

# Keeping Lakes in the Family

## Sharing the Magic Through Stories

Kid  
stuff

Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education

After five years of recommending lake books for you to share with the children in your life, we have built quite a library! This year we're focusing on frogs and turtles that live along our lakes' shorelines, in wetlands and in the shallow water. What's more exciting for a child than catching a frog along the shoreline? Do you have frogs on your shoreline?

### Larry, the All-American Bullfrog

Written by John Haack, Bret Shaw and Travis Balinas. Vocal talent, Larry Meiller  
Produced and created by Travis Balinas.

In this short, hilarious video, Larry the talking frog describes what kind of shoreline he needs to survive. It can be viewed at [www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes)

### The Frog Scientist

Written by Pamela S. Turner  
Illustrated by Andy Comins

In this impressive book Tyrone Hayes, a leading scientist at University of California Berkeley, comes across as both a dedicated scientist willing to work hard in pursuit of his scientific work, but also a regular person quick to laugh and joke with his family and the graduate students he mentors. Researching the effects of atrazine-contaminated water on vulnerable amphibians, Tyrone is surrounded by the "Frog Squad," a group of enthusiastic students pouncing on frogs in ponds or collecting careful data in the lab. Sharp, vivid photographs alternate between portrayals of the scientists—at work in field and laboratory settings, as well as relaxing at lab picnics and at home—and the frogs they study. Ages 8+

Watch a short video of Tyrone Hayes "Frogs: The Thin Green Line"  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBbkw1GM7X0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBbkw1GM7X0)

### Wisconsin Frog Identification

Here is a quick and easy online resource that will help you identify Wisconsin's frogs (and the American toad) - many of them with short videos including their calls.  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/herps.asp?mode=table&group=Frogs>

### Amphibians of Wisconsin

Written by Rebecca Christoffel, Robert Hay and Michelle Wolfgram

A 44-page full-color guide of the 19 frogs and salamanders that are native to the state. The book has a very informative introduction section including the impacts of people, a breeding calendar, species accounts with range maps, a user-friendly identification pie-chart key and 49 beautiful photographs. Available from the DNR at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/HerpBooks.html>

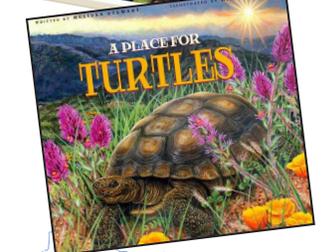
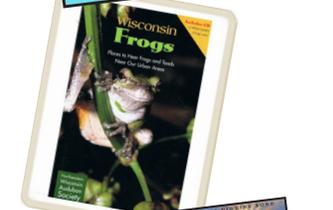
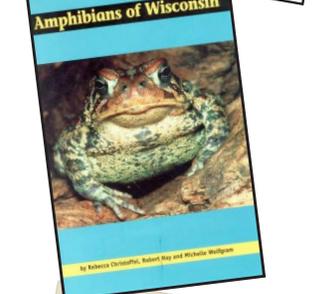
### Wisconsin Frogs: Places to Hear Frogs and Toads Near Our Urban Areas

This book includes a CD of Wisconsin frog and toad calls, color photos and maps, plus 11 recommended parks and nature areas. Although this is out of print, there are used copies on Amazon.com, and it can also be found in many libraries across Wisconsin.

### A Place for Turtles

Written by Melissa Stewart  
Illustrated by Higgins Bond

Turtles have lived on Earth for more than 220 million years, but modern environmental stressors make their existence in several regions of the world a tenuous one. Colorful and highly detailed acrylic illustrations accompany topics such as pollution, invasive species, and ecosystem destruction. While the topic of the book is clearly turtles, the narrative raises points of conversation on a host of environmental issues and will get young minds thinking about the interconnectedness of organisms, ecology, and the impact of human actions on the world around them. Ages 6-10



## Frogs! Strange and Wonderful

Written by Laurence Pringle

Illustrated by Meryl Henderson

Budding herpetologists will snap this book up faster than a frog can catch a fly. The author recognizes what will intrigue children as well as what they need to know to understand the subject. An enjoyable note describes the author's close encounters with frogs as a child, as a father, as a wildlife photographer, and as a neighborhood ecologist acting locally to protect and even create frog habitats.

Ages 7+

*"This is a good book for kids my age.*

*Lots of facts."* Tate, Age 8

## Tadpoles and Frogs

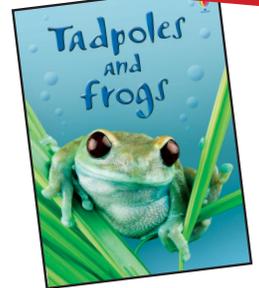
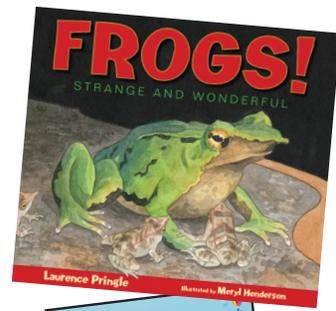
Written by Anna Milbourne

Illustrated by Patrizia Donaera & Zoe Wray

The information in this book is captivating - like the World Book Encyclopedia for little ones - and the illustrations are beautiful. It will help to instill a love for frogs and nature.

Ages 4+

*"I liked the pictures and the part about the frogs sticking out their butts."* Tessa, Age 4



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## Frogs: The Thin Green Line

Written, produced and directed by Allison Argo

Frogs have been living on this planet for more than 250 million years, and over the centuries, evolved into some of the most wondrous and diverse creatures on earth. Today, however, all their remarkable adaptations and survival tactics are failing them. To learn more about why and what you can do to help, watch this free, one-hour movie at

[www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/frogs-the-thin-green-line/introduction/4763/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/frogs-the-thin-green-line/introduction/4763/)

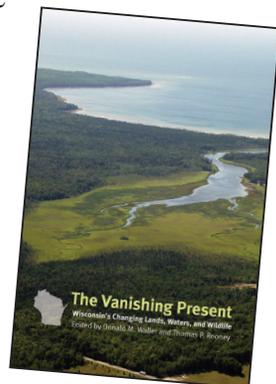
## Changes in Amphibian and Reptile Communities in Wisconsin

Written by Gary S. Casper

Chapter 20 The Vanishing Present:

Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters and Wildlife

Gary Casper, who served as the regional herpetologist at the Milwaukee Public Museum for over 20 years, provides a summary about how changes across the Wisconsin landscapes are affecting frogs, salamanders, turtles and snakes. He describes how the populations and species of frogs have changed in the last 100 years on the Apostle Islands compared to Milwaukee County, and predicts future changes.



## How Pesticides Affect Frogs and People

This colorful and informative UW-Extension fact sheet is featured on the next page and can be viewed and printed as a poster from.

[www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Documents/Water/HowPesticidesAffectFrogsandPeople2.pdf](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Documents/Water/HowPesticidesAffectFrogsandPeople2.pdf)

Adult stuff

### Want to help find out how frogs are doing in your area?

If you'd like to get involved in monitoring frogs in your area – with or without a little person in tow – you can join the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey or a recent frog and toad phenology project. Look online at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/frogtoadsurvey/Volunteer/googlemaps/RouteFinder.cfm> and contact Andrew Badje at the Wisconsin DNR at [WFTS@wisconsin.gov](mailto:WFTS@wisconsin.gov) or 608-266-3336. The Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey is a citizen-based monitoring program to determine the status, distribution, and long-term population trends of Wisconsin's twelve frog and toad species. Recent results from the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey are available at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/frogtoadsurvey/SurveyInfo/summaries.cfm>

