



Winnebago Waterways

A Kick-Start to Recovery

By Emily Henrigillis and Korin Doering, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

Just this past year, a lake management plan was finalized for the Winnebago Pool Lakes. This group of lakes includes Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, Lake Butte des Morts, and Lake Winnebago. The Winnebago Waterways Lake Management Plan is a dynamic, living document that was developed by Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) with help and financial support from multiple organizations. The plan serves as a guide for strategic management of the lakes and is intended to focus coordinated efforts from multiple agencies, organizations, and individuals who are working toward recovery of the Winnebago Pool Lakes.

The Winnebago Pool Lakes, similar to many of our smaller lakes in Wisconsin, face internal and external pressures on their water quality and aquatic habitat. This includes internal nutrient loading, harmful algae blooms, loss of aquatic habitat, invasive aquatic plants and animals, and polluted run-off entering the lake due to watershed practices.

The goals of the Winnebago Waterways Lake Management Plan are very similar to the goals created for lakes across the state:

- Improve water quality in the system,
- Reduce nutrient pollution,
- Increase presence of shoreline buffers and rain gardens,
- Partner with local agencies and groups to improve the lake,
- Keep new aquatic invasive species out of the lake, and
- Improve habitat within the lake.

(Continued on page 2)

RECREATIONAL ANGLING IN THE LAKES BRINGS IN OVER
\$297 MILLION
ANNUALLY TO A FIVE COUNTY REGION*

OVER
200,000
PEOPLE RELY ON LAKE WINNEBAGO FOR THEIR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

THE LAKE SYSTEM HOLDS
17%
OF WISCONSIN'S SURFACE WATER

MORE THAN
2,000,000
PEOPLE LIVE WITHIN 75 MILES OF THE LAKES

WINNEBAGO WATERWAYS RECOVERY

An introduction to the Winnebago Waterways Lake Plan that aims to improve and protect the Winnebago Lakes

(Winnebago Waterways, continued)

Size Matters

The difference between your average recreational lake and the Winnebago Pool Lakes is, obviously, the size. When you categorize Wisconsin's 15,000+ lakes by size, less than 2% comprise the largest lakes, which are over 500 acres. Each of the lakes within the Winnebago Pool are thousands of acres in size:

- Lake Poygan - 14,024 acres
- Lake Winneconne - 4,553 acres
- Lake Butte des Morts - 8,581 acres
- Lake Winnebago 131,939 acres (almost 10 times larger than Lake Poygan!)

Improving water quality in a system as large as the Winnebago Pool Lakes is a huge undertaking.

To view the Winnebago Waterways Lake Management Plan, visit <https://fwwa.org/watershed-recovery/winnebago-waterways> and select "Winnebago Waterways Lake Plan" from the top menu.

Improving water quality in a system as large as the Winnebago Pool Lakes is a huge undertaking. This is because the lake system drains an even larger watershed that spans over 5,700 square miles in the Upper Fox and Wolf River Basins! To meet water quality targets, sediment and phosphorus pollution needs to be

reduced from many sources across the drainage basin.

Partners Make the Difference

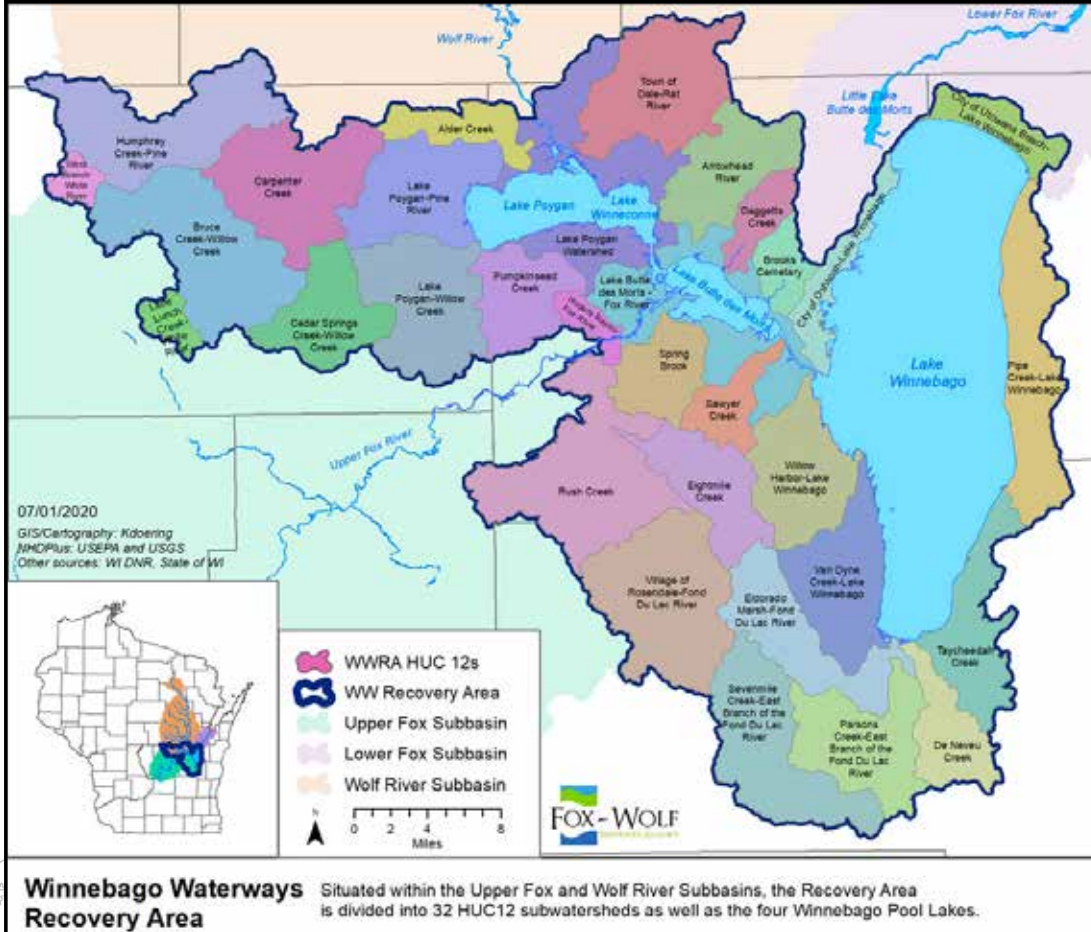
This is why the Winnebago Waterways program at FWWA and our many partner organizations play an important role.

