



Lake Sturgeon

Curiosity in an Ancient Friend

By Patrick Goggin, Lakes Specialist, Extension Lakes

It's February 1984 and a new snowfall fills the air with dancing snowflakes that lay a white blanket over the ground. I am walking to the southeast, a quarter mile from my parents' house on Old Orchard Lane in the town of Neenah, towards Lake Winnebago's northwest shore. My destination is Rainbow Beach, also known as Fresh Air Park, where I am eager to see folks setting up for the sturgeon spearing season on the Winnebago system. As I approach the expansive ice sheet of the lake, I see pickup trucks and other vehicles laying claim to fishing spots. Spearmen are preparing their holes for fishing; anticipation and excitement fill the air.

The Winnebago system includes Lake Winnebago, as well as the upriver waterbodies of Lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan. This system is home to one of the largest lake sturgeon populations in North America and hosts a unique winter spear challenge. It is one of only two locations where the public can harvest lake sturgeon with a spear; the other is Black Lake in northern lower Michigan.

(Continued on page 2)



David Nevada, Wisconsin DNR

This young woman used determination, persistence, and a little luck to spear this sturgeon on the Lake Winnebago system



From chainsaws, to circular saws, to this home-made contraption, finding the perfect spot and cutting your sturgeon spearing hole is part of the experience. This crew works together to flip the rectangular piece of ice and then push it under the ice and away from the hole.

There is no such thing as 100% safe ice. Help your trip on the ice stay fun and safe by practicing basic ice precautions as recommended at dnr.wi.gov (search 'ice safety').

Specialized Equipment

The equipment needed to participate in sturgeon spearing is relatively specialized. A darkened shack or enclosure is required for better visibility and to camouflage the spearer's silhouette. A saw is needed to open a large, rectangular hole in the ice, although this service can typically be obtained at a cost. The decoys used to attract

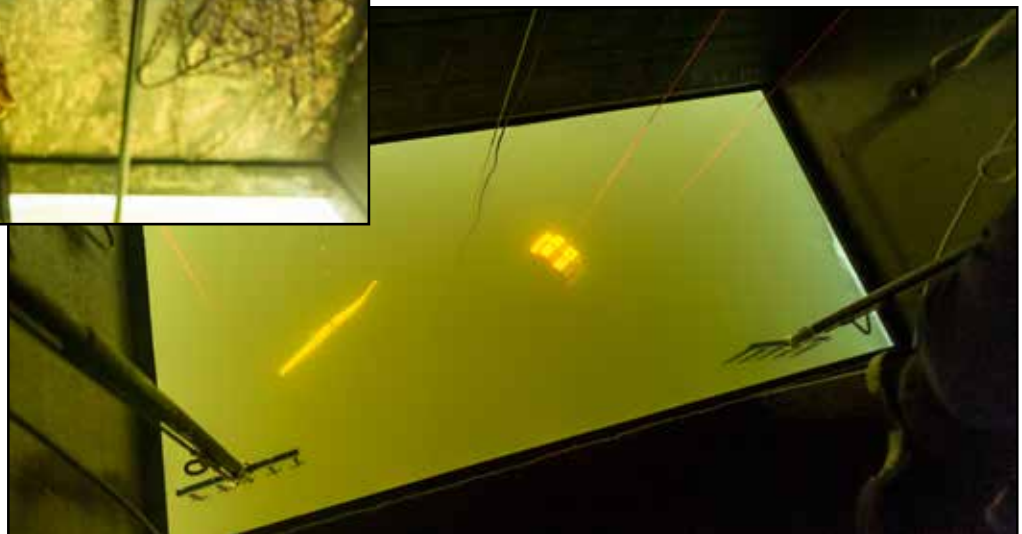


David Nevala, Wisconsin DNR

and harvest a lake sturgeon are quite varied and often hand-crafted heirlooms passed down through generations; these can be anything from a white coffee cup to an elaborately-carved and painted wooden and copper lure. Instead of a hook and line, these sturgeon hunters use a heavy, barbed spear. You may have seen some of these decoys and spears at the 2019 "Ancient Survivors" exhibit in Fond du Lac at the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts in collaboration with the Wisconsin Water Library. If you didn't, you can view many photos from the exhibit online at <http://bit.ly/2HUCemQ>.



Patience and stillness are paramount when sturgeon spearing. Don't fall asleep, though - that cold water is not the wake-up call you want on a February in Wisconsin!



David Nevala, Wisconsin DNR





Spearing for Sport

The first modern sturgeon spearing season in Wisconsin took place in 1901, but was banned from 1915-1931 due to overharvesting and poaching, leading to low numbers of fledgling sturgeon. The season started back up in 1932, and is highly regulated to keep this tradition and the sturgeon population stable.

