovers came together in Stevens Point from April 23-25 to celebrate and protect Wisconsin's legacy of lakes. The convention theme, Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Lakes, Healthy People, brought forward the many ways that human well-being is connected to our precious water resources. The meeting offered interactive workshops, opening and closing plenary sessions, a poster session, nearly 50 concurrent sessions, and several opportunities to create new partnerships and bolster seasoned ones.

Doug Moore



A group of young professionals enjoy networking during a morning break at the convention.

The opening plenary session on Friday featured three people who collectively have shaped Wisconsin's lake programs over the last forty years. Stephen Born, William O'Connor and Jim Holperin shared the stage and reflected on the origins of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, its challenges over time, and the prospects for its future. These three leaders gathered as a tribute to Lowell Klessig, who passed away last summer. Lowell helped found the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership and provided leadership for its annual convention for over 20 years.

Marion Stoddart's inspirational story evoked a standing ovation during Saturday's closing plenary session.

Doug Moore



Cal Potter ▶



Amy Kowalski

Doug Moore



◀ Karl Martin

Luncheon speakers included former Wisconsin State Senator Cal Potter as well as Karl Martin, who is the Program Director for UW-Extension's Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development efforts. Senator Potter described some of the major changes that have taken place in Wisconsin's politics in recent years and how it has become more difficult to forge bipartisan agreement on issues like lake protection. Karl's talk emphasized the important work that state employees carry out, both through UW-Extension and in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' science offices.

Marion Stoddart joined us all the way from the east coast and brought with her an infectious energy and the many lessons she has learned through decades of working with local, state and national legislators, as well as neighbors and businesses in her effort to clean up the Nashua River. One that hit home with many participants was, "Ask for what you want, not what you're willing to settle for."

Doug Moore



2015 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership presents these Lake Stewardship Awards at the Lakes Convention each year in celebration of the extraordinary volunteer and professional efforts made to protect and improve lakes in Wisconsin. The Lake Stewardship Awards represent our best collective effort to honor and celebrate all the incredible work that goes into ensuring the future of our state's legacy of lakes. To view a video of the stewardship ceremony, check out the convention archives at www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes.



Citizen
Sandy Gillum



Citizen (educator)
Margaret Mary Gerhard



Public Service
Thomas Davenport



Business
**Karen Engelbretson,
KJE Design LLC**

*All photos on this page by
Derek Kavanaugh*



Group
Archibald Lake Association

Pictured here (L to R): Carroll Schaal (DNR Lakes and Rivers Section Chief), Betsy Nock (Archibald Lake), Mike Engleson (Wisconsin Lakes Director), Kathy Wiggins (Archibald Lake), Eric Olson (UW-Extension Lakes Director)

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's Lakes Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wednesday through Friday.

March 30 - April 1, 2016

2015 Convention Archives

You can view many of the almost 100 presentations that were part of the 2015 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention online! There are pictures, videos, photo contest winners, and more!