Korin Doering, Director of Winnebago Waterways, has worked tirelessly to ensure that the protection of the Winnebago Pool Lakes is a priority for the communities around the system. This includes working with partners to create the stakeholder-driven, comprehensive lake management plan. Chris Acy, FWWA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator, worked with Korin to write the AIS portion of the plan, and Jessica Schultz, FWWA Executive Director, led the development of the watershed management section of the lake plan. This plan is huge! There are nine management topics, 30 objectives, 170 recommendations, and 525 action items set in a 20-year time frame.

Implementation

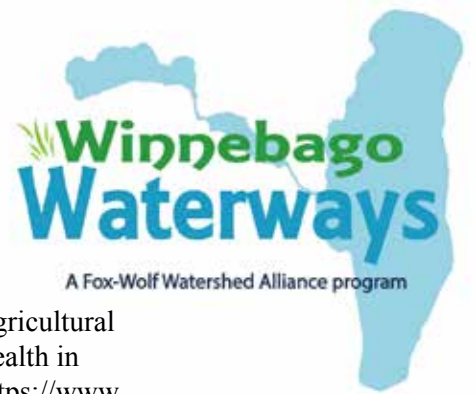
The next step of any approved lake management plan is implementation. Many lake groups run into the issue of working towards, and more often paying towards, the creation and approval of their lake management plan, but it then sits on the shelf. The Winnebago Waterways program did not want to see that happen, as a lot of momentum for the system was built during the lake management planning phase. The FWWA applied for and received a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan implementation grant in 2021 to kick-start recovery efforts.

The 3-year DNR grant enabled FWWA to add Emily Hennigillis to the Winnebago Waterways team in June 2021. Emily previously



worked in Shawano and Menominee Counties helping lake groups implement their lake management plans. Read more about Emily Henrigillis and her background on the FWWA's website. The Kick-start for Implementation Grant will help establish regional programs to increase the likelihood of implementation success. This includes creation of a shoreland restoration program, coordination of a volunteer-based water quality monitoring program, facilitation of cooperative implementation among numerous organizations and across multiple jurisdictions, and building additional community support for lake recovery. A few examples of specific deliverables include: creation and distribution of an annual water quality report card, installation of shoreline best management practices, development of a shoreline stewards' recognition program, creation of a volunteer-based native plant growing program, facilitation of the Winnebago Water Level Assessment Team, hosting workshops, social media outreach, monthly e-newsletters, site visits with lakeshore property owners, volunteer trainings, exhibiting, and more!

The work that will be completed under this DNR grant complements other Winnebago Waterways Program initiatives that are funded through different sources, including large-scale habitat restoration projects and agricultural conservation (such as our Soil Health in Progress initiative). Check out <https://www.winnebago-waterways.org> for examples of current projects!



The successes we have experienced so far would not have been possible without the commitment of Winnebago, Calumet, and Fond du Lac Counties through their Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement, the support of the county elected officials who serve on the Winnebago Waterways Committee, and the dedication of the Winnebago Waterways Steering Team members. Keep your eyes peeled for the work being done in the Winnebago Waterways! We are happy to share ideas and successes with any lake group that is hoping to further their implementation. 💧

[Renewing the Restoration on Lake Buttes des Morts](#)

There is a major change taking place on Lake Butte des Morts in 2021-2022. The Butte des Morts Conservation Club is working with support from the Wisconsin DNR, Winnebago County, and the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance to modify the Terrell's Island breakwall and rearrange large quantities of boulders to create new breakwalls on the lake. The need for this project dates back to the building and improvements of dams on the Winnebago system over 100 years ago. The dams elevated the water in the lake, flooding out and eliminating thousands of acres of wetlands.

Breakwalls are needed in order to calm waves that otherwise continually resuspend soil and organic matter in the lakes. The initial Terrell's Island project was completed in the mid-1990s, enclosing hundreds of acres of the lake in an attempt to grow more healthy aquatic plants and improve water quality. Conservation partners recently came to an agreement that the restoration itself was in need of some renewal as water quality was no longer improving inside the protected area of the lake. The current plan involves moving over 20,000 tons of rock (over 2,000 linear feet of breakwall plus five islands) to open up portions of the Terrell's Island project and create new breakwalls south of the initial project area.

Work of this sort can only take place on ice. A short freeze season this past winter truncated the amount of rock that could be moved. The hope is that a long ice season in 2021-2022 will allow the project to be completed before next summer. Funding for the project includes a DNR surface water grant, with additional help from Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Fund, Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department, and the Butte des Morts Conservation Club. Once completed, the Terrell's Island and Samers Bay project should create new, high-quality fishing opportunities on Butte des Morts. Learn more and check out impressive videos and photos of work this past winter on the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance website. Go to <https://fwwa.org> and search for "Terrell's Island."



Capacity Corner Aug. 2021

Relational Capacity and How to Coordinate Collective Action

By Sara Windjue, Leadership and Capacity Development Specialist, Extension Lakes



membership, organization, relationships, and programs. This article, focusing on collective action, is an example of relational capacity.

This Capacity Corner was prompted by Dane Whittaker's article "Coordinating Collective Action: Why Lake Organizations are Like Cookouts" <https://bit.ly/3rsF3Qt>

Keeping our lakes healthy requires collective action. Collective action is when a number of people work together to achieve some common objective to provide or manage a public good. Wisconsin's lakes are public goods. We all benefit from them in different ways, and because they are public, we all have the opportunity and the responsibility

A public good is "a good whereby no individual can be excluded from benefiting from it. In other words, everyone can benefit from its use." (Boycewire)

to protect and preserve them. But when lakes face challenges from overuse or carelessness, lake organizations typically step in to help. Unfortunately, low volunteer participation, homeowners opting out of membership, or visitors heavily using the lake can make it more difficult to keep the lake healthy.