There is no residency requirement for participating in the sturgeon spearing season, but license holders are predominantly Wisconsin residents residing within 60 miles of the Winnebago system. Over the years, the season has grown into a unique cultural event rich in tradition. Most spearers fish in groups comprised of family and friends. Each spearing group has its own traditions that they celebrate with the passing year. For many, the season is defined by the time spent with loved ones, rather than the harvesting of a fish, alone. Harvesting a fish is a bonus for spearers. Their

good fortune of landing a catch is emphasized and retold over and over through the generations. The social and traditional aspects of the sport keep most people coming back year after year. The spearing season usually begins on the second Saturday in February (this year's season opened at 7:00 a.m. on February 11) and lasts for 16 days or until any of the sex-specific harvest caps have been reached. Find out more by visiting dnr.wi.gov and searching for "sturgeon."

Basic Biology

The lake sturgeon is an ancient fish that swam in our waterways back when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

This torpedo-shaped giant of our lakes and rivers uses four sensory whiskers, called barbels, located in front of its toothless mouth to seek out food like aquatic insects, clams, crayfish, and other mollusks and suck them off the bottom. It has five ridges of armored plates that protect its gray, leathery skin. Measured from the tip of its shark-like tail to its nose, an adult lake sturgeon can exceed six feet and weigh over 100 pounds. Female sturgeons typically do not spawn until they are at least 20 years old and it takes about 5 years to develop their next set of eggs – giving them only a few times to spawn within their lifespan. This is one of the reasons age and gender limits for sturgeon harvests are strictly monitored on the Winnebago system.

(Continued on page 6)



All sturgeon harvested during the spearing season must be brought to an official registration station and registered by 2:00 p.m. the day they are speared.

For many, the season is defined by the time spent with loved ones, rather than the harvesting of a fish, alone.

Introducing Technology - What do you think?

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources randomly surveyed sturgeon spearers about their opinions on the use of technology (e.g. underwater cameras) in 2013 and 2018, resulting in a 2019 vote (from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Sturgeon Advisory Committee) to ban technology from the sturgeon spearing season. However, there has been increased support for the use of underwater cameras and other technology, so the DNR randomly surveyed sturgeon spearing license holders again in 2021; you can read the full report at <https://bit.ly/3jrYpWm>.



Tracking Membership for Small Lake Organizations

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

Capacity
or
February
2023
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rated choices. (<https://www.capterra.com/sem-compare/membership-management-software/>)

We asked a few lake organizations what software they use to manage their membership; we learned that most organizations continue to use Excel spreadsheets or track their members using good old-fashioned paper records. Having only hard copy records can cause issues if the membership coordinators are at their winter homes for part of the year and might not have their membership records with them (oops! Forgot them in Wisconsin!). Organizations that use Excel don't always share these files with anyone else, so if they are not available, the organization as a whole is left without knowing anything about their members.

Here are some other practices that lake organizations are using to track/boost membership and engage members:

Dividing into Neighborhoods

If you have a large lake, reaching all potential members may be a large feat. Consider dividing properties into neighborhoods or sides of the lake, depending on what makes sense for your lake. Having different people take ownership for the properties in their neighborhood or on their side of the lake has many benefits. First, this allows multiple people to be involved in membership instead of it falling on only one person. Second, finding people who are willing to go out and make personal contacts with their neighbors builds community, which can help increase membership. Finally, reaching out to the people in your neighborhood gives them someone to contact if they have questions, need advice, or have concerns. All of these benefits increase the chance that they'll become a member of the organization and participate in the opportunities the organization has available.

A membership survey is a way for members to tell you what their concerns are in an anonymous way.

Even though something like tracking people and the money they've paid, either as dues or donations, seems like a simple task, it can suddenly seem overwhelming if you don't have the right tools. So, what do you need to track membership effectively and efficiently? There are many programs out there that will help you track membership. Capterra, the world's leading software reviews and selection platform, has compiled a list of top



Welcome Packets

To introduce new property owners to the lake and to familiarize them with your organization, it is recommended that you send new folks a “Welcome to the Lake” packet. To find items to put in the welcome packet, go to uwsp.edu/uwexplakes and click on “Capacity Corner for Lake Organizations” in the HIGHLIGHTS section.

Membership Survey

A membership survey is a way for members to tell you what their concerns are in an anonymous way. Some members will call or email you while others aren’t comfortable voicing their concerns unless they can do it anonymously. Check out a sample membership survey in the Membership area of our “Capacity Corner for Lake Organizations” (see link above).

Best Practices

Use a software program that will send you reminders of when memberships are expiring and the deadline for membership dues. Have one person assigned to be the

membership coordinator; it is an important job that needs a leader. Use a software program that can be shared between people in case the membership coordinator is unavailable and someone else needs to take over management.

Join us at the Lakes and Rivers Convention in April to learn more about boosting your organizational capacity. There are four sessions on Friday, April 21, dedicated to developing your capacity. Learn more at Lakes and Rivers Convention - Wisconsin Water Week. 💧

“Welcome to the lake” packets could include a welcome letter, a list of local contacts, a county zoning booklet, and other resources like this example put together by Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association and Extension Washburn County.



Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Scholarships Looking to the Future of our Water Resources

The UWSP College of Natural Resources has selected Kaylie Honaker and Dylan Undlin for the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Scholarships! Kaylie is from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and is majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Management. Dylan is from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is majoring in Fish and Water Resources (BS) - Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. These scholarships are funded by the generosity of donors like you who contribute to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership endowment at the UW-Stevens Point (UWSP) Foundation. In addition to these annual scholarships, we have a goal of providing an undergraduate student fellowship at UWSP (mentored by Extension Lakes staff) to assist us in the ongoing production of this *Lake Tides* newsletter. Through this fellowship, students would be exposed to a range of lake management concepts and challenged to help us communicate with a broad, statewide audience. The benchmark endowment required to fund an undergraduate fellowship is about \$250,000, which would yield on average about \$10,000 annually to support a talented student. Using the UWSP Foundation website, <https://give.uwsp.edu>, you can easily make a secure donation (select “Other Specific Fund” and designate “Wisconsin Lakes Partnership”). If you would like to give a more substantial gift or have additional ideas for sustaining the Partnership for the very long term, reach out to Eric Olson, Director of Extension Lakes, at 715-346-2192.



College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



(Lake Sturgeon, continued)

Each spring, lake sturgeon from the Winnebago system concentrate in the Wolf, Embarrass, Little Wolf, and upper Fox Rivers to spawn (mid to late April).

If you would like to see these magnificent fish spawning, there are several viewing areas along the Wolf River, Lower Fox River, and Lower Peshtigo River that are open to the public, and happening between mid-April to mid-May, depending on water flow and temperature. For more information, go to dnr.wi.gov and search “sturgeon spawning.”

Menominee Nation Tradition

This cultural importance and value of the lake sturgeon in the Winnebago system is something our 12 Wisconsin tribal communities have been celebrating for quite some time. Perhaps there is no better example of a relationship between sturgeon and people than the history of the Menominee Nation, “the people of the sturgeon.”

In addition to food, the Menominee also use sturgeon for some medicinal purposes. In spring, the Menominee wait for lake sturgeon to migrate into their rivers and streams – particularly in Keshena Falls, known as Nama’o skiwamit or “the place where sturgeon

come home.” The celebration that follows the harvest includes tobacco offerings, songs, and the ancient Menominee fish dance (mimicking the movement of the spawning sturgeon going upriver). This dance is performed to honor the return of the fish; a feast is assembled, as well, thanking the creator for allowing the sturgeons to return to their traditional spawning grounds and for replenishing their food supplies after a long winter. You can discover the Menominee’s spiritual connection with the sturgeon through their fish dance in this video from *Into the Outdoors*: <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/menominee-fish-dance/>.

To learn more about nama’o (sturgeon) and the importance it has to the culture and spirit of the Menominee people, you can contact the Historic Preservation Office of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin or visit their Cultural Museum in person or online: <https://www.menominee-nsn.gov/CulturePages/CulturalMuseum.aspx>.

As a first-time observer of the Winnebago system sturgeon spearing season that wintry day back in 1984, I can honestly say it was exhilarating and awe-inspiring to witness it up close and personal on the ice. Seeing these prehistoric, gentle giants being harvested in this way is a sight I’ll never forget. If you didn’t get out on the ice this year, I recommend an early February trip to the Winnebago system to catch the action for yourself. ❄️

Royal Broil, Flickr Creative Commons



Aquatic Invasive Species

Get Involved in a Water Near You

Reporting invasive species is a first step in containing their spread. Maintaining and restoring our waters and landscapes can reduce the impacts even when we don't have other management options for an invasive species.

Garrett Hopkins

Streams

Do you have a committed group or organization that is interested in the local streams in your area? Water Action Volunteers (WAV) is looking to develop more local stream monitoring teams! There are several ways to get involved, and WAV provides the training and the equipment - no experience needed! Check out their website for opportunities <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/> or contact Katy Bradford at wav@extension.wisc.edu or 608-331-0173.



Paul List



Invader Crusader Deadline: March 27, 2023

Do you know a Wisconsin resident or group who made a significant contribution in 2022 to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive species? You can nominate them for an Invader Crusader award! Fill out a form at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/invasives/InvasiveSpeciesCouncil>.

Lakes

To find the lakes AIS Coordinator near you, go to dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/topics.aspx.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)

You can help share information about aquatic invasive species (AIS) with boaters at landings near you by becoming a watercraft inspector with the Wisconsin Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. If you would like to set up a boat inspection effort, contact the statewide coordinator, Erin McFarlane, at erin.mcfarlane@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4978.



Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)

Want to monitor your lake for AIS, but aren't sure what to look for? Check out the CLMN website by clicking the logo at uwsp.edu/uwexlakes and find videos, books, manuals, and other resources to get you started. Paul Skawinski, CLMN statewide educator, is also a great resource: paul.skawinski@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4853.