www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes





CLMN Superstar

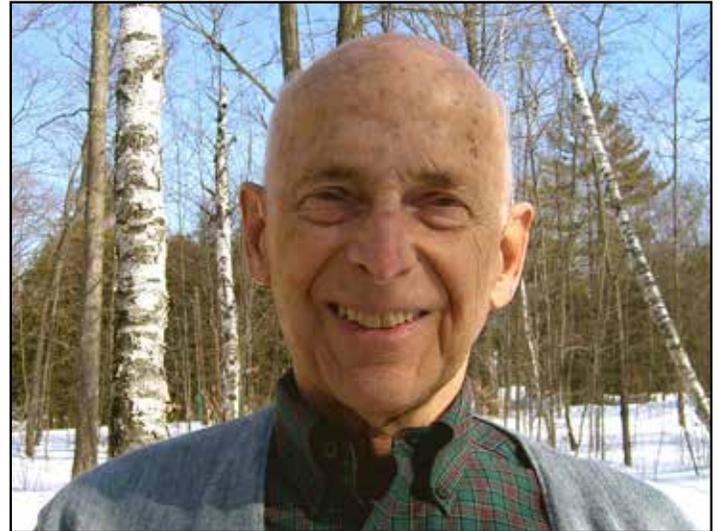


Wisconsin is fortunate to have many talented and knowledgeable people acting as Citizen Water Quality Scientists on their lakes. We would like to highlight some of the accomplishments of the volunteers in the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN). Want to see a CLMN volunteer acknowledged in Lake Tides? Please send information to Amy Kowalski, Lake Tides Editor, at akowalsk@uwsp.edu.

By Paul Skawinski, CLMN Statewide Coordinator, UWEX Lakes

Photo provided by Paul Mahlberg

Dr. Paul Mahlberg has visited Kangaroo Lake in Door County since he was two years old, and now lives on the lake full-time. During high school, he spent several summers by himself at the family cabin on Kangaroo Lake, spending much of his time studying lake ecosystems and exploring the surrounding landscape. Paul later earned B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Biology, and retired as a Professor of Biology at Indiana University. Upon retirement in 2004, he and his wife Marilyn became permanent residents on Kangaroo Lake.



Although Paul was only a part-time visitor to the lake prior to 2004, he was instrumental in many lake protection/enhancement activities. Paul first reported Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Kangaroo Lake in the 1980s. He continues to survey the lake's aquatic plant community following a point-intercept method, much like professional lake managers from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other groups use. Paul also creates maps of areas containing Eurasian watermilfoil, so that the lake association can track its spread and discuss management efforts as needed.

Mary Gansberg, Wisconsin DNR Water Resources Management Specialist, has had the pleasure of working with Paul for many years. "Dr. Mahlberg has given countless hours gathering all sorts of desirable water quality, ice-on/ice-off, aquatic plant, water level and precipitation data on Kangaroo Lake through the years. His passion for Kangaroo Lake and his expertise as a biologist has made him a valuable CLMN volunteer and resource for the Kangaroo Lake Association," says Gansberg.

Paul also helped with development of Kangaroo Lake's lake management plan, re-establishment of native beds of hardstem bulrush, installation of fish cribs, investigation of milfoil weevils as a potential biological control of Kangaroo Lake's Eurasian watermilfoil, protection of sensitive areas around the lake, sediment coring, and recording ice phenology.

Paul has helped collect water quality data for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network for over 20 years! He plans to hand off those duties to another volunteer in 2015. We are very thankful to have had Dr. Mahlberg as a dedicated CLMN volunteer, and wish him the best!

Paul's wife Marilyn is the Secretary of the Kangaroo Lake Association and helps to organize Association activities. She also likes to add her artistic touch to the Association's website www.kangaroolake.org.



Marilyn Mahlberg



Lake Monitoring Volunteer Catches New Invasive Early

By Paul Skawinski, CLMN Statewide Coordinator, UW-Extension Lakes

On July 28th, 2014, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network volunteer Tim Meyer of Arkdale Lake in Adams County noticed a suspicious plant floating around his lake while operating the lake's aquatic plant harvester. He brought a sample of the plant to the Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department for help with identification. Meyer recalled seeing a photo of a similar-looking species during an aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitoring workshop hosted by the Adams County AIS Coordinator, Reesa Evans. Evans recognized the plant as the invasive water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and notified Scott Provost, the Aquatic Plant Management Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She took the samples to Provost that afternoon and he verified Evans' identification.

The very next day, Meyer took Evans and Michelle Harrison, from Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department, out on Arkdale Lake. The plants were generally found in one area of the lake, and over 60 of these invasive plants were removed. Luckily, none of the specimens were flowering or had any signs of seed production. Staff from DNR also followed up with Meyer, and a visual survey resulted in no sign of any remaining water hyacinth.



