

Loving Wisconsin's Waters for All They Provide

Breathtaking Views, Fun Times Support Economic Health and Overall Well-being

By Mary Monroe Brown, Director, Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation

It's a peaceful trek across the frozen lake after a fresh snowfall, the white horizon glistening in the sunlight. Only the sounds of my snowshoes plunging through the powder and the screeching hawk soaring above break the quiet of the winter morning. This is one of my favorite places.

Growing up, our family spent much of our summers on the lake, swimming, fishing, or paddling. During winter weekends, there was snowmobiling, ice fishing, or adventures on cross-country skis through the forest trails. No matter the season, I know I'm not alone in loving the lake.

Bordered on three sides by water – two Great Lakes and the Mighty Mississippi – and with 15,000 inland lakes and 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, Wisconsin is a natural playground and an outdoor lover's dream. It should come as no surprise that the outdoors, and our abundance of accessible waters, are a top reason for visiting Wisconsin. With our fun-loving spirit, Wisconsinites are proud to share all the outdoors has to offer with others. From fishing guides to outfitters, naturalist educators to marina managers, outdoor recreation supports the livelihoods of approximately 90,000 Wisconsinites each year.

For over one hundred years, from the early development of the Northwoods as an outdoor vacation destination, outdoor recreation runs deep in the Wisconsin story. The natural photography

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Kami Healy - adjusted

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Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



The Narrows, Dells of the Wisconsin

translates into vital economic impact that supports communities across Wisconsin. Anglers, alone, are estimated to spend \$1.5 billion fishing in Wisconsin annually according

More people discovered the physical and mental health benefits of time spent outside, and in that discovery, more people began to understand and value what the outdoors provides.

of Henry Hamilton Bennett made the Wisconsin Dells famous even before the advent of the automobile and long before waterparks were ever imagined. Travelers came by train from Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland, and beyond to visit the idyllic scenery of the Dells and the Wisconsin River. In 1922, as Americans were able to travel and explore more remote locations with the automobile, the Wisconsin Resort Association was established to create services and amenities for tourists and encourage them to visit the Northwoods. The rest, you might say, is history.

With over six million acres of public land and all navigable waterways held in the public trust, Wisconsin's outdoors is one of the most accessible around. We know that when people recreate in Wisconsin, businesses and communities benefit. Take, for example, a family that travels to their favorite lake for a weekend of boating and fishing. They stop at the grocery store to load up on meals and snacks, maybe the bait shop for supplies (and tips about what type of bait to use if the locals are willing to share that coveted information), and the marina where they fuel up and launch the boat. They rent a cabin for the weekend and decide to eat a meal at a local restaurant and before they head for home, buy a souvenir or two at a shop on Main Street. All that spending

to a study by the American Sportfishing Association.

Outdoor recreation in Wisconsin isn't just a fun thing to do. The state's outdoor industry is a \$7.8 billion engine supporting jobs in a variety of sectors in both rural and urban areas. In Wisconsin, we don't just ride bikes; we make the bikes. And we're not just "gone fishing;" we craft the rods and lures. We make paddles, boats, and a long list of other gear and equipment that help us enjoy the outdoors. Wisconsin ranks fifth in the nation of all jobs in outdoor recreation-related manufacturing.

No doubt Wisconsin's abundant waters helped birth the "Best Rods on Earth," still handcrafted in North America's largest fishing rod manufacturing facility at St. Croix Rod in Park Falls. The water also lured Bending Branches to the eastern shores of the St. Croix River in Osceola to become the largest manufacturer of canoe and kayak paddles in the world! Just last year, the Lake Geneva area attracted luxury boat maker Grand Craft from neighboring Michigan. Wisconsin's industrious history and outdoor heritage are a dynamic duo for outdoor recreation manufacturers who can offer their employees a place to live out their passions and channel those experiences back into their work.

Outdoor Recreation: A Top Driver of Wisconsin's Economy



\$7.8 billion is contributed to Wisconsin's GDP by the outdoor recreation industry, and it is growing faster than the overall economy.



Wisconsin ranks 5th in the U.S. for the share of all jobs in outdoor recreation-related manufacturing.



93,000 jobs are supported by outdoor recreation in Wisconsin, contributing \$3.9 billion in worker compensation.



95% of Wisconsin residents participate in outdoor recreation, and it is a primary driver behind visitation to the state.

There is a direct connection between the state’s natural resources, how we enjoy them, the livelihoods they support, and the economic health and overall well-being of our residents and communities. Outdoor recreation amenities, such as parks, trails, lakes, and rivers, are increasingly considered as important factors raising the quality of life for residents and the livability of a community. Not only are these features a draw for tourists, but also for new residents, including business owners and entrepreneurs which provide long-term economic benefits. In fact, Headwaters Economics found in a nationwide analysis of census and additional data that people are more likely to move to areas defined as “recreation counties” compared to “non-recreation counties.”



During the pandemic, the rise of “Zoom Towns” further illustrated the importance of outdoor recreation as many more employees were able to work remotely and chose to relocate to communities where access to the outdoors and recreation infrastructure were well-established. Second homes became home bases. Lunch hours became a chance to escape outside for a quick hike, bike, or paddle. And after work hours were filled with more outdoor adventures without the hassle of packing up the car and traveling to get there. More people discovered the physical and mental health benefits of time spent outside, and in that discovery, more people began to understand and value what the outdoors provides.