Lake Bottom Mysteries

Snow Fleas: Springing into Spring



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

FLEAS??? Easy now – snow fleas do not bite and are completely harmless. They actually aren't even closely related to the parasitic fleas that bite and drink blood from warm-blooded animals. The friendly snow flea grazes on algae and other organic

surface can cause it to launch the snow flea in unpredictable directions. In fact, snow fleas along streams often fling themselves right into flowing water and get swept downstream. Luckily, they are light enough to sit on top of the water! Jumping onto the water's surface can be a very effective strategy to escape predators. At only two to three millimeters long, they are usually overlooked as they go about their day, gobbling up bits of organic matter and algae and hopping over 100 times their body length. If we could do that, a single hop could take us the length of two football fields!

Joseph Berger-Bugwood.org



Snow fleas, also called springtails, have a special structure on their backsides called a furcula, which rapidly flips down and pushes on the ground to spring the snow flea into the air.

materials that accumulate on top of the snow or soil. The name “snow flea” comes from their amazing jumping ability and the fact that they are very active and very visible during periods of melting snow. A large group of them looks like a sprinkling of ground black pepper on top of the snow.

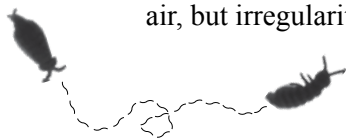
True fleas use powerful hind legs to jump. Snow fleas, also called springtails, have a special structure on their backsides called a furcula, which rapidly flips down and pushes on the ground to spring the snow flea into the air. The furcula is not very precise, so it does a great job launching the snow flea into the air, but irregularities in the ground or snow

Snow fleas embrace winter by making their own antifreeze in their blood! By producing a chemical called glycine in their blood, they can prevent their blood from freezing and stay active in cold temperatures. You won't notice them much during the heart of winter because they are primarily feeding in the subnivean zone, which is a winter marvel in itself. This zone forms between the snowpack and ground, as warmth from the Earth melts pockets and tunnels along the ground surface. This zone is a near-freezing paradise for a wide variety of animals seeking refuge from the bitter cold and winter winds. Snow fleas are most often seen in the late winter as the snow melts, because all of the organic materials they feed on that were previously trapped in the layers of snow are slowly becoming exposed.

All of those yummys are sitting right on top like sprinkles on an ice cream sundae. ❄️



“Snow flea sundae, comin’ up!”



\$6.5M to Protect and Restore WI Waters

Pamela Toshner

From Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources news release

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Surface Water Grant Program recently awarded over \$6.5 million in funding to nonprofit organizations, lake organizations, and municipalities throughout Wisconsin! Funding will be used to help restore and protect our state's surface water resources in 2023 and beyond.

This year, the program received 446 applications from eligible applicants requesting over \$7.2 million. The projects are incredibly diverse, including work on outreach and education, management planning, habitat restoration, runoff and pollution reduction, and aquatic invasive species control. The projects selected for awards leverage a substantial amount of local funding and promise to make an important contribution to our natural resource legacy.

Each year the program supports many local and regional partnerships working to improve water quality. For example, Marathon County, in collaboration with the Big Eau Pleine Citizen Organization, the Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation, and others, continues to improve water quality in

Lake Wausau and the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir. Funding from the Surface Water Grant will help them increase community engagement, promote and implement better land management practices on agricultural lands, and improve shoreland habitat.

Healthy Lakes and Rivers grants were awarded to 28 organizations to engage private shoreline owners with the installation of simple and inexpensive practices that improve habitat and water quality. For more information, visit: www.healthylakeswi.com.

Lastly, 163 groups will receive support to participate in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Local advocates will focus on education and outreach to empower watercraft users to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species between waterbodies. This easy-to-understand grant is one of the most popular.

Interested in a surface water grant? Start the process now! Reach out to your regional lake, stream, or AIS biologist (scroll down to contact information): <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>. 🌊



Patrick Kilbey, Marquette County Conservationist, and Healthy Lakes & Rivers participant, Karyn Niin Kitigade standing in front of Karyn's native shoreland planting.

Wisconsinites love their lakes and rivers, and our passionate, local stewards are uniquely equipped to lead efforts to protect and restore their local waterbodies with financial and technical support from the DNR. I am inspired daily by their dedication and the good work they do.

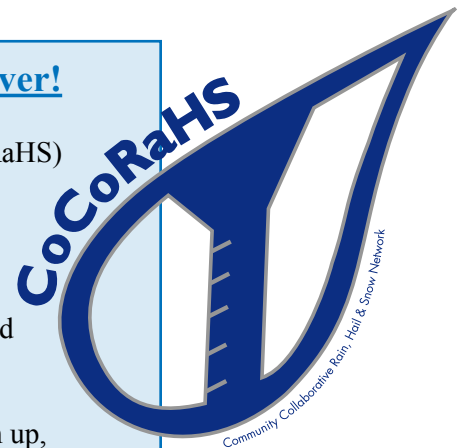
~ Laura MacFarland,
DNR Surface Water Grant Program Manager

Want better forecasts? Become a volunteer weather observer!

