

# Keeping Lakes in the Family

## Sharing the Magic Through Stories

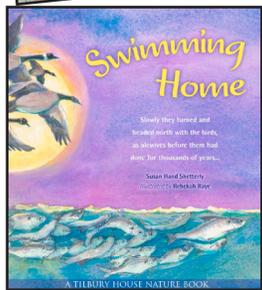
Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Stevens Point

This year's resource recommendations focus on some of the ways we enjoy being in, on and near the water – snorkeling, looking for loons and harvesting wild rice.



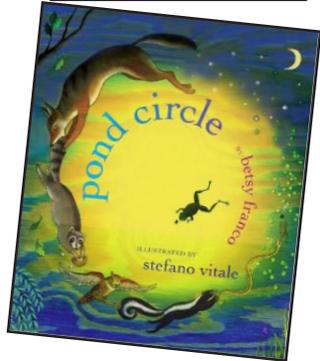
**Fish Hotel** Age 5 and up  
Written by Lynn Markham  
Illustrated by Justin Sipiorski

Tessa and her cousin Hugo grab their snorkeling gear for an underwater adventure and end up learning that trees in the water are helpful to fish. A friendly neighbor teaches them how downed trees are like a fish hotel, providing shelter, food and a place to lay their eggs. When the kids find out Uncle Henry is going to remove a downed poplar from the water, they make the case to keep it as a fish hotel. This story of cooperation and friendly neighbors captures the spirit of “up north” in Wisconsin and teaches us how leaving trees in the water is beneficial.



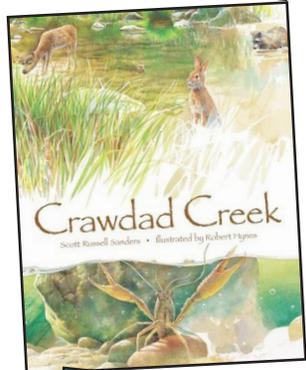
**Swimming Home** Age 5-8  
Written by Susan Hand Shetterly  
Illustrated by Rebekah Raye

The story follows a school of fish on a journey to return to their spawning grounds in Lilly Lake. While migrating, the school of fish evade an eagle and a heron, and they navigate a beaver dam before pulling up short where a road has been constructed over the stream; the culvert through which the stream now flows is too high for the fish to reach. Happily, the boy and his father spot them and are able to use buckets to lift the fish over the road and into Lilly Lake.



**Pond Circle** Age 4-8  
Written by Betsy Franco  
Illustrated by Stefano Vitale

On a summer night by a small pond, all seems still. But a closer look reveals a world of activity—mayflies dart, beetles dive, frogs spring, skunks shuffle, and owls swoop. As a young girl watches, the circle of life unfolds.



**Crawdad Creek** Age 4-8  
Written by Scott Russell Sanders  
Illustrated by Robert Hynes

There's always something happening at Crawdad Creek, just like along the shore of your lake. Come hunt for fossils, find an arrowhead in the mud or a crayfish under a stone. Watch whirligig beetles and water striders skate across the water teasing the fish below. Count the turtles sunning themselves on moss-covered logs. Follow tracks along the bank, then sit in quiet amazement as deer, raccoons and other animals visit the creek. There's a wild and beautiful world here waiting to be discovered.

**Half a Chance** Age 8-12  
Written by Cynthia Lord

Lucy and her parents have no sooner moved to their new lake home, than her professional-photographer father is off on a work trip for the summer. As he leaves, Lucy learns from him about a photo contest for kids and decides to spend the summer working on winning it. As the days and weeks pass, Lucy makes friends with Nate (the boy next door), learns to kayak, joins in the community's watch of nesting loons, and stays focused on taking photos that fulfill her father's advice to make sure the picture implies a story. When she learns that Nate's grandma's failing health is keeping her from observing her beloved loon family up close, she and Nate devise a plan to rent a motorized raft to take her out on the lake.

*This book is fun because the kids go on Loon Patrol every day to see how the loons are doing and find out if their eggs have hatched.*  
~ Tessa, age 7



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

## The Sacred Harvest: Ojibway Wild Rice Gathering *Age 8 and up*

*Written by Gordeon Regguinti  
Photographs by Dale Kakkak*

Glen Jackson, Jr. is an 11 year-old Ojibway Indian from the Leech Lake reservation in Minnesota. His people are wild rice growers. Glen is taking part in the ritual for the first time and is worried that he won't be strong enough to push the canoe through the rice beds without tipping over. Ojibway history and descriptions of the reservation are smoothly blended into the narrative as Glen learns how to harvest, parch, winnow and cook the rice.

## Wild Rice and the Ojibway People

*Written by Thomas Vennum*

Wild rice has always been essential to life in the Upper Midwest and neighboring Canada. In this far-reaching book, Thomas Vennum, Jr. examines the importance of this wild food to the Ojibway people by using travelers' narratives, historical and ethnological accounts, scientific data, historical and contemporary photographs and sketches, his own field work and the words of Indian people. He details the technology of harvesting and processing, from seventeenth-century reports though modern mechanization. He explains the important place of wild rice in Ojibway ceremony and legend, and depicts the rich social life of the traditional rice camps. He also reviews the volatile issues of treaty rights and litigations involving Indian problems in maintaining this traditional resource.

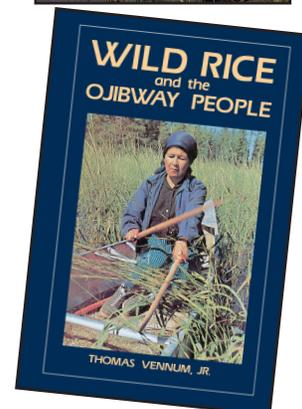
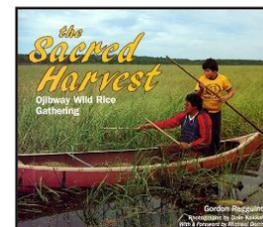
With twentieth-century agricultural technology and paddy cultivation, white growers have virtually removed this important source of income from Indian hands. Nevertheless, the Ojibway continue to harvest and process rice each year. It remains a vital part of their social, cultural and religious life.

## How to Harvest Wild Rice

*10 minute video*

Interest in the harvest of wild rice is growing. This video provides a starting point for those interested in learning more about wild rice, offering tips on items needed to harvest wild rice, where and when to harvest wild rice in Wisconsin and ethical considerations to keep in mind when harvesting wild rice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCQfVYiRpsA>

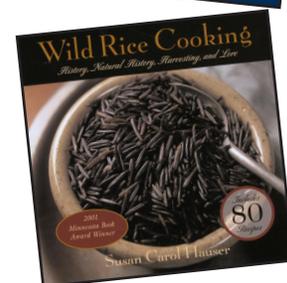


## Wild Rice Cooking: History, Natural History, Harvesting and Lore

*Written by Susan Carol Hauser*

This complete guide to harvesting and cooking wild rice includes 80 recipes and a fascinating history of the plant.

*Winner of the Minnesota Book Award.*



## Online Bookstore

Looking for a few other good reads this holiday season? Check out the UWEX Lakes online bookstore at [www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes) (just click on "bookstore" in the left navigation column).

We have a few field guides, children's books, a trivia game and even some free brochures!

Not too sure about online ordering? Have some questions about the process? We're here for you! Just give us a call at 715-346-2116 or email [uwexlakes@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwexlakes@uwsp.edu).