We have long known the health and wellness benefits of nature and outdoor recreation. From combating chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, to improving

mental focus, clarity, and mood, and even boosting immune system efficiency, time spent outside is key to healthy living. But even with research mounting, outdoor spaces and recreation have often been considered more of a “nice to have” or “fun thing to do.” Increased participation has led to shifts in behavior, and the role of the outdoors and recreation is gaining acceptance as part of a healthy human life.

If there is any silver lining of the pandemic, maybe this is it – a growing number of people have connected to the outdoors and now understand all the benefits it provides for us. From keeping a tourism economy afloat when travel is restricted, to making a community desirable for residents, supporting livelihoods of guides and manufacturers alike, providing an outlet for stress relief or a way to be active, or just being a place to make memories with

Wisconsin’s industrious history and outdoor heritage are a dynamic duo for outdoor recreation manufacturers who can offer their employees a place to live out their passions and channel those experiences back into their work.

family or friends, the outdoors is a remarkable connector and provider.

Touching our lives in nearly countless ways, the outdoors is gaining recognition as an important and fundamental

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Capacity Corner - Feb. 2022

Show Your Love of Lakes!

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



You might be a member of your local lake association, or maybe you're automatically a member of your lake district. We'd like to encourage you to show your love of lakes by being actively involved in your local lake group this year. If you are already active, we encourage you to involve a friend or neighbor.

Here are a few levels of organizations you may be interested in:

- Local lake organization - Even if you don't reside on a lake, you could still support the lake organization by making a donation or becoming a member (if that is an option).
- County or regional lake organization
- Local and regional land trust
- Producer-led watershed group
- Statewide lake organization, Wisconsin Lakes
- Local or statewide wetland or river organization

Most of these organizations can be found through the statewide *Lake List*, an online resource to help you connect with other lake organizations and businesses. Just go to www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes and click on "Lake Organization Search" in the left navigation menu.

If you're thinking about ways to grow your own organizational membership, look beyond the lake to more civic/social causes in your area. Becoming an organizational member of other local groups shows that you're interested in the community as a whole. This will allow you to explore similarities and build partnerships, which will benefit both organizations and the community.

Make it a goal in the new year to show your love of lakes by becoming a member of a new organization. And don't keep it a secret - let us know through social media (<https://www.facebook.com/wilakespartnership>) or email (uwexlakes@uwsp.edu)! ♥

Think about the different organizations you are a member of and why you joined in the first place. What was it that prompted you to say, "Yes, count me in!"? People tend to join organizations if:

- They understand and believe in what the organization seeks to accomplish.
- They have talents, energy, and/or time to contribute.
- They believe membership will reflect well on them.
- They may receive something beneficial in return for their support.

Lake associations attract members who believe that by joining with neighbors, they can have a collective impact on the health of their lake. Lake districts, in contrast, typically have boundaries drawn to include all those landowners who would benefit from the lake district. Once the district is formed, the landowners become compulsory "members" of the district.



key to economic health and our overall well-being. As such, there are many stakeholders invested in capitalizing on the outdoors for our mutual benefit. The Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation was established to draw these connections, provide a central resource, and strengthen the outdoor industry network among such a diverse group of stakeholders – municipal leaders, conservation groups, land managers, guides and outfitters, manufacturers, business owners and health practitioners – for the benefit of our state and its residents.

The Office seeks to engage and align partners around the four key tenets: invite, connect, thrive, and sustain, to ensure a collaborative and responsible approach to harnessing the benefits of the outdoors. With the shared goals of inviting people to experience Wisconsin's outdoors, making access equitable to those who reside here, encouraging healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation, and fostering personal sense of responsibility to sustain these natural resources, working together we can uplift the industry and improve the quality of life for all.



Just before I finish my snowshoe trek, I start to see movement around the lake's perimeter. Soon, I hear the dampened roar of chainsaws and augers as the anglers take to the ice to wet a line. A few more blurry figures begin to appear. A handful of kids sled down a hill careening onto the frozen runway; their squeals of joy are contagious. Kicking off the snow from my shoes, I have one last reflection of gratitude for this place that gives us so much. I'm glad to know so many others love this lake, too. ♥

Four Key Tenets of the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation

Invite residents, visitors, businesses, and workforce talent to live, work, and play in Wisconsin – to experience the state's natural places and vast outdoor recreation offerings – to stimulate economic development.

Connect people to Wisconsin's natural places and outdoor recreation opportunities through access and education with a focus on inclusion.

Thrive when active lifestyles and outdoor recreation are promoted to create healthy individuals and communities.

Sustain Wisconsin's invaluable natural assets by encouraging outdoor recreation, the connection to place, and the preservation of healthy lands and waters.





Love planning your garden in February?