This March, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is recruiting volunteer weather observers to measure snow, rain, and hail in their backyards. Why? These data help the National Weather Service improve weather forecasts, river stage prediction, and flash flood warnings across the state.

Wisconsin has over 500 observers, but some communities have none (e.g. Richland County). That means less accurate forecasts for now and in the future.

You can help by volunteering! Everyone can participate. All you need to do is sign up, attend a free online training, grab a high-quality rain gauge, and you're set! Volunteering is a great opportunity to participate in science that affects your local waterways and community. Sign up today: <https://www.cocorahs.org/application.aspx>.



Wisconsin Lakes

Looking Forward to a Safe and Fun 2023

By Mike Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes



**WISCONSIN
LAKES**

While we remain mired in the midst of a snowy winter, another sun filled season of recreating on Wisconsin's lakes is right around the corner. As fun as that can be, we also know that bigger boats and more people out enjoying the waters can mean negative impacts to lake environments as well as to the safety and enjoyment of lake users.

For the past several years, Wisconsin Lakes made recreational impacts to lakes a main focus of our education and advocacy. 2023 will be no different. Here are some of the activities we have in store this year:

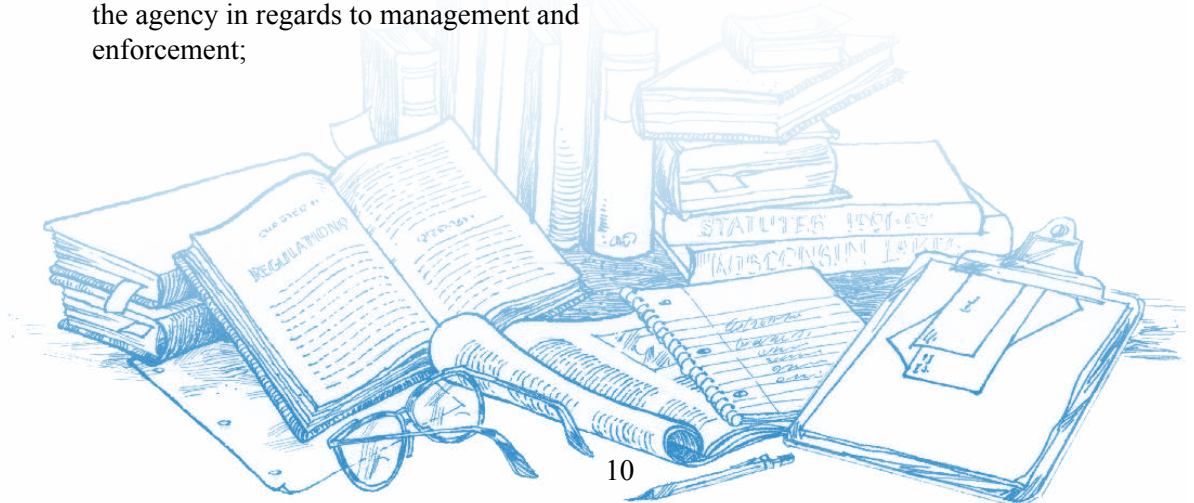
- Hosting an entire day of presentations on recreational impacts to lakes at the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention, with topics ranging from resolving conflicts between users to the ins and outs of enforcement and ordinance development;
- Convening regional lake forums to bring lakes together to discuss impacts to their lakes and how they are overcoming the problems they face. Planning is underway for an event in the southeast (tentatively May 19) with at least one northern event in the works as well;
- Working with the Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Board to encourage best practices on the part of the agency in regards to management and enforcement;

- Partnering with counties and local governments to help classify lakes suitable for particular types of recreation as well as helping them work through the ordinance creation process;
- Seeking to influence the water sports industry to better educate boaters, especially those using enhanced wake generating watercraft like wakeboats, on safe, low impact practices, and to improve the design of those boats to lower their impact and better prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species;
- Aiding local lake associations in conducting “carrying capacity” studies to determine how close their lake is to a tipping point of too many boats to maintain safety, aesthetic enjoyment, and the environment.

All users have their place and right under the Public Trust Doctrine to enjoy our waters, but also a duty to ensure their uses don't infringe on the rights of others.

Wisconsin Lakes is committed to the idea that all users have their place and right under the Public Trust Doctrine to enjoy our waters, but also a duty to ensure their uses don't infringe on the rights of others. Through research, education, and targeted regulation where needed, we can keep our lakes safe and healthy, while continuing to enjoy them on those warm, sunny days to come.

Want to help Wisconsin Lakes in this endeavor? Consider becoming a member or making an additional contribution to support our efforts. 💧



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).



NEW eGuide for Native Plants!

Are you a home gardener, plant enthusiast, naturalist, teacher of native plants, waterfront property owner, pollinator lover, or land/water resource manager? Then you need to check out this new electronic resource by Patrick Goggin, one of our key Healthy Lakes & Rivers team members!

