

Grow and Tell

Native Planting at the Executive Residence - Phase 1

By Garrett Hopkins, Communications Specialist, Rock River Coalition

Summers in Wisconsin are as fleeting as they are lovely, and the first cold autumn day typically serves as a brisk recalibration for those who will soon be enduring winter weather. This year, that day fell on the 24th of September, and it also happened to be the day of the shoreline garden installation event at the Executive Residence in Madison, where Wisconsin's governors live. But, while the day was grey-skied, damp, and chilly, the vibe among the dozens of participants in attendance was a far cry from cold.

Garrett Hopkins

Wisconsin may lack national notoriety for its nature-based offerings, but those who live here know it as a corner-to-corner splendor of lakes, rivers, and streams. It's a state that has so much more to offer than it gets credit for, and one that's filled with people who are eager to restore and preserve the natural spaces they cherish, many of whom simply need some direction for where to apply their enthusiasm.

In 2008, a novel idea sprouted from a meeting at the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute: turn the Executive Residence – one of the most iconic and publicized buildings in the state – into a showcase for a specific conservation action many people can take on their own property.

Patricia Cicero, Director of the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, has been a leading champion of this project since its inception as part of the Wisconsin Lake Leaders

(Continued on page 2)

Alexis Danielle Photography



Patricia Cicero, Crew 7 Wisconsin Lake Leaders graduate, helps plant a native grass species.



Volunteers celebrate at Wisconsin's Executive Residence and show their dirty gloves/hands that helped plant native flowers and grasses along the shore of Lake Mendota.

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Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

LakeTides

The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes



(Grow and Tell, continued)

Kentucky bluegrass offers little benefit to the environment.

“Its roots are only about an inch-and-a-half deep. It creates a hard surface that leads to a high runoff rate.”

- Gregg Breese

Institute. “We were talking about lake issues, native plants, and protecting water quality, and somehow it came up that the Executive Residence had mowed grass all the way to the water,” she recalls. “The 2008 (Crew 7) Wisconsin Lake Leaders graduates decided to make it our project to get a shoreline restoration at this important site.”

The Executive Residence, which sits on the bank of Lake Mendota, is bordered by a field of Kentucky bluegrass, one of the most common species of lawn grass in the country. While Kentucky bluegrass brings a clean appearance and is easy to maintain, it offers little benefit to the environment.

“Its roots are only about an inch-and-a-half deep,” says Gregg Breese, Regulatory Manager at Resource Environmental Solutions (the nation’s largest ecological firm), and one of the partners for this project. “It creates a hard surface that leads to a high runoff rate.” In other words, as rainwater flows over the land, it picks up harmful nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen and flows into adjoining waterbodies.

Native shoreline gardens are specifically designed to prevent this runoff from happening. By replacing a section of grass with species of plants that have 3 to 5-foot roots, pollutant runoff rates are significantly decreased. The roots increase water infiltration by absorbing water, then filtering and capturing harmful substances before they can enter a

connecting lake, river, or stream. Additionally, the native plants help reduce erosion and serve as habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, moths, wasps, bats, and small mammals that support the local ecosystem and food web.

Planting a native shoreline garden is a relatively doable task for even a novice landscaper, but tackling this at the Executive Residence was a challenging web of approvals, logistics, and resources. The journey to the garden was one of countless starts and stops, but on April

7, 2022, the light finally lit green when Governor Tony Evers publicly announced the project at the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention.



Garrett Hopkins

Five months later, on a grey-skied, damp, and chilly September day, dozens of volunteers and conservation leaders pulled on their gardening gloves and got to work.

The temperature of the crowd was a stark contrast to that of the air. Warmed by kinship and a unified purpose, they operated with the calculated hum of honeybees. Bright-faced and buzzing with joy, the group moved mounds of mulch, carried pallets of plants, dug holes by hand, and eventually sat on the earth to settle a swath of new vegetation along the shore. In total, approximately 1,700 native plants were set into approximately 3,000 square feet of land.

The Executive Residence shoreline garden has rich ecological value, but its pinnacle impact will be in the inspiration it sows. For many hobby environmentalists, the word “conservation” is shadowed by an intimidating cloud of uncertainty. While a will to make a difference is innate, the know-how often is not. But thanks to the efforts of those who started the project, and to those who saw this first phase through, Wisconsin now has a beautiful, green beacon of conservation shining on the shores of Lake Mendota.

“For my company, this is a small project,” says Breese, “but the lesson here is that small changes can make big differences. People can now look at the Residence and see that a native prairie doesn’t necessarily have to be a conceptual weed garden, it can be beautiful.” He not only feels optimistic about the inspiration the project could have on those who own waterfront property, but for all eco-minded individuals. “Prairies belong everywhere, even in small backyards.”

Additional types of at-home, water-friendly best practices include rock infiltration areas, diversions, and raingardens. People who do

This project was made possible through a collaboration among Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the Wisconsin Executive Residence Foundation, Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute, Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, Extension Lakes at UW-Stevens Point, Rock River Coalition, Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), and Clean Lakes Alliance.



Governor Tony Evers publicly announced the shoreline restoration project at this past spring’s Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in April.

