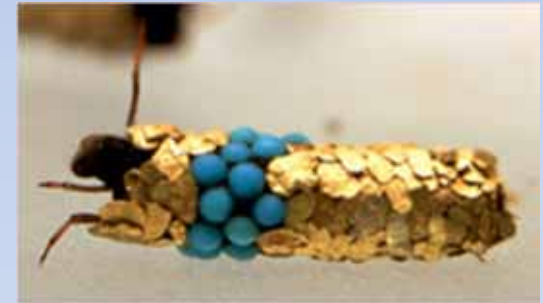


# Fascinating Species of Wisconsin Wetlands



[www.ecouterre.com](http://www.ecouterre.com)

**Paul Skawinski**  
**Citizen Lake Monitoring Network**  
**Statewide Coordinator**  
**UW-Extension Lakes Program**

All photos by P. Skawinski unless otherwise noted

# Purple pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)

Grow in a tough environment

Leaves formed into pitchers that hold water

Stiff, downward-pointing hairs



# Bryozoans (Phylum Bryozoa)



Colonies of filter-feeding animals  
(zooids)  
Mostly water



*Pectinatella magnifica* – Rocky Run Wetland, Stevens Point

# Bryozoans (Phylum Bryozoa)

Hermaphroditic  
Up to 12yr life span



Right image by:  
[www.photomacrography.net](http://www.photomacrography.net)

*Cristatella mucedo* – Roothouse Lake, Lincoln County

# Bryozoans (Phylum Bryozoa)

All zooids are genetically identical

Expansion by budding

Zooids provide different services to the colony



Right image by:  
[www.photomacrography.net](http://www.photomacrography.net)

# Bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.)

8 species in Wisconsin

Carnivorous

Mostly in acid environments



# Bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.)



# Bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.)

8 species in Wisconsin

Carnivorous

Mostly in acid environments





# Freshwater jellyfish (*Craspedacusta sowerbyi*)

Native to China  
First seen in WI in  
1960s  
No significant  
impacts known



# Caddisflies (Order Trichoptera)

Case-making insects (mostly)

Each family has its own type of case



# Caddisflies (Order Trichoptera)

Case-making insects (mostly)