Photo provided by Reesa Evans

Tim Meyer in front of Arkdale Lake, Adams County

An aquatic plant survey in August 2014 again found no evidence of water hyacinth remaining in Arkdale Lake. Downstream road crossings were also checked to determine if any plants had gone over the dam and moved downstream. No new plants were found downstream or later in 2014 in the lake itself.

The species was most likely introduced to Arkdale Lake by someone illegally dumping plants from a water garden or aquarium.

This cooperative effort reinforces the importance of trained citizen volunteers and early detection of invasive species. When these species are caught early, effective management or eradication can be accomplished with minimal effort and expense. Thanks to the rapid response by Meyer, Adams County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, this invasive species was effectively removed before it could become a problem.

Citizens interested in volunteering for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network should contact Paul Skawinski, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Statewide Coordinator, at Paul.Skawinski@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4853, or visit www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes/clmn.

This cooperative effort reinforces the importance of trained citizen volunteers and early detection of invasive species.



Photo by Paul Skawinski

Water hyacinth on surface of lake.





Rachel Konkle ▲
Rachel Stoltzmann ▼



2015 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Scholarship Awarded

Rachel Konkle from Sauk City, WI and Rachel Stoltzmann from Maple Lake, MN were selected as recipients for this year's Lakes Partnership Scholarship. This award is given to deserving students studying or researching in fields relevant to the preservation and enhancement of inland surface water resources in Wisconsin. Part of its intent is to honor the legacy of the leaders, staff and volunteers (past and present) who have shown a commitment to the UW-Extension Lakes program and the ongoing stewardship of Wisconsin's precious water resources. This year's award honors the memory of Dr. Lowell Klessig, who died in August 2014.

The Lakes Partnership Scholarship was initially endowed through a generous donation from Roger Dreher, who has been active in Lakes Partnership activities for years as a Wisconsin Lakes board member and local organizer. The UW-Stevens Point Foundation administers the endowment and are seeking additional gifts to ensure that students can continue to receive this assistance in achieving their academic goals. Gifts can be made online at www.uwsp.edu/givenow or by phone at 1-800-858-5267; designate your donation to "WI Lakes Scholarship" or enter Gift Code 15GF-WLP. 💧



Calling All Loons by Linda Grenzer took second place in the Natural Features category at this year's Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention.

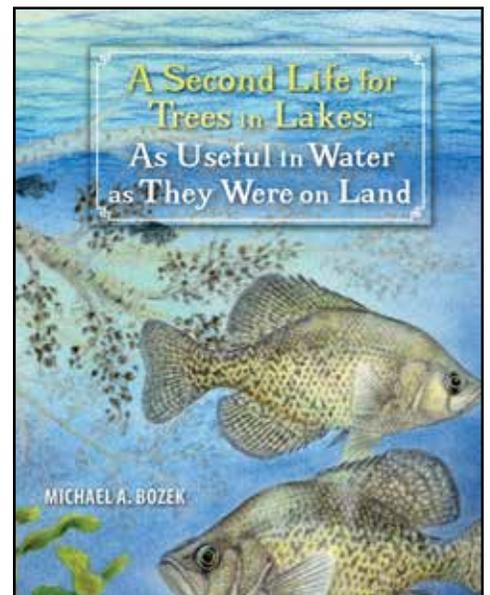
2015 Loon Population Survey

The LoonWatch program at the Sigurd Olson Institute of Northland College is looking for volunteers to assist with a one-day, statewide loon survey that has been conducted every five years since 1985 to estimate Wisconsin's loon population. 250 lakes across Wisconsin have been pre-selected, and many of them still need a volunteer for this event. The survey takes place on July 18th this year, from 5:00-10:00am and does not require additional training. You can view maps showing the lakes that still need volunteers and read more about this fun opportunity at www.northland.edu/loon-population-survey.htm

A Second Life for Trees in Lakes: As Useful in Water as They Were on Land

Remarkably, after a tree falls in the lake, it might last another 300 to 600 years in the water. Fish use submerged trees in a variety of ways. Trees in lakes not only provide areas for fish to spawn, but also offer shelter to help some species protect their incubating brood. Newly hatched smallmouth bass will often inhabit submerged trees.