Molly McKay



Raingardens at the Executive Residence

Groundskeeping staff were concerned that several areas between the Executive Residence and the road were draining poorly. The grass would grow, but operating mowers on these areas was creating ruts. One option would have simply added a new drain system to deliver excess stormwater to Lake Mendota. Staff and the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board decided for a lake-friendly solution: planting raingardens with native flowering perennials in place of turfgrass. Raingardens are an eligible practice in the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes and Rivers program; you can receive up to \$1,000 in state assistance to design, create, and plant your raingarden. Learn more at healthylakeswi.com

own land within 1,000 feet of lakes and 300 feet of rivers and streams may be eligible for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant, an initiative launched in 2014 that funds five simple best practices that improve habitat and water quality. Qualified lake or river organizations, municipalities (like your county’s Land and Water Conservation Department), and tribal governments can apply for these grants on behalf of multiple shoreland property owners. (healthylakeswi.com)

While the planting was a monumental achievement, it was just the beginning. Phase 2, which is scheduled for completion in 2023, will result in an additional 1,407 plants across another 4,117 square feet. Donations are currently being accepted online at wisconsinexecutiveresidence.com (click on the “Shoreland Restoration” tab) or contact Charlene Malueg, Residence Director, at 608-246-5501 or werfinfo@gmail.com.

“It’s hard to put this into words,” says Cicero, attempting to sum up her experience at the event. “It’s been emotional for me. I was amazed by how many volunteers we had, and I can’t say enough good things about the staff at the Department of Administration. It’s just so exciting to finally see it all come together, and it means so much that so many people wanted to spend a Saturday morning helping us out.”

September 24, 2022, was the type of day that happens every autumn, its cold air novel to the faded days of summer. But it was also the type of day that we too rarely see, a before-and-after flashbulb moment in conservation.

By welcoming the shoreline restoration, Wisconsin’s state government instantly became one of the most visible ecological leaders in the Midwest. The cultural wake of this achievement may take time to fully set in, but when it does, the consequences – much like the roots in the Governor’s new garden – will run deep. 💧



Eric Compas

Alexis Danielle Photography

Wild Rice Restoration

Seeding the Future on Spur Lake in Oneida County

By Sandy Wickman, Regional CLMN Coordinator, Extension Lakes and Wisconsin DNR

The 426-acre Spur Lake State Natural Area is located in eastern Oneida County and is owned and managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). It was designated a State Natural Area (SNA) in 2007. Spur Lake itself is a 113-acre muck-bottomed drainage lake that supports dense beds of aquatic vegetation. Currently, that aquatic vegetation consists primarily of watershield, white water lily, spatterdock, coontail, and common bladderwort. The entirety of Spur Lake is less than five feet deep.

The lake and surrounding wetlands provide habitat for ducks (the lake saw significant waterfowl use when rice was common), osprey, and trumpeter swans. Spur Lake was a significant and culturally important wild rice resource for local tribal members for centuries. Wild rice (manoomin; *Zizania palustris*) was the dominant emergent species found on Spur Lake. The population of wild rice began to decline in the late 1990s and very little is left today.

The wild rice decline on Spur Lake is attributed to an increase in water levels due to man-made alterations downstream and the recovery of the beaver population from the 1960s-1980s. This proves detrimental to wild rice growth, as water depths of three feet or less are optimal for its success. In addition, climate change has contributed to an increase in native aquatic plant growth, specifically, water lilies and spatterdock which

outcompete the wild rice and shade the young rice plants.

In 2019, the WDNR hosted a climate adaptation workshop with interested partners to discuss management options to restore wild rice on Spur Lake. As a result, the Spur Lake Working Group was formed with members from the Lac du Flambeau Band and Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, WDNR, Northland College, and the Stella Lake Association.

Aquatic plant surveys have been conducted annually on Spur Lake since 2019, and in 2021, water levels decreased for the first time in a decade. The working group determined that this was a suitable time and condition for a pilot study to attempt to restore wild rice on the lake. Funding for the restoration experiment was provided by the Brico Foundation via the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

The total study area (shown below) is approximately 12 acres, and there are four treatment options within the study area to test how best to grow wild rice. One area had the aquatic vegetation removed using a Swamp

Carly Lapin



Emily Krule ricing in Vilas County



Devil (an aquatic plant vegetation cutter) and will have wild rice seeded. The Swamp Devil removed the vegetation on another area and will not be seeded. One area will be seeded with the vegetation remaining in place and one area will be left as a control (no management).

The working group seeded locally-sourced rice by hand during the first week in October, and will look for results next growing season. Vegetation monitoring is planned to continue annually for several years after the project is complete to monitor the long-term outcome of the treatment plots.

If funding is available, the working group is committed to restore or improve the hydrology of the system using infrastructure (such as culvert installation) and continued beaver and beaver dam removal. A management plan is being developed to facilitate funding for additional restoration. 💧



Generations of wild rice processors have collected rice from lakes throughout northern Wisconsin. Differences in size of rice and hull attachment help to determine processing time. This traditional ecological knowledge is essential in rice processing.

State Natural Area Fun Fact:
Parfrey's Glen (about 4 miles east of Devil's Lake State Park and owned by the WDNR) was designated as Wisconsin's first State Natural Area in 1952. ▼

What is a State Natural Area?

Historically, Wisconsin was blessed with a patchwork of more than 75 types of natural communities ranging from prairies and oak savannas in the south to towering pine forests and bogs in the north. This incredible variety of plants, wildlife, and natural communities was due, in part, to Wisconsin's diverse geology and its location at the crossroads of three major biomes – the northern conifer-hardwood forest, eastern hardwood forest, and prairie. In addition, Wisconsin's early vegetation was shaped by climate influences and early Native American land use. The result was a mosaic of natural communities.

