

Announcing the 2018 Wisconsin Volunteer Stream Monitoring Award Recipients

The University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are pleased to recognize these individuals and organizations for their efforts leading to increased participation in stream monitoring, collecting stream data, and sharing their knowledge and data.



Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Riverkeepers

The Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CWTU) has been involved in water monitoring for over ten years, modeling the positive impacts of gaining and sharing knowledge through citizen science. The Riverkeepers monitor 25 sites in multiple counties while continuing to seek new volunteers and new stream sites. They work closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff to monitor high priority streams where data is needed, and where their monitoring can save DNR staff time and money. The CWTU is also involved in the assessment of fish habitat structures, streambank restoration, and the expansion of water quality projects.

Bill and Debbi Hiller

Bill and Debbi Hiller, as trained Water Action Volunteers with the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP), show their dedication for water quality monitoring and conservation through an eagerness to learn new things and take on new responsibilities. The Hillers have attended advanced training sessions in macroinvertebrate identification and aquatic ecology, and have participated in phosphorus monitoring and CSP's Karst Survey of Crawford County Project. Bill and Debbi also willingly share their knowledge and support to new volunteer monitors.

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John Delaney

John Delaney, the Water Quality Program Coordinator for Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) was nominated for his extensive water quality activities while acting as an exceptional role model for co-workers and volunteers. John is a key leader in Water Action Volunteers trainings and hands-on-stream monitoring experiences in cooperation with other coordinators and local partners. He has monitored, analyzed, and presented his findings in phosphorus sampling from 14 different sites. John's colleagues have noted his ability to inspire and support volunteer monitors. Through grant writing, partner collaboration, and project development, John is paving the path for more informed local decision making in his local communities.

Jaime Weigel

For the past three years, Ms. Weigel has introduced the wonders of stream biology to 7th graders at Whitewater Middle School, in Whitewater, WI. Ms. Weigel successfully secured funding to purchase stream monitoring equipment and transportation to a local monitoring site. For the past three years, Ms. Weigel has organized field trips to study stream health at Bluff Creek. During these field trips, 7th graders test the water by measuring dissolved oxygen, stream temperature and water clarity. Students also examine macroinvertebrates to calculate a biological health index score. These field studies have been collaborative affairs bringing together the Whitewater Middle School 7th grade science teachers and facilitators with the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, the Rock River Coalition, and volunteers with the Wisconsin DNR State Natural Areas. Over 200 students have been involved in these field studies.

Southern Brown Conservation Club

Since 1986, the Southern Brown Conservation Club (SBCC) has proudly existed as an active chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), passionately seeking to protect local natural resources. They annually host spring stream clean-up projects and are passionate about educating youth on watersheds and water quality issues. Since 2016, members have been involved in developing the IWLA's National Clean Water Challenge, striving to monitor 100,000 streams nationwide by 2022 and improving water quality across the country. Last spring, the SBCC collaborated with the WAV Stream Monitoring Program to host a water quality training which drew participants not only from the SBCC, but also from a nearby environmental engineering firm, students from the UW-Green Bay, and from the community. As a result SBCC started monitoring three sites for baseline data and phosphorus.

Jean Abreu

From 1998 through her retirement in 2016, teacher Jean Abreu, monitored a site on the Rib River with her students. During this time, Jean also worked with the Marathon County Land Conservation Department to share her monitoring results with them and others who were interested in the data she had collected. Jean also contributed to documenting the water quality in the Big Eau Pleine Flowage, which included six years of monthly monitoring at three sites. While working with the Big Eau Pleine Lake Association, Jean assisted in completing river planning grant goals, and had her students share their macroinvertebrate sampling results.

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