

Citizen and Riparian Owners

Lake Steward Roles & Responsibilities

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Lakes Partnership

- Department of Natural Resources---**research**
- University of Wisconsin Extension---**education**
- Wisconsin Association of Lakes---**citizen involvement**



Who / What is the Wisconsin Association of Lakes?



WAL is the only statewide not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of Wisconsin's lakes

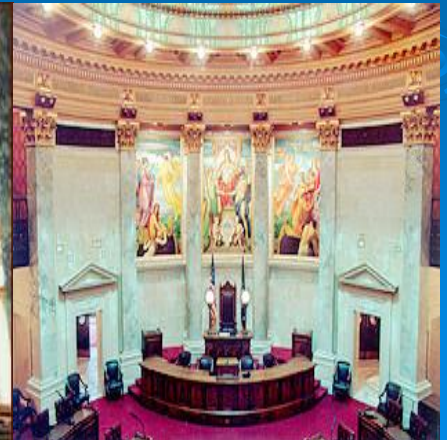
Mission:

WAL is a non-profit group of citizens, organizations, and businesses working for clean, safe, healthy lakes for everyone

What does WAL do?

Accomplishing our mission:

- Assist local lake groups
- Help local leaders manage lakes and watersheds
- Provide a unified voice for public policy
- Advance public knowledge of lakes



Learning about lakes – WAL sponsored workshops

Regional Workshops and Lakes Convention Topics:

- **Local solutions through local leadership**
- **Celebrating the lakes of northwest Wisconsin**
- **Lake protection: it starts and ends at home**
- **Water in our veins: celebrating lake
volunteers**

Learning about lakes - Communications

- Quarterly newsletter - *The Lake Connection*
- Monthly electronic newsletter – *the e-lake letter*
- Website – www.wisconsinlakes.org
- Books and pamphlets
- Website links



Building partnerships for lake protection

- The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters
- Citizen lake monitoring
- Lake Leaders Institute



A strong voice for public policy

- Defend lake grant programs
- Strong shoreland protection
- Reasonable pier rules
- Polluted run-off control
- Invasive Species



A strong voice for public policy advisory committees

- **Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species**
- **Shoreland management**
- **Piers and wharves**
- **Forestry best management practices**
- **Forestry invasive species**
- **Boating safety**
- **Citizen-based monitoring**
- **Wildlife species of greatest conservation need**
- **Fishing tournament rules**
- **Land legacy**
- **Dane county aquatic plant management**
- **Manure Management Task Force**

What can local leaders do?

Citizens

- Know why lakes are important to Wisconsin
- Keep yourself informed about lake issues and model lake stewardship behaviors
- Engage in dialogue with other like-minded individuals
- Develop plans to educate other citizens about lake issues using Lakes Partnership resources
- Contact local elected representatives and inform them and gain their support
- Join with riparian groups to act
- Volunteer activities
- Be patient and deliberate, you will make a difference

Riparian Owner

- Develop awareness of your stewardship responsibilities and model these behaviors
- Keep yourself informed about issues on your lake
- Join your local lake association or contact your local County Lake Specialist to organize a lake association
- Use the lake association as a platform to engage in dialogue with other riparian owners to educate them about lake issues and stewardship--use Lakes Partnership resources
- Keep local elected representatives informed about your issues and get their support
- Volunteer on your lake
- Be patient and deliberate, you will make a difference

Levels of Leadership Engagement

Lake Association/Lake District

- Become active in your local lake association or lake district. In doing so you will be amazed at how quickly you will be recruited to be an officer or on the board of directors
- Join your county lake association and WAL to keep informed of county-wide and state-wide lake issues and initiatives
- Become informed about lake-related resources such as the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership website and e-newsletter
- Volunteer to be a Citizen Lake Monitor for your lake. Taking periodic water temperature, clarity and water chemistry samples is easy and interesting
- Volunteer to be a Loon Ranger (if you live north of Hwy 29) with LoonWatch to learn more about this symbol of the north.
- Volunteer to be a Wisconsin Action Volunteer (WAV) and monitor a stream in your area
- Volunteer to monitor your lake for aquatic invasive species (AIS)
- Attend educational workshops sponsored by your county lake association or WAL
- Solicit your neighbors to assist you in lake-related activities
- Be a lake steward model

Levels of Leadership Engagement

County Level

- Join your county lake association to keep informed of county-wide lake issues and help plan educational workshops for lake associations and riparian owners around the county
- Attend county committee meetings that address lake-related issue, i.e. Zoning, Land and Water Conservation. Keep county officials informed about your lake issues and lobby them for their support
- Write letters to the editor or articles for local newspapers to help inform all citizens about lake-related issues
- Join with other lake associations gain support and focus on common issues
- Use Wisconsin Lakes Partnership resources (DNR, UWEX, and WAL) to sponsor forums to bring expertise and timely, relevant issues to lake associations in the county

Levels of Leadership Engagement

State

- Join the Wisconsin Association of Lakes to keep informed of state level lake issues.
- Lobby your state representatives to support your lake issues
- If asked, join the WAL Board of Directors to provide input from your county and local lake associations
- Participate in biennial WAL-regional lake association sponsored workshops to become informed about current issues and share concerns.
- Attend the WAL annual conference



Challenges

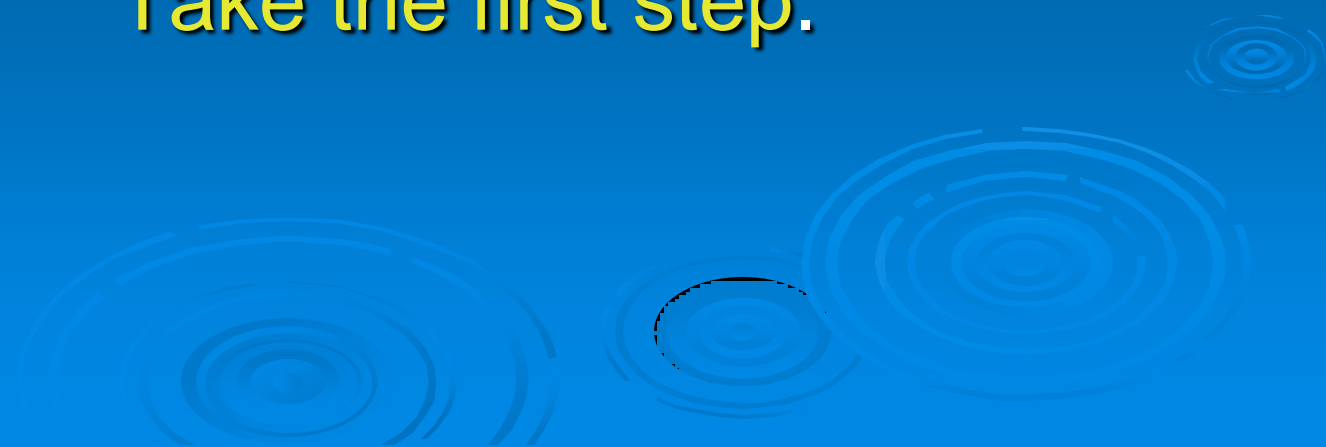
- Limited resources – state, county, local
- Property rights versus public trust
- Legislative initiatives
- Development and growth pressures
- Invasive species

However, the journey of a THOUSAND
miles begins with ONE step.

You do make a difference.

Believe in yourself.

Take the first step.



Questions?

