

Using your ecological knowledge and human dimension insights:

leaving a legacy of healthy lakes

So you've been studying lake ecosystems and human dimensions of managing lakes for some time. Now what? How do you apply this knowledge to your area and take advantage of your new skill-sets. Applying your ecological knowledge will be a challenge. An even more difficult test may be for you to weave the human dimensions of natural resource protection and management into the picture. Here are some examples of how other lake leaders have jumped into lake stewardship around Wisconsin as food for thought.

- Supporting lake education through the Wisconsin Lakes Convention / lake fairs / writing:
 1. Carolyn Scholl (Crew 5) (Vilas County) - stream captain and planning committee stalwart.
 2. Carol LeBreck (Crew 6) - Bony Lake (Bayfield County) - "*Educating for stewardship: inspiring and engaging youth*" perennial stream.
 3. Mary Knipper (Crew 5) Delevan Lake (Walworth County); Paul Schumacher (Crew 6) Clark Lake (Door County); and Carolyn Scholl (Crew 5) Vilas County: past lake leaders who have presented at the annual convention, among others.
 4. Pat Andress (Crew 4) Lower Long Lake (Chippewa County) – lake fair organizer.
 5. John Bates (Crew 3) Manitowish River (Vilas County) – writer and newspaper columns.
- Serving as elected officials: county and town supervisors; lake district commissioners:
 1. Karen McNelly (Crew 3) - Waukesha County board; and John Molinaro (Crew 2) - Jefferson County board.
 2. Pamela Meyer (Crew 6) - Eagle Spring Lake Management District; Pricilla Bondhus (Crew 7) and Al Baade (Crew 2) - Lake Redstone District; Bill Curtis (Crew 7) - Black Otter Lake District; Bob Goodlad (Crew 7) - Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District; Bill Pelger (Crew 4), Barb Anderson (Crew 4) and Jim Abbs (Crew 4) - Peppermill Lake District; Barry McLeane (Crew 5) - Kentuck Lake District: Lake Leaders serving as board of commissioners for lake districts.
- Working on zoning matters:
 1. Marty Ketterer (Crew 7) – Vilas County Board of Adjustments.
 2. Earl Cook (Crew 4) – a regular attendee to Washburn County zoning meeting / NR115 stakeholders' committee member.
 3. Karen Engelbretson (Crew 6) - Polk County.
- Leading lake management planning efforts in your area:
 1. Fran West (Crew 6) and Robert Tomashek (Crew 6) – Cloverleaf Lakes (Shawano County) plan and implementation.
 2. Sarah Braun (Crew 7) and Roger Kees (Crew 6) – Lake Wissota (Chippewa County) Management Plan.
 3. John Annin (Crew 6) and Walt Bates (Crew 7) - Black Oak Lake (Vilas County) Management Planning and implementation.
 4. Joe McDaniel (Crew 7) - City of Tomah planning commission chair / reclaiming Lake Tomah (Monroe County) video: < <http://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Viewer/?peid=72547539-78b4-42e7-9782-b05b43ad24a8> >.
 5. Paul Schumacher (Crew 6) – Clark Lake Advancement Association (Door County) sensitive habitat and watershed study.
 6. Reesa Evans (Crew 5) – partnering with Adams County lake groups on management plans for all the lakes in the county.
- Partnering up with the Wisconsin Association of Lakes on their Board of Directors – past and present:
 1. Chris Jeffords (Crew 7); Sandy Gillum (Crew 7); Mary Knipper (Crew 5); Kristin Charlton (Crew 6); Paul Dearlove (Crew 6); Sam Lewis (Crew 5); Chris Krieg (Crew 5); Pat Andress (Crew 4); Earl Cook (Crew 4); Dave Pozorski (Crew 5); Sal Troia (Crew 4); John Molinaro (Crew 2); Susan Wallin (Crew 2).
- Hearings on lake issues / speaking to the Natural Resources Board / letters to the editor:
 1. Lisa Conley (Crew 5) – Lac Le Belle Lake (Waukesha County) - former WAL president; local representative for the Town & Country resource Conservation and Development; Rock River Coalition member; Natural Resources Board presenter; lake champion video link: < <http://dnr.wi.gov/aboutdnr/specialreports/earthday/LisaConley.html> >.
 2. Sue Drum (Crew 6) - Horsehead Lake (Vilas County) – letters to the editor in area newspapers.
- Land acquisitions / working with land trusts / getting protection designation:
 1. Kathy Erickson (Crew 8) and Fred Blake (Crew 3) – Totogatic River designation in
 2. Mary Knipper (Crew 5) - Delavan Lake restoration.
 3. Nancy Hill (Crew 3) and Susan Sharkey (Crew 5) Big Green Lake, Green Lake County - Green Lake Conservancy.
- Web site development:
 1. Brian Ewart (Crew 6) – Berry Lake, Oconto County web site design and posting.