Caddisflies in the Hydropsychidae family are an exception



# Caddisflies (Order Trichoptera)

Employing caddisflies



# Sundews (*Drosera* spp.)

4 species known in WI

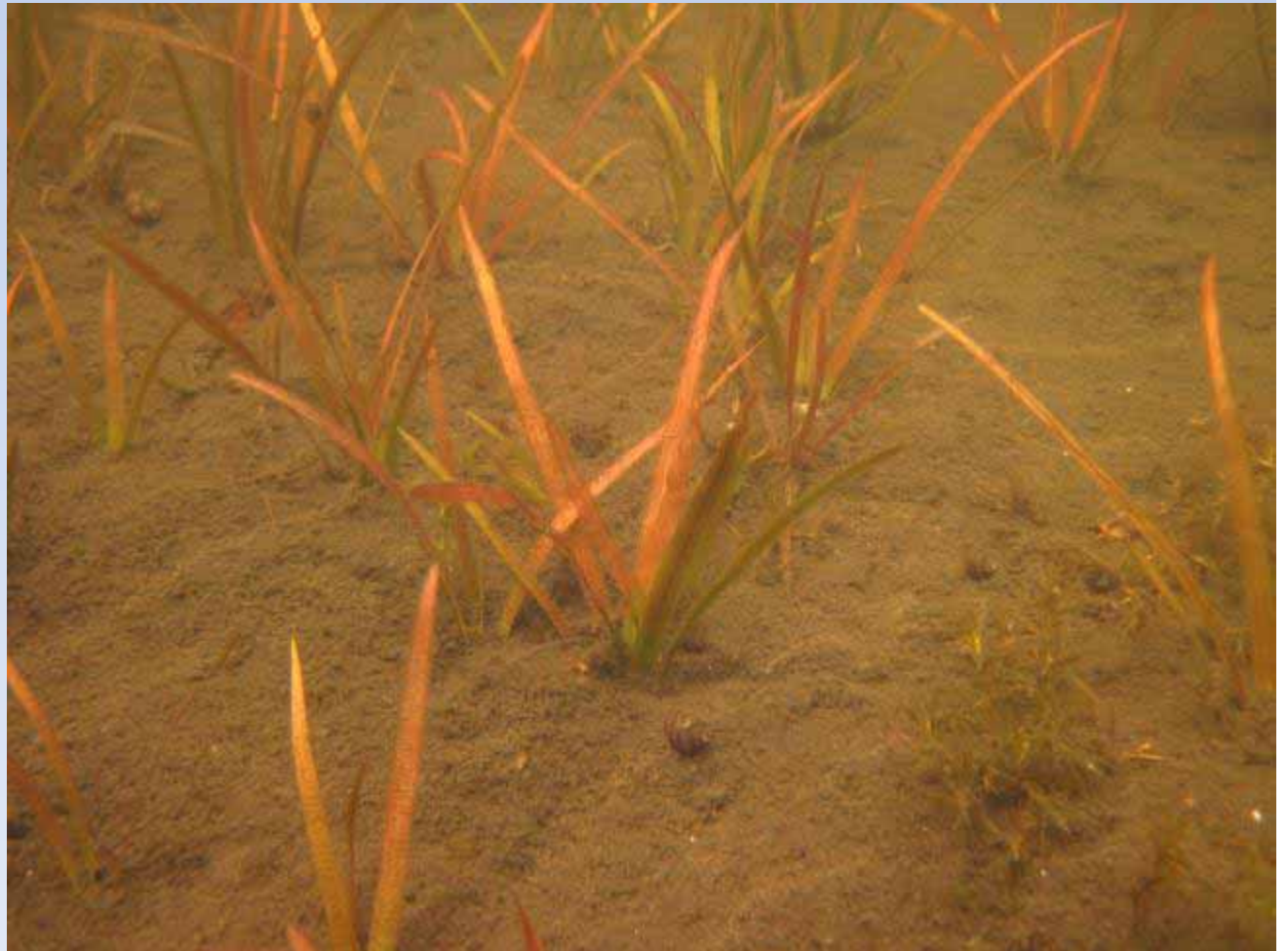
Two strongly prefer acid habitats, two  
strongly prefer alkaline



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ7Fws1HaL0>

# Water celery (*Vallisneria americana*)

Primary food source of canvasback duck  
(*Aythya valisineria*)



# Water celery (*Vallisneria americana*)

Transport pollen from the male plant to the female plant without exposing it to water!



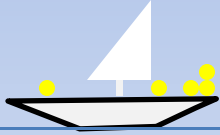
# Water celery (*Vallisneria americana*)





