



# The Monitor

Volume 2, Issue 5  
Sep-Oct 2016

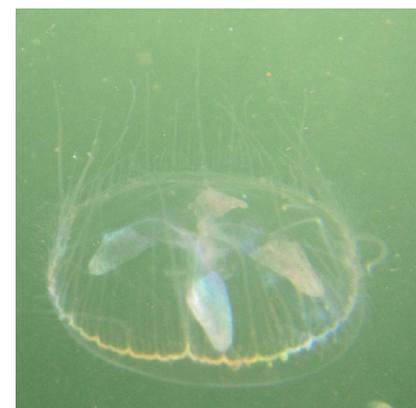
## Return of the Jellies

Late summer is a common time for reports of jellyfish in Wisconsin lakes. *Wait a second...jellyfish? In Wisconsin?* Indeed, Wisconsin has over a hundred confirmed populations of an Asian freshwater jellyfish (*Craspedacusta sowerbyi*), but they pose little threat to other aquatic creatures, and no threat to humans or pets. These tiny creatures, only about one inch long, tend to “bloom” in still or slow-moving waters when the water temperature reaches above 25 degrees Celsius, or 77 degrees Fahrenheit. During the rest of the year, they exist in several microscopic life stages.

Originating from the Yangtze River in China, this jellyfish is one of only a few small species that inhabit fresh water. It now occurs worldwide, and is thought to have been transported along with aquatic plants, wood, or other materials for water garden displays. Live *Craspedacusta* jellyfish have also been sold through the aquarium trade. The first report outside of China was in water lily display tanks in London in 1880.

The freshwater jellyfish has several different-length tentacles that serve different purposes. The longest tentacles occur at the ends of the gastrovascular cavity (the central “body” of the jellyfish). The function of these tentacles is unknown. The medium-length tentacles provide stability during swimming. Between these are many short tentacles, which contain the stinging cells that are used to capture small zooplankton for food. Each tiny jellyfish can have nearly 500 tentacles!

Some lakes experience blooms of freshwater jellyfish every year, while others go several years between sightings. Much of this is likely due to changes in weather and lake temperature from year to year.



Freshwater jellyfish are typically less than one inch across and have tentacles of various lengths

Wisconsin currently has freshwater jellyfish confirmed in 116 lakes and rivers ( [http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISLists.aspx?species=FRESHWATER\\_JELLYFISH](http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISLists.aspx?species=FRESHWATER_JELLYFISH) ). If you see a freshwater jellyfish in your lake, please contact your local Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator or Regional Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator. Contact information can be found here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXILakes/Pages/programs/clmn/default.aspx>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/topics.aspx>

# Announcements

## National Citizen Science Conference to be held in St. Paul, MN

The Citizen Science Association will be holding its 2017 annual conference in St. Paul, Minnesota from May 17th-20th. May 17th-19th will be full of workshops, working group events, and presentations, and May 20th includes the Citizen Science Festival at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Abstracts for presentations are due by October 10th, 2016. Registration will open in mid-January. Learn more at <http://citizenscience.org>

## September is a Good Time to Monitor for AIS

Many aquatic invasive species, especially plants, are at their highest density in September, making it a good time to search for them. Aquatic invasive plants can be easy to spot at this time, since aquatic plants are often at or near the surface.

## Oneida Co. CLMN Volunteer Publishes Study on Value of Lakes and Rivers

Dave Noel, a CLMN volunteer in Oneida County, co-authored a study titled *Economic Value of Lakes & Rivers in Oneida County*. Visit the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association website to read the document.

[http://www.ocra.org/uploads/7/4/3/4/74342595/oc\\_economic\\_value\\_of\\_lakes\\_rivers\\_-\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ocra.org/uploads/7/4/3/4/74342595/oc_economic_value_of_lakes_rivers_-_2016.pdf)

## Starry Stonewort Discovered in Sturgeon Bay

Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), a non-native, invasive species of algae was discovered in Sturgeon Bay in Door County in August. Sturgeon Bay connects Green Bay to Lake Michigan, running right through Door County. This is Wisconsin's seventh confirmed population of starry stonewort, and Minnesota just announced another new population, bringing their total number of cases to seven as well. For more information on identifying starry stonewort, please see our Starry Stonewort Quick Guide, available on the CLMN website.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/CLMN/AISfactsheets/17StarryStonewort.pdf>

The contents of *The Monitor* do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of UW-Extension, UWSP-CNR, the Wisconsin DNR, or Wisconsin Lakes. Mention of trade names, commercial products, private businesses, or publicly financed programs does not constitute endorsement. Articles in the *The Monitor* may be reprinted or reproduced for further distribution with acknowledgement to the author, *The Monitor* (including volume and issue numbers), and the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. If you need this material in an alternate format, please contact our office.

[www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes) | [uwexlakes@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwexlakes@uwsp.edu) | 715-346-2116

A bi-monthly electronic publication of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Editor/Designer: Paul Skawinski, CLMN Statewide Coordinator -- [Paul.Skawinski@uwsp.edu](mailto:Paul.Skawinski@uwsp.edu)

Author/photographer: Paul Skawinski, unless otherwise noted



College of Natural Resources  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

**UW**  
**Extension**  
University of Wisconsin-Extension