Check out this helpful webinar and handout on top plants for rain gardens, water gardens, and shoreline gardens, as well as the plants to avoid!
 Handout: <https://bit.ly/3eM8gQZ>
 Webinar: <https://bit.ly/3zkLs4r> passcode: &xe9hPU^



Love Your Lake by Planning Ahead With the New Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Rules

By Madi Johansen, Aquatic Plant Management Team Leader, Wisconsin DNR

A comprehensive update to aquatic plant management (APM) permitting that has been in the works for over two years is coming to conclusion in 2022. Now is the time to be involved if your lake association or district conducts herbicide treatments or operates a plant harvester. The new rule seeks to merge and update two different but overlapping rules for herbicide use and mechanical control into one modern integrated program for managing aquatic plants. While the changes replace much of the out-of-date language and redundancy of the old rules, many of the concepts and procedures remain familiar. The following highlights the key changes that will most affect Wisconsin lakeshore property owners.

Now is the time to be involved if your lake association or district conducts herbicide treatments or operates a plant harvester.



control and considers all the available tools to determine the most effective control strategy for a given water that also has the least impact on non-target species and water quality. IPM emphasizes monitoring and evaluation to compare goals to outcomes of control efforts which inform the next round of management.

Integrated Pest Management

Many of the changes center around Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is required by the US Environmental Protection Agency for permits issued for the use of herbicides in public waters. This technique is widely recognized as the most effective approach to managing aquatic plant problems by resource professionals worldwide and organizations like the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation. IPM focuses on long-term

Who needs a management plan?

A management plan will be required for most aquatic plant control work that affects a significant portion of a lake or wetland each year. Every five years, for most aquatic plant management projects in Wisconsin, resource managers and leaders will need to update



You Will Need A Plan

- If you are conducting large-scale management.
- If you are managing aquatic invasive species populations.
- If you are controlling aquatic plants for navigation beyond the riparian access zone.

You Will Not Need A Plan

- If you are controlling a pioneering population of any NR 40 Prohibited Species (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/invasives/classification.html>).
- If you are creating a riparian access lane to open water.
- If you are operating under a DNR-approved Best Management Practice for your lake.



a plan for their waterbody. Once a plan is drafted, a 21-day public comment period is required with notice advertised in a local newspaper and one other medium (e.g. lake association website).

What if my lake has a surface water planning grant?

If you are working under a surface water planning grant, then you should follow the guidance and requirements of the grant program. The finished planning project, following surface water grant guidance and requirements, will be considered a “complete” plan under the APM Program and will allow you to get a permit.

Plan Longevity

The life of a plan can be extended an additional five years if plant survey data and the past five years of control history show the plan is still working well. In this case, a plan would be updated at the 10-year mark. The DNR is committed to reducing the complexity of plans and streamlining their development and approval.

Large-scale activities that impact the majority of

Large-scale control means the control effort affects a significant part of the lake.

a lake’s ecosystem will require monitoring before and after control. Lake surveys will follow standard point intercept (PI) survey protocols. For many lakes, these changes will not be that new since, over the past 20 years, most lake organizations conducting APM on a large scale have already developed plans and conducted some annual surveys. If you are not conducting large-scale control or your lake is under 10 acres in size, you will not need to conduct additional monitoring as part of your permit.

Notification Process

For years, the DNR has heard about the need to improve public notification of APM activities. The requirement to publish notification of a permit application in a newspaper has been eliminated. The DNR will post all permits on lakes over 10 acres on its website for a 14-day public notification period. The applicant

Proposed Large-Scale Thresholds

The proposed large-scale threshold for **herbicides and pesticides** will be if the herbicide concentration calculation shows a specific herbicide (at planned control rates in the planned area of control) will affect most or all of the body of water.

The DNR estimates 7-10% of lake permits for chemical control may have large-scale effects under the proposed rule.

The proposed large-scale threshold for **mechanical harvesting** will be if the control area will go over 50% of the littoral area of the lake.

The DNR estimates 5% of the mechanical harvesting operations in the state may have large-scale effects under the proposed rule.

will provide a copy of the permit application to any affected lake or property owners’ association, lake district, and to all riparian property owners within five days of submitting the permit to the DNR. Once a permit is approved, permit holders will post two signs at all public access points. One 8.5x11-inch sign will include control dates and a map of the control areas. The other 8.5x11-inch sign will include information about the permit and the management plan. This applies to all control activities (mechanical, physical, biological, and chemical) on lakes over 10 acres.

Share Your Comments

Comments on the rule may be submitted to Madison.Johansen@wisconsin.gov until March 1, 2022. There will be a public hearing on the rule February 22, 2022 at 1:00 PM via Zoom. The DNR will consider all written comments and oral testimony in preparing the final draft scheduled for approval by the Natural Resources Board this summer. Following legislative review in early 2023, the rule should be published and in effect for the middle of 2023.

The best way to be engaged and ensure your voice is heard on the revisions is to sign up for GovDelivery (<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new>) and watch the APM Rules web page. There you will find the most up-to-date information and when and how you can provide input into the rule-making process. You may visit the APM Rules webpage for guides on what is in the rule, information on how to get involved, and summaries of all rulemaking efforts to date. ♥

Need additional information or have questions?