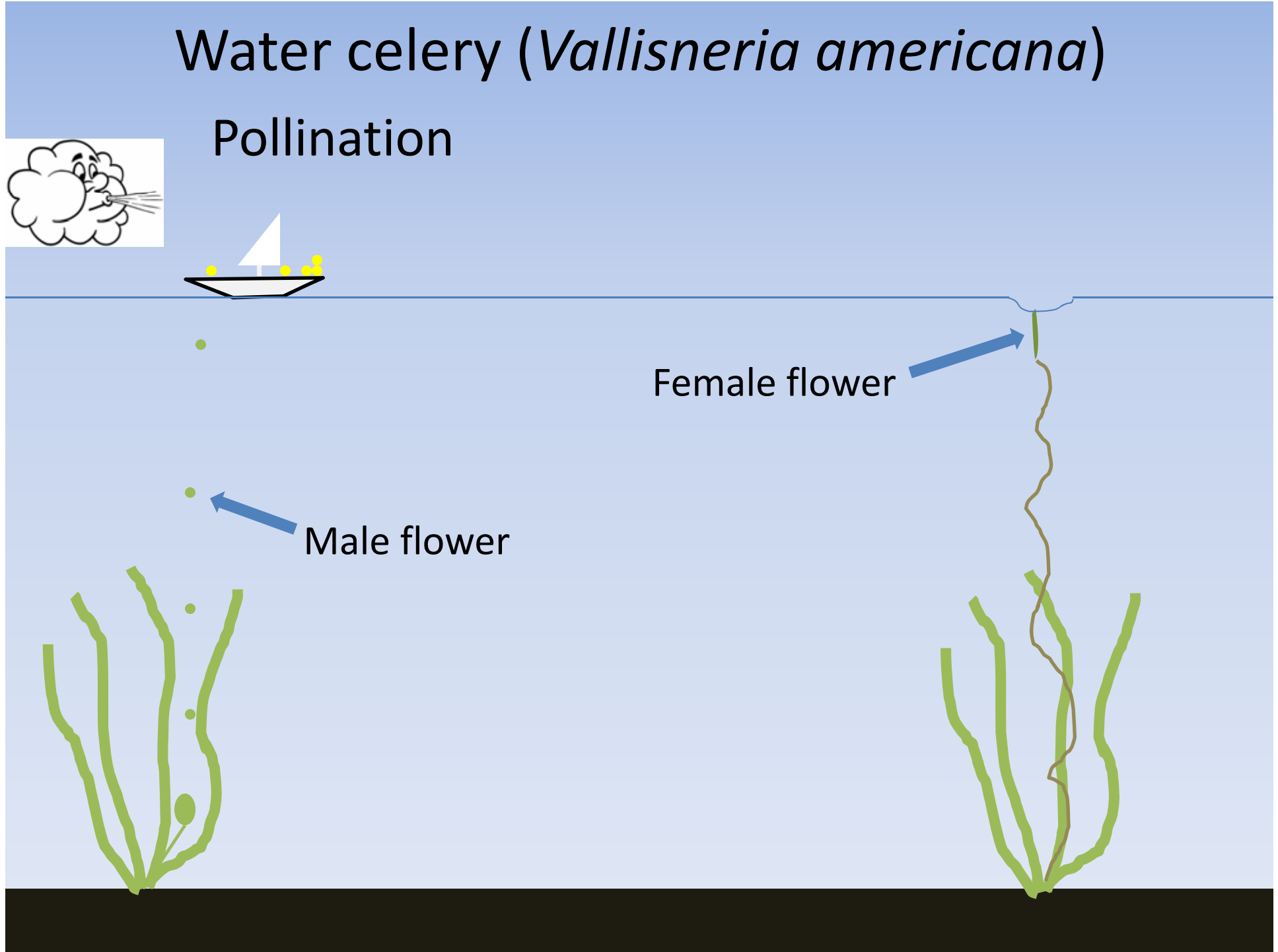
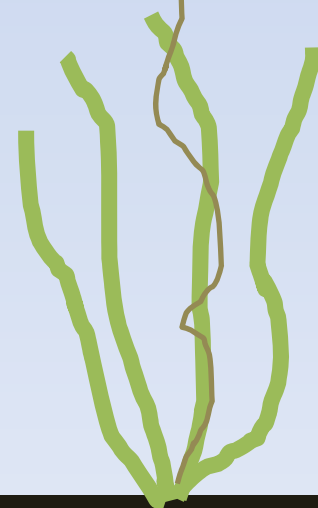
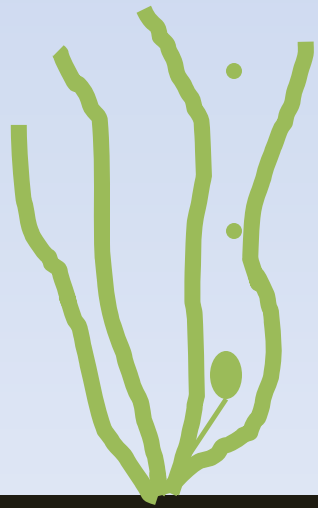
# Water celery (*Vallisneria americana*)