This e-guide seeks to show and tell the story of all the gifts these native plants give us, and contains species profile pages for 112 different plants, each including these five topic areas:

1. Biology notes
2. Beneficial insects and other wildlife support
3. Seasonal interest notes
4. Complementary native plants
5. Water conservation and erosion control tips

Additional appendices provide assorted resources to dig deeper into native plant gardening and ecological design and restoration, including a table listing seed collection timing, propagation needs, and recommended spacing when planting. 💧

Guide to Native Plants (a.k.a. Local Beings)

112 species that support clean water, wildlife habitat, and a happy soul.

By: Patrick Goggin



healthylakeswi.com

A Tribute to Dr. Paul Sager, UW-Green Bay

Submitted by Patrick Robinson and Paul Schumacher

The freshwater enthusiast community lost a true champion recently. Dr. Paul Sager passed away on August 25, 2022 and will be fondly remembered for his many contributions to our understanding of freshwater ecology, his passion for the outdoors and teaching others, and his caring spirit. Dr. Sager was a limnology professor at UW-Green Bay, Director of the Cofrin Arboretum, member of the State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council, and much more. Many of his former students have pursued careers in lake management or have become lake monitoring volunteers. Dr. Sager himself was a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network volunteer on Birch Lake in Vilas County.



Dr. Sager retired from UWGB in 2000 and remained active, advancing important ecological work on the Bay of Green Bay and beyond. He and his wife Dorothea funded a scholarship award for UWGB students in the natural sciences starting in 2008.

For those who knew him, Paul's prowess as an ecologist was only surpassed by his qualities as a human being. The legacy of his work and his impact on others will endure.



Lakes and Rivers Convention

Building Trust Around Water Together

Agenda *...at-a-glance*

Wednesday, April 19

Agenda subject to change.

Workshops/Field Trips (Pre-registration required)

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 AM | Registration opens |
| 9:00 AM-Noon | Workshops/Field Trip (some begin at 10:00 AM) |
| Noon-1:00 PM | Lunch on your own (or pre-register for on-site) |
| Noon-7:00 PM | Exhibits open |
| 1:00-4:00 PM | Workshops/Field Trips |
| 4:00-6:00 PM | Networking time - Dinner on your own Visit Business and Educational Displays |
| 6:00-11:00 PM | Welcome Reception Water in Art Exhibit Poster Session (6:00-7:00 PM) Pictionary game (7:30 PM) |

Thursday, April 20

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 6:45-7:30 AM | Sunrise Yoga |
| 7:30 AM | Registration opens |
| 8:00 AM | Exhibits open (until 6:00 pm) |
| 8:00-8:50 AM | Concurrent Sessions 1 |
| 9:00-10:30 AM | Welcome & Kickoff Keynote |
| 10:40 AM-Noon | Concurrent Sessions 2 |
| 12:15-1:30 PM | Lunch (Debra Shore, EPA Region 5) |
| 1:45-2:25 PM | Concurrent Sessions 3 |
| 2:35-3:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions 4 |
| 3:30-4:30 PM | Lightning Talks |
| 3:30-5:30 PM | Lake organization resource exchange Networking time Visit Business and Educational Displays |
| 6:00-8:00 PM | Awards Banquet/Ceremony Cash bar opens at 5:30 PM |

Friday, April 21

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 6:45-7:30 AM | Sunrise Yoga |
| 7:30 AM | Registration opens |
| 8:00 AM | Exhibits open (until Noon) |
| 8:00-8:50 AM | Concurrent Sessions 5 |
| 9:00-10:15 AM | Friday Speaker Dr. John Francis |
| 10:45-11:45 AM | Concurrent Sessions 6 |
| Noon-1:15 PM | Closing Lunch |
| 1:30-2:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions 7 |
| 2:45-3:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions 8 |

BUILDING TRUST AROUND WATER



TOGETHER

This year's Convention theme, Building Trust Around Water Together, encourages us to build new relationships with individuals, groups, businesses, and organizations and cultivate trust, together, so we can better collaborate and cooperate around our lakes, in our watersheds, and across Wisconsin. Plan your trip to Stevens Point for your 45th annual Convention! We invite you to explore Wisconsin's unique Public Trust Doctrine, based on our state's constitutional provision "that navigable waters are held in trust by the state for the benefit of the public."

This gathering is part of Wisconsin Water Week, a time to learn more about what's happening with our precious water resources and how you can be involved in protecting and restoring them.