Finding other local organizations who share similar values may enable you to come together as a stronger community for the benefit of the public good (i.e. coordinate collective action). To do this, consider conducting a community survey. A community survey can help you identify how your organization's mission meets a broadly shared community need.

Develop Your Mission Statement

First, you'll need to be sure you have a clearly defined mission. A mission statement should tell others why your organization exists and what makes it different from other organizations. Here are some tips to creating an effective mission statement:

- Keep it short and concise but don't make it too limiting
- Think long term (i.e. future generations)
- Get feedback from others
- Don't be afraid to change it in the future

Example Mission Statements

The Long Lake Preservation Association is dedicated to enhancing, preserving and protecting the quality of Long and Tittle lakes including the north and south channels for future generations through effective environmental and education policies.

The Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS) coordinate and facilitate a diverse group of people focused on improving the water quality and recreational experience of the Petenwell and Castle Rock lakes of the Wisconsin River.

The Lake Eau Claire Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to protect and improve the water quality and fishery of Lake Eau Claire for the benefit of the lake residents and general public.

Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area: To protect, preserve and improve the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the Eau Claire Lakes area watershed, including the lakes, rivers, shorelands, wetlands, forests and attendant wildlife resources.



Relational Capacity At Work on Rock Lake

provided by Patricia Cicero



The Rock Lake Improvement Association sponsored and organized a Rock Lake tour. There was a fish and aquatic plants station, water quality station, and a stop where people learned about a native shoreland garden.

The Rock Lake Improvement Association (RLIA), located in Jefferson County, is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year! This lake group has accomplished great things – many of which are due to the relationships and partnerships they have with the Lake Mills community, local governments, and other organizations.

RLIA played a critical role in converting an 89-acre dairy farm into Jefferson County Korth Park. They spearheaded a community effort to raise funds that went toward appraisal and purchase costs.

After the land was purchased in 2000, RLIA board members assisted the Jefferson County Parks Department with the development of the park's master plan and gathered volunteers to help convert the land to native vegetation, including 1,065 feet of Rock Lake shoreline.

RLIA was also instrumental in the 2006 development and 2018 update of the Rock Lake Management Plan. They applied for DNR grants and worked countless hours with RLIA leaders, the Joint Rock Lake Committee (advisors to the Town and City of Lake Mills on lake issues), the Lake Mills community, and the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department. The current 10-year plan (2018-2028) comprehensively covers a host of Rock Lake watershed issues and threats, as well as actions to address these challenges.

One of the group's highest priorities is to provide accurate and relevant information and education to community members and the leadership of Jefferson County and the City and Town of Lake Mills. RLIA works with these governmental bodies, as well as the DNR and the Joint Rock Lake Committee, to encourage the adoption of policies which allow for the entire community to enjoy one of the finest lakes in the region for a host of recreational activities, including fishing, boating, and swimming, while preserving the lake's health and beauty which enriches all of our lives in so many ways. RLIA works hard to partner with others to protect the lake and surrounding ecosystems so that future generations will have a healthy lake to enjoy.

Design a Community Survey

A community survey is a compilation of survey questions sent out to a specific audience, particularly those of a common community, to learn more about them. Community surveys give you valuable insights into what people and/or organizations want and value, thereby aiding in future decision-making processes and collective action efforts. Community surveys can also help your organization understand people's preferences about what issues they wish to support and how they want to extend their support.

If you're thinking about surveying your community to learn more about potential collective action opportunities, visit the

Extension Lakes website's Capacity Corner to get more details about this process (under *Highlights* at <https://uwsp.edu/uwexlakes>).

To get you thinking about what you may want to ask your community, we've listed some sample questions for you to consider in the box on page 15.

Share Your Experiences

Have you conducted a community survey? Are you involved in collective action efforts on your lake? We'd like to hear from you. Please email uwexlakes@uwsp.edu and tell us what you've done and if/how it has helped improve the quality of your lake. 💧

*Are you involved
in collective action
efforts on your lake?
Tell us about it at
uwexlakes@uwsp.edu*

Attention Lake Districts

We Want Your Ideas!

By Mike Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes



**WISCONSIN
LAKES**

*Send your feedback
to Mike Engleson
at [mengleson@
wisconsinlakes.org](mailto:mengleson@wisconsinlakes.org)*

Wisconsin Lakes, collaborating with Extension Lakes and others, is developing a proposal to comprehensively revise lake district law in the state, and we want your ideas!

When Chapter 33 was enacted in 1974, it was relatively short but over time saw legislative revisions and amendments. For instance, non-resident property owners were not allowed to vote in commissioner elections until 1980. Over the years, issues like who exactly qualifies as a “property owner” for petitioning, voting, or holding office were slowly defined more precisely by the legislature, often at the request of lake districts themselves.

While we’ve seen some piecemeal updates over the last few years that included clarification of local government representation and the establishment of a vote counting process, no comprehensive revision of Chapter 33 has happened in a long time. We’ve learned a lot about what works and what doesn’t, and Wisconsin Lakes believes that now is the time to take a look at the law and make some suggestions of how the legislature might improve the statute for districts across the state.

Some of this is simple tinkering - like raising the minimum bid threshold from \$2500 to something more reasonable like \$10,000. It also could include cleaning up ambiguous language as well as clarifying the rules and responsibilities of districts in regards to voting at annual meetings or for prospective districts looking to form.

A team of lake district experts has been thinking about this over the last year or so and we have some ideas of our own, but we’d like to hear your thoughts. What works and doesn’t work in Chapter 33 for your lake district? What changes would you like to see happen?

You can provide your feedback by sending a message to Mike Engleson at mengleson@wisconsinlakes.org. Please include your district name, contact info, the relevant sections of Chapter 33, and a description of the problem with a possible solution.

We hope a draft proposal will be done this fall, at which time we’ll look for legislative support in hopes of passage in early 2022. 💧

Find Chapter 33, subchapter IV at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/33>



Did you know there is a pre-application deadline for Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Grants?

