

How do we use CLMN data?

Share Information with Neighbors



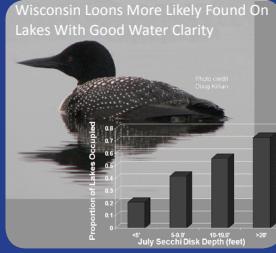
Photo credit: Robert Korth

Support Management Decisions



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Supplement Research Data



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Improve Local and State Policies or Legislation



Photo credit: Robert Korth

Additional information at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/>

www.uwsp.edu/uwxlakes/clmn

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Wisconsin
Citizen Lake Monitoring
Network



Photo credit: Bob McVety

What do CLMN volunteers monitor?



Photo credit: UWEX Lakes

Water Clarity Monitoring

The volunteer lowers an 8" diameter, black & white disc ("Secchi disc") into the deepest part of the lake to determine how far down they can see the disc as it is lowered. Water clarity monitoring is done every 10-14 days throughout the open-water season. Water clarity is a quick way to estimate lake health, and it plays an important role in determining the types of plants and animals that a water body can support.

Water Chemistry Monitoring

Water chemistry volunteers measure phosphorus levels, chlorophyll-A concentrations (a measure of algae growth in the water), water clarity, and a temperature profile from the top to the bottom of the lake. This type of monitoring is done four times per year, and requires several hours of time during each monitoring event. Chemistry monitoring helps determine if nutrient pollution is occurring in a lake, or if seasonal fish die-offs may be a possibility due to low oxygen levels.

"I love to fish, so I thought it would be a good fit to find out more about the water quality of the lake."

~ Rick Bruesewitz
Van Zile Lake, Forest County



Photo credit: Robert Korth

Ice-on/Ice-off Monitoring

This is a simple type of lake monitoring. Volunteers simply record the date that ice completely covers the lake in the fall, and record the date that the ice is completely gone from the lake in the spring. This information is used to track changes in the open-water season, which is useful in many different types of lake-related research projects.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Monitoring

AIS monitoring involves searching the lake for aquatic invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, and others. The frequency that volunteers perform AIS monitoring varies, but most volunteers do this a few times per year. Most volunteers conduct AIS monitoring in high-risk sites around their lakes (like boat landings) to detect early populations of AIS. Early detection of AIS is crucial for effective, inexpensive management, so these volunteers are incredibly valuable.

Native Aquatic Plant Monitoring

This type of volunteer lake monitoring involves collecting data on a lake's native aquatic plant community. These activities are repeated every 2-3 years to track changes in the abundance and distribution of these species. Aquatic



"It's an excuse for me to go paddling by myself in the middle of the day."

~ Lisa Conley
Lac LaBelle, Waukesha County

plant identification training is provided by the Statewide or Regional CLMN Coordinators, usually at the lake being monitored. Native plant monitoring is broken down into three levels, which a volunteer can choose from depending on their familiarity with aquatic plant identification and the amount of time they have available.