

# Monitoring Opportunities

- Clarity
- Chemistry (total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a)
- Water temperature and dissolved oxygen
- Native aquatic plants
- Aquatic invasive species
- Water level monitoring

# Volunteer Monitoring in and Around Wisconsin Waters



Welcome to the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network — a volunteer network with over 1,000 citizens collecting water quality data on Wisconsin's lakes! *We welcome you to check out these additional volunteer monitoring opportunities in and around Wisconsin waters!*



## Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspectors

Volunteers can also help stop the spread of invasive species by organizing and conducting watercraft inspections at boat landings in their communities. Trained volunteers then educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies. For more information, contact Erin McFarlane, Aquatic Invasive Species Volunteer Coordinator, at (715) 346-4978 or email [erin.mcfarlane@uwsp.edu](mailto:erin.mcfarlane@uwsp.edu).



## Water Action Volunteers

Water Action Volunteers (WAV) has three levels of stream monitoring to accommodate citizens' time availability and interests; volunteers begin by learning to monitor six aspects of water quality their first year. After a monitoring season, citizens can move to the next level to monitor stream health using the same methods as DNR biologists or can conduct intensive monitoring that addresses a specific issue about local stream quality. For more information, contact Peggy Compton, WAV Coordinator, at (608) 342-1633 or email [peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu).



# More monitoring opportunities



## Project RED

Project RED (Riverine Early Detectors) allows volunteers to identify, report, and control invasive species in and along Wisconsin's rivers and streams. Volunteers are trained to monitor rivers and streams by canoe, kayak, or on foot for 16 species of concern. For more information, contact River Alliance of Wisconsin's Project RED Coordinator at (608) 257-2424 x110.



## Mussel Monitoring Program of Wisconsin

Over half of Wisconsin's 51 native mussel species (also known as clams) are listed as species of greatest "conservation need"; we need information on where they currently occur. The Mussel Monitoring Program of Wisconsin would like your help in finding out what mussels occur in your area. For more information, contact program coordinator Lisie Kitchel at (608) 266-5248 or email [lisie.kitchel@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lisie.kitchel@wisconsin.gov).



## Odonata Survey

The goal of the Wisconsin Odonata Survey is to gain more knowledge about the distribution and habitat requirements of our 160+ species of dragonflies and damselflies (Order Odonata). The Odonata Survey uses volunteers to document populations of dragonflies and damselflies by identifying adults, larvae, and exuviae (cast skins left behind near shore when the larva transforms into the adult). For more information, contact program coordinator Bob DuBois at (715) 392-6976 or email [robert.dubois@wisconsin.gov](mailto:robert.dubois@wisconsin.gov).



## LoonWatch

*LoonWatch* promotes the preservation, understanding, and enjoyment of common loons and their aquatic habitats in the Lake Superior region. Volunteers record when loons arrive, if they nested, how many chicks were produced, and any potential threats to the nest site. For more information, contact the *LoonWatch* Coordinator at (715) 682-1220 or email [loonwatch@northland.edu](mailto:loonwatch@northland.edu).





### **Wisconsin Bat Program**

In general, bat populations are susceptible to decline because of low reproductive rates, and many species congregate at a limited number of locations during critical stages of their natural history cycle (i.e., hibernacula and maternity colonies). Volunteers can conduct acoustic surveys or can participate in bat house monitoring. For more information, contact the Wisconsin Bat Program at (608) 266-5216 or email [dnrbats@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrbats@wisconsin.gov).



### **Citizen Monitoring of Wisconsin's Freshwater Sponges**

Biologists have been unable to assess the conservation status of Wisconsin sponges. Our Citizen Monitoring of Wisconsin's Freshwater Sponges project helps address this situation by engaging volunteer monitors and creating a database of probable sponge occurrences that can be further investigated. For more information contact program coordinator Dreux J. Watermolen at (608) 266-8931 or email [dreux.watermolen@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:dreux.watermolen@Wisconsin.gov).



### **Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program**

The Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program (WTCP) records turtle species' distributions using the help of Wisconsin citizens. The program is looking for volunteers to document high turtle mortality locations along roads in order to promote effective management and conservation of Wisconsin's 11 turtle species. For more information, contact the WTCP at [DNRHerptiles@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRHerptiles@wisconsin.gov).



### **Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey**

The Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey (WFTS) is a citizen-based monitoring program intended to determine the status, distribution, and long-term population trends of Wisconsin's frog and toad species. WFTS includes approximately 150 permanent roadside routes throughout the state where volunteers monitor frog populations through calling surveys. For more information, contact the WFTS at [WFTS@wisconsin.gov](mailto:WFTS@wisconsin.gov).



#### Wisconsin Marshbird Survey

Secretive marshbirds such as rails, bitterns, coots, and grebes are among the most poorly monitored bird groups in North America. Volunteers are needed to conduct surveys of a predetermined route during in May and June to help experts learn more about species' abundance, population trends, and habitat associations. For more information on marshbird surveys or additional bird monitoring opportunities, contact survey coordinator Ryan Brady at (715) 685-2933 or email [ryan.brady@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ryan.brady@wisconsin.gov).



#### Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Project

There are a number of methods to control purple loosestrife; however, biocontrol may be the most viable long-term control method. The Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Program offers cooperative support, including free equipment and starter beetles, to all Wisconsin citizens who wish to use these insects to reduce their local purple loosestrife. For more information, contact program coordinator Brock Woods at (608) 266-2554 or email [brock.woods@wisconsin.gov](mailto:brock.woods@wisconsin.gov).

For more information, please visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/volunteer/>

or the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network at:

<http://wiatri.net/cbm/>