DYK



Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grants

Qualified lake or river organizations, municipalities, and tribal governments can apply for small grants to support practices for individual shoreland property owners that improve the habitat and water quality along their shore. Just like other Surface Water Grants, be sure to complete the pre-application portions of the grant application and email them to DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov by September 2!

DNR Offering Surface Water Grant Funding

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Surface Water Grant Program is pleased to announce a call for applications from eligible organizations to support projects that protect and restore Wisconsin waterbodies. More than \$6 million is available to provide cost-sharing grants to support projects in the following areas:

- Education, outreach, and organization development
- Planning for protection and restoration
- Restoration of surface water and shorelands
- Management plan implementation
- Aquatic invasive species prevention and control

Who Is Eligible to Apply for Grant Funding?

Eligible organizations include lake associations and districts, river management organizations, local units of government, nonprofits, schools, and others. Individuals should partner with eligible organizations willing to sponsor a project. The state typically covers 75% or 67% of project costs depending on the subprogram. If you have not confirmed your eligibility in the last 10 years, reach out now to your local environmental grant specialist (go to dnr.wisconsin.gov and search for “environmental grant specialist”).

How to Apply

Download a copy of the grant application from the “Applying” tab on the “surface water grants” page of the dnr.wisconsin.gov website. Fill out the “pre-application” sections, and submit it to DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov by September 2. This rough project outline and draft budget will help us understand what you are proposing and help us provide technical assistance and feedback before the complete application is due on November 1.

CBCW Streamlined Grants

DNR is now accepting CBCW grant applications. If this is your first year applying, be sure to email DNRCBCWgrants@Wisconsin.gov by September 2 about your plans to apply!



Pre-Application Deadline: September 2

Complete Application Deadline: November 1

Wisconsin Turtles

A Keystone Species Keeping Our Water Clean

By Patrick Goggin, Lakes Specialist, Extension Lakes

Paul Skawinski

The oldest Blanding's turtle on record lived to be 75 years old and painted turtles may live to be 50 years old or older.



Here a Blanding's turtle basks in the sun with his western painted turtle friends.

As we explore the fallen logs and nearshore aquatic plants of pickerelweed, bulrush, and arrowhead along our shores, we often see turtles sunning themselves, eating insects, or nibbling on vegetation. The familiar turtles of our lake habitats and their nearby wetland environments include western painted, snapping, common musk, Blanding's, northern map, wood, and spiny softshell species. But did you know these animals provide us with

Because they spend so much time in the water, softshell turtles are especially sensitive to pollution.

Paul Skawinski



Young smooth softshell turtle.

something special? Some turtles have been labeled as keystone species! Let's explore turtle

biology, including how they are important to clean water, what threats exist that are causing turtles hardship, and conservation strategies we can all embrace to help them through life.

Ecology and Life History

Turtles in Wisconsin are associated with lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and bogs. However, they can also be found foraging for food on land. Even though

turtles reside in all corners of the world, they are considered the most threatened of vertebrates. Of the 11 species of turtles in Wisconsin, one is endangered (ornate box), one is threatened (wood), and three are of special concern (Blanding's, smooth softshell, and map).

Active primarily from April to October, a turtle's daily activities include sleeping, basking in the sun, and foraging for food. Not a bad gig! Depending on the species, turtles can be omnivores, herbivores, or carnivores. Algae, fruit, stems, leaves, and insects are all common food sources. For mobile prey like

tadpoles and fish, turtles use hunting methods such as ambushing or stalking.

Turtles have slow maturation rates; sexual maturation in some species takes as long as twenty years. Mating primarily occurs in late spring and involves males courting females. Once fertilization takes place, females will usually travel to upland nesting sites in June and July, excavate a nest, lay their eggs, and cover the nest with loose soil.

A Keystone species is an organism that helps hold the ecosystem together.

From August to September, hatchlings will emerge and head for water and cover. Prior to the onset of winter, turtles begin to hibernate beneath soil and plant debris of woodlands and prairies or in the mucky bottoms along our waterways.

Essential to the Ecosystem

Turtles are a keystone species. These important reptiles provide a role in the aquatic food web that is essential to an entire chain of linked species, habitats, and ecosystem services. Without turtles in our waterways, they can degrade and collapse, and other species' populations and ecosystem functions can be lost.

Turtles help maintain water quality by removing sources of harmful bacteria when they eat carcasses of fish and other animals that die in our waterways. Turtles are also essential in keeping fish habitat and wetland areas thriving! As turtles get older, they eat progressively more seeds and vegetable matter, rather than protein. They cycle nutrients in their guts and shells, and with the seeds in their guts, they spread new plants around as they move through their home range.

Scientists are untangling other turtle mysteries such as their grand impact on soil formation and health. Turtles, like amphibians, are excellent indicators of environmental pollution challenges. Due to their place in the food web, they can accumulate high levels of toxins such as mercury, lead, DDT, and PCBs in their bodies, alerting monitoring researchers to pollution concerns.

