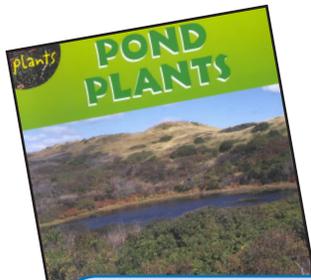


Keeping Lakes in the Family

Sharing the Magic Through Stories

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

This year's children's book recommendations focus on things fish need: food, shelter, maybe even another fish to love. Underwater plants are a home, safe haven, nursery and bountiful buffet for fish and many other creatures in a healthy lake. Trees in lakes provide similar benefits: spawning areas, shelter and food. Bass and bluegill, for example, build their nests among aquatic plants, which shelter the nest and provide cover for the young fish once they hatch. Yellow perch lay their eggs on submerged wood and aquatic plants. Often, the **amount** of plants that cover the lake bottom is more important to fish than any particular species of plant. Aquatic plants are also the base of the food web, providing food for insects, frogs and small fish. Caddisflies feed on aquatic plants, and are a key food source for fish and frogs. Dragonflies are voracious mosquito eaters, and in turn are eaten by fish and frogs. Everything is connected. So a healthy fishery depends on a healthy stand of aquatic plants and numerous trees in the water, plus insects, frogs and more.



I liked learning how some plants catch insects, and how water plants grow.

~ Tessa, age 6

Pond Plants Age 5 and up

Written by Ernestine Giesecke (out of print; available at a few libraries)

A great introduction to plants found in lakes. Includes clear photos and valuable facts about ten types of water plants, where and how they grow, how they help the lake, and how fish, birds and other animals depend on them.

Water Insects Ages 9 and up

Written by Sylvia A. Johnson
Photos by Modoki Masuda

Colorful, informative and interesting, this will fascinate children who want to learn about water insects. Insects who spend all or part of their lives in water are carefully examined. Johnson makes clear the difference between bugs and beetles. Habitats, reproduction and hibernation are all discussed in detail and clarified with full-color, captioned photographs.



For a short summary about insect-eating plants in Wisconsin, see Meat Eaters with Roots and Leaves from the *Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine* at <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2009/08/meat.htm>

Dragonflies: Catching - Identifying - How and Where They Live

Ages 8 and up

Written by Chris Earley

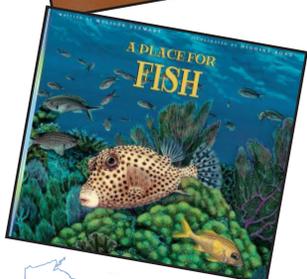
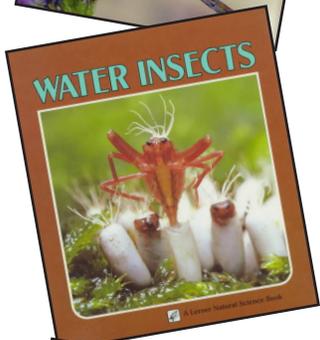
In this book readers will learn how to observe dragonflies in the wild and have them hover as close as their nose! Dragonflies can be found in wetlands, forests, fields and even backyards. This illustrated guide to dragonflies and damselflies is packed with all the facts about what they are, what finding them tells us about an area, what they eat and what eats them.

A Place for Fish Ages 6 and up

Written by Melissa Stewart

Illustrated by Higgins Bond

Fish are threatened by a variety of situations created by humans. This nonfiction text has several levels of information about fish for the reader. First, the main picture book text is simple. It tells a basic fact about how fish are being harmed, and it tells what we can do about it. Then, on each spread a detailed solution is featured. Includes the northern pike and smallmouth bass. Stunning illustrations.



UWEX Lakes Bookstore

Another great place to find that perfect gift for the water lover in your family is the UWEX Lakes bookstore! Check out our popular field guides and make a quick and easy online order.

www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes

Book reviews are drawn from Amazon and the Cooperative Children's Book Center at UW-Madison.