Human habitation started to change this landscape and early conservationists like Aldo Leopold, Norman Fassett, and John Curtis noticed. In the 1930s and '40s, they worried that these unique natural communities and native landscapes were in danger of disappearing and began the work to preserve Wisconsin's natural heritage.

Their efforts convinced the Wisconsin legislature to establish the first statewide nature preserve system in the nation in 1951, "with a mission to locate, establish, and conserve a system of natural areas representing the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's natural communities for education, research, and long-term protection of the state's biological diversity." (*State Natural Area Strategy*, July 2021)

Today, the last remaining vestiges of Wisconsin's native landscape that have escaped extensive alteration, or that have substantially recovered from disturbance over time, are called "natural areas." Wisconsin has the oldest State Natural Area program in the U.S.

There are nearly 700 sites owned and managed by the Wisconsin DNR and over 60 other partners. According to the *State Natural Area Strategy*, July 2021, "Collectively, these lands account for about 1% of Wisconsin's 34.7 million acres, yet 90% of Wisconsin's rare plant species and 75% of rare wildlife species can be located here."

To read more about Wisconsin's State Natural Areas and find one near you, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "natural areas."

A note to Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) water clarity volunteers – consider monitoring water clarity on a lake within a State Natural Area – ask your CLMN Coordinator about this opportunity!

Larry Johnson monitors lake water clarity with a Secchi disc on Red Cedar Lake in Barron County.

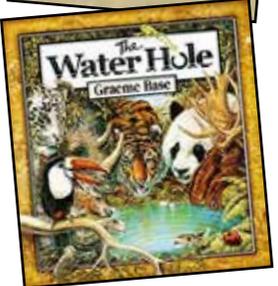


Provided by Larry Johnson

Keeping Lakes in the Family

Sharing the Magic Through Stories

Kids



Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Stevens Point

This year we're showcasing books about sharing. Sharing isn't new, and it's worth revisiting when thinking about our lakes and rivers in Wisconsin, as well as life in general.

Human Kindness

Written by John Francis*
Illustrated by Josy Bloggs
Ages 8+



"This book made me feel good while reading it. Kindness is everywhere and anywhere. It discussed different people and how they spread kindness through living. It has fun facts, quotes, and colorful and bright illustrations! We NEED more books like this for young readers."

- NetGalley

Waabooz miinawaa Nigig (Rabbit and Otter)

Written by Liz Granholm
Illustrated by Anna Granholm
Ages 5+

A delightful story about when Rabbit and Otter go out on the lake to harvest wild rice, and learn about sharing. Beautifully illustrated. Written in English and Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe).

- Review adapted from Wisconsin Historical Society and Amazon

The Water Hole

Written and Illustrated by Graeme Base
Ages 2-5

This story takes young readers on an exhilarating journey of discovery with an ingenious fusion of counting book, puzzle book, storybook, and art book. From the plains of Africa and the jungles of the Amazon to the woodlands of North America and the deserts of outback Australia, the animals come together to drink from the water hole. Young readers find and count hidden animals that are all sharing one finite and necessary resource – water!

- Review adapted from Amazon



Wisconsin's Wild Lakes

A Guide to the Last Undeveloped Natural Lakes

Written by John Bates (Lake Leader, Crew 3)
Illustrated by Rebecca Jabs

Of Wisconsin's over 15,000 lakes, very few wild lakes remain. These are rare places where remarkable peace and beauty abounds, and where native wildlife flourishes. Author John Bates has paddled or visited all of Wisconsin's remaining wild lakes over 30 acres, and he describes them in detail in this comprehensive, illustrated guide.

Ripple Effects

How We're Loving Our Lakes to Death

Written by Ted Rulseh (Lake Leader, Crew 11)

"A marvelously thorough synopsis of the many daunting issues surrounding lake management. Rulseh utilizes case studies, interviews, and a storytelling format to frame the issues, making the book an easy and pleasurable read. He also doesn't leave the reader wallowing in the problems, instead offering sage advice on the many ways we can turn our love of waters into positive actions to protect them."

- John Bates

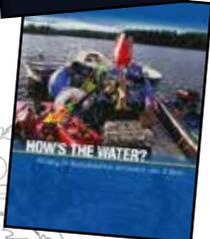
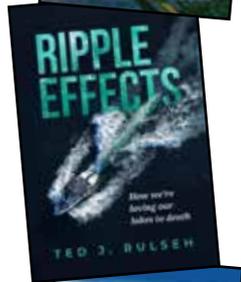
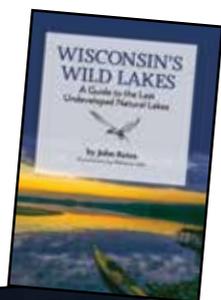
How's the Water?

Planning for Recreational Use on Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers

Written by Tamara Dudiak and Robert Korth

The story of water recreation is a story of access. Recreational use on our waterways is growing not just in the number of people, but also in the variety of ways in which they use our lakes and rivers. Providing practical advice, guidance, and the insight needed to design a lake/river recreational use plan, this book is intended for elected officials, citizens, property owners, and others who want to maintain a healthy water ecosystem and build a strong water community. 💧

Adults



*Friday's Keynote Speaker at the 2023 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention.

