

Volunteer Monitoring Opportunities in and around Wisconsin waters



Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

Contact Paul Skawinski - Paul.Skawinski@uwsp.edu - 715.346.4853
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/clmn

CLMN staff provide volunteers with the necessary equipment and training to monitor water clarity, water chemistry, lake temperature, dissolved oxygen, ice cover, aquatic invasive species, and native aquatic plants. The information gathered by these monitoring activities is used by lake associations/districts, lake management consultants, and a variety of biologists and educators. 1000+ citizen volunteers currently participate.



Loon Watch

Visit the website to learn more and fill out the Loon Ranger Sign-up Form
www.northland.edu/sustain/soei/loonwatch/loons-get-involved

LoonWatch, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, protects common loons and their habitats through education, monitoring, and research. Their focus is Wisconsin, with some activities extending to Michigan and Minnesota. LoonWatch also works with loon conservation organizations across the U.S. and Canada.



Project Riverine Early Detectors (Project RED)

Contact River Alliance of Wisconsin - 608.257.2424
www.wisconsinrivers.org/our-work/project-red

Wisconsin's rivers are vulnerable to invasion by invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil to Japanese knotweed. The key to successfully protecting your river is to detect invasives early when it is still possible to isolate or eradicate them. Project RED trains volunteers to monitor local rivers for aquatic invasive species that



Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Stream Monitoring

Contact Peggy Compton - Peggy.Compton@ces.uwex.edu - 608.342.1633
<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/index.html>

The Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program helps Wisconsin citizens monitor the quality of Wisconsin's streams and rivers. Coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and UW-Extension, WAV consists of three participation levels, ranging from educational monitoring to more intense, research-driven monitoring projects that help aid management decisions.



Wisconsin Odonata Survey (Dragonflies)

Contact Bob DuBois - Robert.DuBois@wisconsin.gov - 715.392.6976
<http://wiatri.net/inventory/odonata>

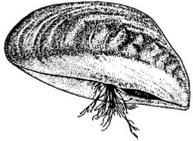
The goal of the Wisconsin Odonata Survey is to gain more knowledge about the distributions and habitat requirements of our 160+ species of dragonflies and damselflies (Order Odonata). Citizens help to determine the distribution of various dragonfly and damselfly species, and document new locations of rare species.



Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Contact Erin McFarlane - Erin.Mcfarlane@uwsp.edu - 715.346.4978
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/cbcw

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspection program is an opportunity to take a front line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species. Adults and youth teams educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies. Inspectors perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species, distribute informational brochures, and report new water body infestations. Some inspectors also help search the areas around boat landings to detect newly established populations of invasive species.



Mussel Monitoring

Contact Lisie Kitchel - Lisie.Kitchel@wisconsin.gov - 608.266.5248
<http://wiatri.net/inventory/mussels>

Volunteers collect mussel shells and photographs of live mussels. The DNR provides training on mussel sampling and identification, historical survey sites, and lists of mussels that occur in your area. With the help of citizen scientists in Wisconsin, survey efforts will help provide important information on current distributions and population status of our 51 native species of mussels.



Sturgeon Guard

Contact Barbara Janesh - DNRSturgeonGuard@wisconsin.gov - 920.420.1140
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/sturgeon/sturgeonguard.html>

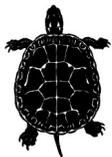
Sturgeon spawning along the Wolf River are fairly oblivious to nearby human activity and are very susceptible to illegal harvest. The volunteers of the "Sturgeon Patrol" guard spawning sturgeon 24 hours a day throughout the spawning season, which is typically in late April and early May.



Wisconsin Frog & Toad Survey (WFTS)

Contact Andrew Badje - Andrew.Badje@wisconsin.gov
<http://wiatri.net/inventory/frogtoadsurvey>

These volunteers help determine the status, distribution, and long-term population trends of Wisconsin's twelve frog and toad species. The WFTS was initiated in 1981 in response to known and suspected declines in several Wisconsin species. The WFTS began annual statewide surveys in 1984, and is now one of the longest running amphibian monitoring projects in North America.



Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program

Contact Andrew Badje - Andrew.Badje@wisconsin.gov
<http://wiatri.net/inventory/witurtles>

This program seeks to document the statewide distribution of our turtle species, and document high turtle mortality locations along roads in order to promote effective management and conservation of Wisconsin's turtles. The WTCP was initiated in response to the increasing trend in roadway collisions of migrating turtles and vehicles.

For more information, contact:

Paul Skawinski (Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator, UW-Extension Lakes)
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Sturgeon illustration from Cornell University Inland Fishes of New York



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