Google Search: “WDNR aquatic plant rules”

Go to: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/rules>

Email: Madison.Johansen@wisconsin.gov

Carroll.Schaal@wisconsin.gov



Loving the Trumpeter

Trumpeter Swans Back from the Brink

By Paul Skawinski, Statewide Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Educator, Extension Lakes

strichpunkt - Pixabay



Lifetime Bonds

Trumpeter swans form lasting bonds even before sexual maturity, and most will mate for life. A pair that discovers a good habitat and successfully raises a family will return year after year to nest, occasionally using the exact same nest as before. They use mounds of vegetation to build a nest to raise their young. Some trumpeters will harvest the vegetation themselves, but many prefer to repurpose a beaver lodge, muskrat mound, or small floating islands.

Wisconsin's heaviest bird – the trumpeter swan – is an iconic, all-white bird that prefers large, open wetlands with an abundance of diverse aquatic vegetation to eat. At up to 25 pounds with a wingspan of over 60 inches, they are enormous birds and require at least 100 yards of open water to noisily run across as they prepare to fly.

Almost Loved to Death!

These majestic swans suffered a precipitous decline from the 1600s to the early 1900s. Trumpeter swans were hunted for their feathers to decorate hats, and their down-covered skins were turned into powder puffs. Only 69 trumpeter swans were believed to remain in 1935, perhaps with some additional swans in isolated areas of Alaska and Canada.

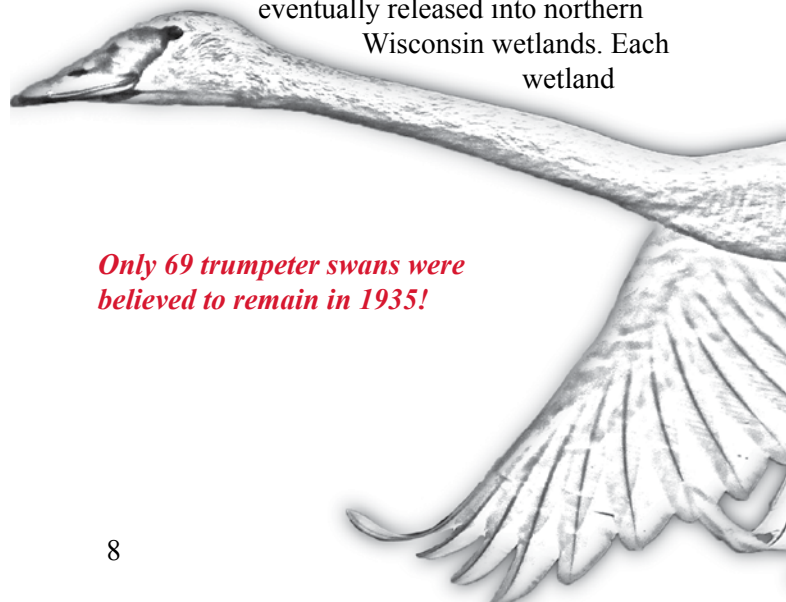
Wisconsin began a recovery program in 1989 to increase the trumpeter swan population. Each year, 37-50 eggs were collected from Alaska and were hatched at the Milwaukee County Zoo from 1989-1997. The program was a terrific success, with a 93% hatching success rate (typical hatching success rate in the wild is 60-80%). These hatched birds were eventually released into northern Wisconsin wetlands. Each wetland

Tom Koerner/USFWS



The love that trumpeter swans feel for their babies, called cygnets, is strong. They will keep their cygnets close and aggressively defend them from predators, such as bald eagles, great horned owls, river otters, and coyotes.

Only 69 trumpeter swans were believed to remain in 1935!



Look-A-Likes

Trumpeter swans may be confused with other large white wetland birds such as mute swans, tundra swans, or pelicans.

Mark Lorch - Flickr - Creative Commons



Mute swans are slightly smaller with an orange bill and typically hold their neck with more of a curve. The trumpeter swan's bill is all black, except in juveniles where there may be a pinkish patch on the side.



Max Pixel

Tundra swans are smaller than trumpeter swans and have a small yellow patch in front of the eye. The area where the bill meets the head is V-shaped on trumpeter swans and U-shaped on tundra swans.



Paul Skawinski

Pelicans have a shorter neck, and a much longer bill with their distinct yellow "gular pouch" underneath, which can expand to scoop up more than three gallons of water and fish.

selected to receive trumpeter swans had to meet a long list of habitat criteria to give the swans the best chance at survival and reproduction. A total of 394 trumpeters were released into Wisconsin wetlands.