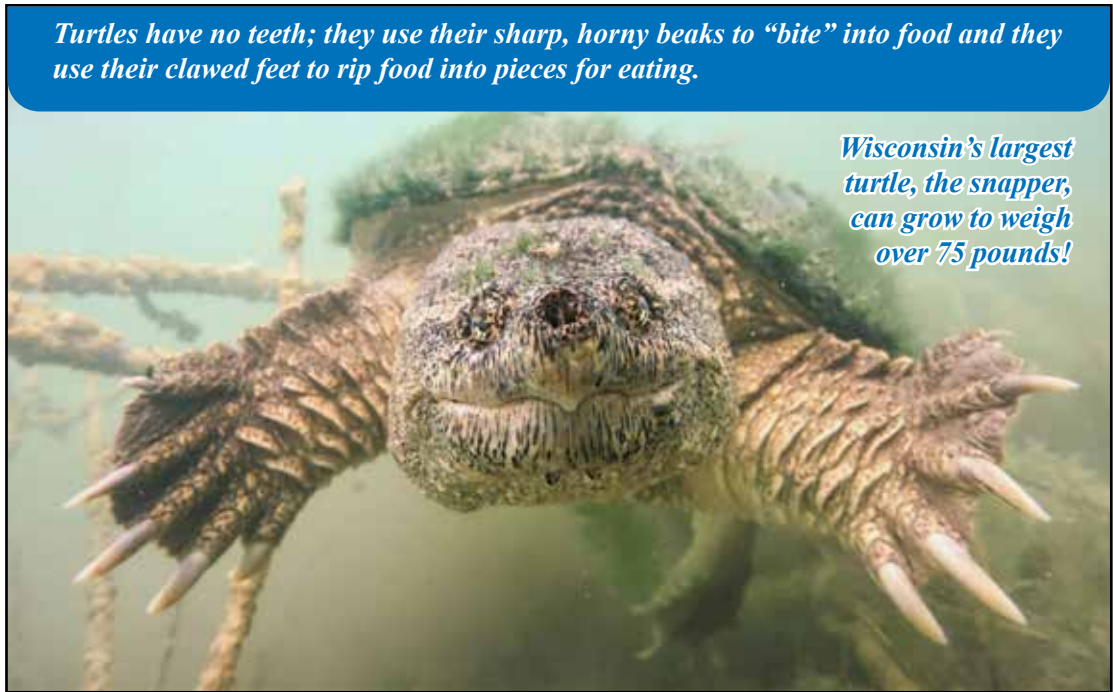
Threats

Most of Wisconsin’s turtle species breed in late May through June, and they often move across roads to lay their eggs in nests on higher ground like roadsides. Road mortality is a leading cause of their decline. The predation of turtle nests by raccoons, fox, skunks, and coyotes is another major problem.

Since the DNR began seeking information about turtle sightings and crossings in 2012, people have provided more than 7,500 reports, with roughly half of those identifying turtle crossing areas. Such reports have substantially increased awareness and education, boosting turtle conservation in the state.

Protection, Research, and Conservation

Research shows that turtle nest predation rates have sky-rocketed in recent decades because of increased mammal populations. This has



Turtles have no teeth; they use their sharp, horny beaks to “bite” into food and they use their clawed feet to rip food into pieces for eating.

Wisconsin’s largest turtle, the snapper, can grow to weigh over 75 pounds!

resulted in low hatch rates in many areas of the state. Scientists estimate that if this high nest predation continues for a generation of turtles, some of the less common species may decline to levels that are unrecoverable, meaning the species will become extinct in the state, and common species may become much less abundant.



If you spot a turtle in your yard from mid-May to early June, it is likely looking for a place to lay eggs. There are some simple and proven nest protection methods that can be used to improve turtle nesting success. To find out more on how you can help protect a nest or report a turtle crossing, see the Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program at <https://wiatri.net/inventory/witurtles>.

Prehistoric creatures covered in armor, turtles have many amazing traits vital to maintaining healthy waters. You can make a difference in turtle conservation on our local waterbody by increasing their habitat with fish sticks and other tree drop projects, bolstering native aquatic vegetation, and being mindful and watchful when you see them crossing roads or building nests. 💧

The eastern musk, one of the world’s smallest turtles, is also known as the stinkpot, and spends much of its time walking on the bottom of streams and rivers.

Paul Skawinski



AIS! Now What Do We Do?

Lakeshore Property Owners Have Opportunity to Learn More About AIS Management Strategies

By Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Richard James Heinrich and Bret Shaw, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dominique Brossard, Morgridge Institute for Research

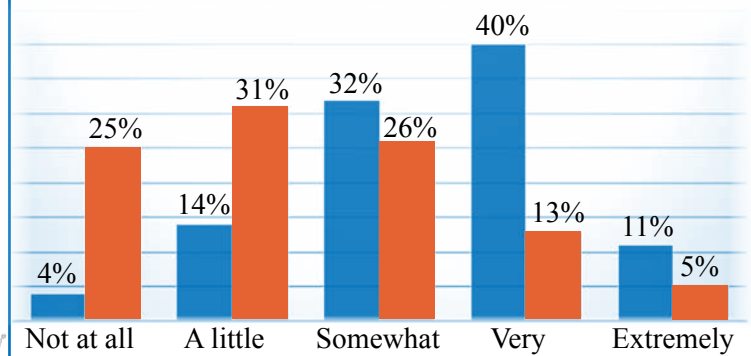
Results of this study indicate that many folks have heard about aquatic invasive species (AIS), but are much less familiar with management options.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and management are large parts of our lakes and rivers programs, with millions of dollars awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and federal agencies to help manage these threats to our waters. Understandably, significant attention has been devoted to prevent invasive species from becoming established in Wisconsin lakes, since this is often a more cost-effective option. However, once invasive species become established, they are generally here to stay. Changes in regulations, including more strict ballast water management and prohibited species lists, have prevented species from being introduced in the first place. Moreover, boater education programs like Clean Boats, Clean Waters and Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers messaging have helped boaters take action to prevent the spread of invasive species. Previous University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin DNR research suggests that these programs are working, with the invasion rate not increasing as predicted and boaters having high reported compliance with invasive species prevention steps.

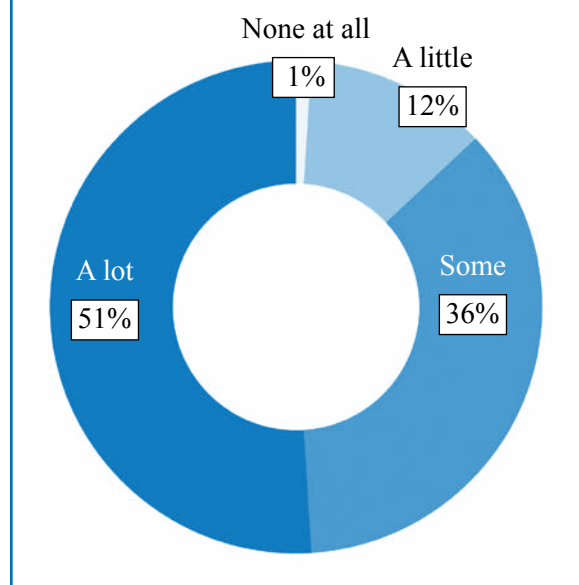
Unfortunately, new invasions do still occur, and the need to understand the impacts of the new invasive species and the potential management options exists. Lakeshore property owners and lake organization members, who are often the people leading efforts to manage invasive species in their lakes and often deal with the consequences when invasive species become established, especially need to be aware of potential management options. A recent survey of lakeshore property owners conducted by the Department of Life Science Communications and Division of Extension at the University of Wisconsin-Madison indicated that familiarity with AIS was quite high among respondents. Approximately 51% of respondents reported hearing “a lot” about AIS, while only about 1% reported hearing “nothing at all”. However, when examining familiarity with ways to manage AIS once they are present in a lake, 25% of respondents reported being “not at all” familiar.