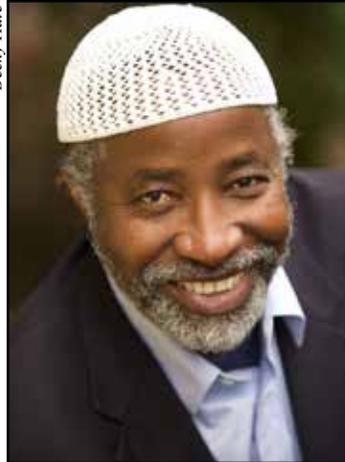
Building Trust Around Water T-O-G-E-T-H-E-R

2023 WI Lakes & Rivers Convention

You won't want to miss the 2023 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, so make plans to join us April 19-21 in Stevens Point (limited virtual sessions will also be available)!

We are excited to announce that our Friday, April 21, keynote speaker will be Dr. John Francis, Planetwalker. Dr. Francis will tell us how witnessing an oil spill in 1971 led him on a journey to stop using motorized vehicles and walk wherever he went. This, in turn, led him to take a vow of silence that would last seventeen years! You won't want to miss this highly engaging, inspirational speaker who will demonstrate how one person really can make a difference and will encourage us to continue to do the important work we do. 🌱

Becky Hale

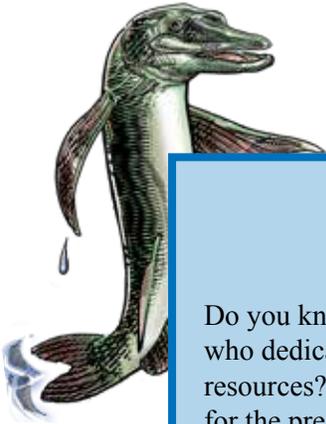


"Geography is something that affects us, and we affect it; it is both an inner and outer experience. The outer experience is tangible—we can physically see and interact with the environment. The inner portion, however, is a journey that some of us go on, and one that we may go on without actually traveling very far. It is a journey of self-discovery."

~Dr. John Francis



wisconsinwaterweek.org



Reserve Your Room Now

Rooms have sold out quickly in the past, so we encourage you to book your room early at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Stevens Point. Just go to wisconsinwaterweek.org, and click on "Lakes and Rivers Convention," then click on "Lodging" for instructions.



Nominate a Lake Steward

Deadline: December 1, 2022

Do you know an outstanding person or group who dedicates time and talent to our state's water resources? We encourage you to nominate them for the prestigious Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award.

Recipients and all nominees will be recognized during a special awards ceremony on April 20, 2023, at the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention.

For more information go to wisconsinwaterweek.org, click on "Lakes and Rivers Convention," then click on "Nominate a Lake Steward."

In addition to being recognized at the annual Convention here in Wisconsin, we now nominate two of the award winners to the North American Lake Management Society's (NALMS) awards program. In fact, last spring's winner of the *Excellence in Public Engagement* award, Candy Ramsay, will also be receiving the *Community Education and Outreach* award at the NALMS International Symposium this November. Congratulations Candy!



Provided by Candy Ramsay

Wild Rice

A Seasonal Time-Lapse on the Water

By Susan Knight, Associate Scientist, Trout Lake Station, UW-Madison Center for Limnology

If you could take a time-lapse sequence of yourself paddling on a wild rice lake you would see a remarkable transformation. Think way back to spring and imagine you are paddling on a quiet lake, not unlike many other lakes. Though it is hard to tell without any underwater plants to betray the current, water is gently flowing over soft mucky sediments – the perfect habitat for wild rice.

You see last year's cattail stalks with ragged, disheveled hot-dog-shaped seed heads on the firmer, far edges of the water. You hear the first male red-winged blackbirds noisily proclaiming territories in the marshy margins. Off in the distance, some trumpeter swans have returned; they know this water will be rich in submerged and emergent aquatic plants and will be a good place to raise young. Though unseen, wild rice seeds dropped last fall are starting to germinate in the oxygen-poor but warming soft sediments below.

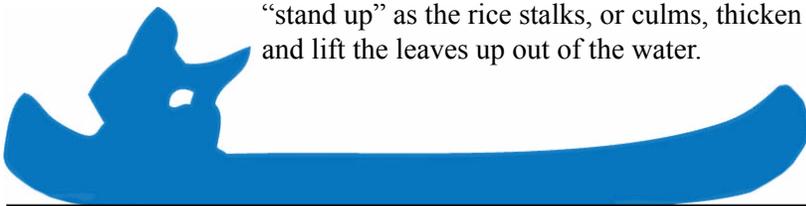
A few weeks on and the first floating leaves of wild rice are visible on the water's surface. You see pond lily leaves starting to float on the surface and sometimes competing with wild rice for space on the shallow, muck-bottomed water. In the next frames you begin to see the first emergent stems of wild rice, beginning to "stand up" as the rice stalks, or culms, thicken and lift the leaves up out of the water.

Summer is nearly here. Where there had been an expanse of open water, there is now a short, prickly forest of wild rice poking into the air above the water. You can now hear yellowthroats calling out their distinctive "wichety-wichety-wichety" from their perches. Cool June days give way to a warmer summer, and wild rice plants reach their full height, standing several feet above the water's surface. As you're paddling, you can no longer see much of the lake; the tall wild rice stalks create a curtain on all sides, and you have to work hard to cut a path through the dense stalks.

The transformation is complete as the wild rice plants start to flower. Each plant has two tiers of flowers; the female flowers top the plant in a tight spike where the seeds will form. Below the female flowers is a pyramid-shaped panicle of male flowers - a loose arrangement of floppy anthers dangling above the water. Conveniently, the female flowers are fertile before the male flowers appear on the same plant, guaranteeing that pollen from a neighboring plant will pollinate and fertilize the female flower. Pollination and fertilization are serious business for these plants; wild rice is an annual plant and must produce seed for the next year if the plant is to persist in this water. By late August, the fertilized flowers are swelling with ripening seeds at the tip of the plant.