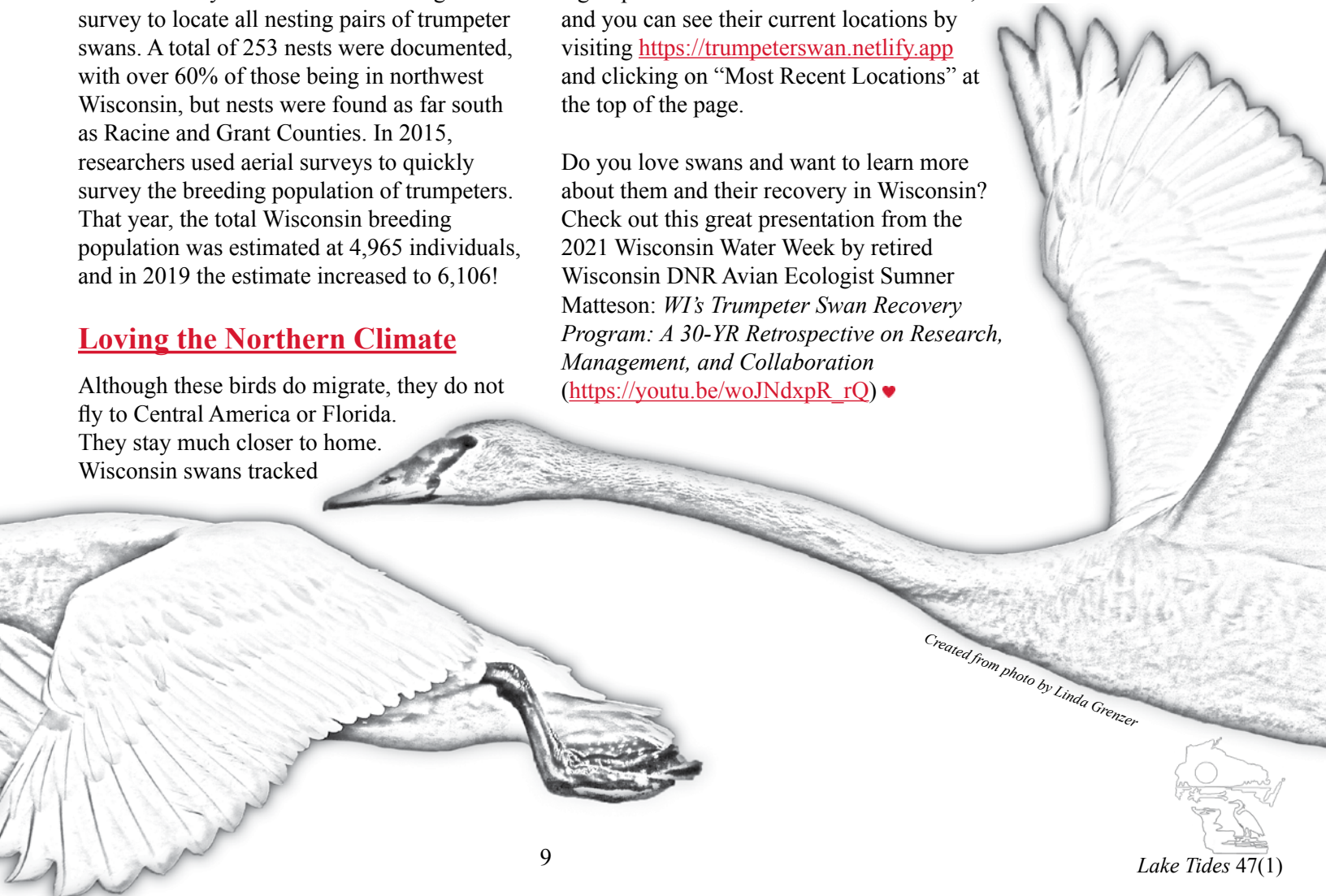
2014 was the year of the most recent ground survey to locate all nesting pairs of trumpeter swans. A total of 253 nests were documented, with over 60% of those being in northwest Wisconsin, but nests were found as far south as Racine and Grant Counties. In 2015, researchers used aerial surveys to quickly survey the breeding population of trumpeters. That year, the total Wisconsin breeding population was estimated at 4,965 individuals, and in 2019 the estimate increased to 6,106!

Loving the Northern Climate

Although these birds do migrate, they do not fly to Central America or Florida. They stay much closer to home. Wisconsin swans tracked

with satellite transmitters during migration were found to migrate as far as 607 miles to southwestern Illinois, but some migrated as little as 41 miles between Crex Meadows Wildlife Area and Hudson, WI. In an ongoing study of trumpeter swans, researchers outfitted a group of swans with satellite transmitters, and you can see their current locations by visiting <https://trumpeterswan.netlify.app> and clicking on "Most Recent Locations" at the top of the page.

Do you love swans and want to learn more about them and their recovery in Wisconsin? Check out this great presentation from the 2021 Wisconsin Water Week by retired Wisconsin DNR Avian Ecologist Sumner Matteson: *WI's Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program: A 30-YR Retrospective on Research, Management, and Collaboration* (https://youtu.be/woJNdxpR_rQ) ♥



Created from photo by Linda Grenzer

Encouraging Students to Love our Waters

Educator Resources from WCEE

By Gina Smith, Resource Specialist, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education

The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) provides several opportunities for educators to engage students in water exploration through its “Trunks and Kits” program. Water-themed kits can be borrowed from the WCEE for up to four weeks and include materials and activities that support hands-on learning in classrooms, nature centers, or outdoors. Kits available for check-out include:



Enviroscape

We all live in a watershed with water pollution that originates from many sources. This model helps students visualize what stormwater pollution and runoff looks like. This kit must be picked up from the WCEE office (no shipping available).



Fish Hotel Kit

The Fish Hotel Kit was developed by the Center for Land Use Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The kit helps students explore the benefits of shoreline trees on Wisconsin’s fish species and is recommended for students in kindergarten through 8th grade.