Bull Trout's Gift: A Salish Story about the Value of Reciprocity

Ages 8 and up, Written by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

“We were wealthy from the water,” says a tribal elder. He speaks to our understanding of the natural world and the consequences of change. In this book the wisdom of the elders is passed on to the young as the story of the Jocko River, the home of the bull trout, unfolds for a group of schoolchildren on a field trip.

Beautifully illustrated and narrated in the tradition of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes, this account of conservation as the legacy of one

I like the beautiful contrast in this book between the way the Native American and the fisheries biologist think of the river and teach. I think the Native American is very well-spoken. I like the point that if you're mean to people they might take away your water, which is needed for life.

~ Tate, age 10

generation to the next is about being good to the land that has been good to us. Bull Trout's Gift is steeped in the culture, history and science that our children must know if they hope to transform past wisdom into future good.

Are you a Dragonfly? *Ages 5-8*

Written by Judy Allen

Illustrated by Tudor Humphries

The most colorful wings on the pond belong to the nimble dragonfly, but this delicate flying insect didn't begin life in the air. In this book, the secrets of how a dragonfly changes from a water insect to an amazing flyer unfurl.

Lakes and Rivers: A Freshwater Web of Life

Ages 9 and up

Written by Philip Johansson

Discover the diverse world of lakes and rivers and explore great facts and photos about the plants and animals in lakes and rivers. Author Philip Johansson shows how all living things are connected, from algae and coontail to bass, otters and moose.

Largemouth Bass *Ages 9 and up*

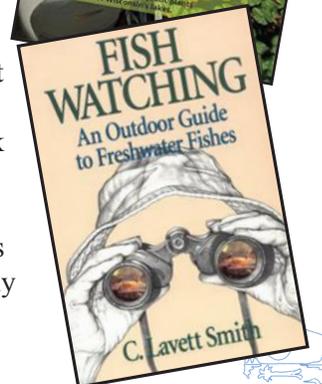
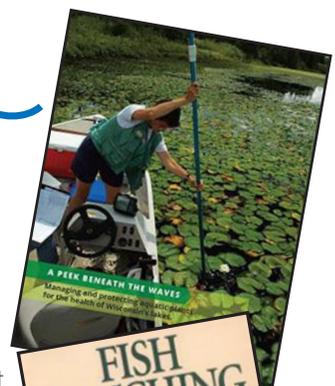
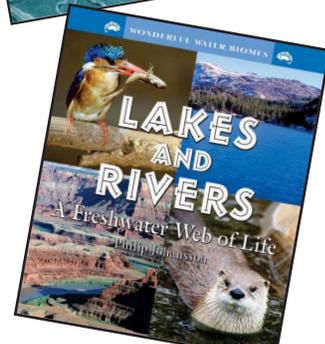
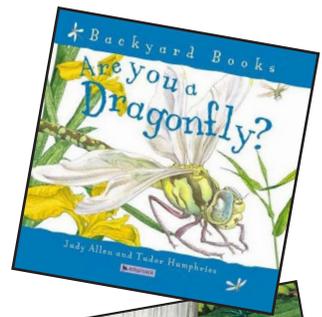
Written by Sheila Griffin Llanas

This book is filled with amazing fish photos by Eric Engbretson, a skilled underwater fish photographer who presented at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in 2011. The text provides detailed information about largemouth bass including what they eat (worms, frogs, insects, snakes and smaller fish), how they nest and where they hang out in lakes. This author has written a similar book titled Walleyed Pike.

Fish Watching: An Outdoor Guide to Freshwater Fishes

By C. Lavett Smith

Smith, an ichthyologist, crafted Fish Watching as a book about fishes. Not about catching them. Not about keeping them. Not about cooking them. Just about them. The result is a most pleasant and surprising work of natural history writing devoted solely to fishes. He gives clear suggestions on how to start watching fish and provides descriptions of fish habitats and fishes classified by family with line drawings and three dozen color photos. His personal anecdotes add interest.



Adult Books

A Peek Beneath the Waves: Managing and protecting aquatic plants for the health of Wisconsin's lakes.

A great, non-technical introduction to why aquatic plants are important and how they have been managed in Wisconsin from the late 1800s until today. Available online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2014/08/aquatic2014.pdf>