Soon the human and non-human harvesters will descend on this natural buffet. Ducks, such as blue-winged teal, wood duck, and other ducks

Thankfully, both human and waterfowl harvesters are inefficient enough in their harvesting to allow plenty of ripe rice to fall into the lake to await germination the next spring.



Last Wilderness Conservation Assoc.



Robert Korth



Robert Korth



Carly Lapin

Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Rule Improvement Withdrawn

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) withdrew proposed revisions to the aquatic plant management rule, Board Order WY-29-19 from the August Natural Resources Board meeting due to concerns expressed by some stakeholders leading up to the meeting. The proposed rule was intended to create a more effective, transparent management program for the control of aquatic invasive species and problematic aquatic plants. The proposed rule was consistent with the Environmental Protection Act and aquatic plant management industry's best management practices and included a fee increase that would have been used to improve customer service and support the program.

To ensure sufficient time to comprehensively engage all those who have an interest in aquatic plant management, WDNR plans to

reach out to stakeholders to better understand concerns and reassess whether there is an opportunity to restart the process for a modified rulemaking proposal.

WDNR maintains their commitment to best practices and healthy lake management. They will continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure robust, responsible aquatic plant management for the water resources of the state according to the current rules.

To receive email updates regarding the Department's aquatic plant management program, please sign up at govdelivery.com and choose "Aquatic Plants" as the topic when prompted. Please contact Carroll Schaal, the Lakes and Rivers Section Chief in the Bureau of Water Quality, at carroll.schaal@wisconsin.gov or (608) 630-3098, with any questions.



(Wild Rice, continued)

all consume wild rice. The early arrivals to the lake, the red-winged blackbird and common yellowthroat, also consume rice once it is ripe. Other waterfowl such as geese and swans may also consume the seeds, but these birds often harvest the young plants themselves, mowing down the stalks before they get a chance to produce seed. During the summer, muskrats will use wild rice stalks to construct their lodges. Along with the resident birds, migrant waterfowl will also stop to feast on wild rice on their journey south to their winter quarters. For hundreds of years, the Ojibwe have harvested wild rice in the upper Great Lakes area, and it is now harvested and enjoyed by others, as

well. When the rice is ripe, it easily falls into a boat with a slight whack of the harvesters' sticks. After parching and threshing, the wild rice is ready to cook; it is a reliable, nutritious, and delicious staple food. Thankfully, both human and waterfowl harvesters are inefficient enough in their harvesting to allow plenty of ripe rice to fall into the lake to await germination the next spring.

Our time-lapse photography session nears completion as wild rice is harvested or seeds itself into the bottom sediments. The stalks collapse into the water, creating a dense underwater thatch. The water is smooth and vacant again, and ready for winter. 💧

parch
verb
to toast under dry heat

thresh
verb
*to separate seed from
(a harvested plant)*



Frank Koshere

Frank Koshere

John Haack

Ben Mott

Connecting the Dots

Moving from Education to Action

By Sara Windjue and Eric Olson, Extension Lakes

Capacity
Corner
Nov.
2022



In each issue of Lake Tides, we introduce you to different ideas and resources to help you increase your organization's capacity to care for lakes. We close out each year of the Capacity Corner by looking at programmatic capacity: the ability of a lake organization to get things done.

As we all know, people are different and have different psychological, cultural, and political reasons for acting – or not acting. Education alone is not enough to get most people to act on an issue.

Education helps create public awareness

Identifying Barriers

Some barriers to action may be internal to an individual, such as a lack of awareness or motivation. Others may be more external such as accessibility of existing resources. To accurately identify barriers, you'll need to do some research as we can't easily identify people's situations without asking them directly.

Let's think about shoreland property owners and their role in maintaining or improving conditions on their lake. Why don't more people plant raingardens, or restore native plants on their shore? It could be a lack of money, a lack of information, perhaps they have no time, or they don't feel that there's support for such actions.

Four Steps of Community-based Social Marketing

1. Identify the barriers and benefits to an activity
2. Develop a strategy that utilizes "tools" that have been shown to be effective
3. Pilot the strategy
4. Evaluate the strategy once it has been implemented

To learn more, visit our online Capacity Corner and read Doug McKenzie-Mohr's [Quick Reference: Community-based social marketing](#).

and should be only one part of our strategy to get things done. Instead of just an education campaign, we encourage organizations to use a community-based social marketing (CBSM) approach, which focuses on removing barriers to action while, at the same time, enhancing the activity's benefits, all focused at the community level.

Extension Lakes surveyed a random sample of shoreland owners in early 2020 and asked them to rate these four possible barriers to taking action at their properties. 63% of respondents indicated that a lack of money and lack of support from others on the lake was very or moderately important as a barrier, and 69% said the same about lack of information. In contrast, only 47% of respondents indicated that time was their issue.

Beautiful transformations like this waterfront property in Marquette County gives folks an idea of what they have to look forward to by restoring their shoreland property.

Chris Meyer Sara Windjue



Develop, Pilot, and Evaluate a Strategy to Overcome Obstacles

With respect to both funding and information, Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes & Rivers Initiative is a viable starting point for lake groups looking to help property owners. The website (healthylakeswi.com) provides easy-to-follow information about practices like shoreland native plantings and raingardens, and the Wisconsin DNR grants help offset the expense of taking such actions. The new "Score My Shore" shoreland evaluation tool allows landowners to learn about the different water quality and habitat practices by considering conditions on their own property.