Fishing for Fun Backpack

Help young children learn more about our freshwater species through the Fishing for Fun Backpack. The backpack includes hands-on activities related to fishing, freshwater mussels, and aquatic macroinvertebrates that encourage exploration of Wisconsin’s many water resources. Kits were assembled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in La Crosse and Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services. Kit is recommended for learners ages Pre-K through 5th grade.

photos provided by WCEE

Great Lakes Invasive Species Identification Kit

Learn about species that are invading the Great Lakes and what can be done to help stop their spread! This kit includes 10 preserved examples of invasive animal and plant species, and helps students of all ages learn how to recognize some of the invasives that are harming the Great Lakes.

Groundwater Model

The Groundwater Model is an interactive classroom tool that is designed to show the flowage of water and toxins through confined and unconfined aquifers. It also demonstrates the effects of pumping on these aquifers. The model can be used as a teacher demonstration or by students themselves. This item must be picked up from the WCEE office (no shipping available).

Impervious Surfaces Kit

Examine what happens to rain as it travels across pervious and impervious surfaces! This kit contains materials for a surface demonstration along with resources and posters that can be used to help learners understand run-off and how it impacts lakes, rivers, streams, and the fish that inhabit them.

All kits can be reserved from the WCEE free of charge, and most can be shipped to locations throughout Wisconsin for a small shipping fee. Links to reserve these resources can be found on the WCEE Library Trunks and Kits website: https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/wcee/library/Pages/trunks_kits.aspx. ♥



From Wisconsin Lakes with Love

By Mike Engleson, Executive Director,
Wisconsin Lakes



**WISCONSIN
LAKES**

In keeping with this year's Lakes and Rivers Convention theme of "protecting what we love," the board and staff of Wisconsin Lakes, your statewide lake organization, would like to take a moment to reaffirm our love of all Wisconsin's waters, as well as all our members! And we want you to know we are truly excited about the year to come.

For one, we enthusiastically look forward to the return of an in-person statewide Lakes and Rivers Convention in April, along with the NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference (June 17, Spooner or Hayward), and other local and regional gatherings. Of course, we all know that conditions can change quickly in these pandemic times and realize we're planning around that as well.

Much More On Tap for Wisconsin Lakes in 2022!

We'll be:

- Offering webinars and in-person seminars on advocacy (as part of our Lakes in Action program), communications (as part of our Lakekit program), and various other topics.
- Releasing the results of our survey and interview work regarding boater and AIS professional attitudes towards boat cleaning and decontamination solutions and continuing to help the state develop a strong and effective boat cleaning strategy.
- Expanding our efforts to provide research, analysis, and education on a wide range of issues related to the recreational impacts of watercraft on our waters, including the impacts of "enhanced wakes." Among other activities, we'll be hosting a full-day workshop at the Lakes and Rivers Convention.
- Continuing our history of advocacy for sound, science-based water policy through participation in important rulemakings, monitoring key legislation, and continuing our work to help pass a comprehensive overhaul of lake district law in Wisconsin.
- Launching new fundraising campaigns and pursuing new grant opportunities to provide a stable foundation for our work and add needed staffing, so we can accomplish all of our goals and objectives.

To all of you who contributed in 2021 to our efforts, we offer our heartfelt gratitude. The past year was one of our strongest fundraising years on record. Now, we need your support more than ever in 2022 to give us the resources to do even more, and do it even better.

Good luck to you in all of your pursuits! May the waters you love be clean, safe, and protected, and may you enjoy all they have to offer in 2022! ♥

wisconsinlakes.org



Lake Tides 47(1)



Network with Fellow Water Lovers

Registration Open, Early-Bird Pricing Ends February 28

That's right, it's finally time to meet in person again for the 44th annual statewide Lakes and Rivers Convention, April 6-8, 2022 - part of Wisconsin Water Week!

Love the Lakes and Rivers Convention, but can't make it in person?



You're in luck! There will be limited virtual opportunities this year. We will be using technology to share our live Thursday and Friday keynote speakers (Chad Pregracke, Living Lands & Waters and Charlie Wooley, US Fish and Wildlife Service), as well as one stream of Hot Topics and Lightning Talks to a virtual audience via Zoom. Just register for "The Virtual Convention" and make sure you have Zoom downloaded on the device you will use to attend virtually. All virtual options will be happening live at the Convention, so if you're planning to attend in person, you do not need to sign up for both.

We can't wait to see you! ♥

5-minutes to Share Your Lake or River Passion

Share your latest research, project, or success story through a poster or lightning talk! Submit your idea via the website by March 1.

Get to Know the App

We are using an app! Why? So you can:

- Quickly access the agenda and mark/view your favorites,
- Connect with speakers, exhibitors, and other attendees,
- Respond to real-time polls, and
- Ask questions during a presentation.

Read about many more benefits, as well as instructions on how to download and use the Eventleaf Guide app on the Convention website.



Kim Alba



Deadline: March 21

Show Your Love for Lakes Through Photos!

Show us what you love about your lake or river by submitting your two best photos to the Lakes and Rivers Photo Contest – you could win \$100! More details at wisconsinwaterweek.org - click on "Lakes and Rivers Convention" and find the "Photo Contest" button.