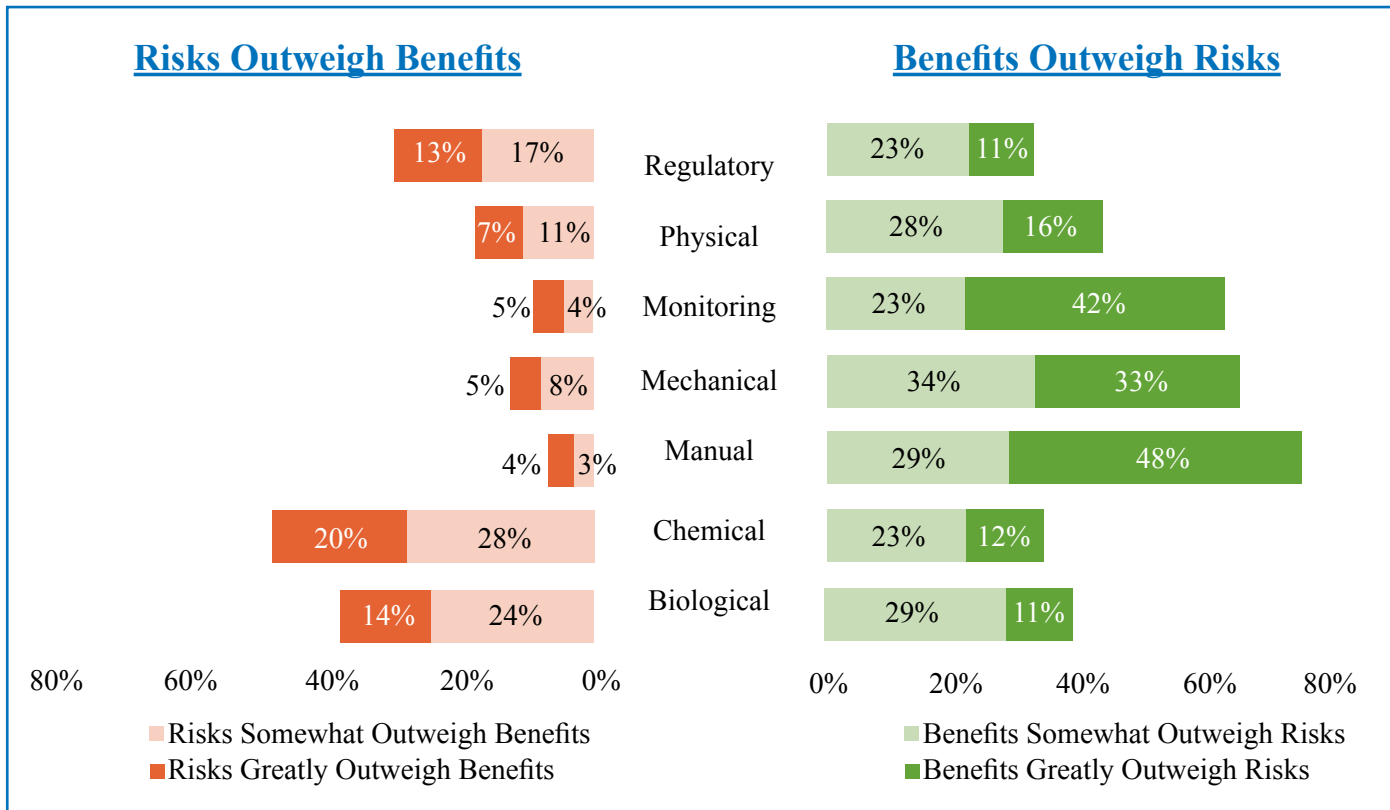
How familiar are you with...

■ Ways to prevent the spread of AIS?
■ Ways to manage AIS once present?



How much have you heard about AIS?





Previous research on invasive species has suggested that, in most instances, invasive species are not present in large densities and that potentially problematic, high-density populations only exist in a small number of hot spots. If the population is problematic, and chemical control is an option, research suggests that chemical control methods can be effective. For example, using 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) for Eurasian watermilfoil can reduce densities the year of application. However, multi-year reductions from one treatment were more variable. Unfortunately, research also shows that 2,4-D treatments for Eurasian watermilfoil impact larval fish and native plants, perhaps more so than Eurasian watermilfoil itself, suggesting that chemical treatments like 2,4-D may have unintended negative impacts on healthy young fish and native plant populations.

While chemical treatments can be effective, in many cases, an invasive species might not ever exist in densities sufficient to warrant such applications. Furthermore, if they are present at a density where chemical control makes sense, long-term control is not guaranteed, and there can be negative impacts of chemical control on desirable native species.

Management approaches described in the survey:

<i>Biological approach</i>	... using a known pest of a plant, such as an insect.
<i>Chemical approach</i>	... applying chemicals, also known as herbicides.
<i>Manual approach</i>	... pulling or raking plants by hand from the shore, by boat, or using divers.
<i>Mechanical approach</i>	... using motorized equipment such as a weed cutter or harvester.
<i>Monitoring approach</i>	... conducting surveys to track the growth of a plant over time.
<i>Physical approach</i>	... using a barrier, such as a tarp, to block the growth of plants.
<i>Regulatory approach</i>	... changing rules such as blocking off part of a lake or changing water levels.

Fortunately, there are additional aquatic plant management options that exist when chemical treatments might not be ideal. The provided table lists some of the other management tools that exist and how a statewide sample of Wisconsin lakeshore property owners feel about them. Chemical and biological control were believed to have more risks than benefits, while mechanical and manual control options were perceived to be very beneficial, relative to risk. Additionally, the strategy of

(Continued on page 12)

(AIS! Now What Do We Do?, continued)

simply monitoring a population to see if any further action would be needed was seen to be beneficial by respondents.