We are also looking at ways to highlight and promote what healthy shoreland areas look like in order to foster broad social support for natural shores. An overarching goal is to make naturalized shores with native plants and layers of vegetation (flowers/grasses, shrubs, and trees) the social norm on a lake. This can help overcome the barrier related to having support from neighbors.

Lake groups might want to start by creating Healthy Lakes & Rivers demonstration sites around their lake. A good demonstration site is publicly accessible so that volunteers can readily participate in the restoration. A public location also allows those interested in taking

a closer look to do so without needing landowner permission. The site ideally is also prominent or visible to passers-by so that many people can see what has changed. An accessible site also will be important to allow volunteers to carry out maintenance.

After completing demonstration sites and perhaps engaging some early-adopters to take on their own Healthy Lakes & Rivers projects, a lake group can promote their locations through their newsletter, website, and social media. A lake group can offer its own cost-share incentives to encourage wider adoption of Healthy Lakes & Rivers projects, or they can reach out to their regional Wisconsin DNR lakes biologist and find out if they should prepare a surface water grant application.

Share your Successes!

What is working for you? Do you know of a Healthy Lakes & Rivers demonstration site worth promoting? We'd love to hear about your Healthy Lakes & Rivers projects - even if they weren't funded through a grant. Send us an email (uwexplakes@uwsp.edu) with the good news! 💧

Additional CBSM strategies will be shared in future editions of Lake Tides. To explore a strategy for your lake group, contact us at uwexplakes@uwsp.edu.

Making Natural Shorelines the Norm

Seeing is believing! Help your neighbors see what their waterfront property can look like with beautiful shoreline plantings, raingardens, and more! Some folks may think planting native gardens will look like a bunch of weeds and make their property look unkempt, but sharing publications like the *Shoreline Living* magazine is one step we can take to easily present images and stories of how folks are taking action to make their waterfront properties more eye-appealing and a benefit to the lake and all its inhabitants.

You're sure to find an article that "hits home" for most waterfront property owners, as each issue highlights six stories with beautiful photographs and key takeaways. These magazines were produced by a collaborative group of managers and outreach professionals from across the Upper Midwest.

Get your *Shoreline Living* magazines today from the Extension Lakes bookstore at uwsp.edu/uwexplakes.



Optimistic Communication

A Hopeful Path for the Future of Our Lakes



WISCONSIN LAKES

Wisconsin Lakes staff and directors offer our congratulations and thanks to this committed group of people who are working to protect and preserve our lakes, including Wisconsin Lakes director Caroline Joyce!

By Mike Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

Earlier this year the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute graduated its fourteenth crew. Wisconsin Lakes staff and directors offer our congratulations and thanks to this committed group of people who are working to protect and preserve our lakes, including Wisconsin Lakes director Caroline Joyce!

Lake Leaders is a hopeful and optimistic endeavor in a time when those two things can be in short supply. Beyond global threats like climate change, our lake resources in Wisconsin face their own local challenges. The changing uses of our lakes for recreation, with more, and more powerful watercraft, is one such challenge that was discussed often among this class of Lake Leaders. Wisconsin Lakes is confident that this new crew is up to the task of helping their lake communities work through issues both global and local.

And, as more communities experiment with ways to manage our recreational use of lakes through both education and regulation, we are seeing positive outcomes. For instance, we applaud the efforts of both waterfront property owners and wakeboat users on Ashippun Lake to work together to limit impacts from the activity on their less-than-100-acre lake. Through a coordinated effort to establish best practices that include a defined course for big wake traffic, to an effort to educate boaters about the negative impacts they can cause, it seems conditions on the lake are beginning to improve.

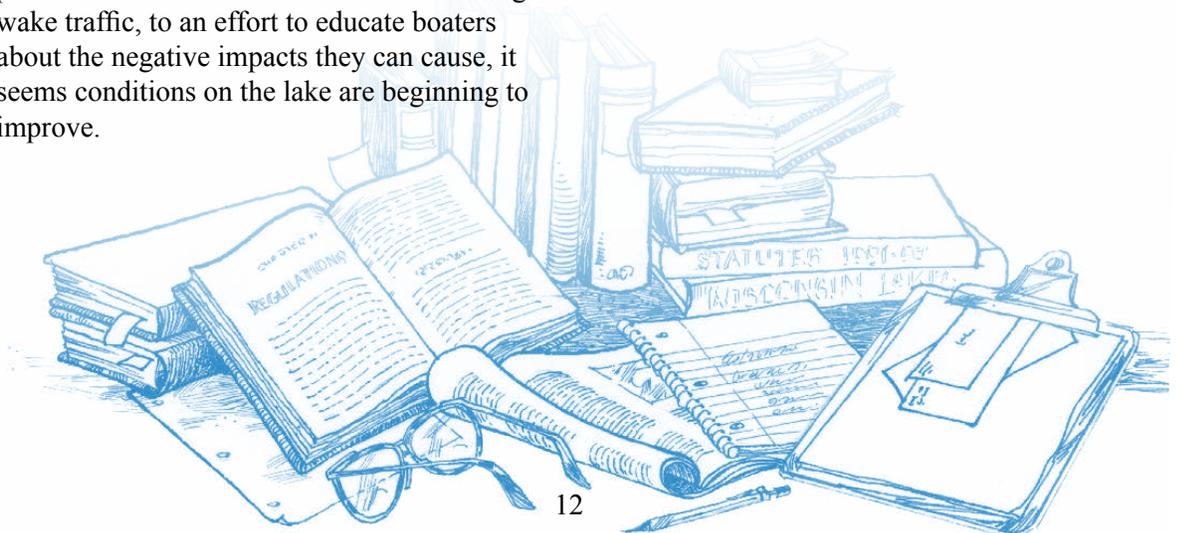
Still, problems persist statewide, and Wisconsin Lakes remains committed to the issue on a number of fronts. We're working with counties in the state to classify their lakes as suitable for various types of recreation, helping local lake organizations conduct studies to gauge the capacity of their lake for recreational traffic, and advocating to the Department of Natural Resources about the state's role in managing this issue.