- Town Lake Committees / county-wide / regional / state lake organizations:
 1. Roberta Gast (Crew 7) and Norm Wetzel (Crew 7) – Town of Lac du Flambeau; Chris Wise (Crew 7) and Frank Splitt (Crew 3) - Town of Plum Lake; Rollie Alger (Crew 6) - Town of Phelps; Sandy Gillum (Crew 7) - Town of Washington Water Resources Task Force.
 2. Rollie Alger (Crew 6), Sandy Gillum (Crew 7), and Carolyn Scholl (Crew 5) – Vilas County Lake Association (VCLA) board of directors and advisor; initiation of their Blue Heron awards program.
 3. Dave Pozorski (Crew 5) - Manitowoc County Lakes Association.
 4. Sal Troia (Crew 4) – Yahara Lakes Association (Dane County).
 5. Chris Jeffords (Crew 7) – Sawyer County Lakes Forum.

- Partnerships with researchers:
 1. Sandy Anderson (Crew 4) and Ted Griggs (Crew 7) - Paleocological study on Whitefish Lake (Douglas County).
 2. Brian Ewart (Crew 6) - Berry Lake (Oconto County) paleoecological work with Paul Garrison and Samantha Kaplan.
 3. Sandy Gillum (Crew 7) – loon research with Mike Meyer and LoonWatch; USGS partnership on long-term lake level monitoring.
 4. Carol LeBreck (Crew 6) – Bony Lake (Bayfield County) woody habitat study.
 4. Mary Knipper (Crew 5) – Delevan Lake (Walworth County) lake restoration work; SEWRPC initiatives.

- Leading in citizen monitoring and AIS coordination efforts:
 1. Jane Swenson (Crew 7) – Pike Chain of Lakes (Bayfield County) AIS coordination efforts.
 2. Frank Splitt (Crew 3) – Plum Lake Town Lakes Committee (Vilas County) and AIS campaign.
 3. Troy Roatch (Crew 7) – Long Lake (Fond du lac County) AIS coordination and grant support.
 4. Diane Hanson (Crew 3) – Lincoln County AIS coordinator tri-county project lead.

- Collaborations with government entities:
 1. Patricia Cicerio (Crew 7), Jessica Rice (Crew 7), Barb Gajewski (Crew 7) and Nate Rice (Crew 6) and other Crew 7 members - State Capitol / Governor's Mansion project to restore the shoreland buffer on Lake Mendota.
 2. Lake Leaders in government positions with land and water conservation departments, zoning departments, sanitary districts, or state agencies: Patricia Cicerio (Crew 7) - Jefferson LWCD; Reesa Evans (Crew 5) - Adams Co. LWCD; Mary Jo Gingras (Crew 6) - Iron Co. LWCD; Pamela Toshner (Crew 6) - WDNR lake coordinator; Jennifer Shillcox (Crew 6) - St. Croix Co. Zoning; Audrey Green (Crew 6) - Walworth Co. LWCD; Carolyn Scholl (Crew 5) - Vilas Co. LWCD; Dean Kaatz (Crew 5) - Marathon Co. LWCD; Diane Hanson (Crew 3) - Lincoln Co. LWCD; Chuck Druckrey (Crew 2) - Marinette Co. LWCD; Charlie Marks (Crew 1) - Green Lake Management District; Gail Swaine (Crew 7) - Delavan Lake Sanitary District.
 3. Les Schramm (Crew 4) – Metonga Lake (Forest County) helped to lead an unsuccessful petitioning lake district process for Lake Metonga working with the City of Crandon and county officials.
 4. Sara Schmidt (Crew 6) – Ho Chunk Tribe Department of Natural Resources director.

- Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMN) volunteers: many lake leaders have been or continue to be valued CLMN volunteers.

Compiled by: Patrick Goggin, UW-Extension Lakes / October 2010.

This is only a small cross-section of the incredible work lake leaders like you and other citizens have embarked on across Wisconsin to protect and enhance lakes and lake communities. What will you do to leave a legacy of lakes?

[W]e seem ultimately always thrown back on individual ethics as the basis of conservation policy.

It is hard to make a man, by pressure of law or money, do a thing which does not spring naturally from his own personal sense of right and wrong."

Leopold, Aldo: Conservationist in Mexico, American Forests, March 1937. Can be found in: Aldo Leopold's Southwest, edited by David E. Brown & Neil B. Carmony, University of New Mexico Press, 1990, pg. 207.