Reserve a Hotel Room

Reserve your room now by calling 715-344-0200 and reference the group name WI Association of Lakes or Group Block Code: AOL. Or visit wisconsinwaterweek.org and click on "Lakes and Rivers Convention" then "Lodging" to find a direct reservation link. Rooms in our group block are limited!



Face coverings will be required at this indoor event while Portage County is at the "high" or "substantial" community transmission level for coronavirus. Should the transmission rate change for the better, we may update this requirement in accordance with CDC masking guidance. The health and safety of our presenters and attendees is important to us, so please bring a mask for each day you are attending. Thank you for your understanding and compliance.

Convention Workshops - Wednesday, April 6

Your 44th annual Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership Convention will include several hands-on workshop opportunities. Get all the details and pre-register at wisconsinwaterweek.org before all the spots are taken!

Morning Workshops ~ 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Integrated Aquatic Plant Management (Limit 25)
*Madi Johansen, Aquatic Plant Management Team Leader
WDNR*

Interpersonal Communication Skills: Key Tools and Resources for Lake Organizations (40)
*Brad Gingras, Trainer/facilitator/general strategist,
Superior Strategies*

Lake District Commissioner Training for Beginners (50)
Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist, Extension Lakes

Shoreland Tools to Protect Your Lake (40)
*Pamela Toshner, Lake and Watershed Protection Specialist
and Kay Lutze, Natural Resources Basin Supervisor,
WDNR, Amy Kowalski, Communication Specialist,
Extension Lakes, and Lynn Markham, Shoreland Specialist/
Author, Center for Land Use Education*

Surface Water Grants Orientation (40)
*Alison Mikulyuk, Lakes and Rivers Team Leader; Laura
MacFarland, Surface Water Grant Program Manager, and
Sarah Fanning, Surface Water Grant Specialist, WDNR*

Volunteer Management for Water Organizations (40)
*Michele Miller, Student Affairs Manager and Amber
DeValk, Cupboard Operations Coordinator, UW-Stevens
Point*

Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program Training (40)
*Jesse Weininger, Conservation Biologist, and Lisie Kitchel,
Aquatic Ecologist, WDNR*

All Day Workshops ~ 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (break) 1:00-4:00 PM

Climate Adaptation for Wisconsin Lakes and Watersheds (Limit 50)
*Katie Hein, Lakes Monitoring Technical Lead and
Madeline Magee, Water Resources Management
Specialist, WDNR, Danielle Shannon, Northern Institute
of Applied Climate Science, and Nancy Turyk, UW-
Stevens Point*

Managing Recreational Impacts (Limit 40)
Michael Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

wisconsinwaterweek.org

Agenda subject to change.

Afternoon Workshops ~ 1:00-4:00 PM

Aquatic Plant Ecology and Identification (Limit 25)
*Michelle Nault, Lakes and Reservoir Ecologist, WDNR,
Paul Skawinski, Statewide CLMN Educator; Extension
Lakes, and Susan Knight, Associate Scientist, UW-Madison
Center for Limnology Trout Lake Station*

**Citizen Lake Monitoring Networking (CLMN)
Refresher Training/Dissolved Oxygen Meters** (40)
*Kris Larsen and Rachel Sabre, WDNR, Catherine Higley,
Lake Conservation Specialist, Vilas County, and Sandy
Wickman, CLMN Coordinator, Extension Lakes/WDNR*

**Introduction to Lake Algae and Cyanobacteria: ID,
Ecology, Health Effects, and Tracking** (40)
*Gina LaLiberte, Statewide Harmful Algal Bloom
Coordinator, WDNR*

Lake District Treasurer Workshop (40)
Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist, Extension Lakes

**Practical Resilience and Systems Thinking for Long-
Term Lake Management Planning** (40)
Dane Whittaker, PhD Student, Arizona State University

Protecting the Wonderful Waters of Wisconsin (40)
*Pamela Toshner, Lake and Watershed Protection Specialist,
Luke Beringer, GIS Technician, and René Buys, Program
and Policy Analyst, WDNR*

The Science of Branding (15)
*Doug Jensen, Aquatic Invasive Species Extension Educator,
University of Minnesota Duluth*

**Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Stream Monitoring
Training** (20)
*Katy Thostenson, Water Action Volunteers Program
Manager and Emily Heald, Rivers Educator, UW-Madison
Division of Extension*



*As of March 1, full day workshops increase to
\$80 and half day workshops increase to \$40.*



A Partnership Full of Heart

Water Education Improves Lives and Communities in Wisconsin and Nicaragua

By Patrick Goggin, Lakes Specialist, Extension Lakes

You can join our efforts by visiting the WNP website or Facebook page for more information on getting involved, donating, and becoming part of the community of people championing clean water for all. Additionally, check out this recorded presentation from the 2021 Wisconsin Water Week: <https://youtu.be/rRXM-8-jhqs>.

This spring, the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners (WNP) of the Americas will build off previous work of supporting clean water in Nicaraguan communities. Although water covers 10% of Nicaragua's surface, land and water degradation, pollution, and simple scarcity in some areas jeopardizes the country's ability to provide safe, drinkable water to sustain its population and productivity. In rural areas, where 72% of people lack such access, citizens must often get their water from shallow wells, rivers, streams, and lakes that are polluted with residential sewage, pesticides, and industrial toxins. Since 2018, WNP has sent some 360 water filters to Nicaraguan homes, delivering 192 systems last summer. The systems filter approximately five gallons of water in about 40 minutes.