In the works from Wisconsin Lakes this winter is a gathering of southeastern Wisconsin lakes to discuss their specific issues in regard to recreational pressures, to learn from each other, and to share ideas of how similar problems are solved across the region. Look for such gatherings in other parts of the state as we head towards spring.

Besides participating locally on lake issues, or even becoming a Lake Leader when the next crew convenes in 2024, you can help Wisconsin Lakes in its efforts, too. Your memberships and donations are the majority funding source as we look to add much needed staff to further our work. Find out more at wisconsinlakes.org.

Congratulations once again from Wisconsin Lakes to Crew 14 of Wisconsin Lake Leaders and good luck in your future work for the lakes of Wisconsin! 💧

Amy Kowalski



Congrats to Crew 14 WI Lake Leaders Graduates

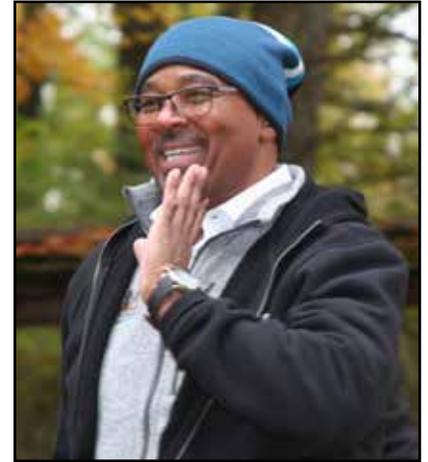
The 2022 Crew 14 Lake Leaders gathered in Baraboo at the Aldo Leopold shack to complete their journey together. Graduates shared their personal commitments to utilize the lake knowledge and leadership skills gained during the three seminars of this program to better our lakes. Many graduates expressed thanks for having the opportunity to be part of the institute and promised to continue the connection they made with this new, tightly-knit group of lake stewards.

Graduation speakers at the celebration included Carroll Schaal, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Lakes and Rivers Section Chief; WDNR Secretary Preston Cole; Brian Sloss, Dean of the College of Natural

Resources, UW-Stevens Point; and Nick Homan, Wisconsin Lakes Board of Directors.

There have been 354 graduates from the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute since its inception in 1996, representing all 72 counties! These individuals have championed lake stewardship at the local, regional, and state level for decades (see evidence of this in our feature story on the cover of this issue, as well as the facing page). If you would like to become a Lake Leader, or you know someone who would be a good candidate, go to uwsp.edu/uwexplakes and click on “Lake Leaders” or contact Sara Windjue at swindjue@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3212. 💧

Amy Kowalski



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Preston Cole shared some inspirational words with the most recent graduates of the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute.



Amy Kowalski

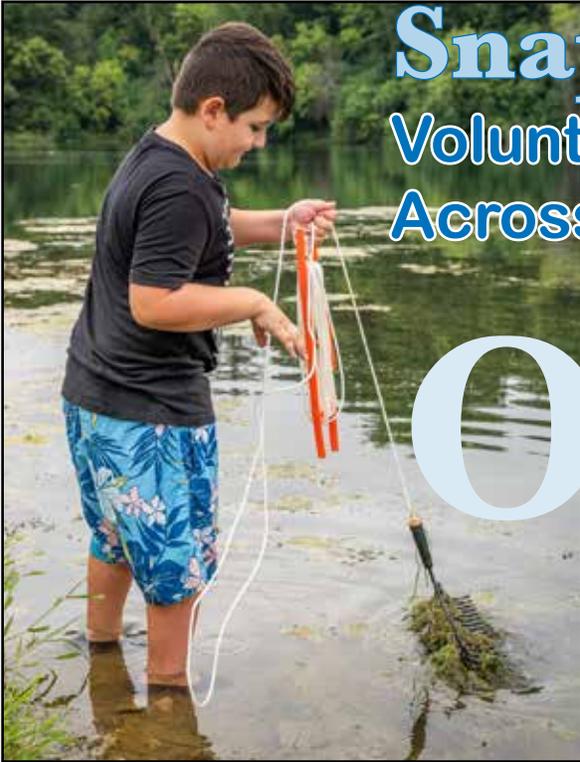
Photo (L to R); Front (kneeling): Scott McComb, Jacob Schmidt; 2nd row: Marisa Ulman, Megan Mader, Cheryl Contant, Emily Conklin, Alison Lutterman, Shelley Rose, Geoffrey Lamb, Carroll Schaal (staff); 3rd row: Sara Windjue (staff), Lianna Spencer, Tamara Knickmeier, Byron Crouse, Bethanie Ebben, Caroline Joyce; Back: Eric Olson (staff), Gwenn Graboyes, Jeff Ranous, Willie Peppy, David Spaude, James Trubshaw, Brian Sloss (speaker), Andrew Hudak, Michael Mittelstadt, Secretary Preston Cole (speaker); Missing: Kevin Kulhanek



Snapshot Day 2022

Volunteers Assist in Monitoring AIS Across Wisconsin

By Emily Heald, Rivers Educator, UW-Madison Division of Extension



“[I enjoyed] meeting other people interested in nature and conservation, and learning about all the tools (rakes, scoops) that scientists use and how to use the field guides to identify invasive species.”