## Pollination



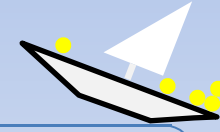
Female flower

Male flower



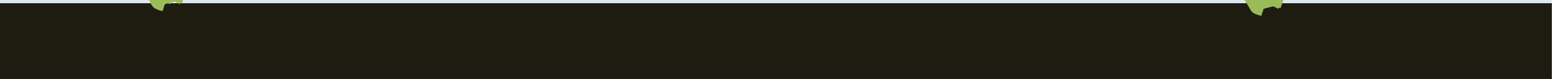
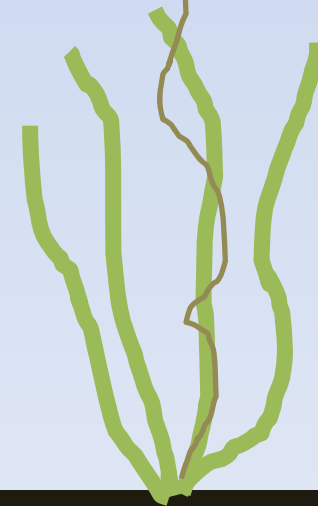
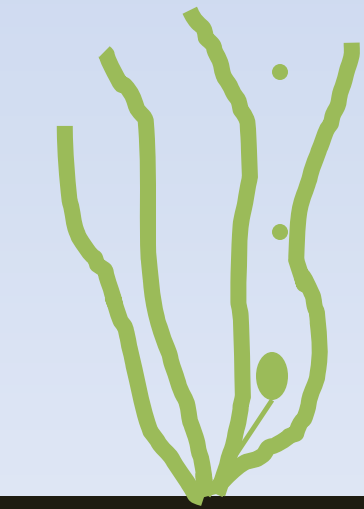
# Water celery (*Vallisneria americana*)

## Pollination



Female flower

Male flower



# Dragonflies (Odonata:Anisoptera)

~120 species known in WI  
Can fly forward or backward  
Live for 1-3 years



# Dragonflies (Odonata:Anisoptera)

~120 species known in WI  
Can fly forward or backward  
Live for 1-3 years



Slow-motion movie  
(250 frames/sec)

# Bog laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCvrbq3TsFk>

# Giant Water Bug (*Lethocerus americanus*)

~3.5in max size

“Electric light bugs”

Eggs laid on emergent vegetation – male guards



# Giant Water Bug (*Lethocerus americanus*)

Grasp prey with forelegs, injecting a  
venomous saliva.

Painful to humans, but short-lived.



# Cattails (*Typha* spp.)

Nearly every part is edible  
Extremely high productivity

The3foragers.blogspot.com





# Cattails (*Typha* spp.)

Nearly every part is edible

Extremely high productivity

*Typha latifolia* vs. *Typha angustifolia*



# Fishing Spider (*Dolomedes triton*)

Common statewide  
Ballooning  
Eat fishes, tadpoles,  
insects

Bugguide.net



# Fishing Spider (*Dolomedes triton*)

Common statewide  
Ballooning  
Eat fishes, tadpoles,  
insects



Bugguide.net

# Poison Sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*)

Up to 20' tall

Compound leaves, gray, scraggly branches



# Poison Sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*)

Up to 20' tall

Compound leaves, gray, scraggly branches



# Poison Sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*)

Up to 20' tall

Compound leaves, gray, scraggly branches



# Orange Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

Swollen stems, orange flowers

“Touch-me-not”

Anti-itch – very effective on stinging nettle



# Freshwater sponges (*Spongilla* spp.)

One freshwater family

Resemble green  
fingers or cushions

Filter-feeding animals  
with symbiotic algae

Water quality indicator





# Freshwater sponges (*Spongilla* spp.)

Most are sessile or nearly so.  
“Hermit crab sponges” are an  
exception (not freshwater).



# Freshwater sponges (*Spongilla* spp.)

Most are sessile or nearly so.  
“Hermit crab sponges” are an  
exception (not freshwater).

Coe College Biology Dept



# Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)

Freeze solid during winter

Freeze-thaw cycles are more favorable than straight freezing



# Whirligig Beetles (Family *Gyrinidae*)

Zig-zag swim pattern  
Very smooth and fast  
Two sets of eyes



# Whirligig Beetles (Family *Gyrinidae*)

Zig-zag swim pattern  
Very smooth and fast  
Two sets of eyes