Deadlines:

February 28: Early-bird Registration

March 15: Call for Posters (see page 15)

April 1: Photo Contest (see page 15)



Convention Sessions

With three full-days of engaging content, we know there is something for everyone at this event. While Wednesday offers workshops and field trips, Thursday and Friday will include keynote speakers and dozens of concurrent sessions focusing on these topics:

- Wildlife/Fisheries/Natural History
- Building Trust Across User Groups and Stakeholders: Bridging Communication Gaps and Considering Different Perspectives
- Unique Issues of Impounded Lakes
- Trusting Holistic Solutions: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Aquatic Plant Management (APM)
- Recreational Impacts and the Public Trust
- Building Trust Through Proper Project Management/Coordination
- Funding for Water Resource Projects
- Our Urban Waters: Challenges and Opportunities
- Community-led Initiatives: Building Trust within Communities
- Human and Wildlife Health Impacts from Aquatic Chemical Exposures
- Developing Organizational Capacity

Thursday's welcome and kickoff plenary session will include opening remarks from Wisconsin DNR Secretary Payne, followed by an engaging panel focused on the Public Trust Doctrine.

As mentioned in our last issue of *Lake Tides*, Dr. John Francis, Planetwalker, will join us Friday morning and give the keynote address.

You can read a detailed agenda online at wisconsinwaterweek.org.

Virtual Agenda

Agenda subject to change.

Thursday, April 20

Virtual Exhibits and links to live-stream sessions available on EventMobi

- 8:00-8:50 AM** **Concurrent Sessions 1** (Choose from two options)
- *Planning for Accessibility*
 - *Zooplankton Tales of Long-Term Ecological Change*
- 9:00-10:30 AM** **Welcome & Kickoff Keynote**
- 10:40 AM-Noon** **Concurrent Sessions 2** (Choose from two options)
- *Sharing the Water: Perspectives of Water Users*
 - *Hidden Water Creatures and Drawing Water Art and Science Collaborations*
- 1:45-2:25 PM** **Concurrent Sessions 3** (Choose from two options)
- *How & Why to Work with Farmers to Reduce Runoff (And Why It's Hard)*
 - *History in the Mucking*
- 2:35-3:15 PM** **Concurrent Sessions 4** (Choose from two options)
- *Coalition Building & 9 Key Element Planning in the Eau Claire River Watershed*
 - *Wild Rice Decline in Northern Wisconsin and Returning Wild Rice to Spur Lake*

Friday, April 21

Virtual Exhibits and links to live-stream sessions available on EventMobi

- 8:00-8:50 AM** **Concurrent Sessions 5** (Choose from two options)
- *School of Freshwater Sciences Connecting with Community*
 - *Wetland Forest Trees of Wisconsin*
- 9:00-10:15 AM** **Friday Speaker Dr. John Francis**
- 10:45-11:45 AM** **Concurrent Sessions 6** (Choose from two options)
- *Boats for All Folks! and Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants that Manage City Fertilizer*
 - *Avian Insectivores: Chimney Swifts, Whippoorwills, etc.*
- 1:30-2:30 PM** **Concurrent Sessions 7** (Choose from two options)
- *Our Urban Waters: Challenges and Opportunities*
 - *Trout Fisheries and Management in Wisconsin*
- 2:45-3:45 PM** **Concurrent Sessions 8** (Choose from two options)
- *Salty Streams and Sustainable Solutions and Chloride Management Planning: Starkweather Creek Study*
 - *Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Update*

wisconsinwaterweek.org



Hands-on Workshops - Wednesday, April 19

Your 2023 Lakes and Rivers Convention will include several workshop opportunities and a few field trip options. Get all the details and pre-register at wisconsinwaterweek.org before all the spots are taken!

Agenda subject to change.

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

*Some workshops start at 10:00 AM

Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities (Limit 50)

Michael Cain, Wisconsin Green Fire, Michael Engleson, Wisconsin Lakes, Daniel Helsel, Wisconsin DNR, William O'Connor, Boardman and Clark, Melissa Scanlan, UW Milwaukee Center for Water Policy, Christa Westerberg, Pines Bach LLP

Lake District Commissioner Training - Beginner (Limit 50)

Eric Olson, Extension Lakes, UW-Stevens Point

Angler Education Instructor Certification (Limit 40)

Theresa Stabo and Cal Sinclair, Wisconsin DNR

Fisheries Management 101 (Limit 40)

Scott Toshner, Wisconsin DNR

Civic Ecology: Building Networks to Restore Broken Places (Limit 40) - *10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Joanna Salinas, Waukesha County Green Team

WI Mussel Monitoring Program Training (Limit 20)

Lisie Kitchel and Jesse Weinzinger, Wisconsin DNR

Overview of the New SWIMS Database Interface

(Limit 40) - *10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Jake Dickmann, Wisconsin DNR

Can You Hear Me Now? Concepts and Practices for Successful Science Communication

(Limit 30)

Amanda Bell, Jamie Velkoverh, and Victoria Christensen, U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center

Field Trips (busing provided)

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

UW-Stevens Point Water Tour (Limit 20)

1:00-4:00 PM

Fish Hatchery - Wild Rose (Limit 30)

1:00-4:00 PM

Breweries and Groundwater

(Limit 22, Must be 21 or older, includes stairs)

Afternoon Workshops ~ 1:00-4:00 PM

Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine in the 21st Century: Creating Strategies to Ensure Our Water Future (Limit 50)