Monitoring your lake or river is an active and useful way to help inform the best course of action for your favorite body of water.

Reaching out to your local invasive species specialist, DNR lake contact, or consultant can help you learn more about the different AIS management options available in Wisconsin. Monitoring can especially be useful as it can help find new invasive species populations early when they are easier to manage. This can also help stakeholders make better decisions about effective management options and understand the impacts of those choices. Additionally, having a comprehensive understanding of the various management options and what they can accomplish will help you choose the best option if one is needed.

treatment, and thus might be open to other, perhaps more appropriate, control measures.

If your lake does have an invasive species present, it is important to know that problems caused by invasive species often do not occur right away. It may take years for their populations to establish at high enough densities to cause any undesirable impacts. This should provide communities with time to learn about what management options exist and plan what they might do in response to a new invasive species. Having this time to research and plan may help communities make more constructive decisions that better align with their values and desired outcomes.

In all situations, monitoring existing populations of invasive species is something most people can be trained to help with. Monitoring your lake or river is an active and useful way to help inform the best course of action for your favorite body of water. This thoughtful and multi-faceted approach to managing the presence of invasive species can lead us all to better outcomes for our waters that provide us with the fisheries, water quality, and enjoyment that we all want in Wisconsin's lakes. 💧

Prevention Steps

- ✓ Inspect
- ✓ Remove
- ✓ Drain
- ✓ Never Move!

If you care about a lake that does not currently have any invasive species, take the time to not only follow the prevention steps, but also learn about what management options exist and plan what you and your neighbors might do in response to a new invasive species. Our research suggests that residents who did not perceive their lake as having AIS found less of a benefit to chemical

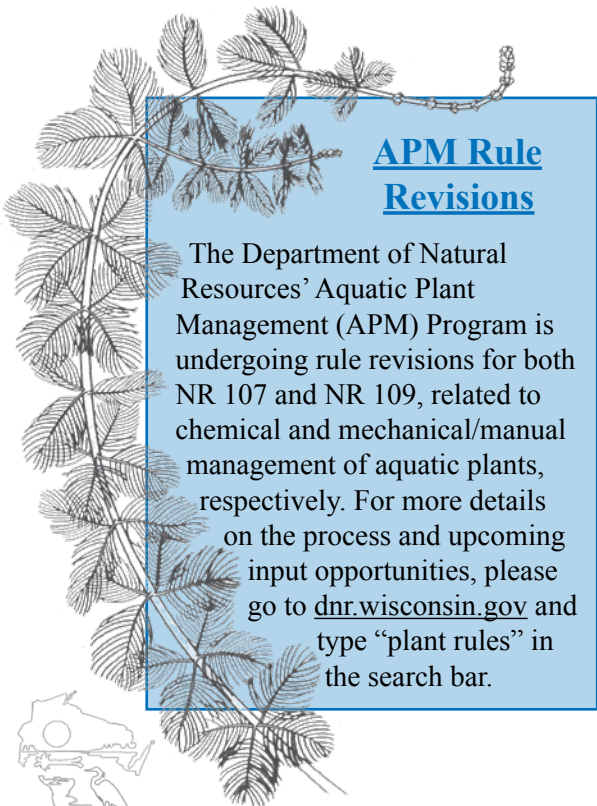
APM Rule Revisions

The Department of Natural Resources' Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Program is undergoing rule revisions for both NR 107 and NR 109, related to chemical and mechanical/manual management of aquatic plants, respectively. For more details on the process and upcoming input opportunities, please go to dnr.wisconsin.gov and type "plant rules" in the search bar.

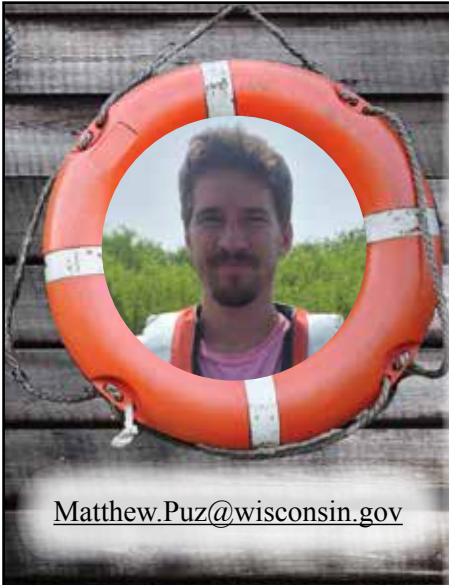
Snapshot Day 2021

Wisconsin's aquatic invasive species Snapshot Day was on Saturday, August 21 this year. This statewide, one-day event connects volunteers, water lovers, and local groups in a search for aquatic invasive species. This year, volunteers searched sites within 23 communities spread across the state.

For more information, go to <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/> or contact coordinator Shelby Adler (see opposite page).



WELCOME ABOARD!



Matthew.Puz@wisconsin.gov

Matt Puz began his dual LTE position with the Wisconsin DNR as Wetland Invasive Plant (WIP) Specialist in June. He will be helping to finish out a multi-year Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant-funded wetland control project, drafting some strategies for future WIP management plans, and serve as a general WIP resource for the program. Matt hails from Michigan where he received a Masters in Conservation Ecology and monitored the biological conditions of a hydrologically restored wetland complex within the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge as his graduate research project. He has also worked with both the U.S. Geological Survey studying control methods for the invasive *Phragmites australis* and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Regional Office to plan and write a suite of protocols covering various biological surveys across the region's National Wildlife Refuges. When not in waders or in the office, Matt can be found hiking trails around Madison, reading a good book, or on the basketball court.