Large submerged trees can host entire fish communities. In Wisconsin, fifteen species of fish inhabited a single white pine tree in Katherine Lake including black crappies, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, rock bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch and minnows. Waterfront property owners can increase fish habitat by leaving trees that fall in the water in place.

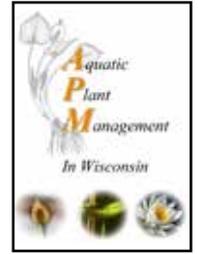


Get this publication online at the UWEX Lakes bookstore: www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes.



Updated Timeline for Public Comment on Aquatic Plant Management Guide

In the last issue of *Lake Tides*, we asked for your feedback on the Aquatic Plant Management Guide in Wisconsin. The 21-day comment period has been moved to late summer/early fall. You can sign up to be notified of this and other new DNR program guidance at the following website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/guidance.html>. When this particular public comment period opens, we will have a link in the Highlights section of the UW-Extension Lakes home page (www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes). 



REWARD CALLENDAR

June – Invasive Species Awareness Month

This event celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Wild Rivers legislation. It includes state-wide speakers, a cook-out, and a hike to Big Bull Falls on the Popple River.

For more information: <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness-month/about-awareness-month/>

June 13 – 50 Years of Wisconsin Wild, Florence, WI

This year's theme is "Protect the Places Where You Play: Keep Invasives Out!"

For more information: <http://www.exploreflorencecounty.com/events/>

June 15-17 – AWRA Summer Conference, New Orleans, LA

This specialty conference on climate change is about action - how we respond, build resilient systems and influence decision makers.

For more information: <http://www.awra.org/meetings/NewOrleans2015/>

June 18-19 – Lakeshore Habitat Restoration Training for Professionals, Siren, WI

Learn principles and practices of lake-friendly landscaping, low impact development, water quality conservation, and erosion control of low energy sites on inland Wisconsin lakes, while networking with other professionals in this area. Read more on page 7 of this issue.

For more information, or to register: <http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes> and click on *Events*

June 20 – Eurasian Watermilfoil Conference - Sharing and Caring, Cumberland, WI

The three goals of this conference are 1) sharing experiences, 2) discussing grant priorities from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and 3) discussing how groups can band together to improve their communication and opportunities for assistance from the state and other entities.

For more information: <https://sites.google.com/a/csdmail.com/ewm/>

June 26 – Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, Hayward, WI

The all-day program provides a great opportunity for lake enthusiasts, local government officials and others interested in protecting our water resources to attend a number of educational presentations, visit many informative exhibits and network with fellow conference attendees. Keynote speaker, Dan Small, the face and voice of public television's Outdoor Wisconsin, will present on the topic, "Outdoor Wisconsin - Celebrating Wisconsin Waterways."

For more information: <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/haack/welcome-to-the-st-croix-basin/links/northwest-wisconsin-lakes-conference/>

July – The Secchi Dip-in

Volunteers have been submitting information during the annual Dip-In snapshot since 1994. Please join them in this international effort to track changes in water quality!

For more information: <http://www.secchidipin.org/>

July – Lakes Appreciation Month

You work on them. Play on them. Drink from them. But do you take time to really appreciate your local lake, pond or reservoir? See what the North American Lake Management Society has in store this month.

For more information: <http://www.nalms.org/home/programs/lakes-appreciation-month/lake-appreciation-month-home.cmsx>

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Reflections

*Let the rain kiss you
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver
liquid drops
Let the rain sing you a lullaby
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk
The rain makes running pools in the gutter
The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof
at night
And I love the rain.*

~ Langston Hughes
(1902-1967)
April Rain Song

