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# The Monitor

## Lakes Convention to Celebrate Volunteers

The theme of the 2016 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention is “Celebrating Volunteers” - a tribute to the incredible work of dedicated volunteers like all of you. This year’s conference will be held at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center, March 30th - April 1st.

This Lakes Convention will be partnering with the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) annual symposium and Citizen-based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin (CBM), both of which will be running concurrently on April 1st and 2nd, also at the Holiday Inn. Those attending the Lakes Convention on April 1st will also be able to attend the WAV/CBM events on April 1st/2nd at no extra charge.

Keynote speakers at this year’s Convention include Kris Stepenuck, formerly the Coordinator of the Water Action Volunteers volunteer stream monitoring program. Kris is currently an Extension Assistant Professor at the University of Vermont, and is Secretary of the national Citizen Science Association. Kris will be addressing the question “Does volunteer monitoring really make a difference?”

The second keynote speaker, Alyssum Pohl, spent four months kayaking the length of the Mississippi River to document water quality changes and concentrations of micro-plastics in the river. She will share her sampling results and interesting stories from her adventures on the river.

Between the three events, nearly 100 poster presentations will be on display. Participants can attend 13 hands-on workshops and over 90 concurrent sessions. A CLMN chemistry refresher training will also be available for anyone to attend.

Registration is now open. Early-bird pricing expires on March 9th, so register soon! You can view the conference agenda and complete online registration at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/default.aspx>



# Announcements

## Ice-off is Coming

Please record the date that your lake is completely ice-free. If you aren't reporting ice-on and ice-off dates for your lake, please consider doing so. Learn more at our website <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEX-Lakes/Pages/programs/clmn/ice.aspx>

## Check Your Rope Measurements Each Spring

Please check the ropes attached to your Secchi discs and Van Dorn samplers to make sure the measurements are still accurate. Ropes can stretch over time.

## Larger Sulfuric Acid Vials For Chemistry Sampling in 2016

The sulfuric acid vials used for preserving your phosphorus samples are larger this year, changing from a 3.5mL size to 4.5mL size. The amount of acid inside the vial is the same as last year; the only change is the size of the vial itself. You will still pour the entire contents of the vial into your phosphorus sample.

## CLMN Assembling Volunteer Focus Groups to Discuss Potential Changes

In order to make lake monitoring as valuable and enjoyable as possible for volunteers like you, we are beginning to assemble focus groups to help guide changes to CLMN. Potential topics to discuss include format of annual reports, printed monitoring manuals, volunteer recognition, and any other topics that volunteers would like to share their thoughts on. Please contact Paul at [Paul.Skawinski@uwsp.edu](mailto:Paul.Skawinski@uwsp.edu) if you would like to learn more about participating in one of our focus group discussions.

## Current and Historical CLMN Annual Reports Always Available Online

Remember that your annual water quality reports are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/> every day of the year. Reports are automatically updated every 24 hours, so an up-to-date report can be viewed within 2 days of entering your data into SWIMS. However, chemistry lab data can take several weeks to show up on a report because of the quantity of samples the lab processes and enters data for. You can also view past annual reports for your lake, or view reports from any other lake participating in CLMN.

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