Michael Cain, Wisconsin Green Fire, Michael Engleson, Wisconsin Lakes

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) Refresher Training (Limit 40)

Sandy Wickman, Extension Lakes and Wisconsin DNR and Rachel Sabre, Wisconsin DNR

Lake District Treasurer Workshop (Limit 40)

Eric Olson, Extension Lakes, UW-Stevens Point

Introduction to Lake Algae and Cyanobacteria: Identification, Ecology, Health Effects, and Management (Limit 40)

Gina LaLiberte, Wisconsin DNR

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (Limit 24)

Katy Bradford, UW-Madison Division of Extension and PJ Liesch, UW-Madison Dept. of Entomology

Aquatic Plant Ecology and Identification (Limit 25)

Paul Skawinski, Extension Lakes, UW-Stevens Point and Michelle Nault & Scott Van Egeren, Wisconsin DNR

Loon Ranger Training (Limit 40)

Erica LeMoine, LoonWatch

Everything You Wanted to Know About Working with Farmers (But Were Afraid to Ask) (Limit 40)

Tara Daun, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Andy Holschbach, Ozaukee County Land and Water (retired), Mike Paulus, Paulus Dairy, Matt Winker, Redline Dairy Farm, and Dan Zerr, UW-Madison Division of Extension

Holistic Management of Fish and Aquatic Plants (Limit 40)

Zach Feiner, Katie Hein, and Alex Latzka, Wisconsin DNR

Equitable and Effective Community Engagement for Our Lakes & Rivers (Limit 40)

August Ball, Cream City Conservation

Only
\$40



Call for Posters and Lightning Talks

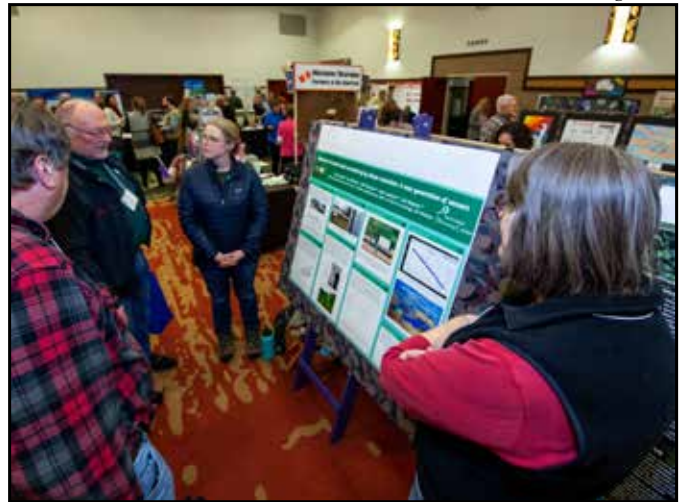
Posters

Including your poster in the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention is a great way to share your research, project, or success story! This year's poster session will be part of Wednesday evening's Welcome Reception when you will have the opportunity to chat with other participants about your poster topic.

Lightning Talks

Have an update or project that you would like to get in front of the right folks? Submit a proposal for a lightning talk at this year's Convention. These are brief (5-minute) talks that quickly get to the specific results or impacts from a recent project or research. For more information and to submit a proposal, go to the Convention website at wisconsinwaterweek.org.

Doug Moore



Hannah Nalls



"Pyramid With Pops" was taken at George Lake and received an honorable mention in the 2022 Lakes & Rivers Photo Contest.

Photo Contest

We're switching it up a bit this year for the Lakes and Rivers Photo Contest and asking you to submit up to two photos that answer the question: "Why do we need healthy lakes and rivers?" In addition, we are looking for BEFORE/AFTER photos that will help us answer this important question. There will be a special monetary award for the best before/after submission. Learn more at wisconsinwaterweek.org. **DEADLINE: April 1, 2023**

We will print your digital images in full color on 13x19 paper and they will be displayed at the 2023 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, April 19-21, in Stevens Point. If you are attending the Convention, you are welcome to take your print(s) with you after noon on Friday, April 21, 2023.

CALENDAR

March 9, 2023 – Red Cedar Watershed Conference, Menomonie, WI

For more information: <https://www.uwstout.edu/outreach-engagement/lifelong-learning/other-opportunities/red-cedar-watershed-conference>

March 16, 2023 – Fox River Summit, Burlington, WI

For more information: <https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/2023foxriversummit>

April 4-7, 2023 – Wisconsin Rural Water Association Conference, La Crosse, WI

For more information: <https://www.wrwa.org/wrwa-annual-technical-conference/>

April 18, 2023 – Water@UW-Madison Spring Symposium, Madison, WI

For more information: https://water.wisc.edu/2023_spring_symposium/

April 19-21, 2023 – Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, Stevens Point, WI

For more information: <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org>

Check out our online calendar at uwp.edu/uwexlakes/calendar.



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Madi Gregory

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Reflections

“A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other’s lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves.”

— Wendell Berry