Shelby Adler is the new Rivers Educator with Extension! For the past two years, she has been Wisconsin DNR's southcentral region aquatic invasive species (AIS) and Lake Specialist. She says, "This DNR position gave me the opportunity to work with awesome Extension colleagues on AIS outreach and citizen science programs. I am very excited to continue working on these initiatives as a fellow Extension employee!" Shelby graduated from the UW-Madison in 2014 with a BA in Environmental Studies, Biological Aspects of Conservation, and Geology. Her previous work includes monitoring Wisconsin lakes and wadeable streams for the EPA's National Assessments, working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex in Nevada, and monitoring and controlling invasive Asian carp in Southern Illinois. Shelby and her husband spend lots of time outdoors hiking, fishing, foraging for wild edibles and mushrooms, and paddling. She's an avid reader and hoarder of any and every book!



Shelby.Adler@wisc.edu

Amy.Kretlow@wisconsin.gov



Amy Kretlow is Wisconsin DNR's new AIS Statewide Coordinator! In 2014, she received a B.S. in Conservation & Environmental Science from UW-Milwaukee. While in school, she worked for Extension as the Sheboygan River Areas of Concern Outreach and Education Assistant, and has been working with AIS at the DNR since graduating. Amy says, "I am excited to be in this new role, since I have seen the program grow and develop into what it is today!" Both of Amy's grandfathers instilled in her the love of water, introducing her to the big waters of Lake Michigan and to inland lakes and all they have to offer. She feels lucky to now pass this passion onto her grandchildren. Living in Sheboygan near the shores of Lake Michigan, Amy spends her spare time hiking, fishing out on the big pond (Lake Michigan), and spending time with her grandkids.



2022 Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention

Part of Wisconsin Water Week



Deadline:
October 1,
2021

Many times we discuss ways to manage or lessen some of the damage we have done to our lakes and rivers. Whether it be trying to control invasive species, restoring shoreland, or limiting the capture of certain fish species, we're often playing "catch-up." While all of those restorations and mitigation strategies are necessary, it is also important to protect our waterways that are still healthy. That's the theme surrounding this year's Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention: *Protecting What We Love for the Future*.

The hands-on workshops and engaging presentations during this year's event will be centered around this theme of protecting

our water resources. Our look "to the future" means we will also be focusing on success stories and recommendations of resilience, adaptation, and action in a changing climate. We will also be intentional about highlighting efforts and ideas that support diversity, equity, and inclusion in water resource protection and management.

Do you have research or a success story to share with this unique audience of citizen scientists, businesses, and lake, river and wetland professionals? We invite you to submit a presentation proposal! 🌊

SAVE THE DATE
April 6-8, 2022
Stevens Point

Submit a proposal: uwsp.edu/uwexplakes

Wisconsin's Lake Stewardship Awards For the Future



The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has given annual awards to individuals and groups involved in lake protection and restoration since 1986. In 2021, the partners (DNR, Extension Lakes, and Wisconsin Lakes) opted to take a pause due to the pandemic conditions and our inability to gather and recognize winners. This time-out provided an opportunity to rethink the nature of these awards and look for ways to better promote Wisconsin's successes. For 2022, we will be seeking nominations in three award categories: *Community Education and Outreach*, *Partnership Building*, and *Lake Management Success*. Each category reflects a different

dimension of excellence in caring for lakes. We hope that by emphasizing preliminary steps like education, outreach, and partnership building, we can highlight early victories that inspire dozens of other organizations to follow suit. These categories also align with the Partnership's emphasis on capacity building for lake organizations. The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership will be advancing winners of the Community Education and Outreach and Lake Management Success awards to the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) for their consideration at their annual NALMS Achievement Awards. We strongly believe that the work you all are doing across Wisconsin is some of the best in the nation, and this revised award process will allow us to prove it! Learn more about the new award nomination process on the 2022 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention website.



Sample Questions for Community Survey

1. Does your organization/business benefit from [name] lake?
 - If so, how?
2. Do you personally benefit from [name] lake?
 - If so, how?
3. Are there any issues you're concerned about regarding [name] lake? This could be an open-ended question or you could provide options, such as:
 - a. Water quality
 - b. Water levels
 - c. Invasive species/weeds
 - d. Erosion
 - e. Overuse of the lake (i.e. too much activity, too loud, unsafe or damaging waves)
 - f. Decreased wildlife habitat/fishery
 - g. Algae
 - h. Other – provide a space for people to write other concerns they may have.
6. Are you interested in partnering with [lake organization] to work on lake-related issues?
7. Please let us know how we can work together on future initiatives related to [name] lake. Would you like to:
 - a. Serve on the board of directors of [lake organization]?
 - b. Serve on a committee of [lake organization]?
 - c. Become a volunteer/lead a group of volunteers for [lake organization]?
 - d. Invite a [name] lake property owner or [lake organization] board member to serve on the board of a different community group?
 - e. Organize a fundraiser?
 - f. Provide educational materials?
 - g. Other? (Provide a space for people to share other possibilities.)



C A L E N D A R

August 21 – AIS Snapshot Day, Statewide

For more information, see page 12 or go to <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/>

September 2 – Pre-Application Deadline, Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Grants

For more information, see page 7 or go to dnr.wisconsin.gov and search “Surface Water Grants”

September 17 – 6th Annual Healthy Lakes Conference, Oconomowoc

This one-day conference will be available in person at the Oconomowoc Community Center, as well as via Zoom. For more information, contact Beth Hoefler-Jezo at 262-369-0500 or info@tallpinesconservancy.org

September 23 – NASECA Field Day, Rice Lake

See live examples of best management practices and product demonstrations for erosion control and stormwater management. For more information: <https://nasecawi.org/events-training/>

Ongoing Opportunities

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership

Lake Conservation Webinars

<https://midwestglaciallakes.org/resources/webinars/>

Clean Lakes 101

<https://www.cleanlakesalliance.org/clean-lakes-101/>

Center for Limnology Zoology 911

<https://limnology.wisc.edu/weekly-seminar/>

Wetland Coffee Break

<https://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/wetland-coffee-break/>



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Reflections

“The fish and frogs, man, they ain’t got it bad.
They say, “C’mon down kids, bring your mom and your dad.”
We can all share the water, for goodness sake.
If you can’t understand this, take a jump in the lake.”

— Amy Kowalski
(from the song *All Water is Lake Water*
written at the 2012 Lakes Convention)