- 2022 Snapshot Day Volunteer

On August 20, 2022, water lovers of all ages gathered for a one-day statewide aquatic invasive species (AIS) scavenger hunt as a part of the 9th annual AIS Snapshot Day. This event is coordinated by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension in partnership with River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin

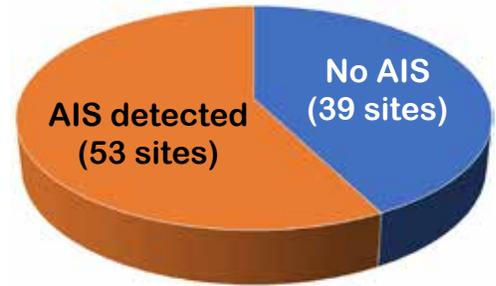
Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and Extension Lakes. Volunteers met at local rendezvous sites across the state to learn how to identify AIS such as Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife and New Zealand mudsnails, and then searched for them in the field at pre-selected locations. Initially focused on rivers and streams, Snapshot Day has expanded to include lakes and wetlands. Findings from Snapshot Day are uploaded to the statewide water quality database where they can be used to track the spread of invasive species and develop management plans.

Snapshot Day’s community-based science approach maximizes the number of sites being checked across the state, and the free event allows volunteers to learn about their local waters and how to keep them healthy.

Every year, Snapshot Day provides a vast amount of AIS data to the WDNR to assist in management decisions, and this year was no exception! To view all of these data in an easy-to-read story map, go to <https://bit.ly/3xKkxzb>.

109 participants

92 waterbodies (sites) monitored



Of the 53 sites where AIS was detected, 14 different AIS species were identified, including purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, Asian clams (Corbicula), and faucet snails.

Interested in participating in the 10th annual Snapshot Day next year? Save the date for August 19, 2023! 💧

Provided by Stephanie Baismemie



Climate Change Impacts

Warming Temperatures and Changing Precipitation Patterns are Affecting Wisconsin's Wealth of Water Resources

By Dea Larsen Converse, Communications Director, Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts

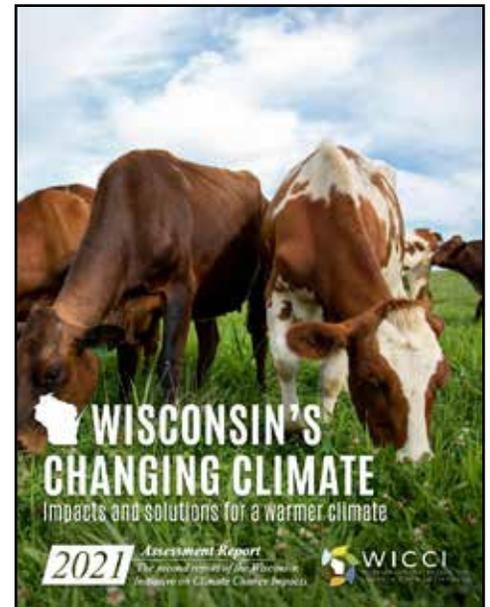
A recently released report on climate impacts to water resources in Wisconsin from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) shows that warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are impacting Wisconsin's wealth of water resources. The last two decades have been the warmest on record in Wisconsin and the past decade has been the wettest.

"The warming climate is having an impact on water resources in Wisconsin. We need to increase the magnitude and urgency of actions to protect and restore habitat and enhance water quality to make Wisconsin's waters more resilient to climate change."

– Katie Hein, WICCI Water Resources Working Group Co-Chair

Yet, there is hope. The WICCI report suggests solutions to prepare for and minimize climate impacts to water resources, like increasing water storage across the landscape, installing green infrastructure, protecting wetlands, building outside of flood zones, and installing flood warning systems. Visit the Water Resources Working Group webpage at <https://wicci.wisc.edu/water-resources-working-group/> to learn more. There is hope for the future, but it is up to us. 💧

WICCI is a nationally recognized collaboration of scientists and stakeholders working together to help foster solutions to climate change in Wisconsin.



CALENDAR

February 1, 2023 – Fishers & Farmers Partnership Funding Deadline

Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin (FFP), a fish habitat partnership, is seeking project proposals to benefit aquatic habitat in Upper Mississippi River basin streams.

For more information: <https://fishersandfarmers.org/fund-your-local-project/>

February 21-23, 2023 – Wetland Science Conference, Stevens Point, WI

For more information: <https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>

April 1, 2023 – Photo Contest Deadline, WI Lakes & Rivers Convention

For more information: <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/photo-contest/>

April 19-21, 2023 – WI Lakes & Rivers Convention, Stevens Point, WI

For more information: <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/>

Stay up-to-date with lake events across the state and beyond 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

“Sometimes we exist long enough to lead the next generation; other times, only to plant a seed and let its resonations of our time here on Earth ripple into new waves.”

— A.J. Darkholme
Rise of the Morningstar