In addition to carrying forward this work on helping communities connect to clean drinking water, a new wave of additional water education themes and goals is emerging through a growing Lake Nicaragua water education project coming this spring. Led by a steering committee of Patrick Goggin from Extension Lakes at UW-Stevens Point, Kristen Schmidt with the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science at Michigan Technological University, and Claudia Taleno, the Project Coordinator who is a Nicaraguan citizen and former laboratory analyst with the Water Resources Research Center in Nicaragua, this project will be piloted in three WNP Learning Centers.

One of the beginning stages in this WNP Lake Nicaragua water education project is to develop and share simple water monitoring activities with community members. Water quality monitoring equipment was recently sent to Nicaragua via WNP. Next month, Patrick and his wife, Quita Sheehan with the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, will travel to the three pilot Learning Centers to unpack this equipment and hold train-the-trainer sessions with Claudia and local volunteers, leading them through activities they can do with community members to grow their knowledge of the importance of clean water and healthy lake habitat.

Further, this water education project will also champion the growing of herbs, fruits, and vegetables through community gardens at the Learning Centers. Patrick and Quita will bring 20 different gardening plants for each pilot site that will be used to produce healthy and sustainable food for communities. All the varieties of garden seeds used in these plantings will be heirlooms, so the communities can harvest the seeds annually to provide a stable seed source for future growing. This is particularly important in Nicaragua as garden seeds can be difficult and expensive to obtain.

Wisconsinites are fortunate to have clean freshwater available statewide. But, we struggle here, as Nicaraguans do, with similar challenges around clean water, like contaminated groundwater, harmful blue-green algae growth, and the loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Together, by sharing our knowledge and learning from each other, we can build better lives and communities that understand more deeply the value of clean water! ♥

<https://www.facebook.com/wisnicpartners>

<https://www.wisnic.org>

Provided by Claudia Taleno



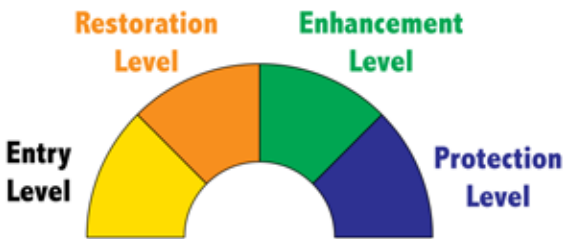


Let's Make Healthy Lakes & Rivers Together!

The Healthy Lakes & Rivers initiative is a statewide effort providing outreach, technical assistance, and funding for five simple and inexpensive best practices that are appropriate for most lakeshore properties. Pitch your Healthy Lakes & Rivers feature story to Pamela Toshner (pamela.toshner@wi.gov) or Amy Kowalski (amy.kowalski@uwsp.edu).

How much do you love your shore?

You can find out by taking the Wisconsin Shoreland Evaluation Tool, a free online, interactive survey for your shoreland property. The Tool, modeled after the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Survey, virtually walks you through your property from the upland, through the buffer or transition zone, and into the water to learn about opportunities for habitat restoration, runoff and erosion control, and other ways to care for your lake or river. It's a smart survey that will lead you down a different path, depending on your answers, and gather a score as you go!



How will your shoreland measure up?

We believe the Tool will help:

- Raise awareness of shoreland health.
- Serve as a private alternative to a site visit.
- Direct shoreland property owners to information about Healthy Lakes & Rivers best practices. <https://healthylakeswi.com/>
- Normalize the process of self-evaluating a property.
- Enable waterbody-scale outreach campaigns and data collection summaries.

Join the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Team at the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention where there will be ways to learn more, including:

- Wednesday morning workshop - Shoreland Tools to Protect Your Lake (see page 13),
- Lightning talk on Thursday afternoon, and
- Hands-on assistance with the Tool at the Wisconsin Lakes booth.

In the meantime, feel free to test out the Tool at <https://survey.healthylakeswi.com/default.asp>. ♥

The Tool virtually walks you through your property from the upland, through the buffer or transition zone, and into the water to learn about opportunities for habitat restoration, runoff and erosion control, and other ways to care for your lake or river.

CALENDAR

February 15-16 – WWA's Wetland Science Conference - Online

For more information: <https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>

February 18 – Grant Deadline - Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership

For more information: <http://midwestglaciallakes.org/grant/>

February 28 – Scholarship and Early-bird Deadline - Lakes and Rivers Convention

If you'd like to attend the Convention, but the cost is a barrier, we encourage you to register early for a 20% discount or apply for a scholarship. For more information:

<https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/>

February 28-March 3 – Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference - Lake Geneva

For more information: <https://www.mapms.org/conferences/2022-conference/>

March 8-9 – Fox/Wolf Watershed Conference - Green Bay

For more information: <https://fwwa.org/2021/11/16/save-the-date-2022-watershed-conference/>

April 6-8 – Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention - Stevens Point and Virtual

For more information: See pages 12-13 or go to <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/>



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Reflections

*“When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives
may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the
great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and
am free.”*

— Wendell Berry
The Peace of Wild Things

