



The Monitor

The newsletter of Wisconsin's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

Volume 6, Issue 1
Winter/spring 2020

Photo: John Lyons, WDNR

Volunteer Water Clarity Data Shed Light on Conserving Coldwater Fish

By Katie Hein, WDNR Water Monitoring Lead

Wisconsin lake water clarity data recently contributed to an important study aimed at conserving cold-water fish in the Upper Midwest. Coldwater fish like cisco and whitefish have lost a substantial amount of habitat in stratified lakes due to climate change and eutrophication: warming temperatures reduce the amount of cold-water habitat near the lake surface, and eutrophication causes a lack of oxygen in deep, cold-water habitat. Researchers compiled data on lake water clarity, lake shape, July air temperature, and the amount of developed land around lakes in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. The greatest loss of cold-water fish habitat occurred in lakes where the surrounding land changed substantially (e.g., from prairies and forests to agricultural and urban lands). Coldwater fish habitat remains intact in many forested lakes in the north, with only modest losses due to a warming climate. Land protection efforts surrounding deep, clear lakes in the northern forested regions of these three states are needed to protect cold-water fish habitat in lakes and minimize the stress that will be induced by climate warming. Thank you for your water clarity data contributions that make studies like this possible!

2020 CLMN Webinar Series Set

By Paul Skawinski, CLMN Statewide Educator

We launched our CLMN webinar series in 2019 with two webinars on satellite water quality monitoring and *Unique Animals of Wisconsin Lakes*. We will host five more webinars this spring. All webinars are free and can be joined by phone or computer. Webinars will also be recorded for later viewing.

Find the 2019 webinar recordings here:

[Satellite water quality monitoring](#)

[Unique Animals of Wisconsin Lakes](#)

Register for the Spring 2020 webinars here by clicking on each of the webinar titles:

[April 7th, 12:00 - 1:00, Responsible Development to Reduce Flooding Risk](#)

[April 15th, 12:00 - 1:00, Shorebirds Around Wisconsin Lakes](#)

[April 21st, 12:00 - 1:00, Mammals Around Wisconsin Lakes](#)

[April 29th, 12:00 - 1:00, Wetlands in Wisconsin](#)

[May 5th, 12:00 - 1:00, Shoreline Gardening for Healthy Lakes and Rivers](#)

Announcements

2019 Annual Data Reports

Remember that your annual lake monitoring summary reports are available anytime at <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>. Just click on your county, then on “Details” next to your lake name, then on the year under “Annual Reports”. Other types of reports and graphics are available as well, and you can view reports from any year that your lake has participated in CLMN! We encourage you to share these reports with others!

CLMN Volunteer Survey - We Responded to Your Responses

225 CLMN volunteers responded to our 2019 volunteer survey - thank you so much for your feedback! Many of you submitted written comments, praise, and suggestions to us, and we are very grateful for all of that. We summarized all of your written feedback and included our own responses to your thoughts. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the summary document from the 2019 volunteer survey.

2020 Satellite Schedule Posted

The satellite schedule for 2020 has been posted. Please refer to this schedule when taking your water clarity readings this season. If you can take your readings on the same dates as the satellite passes overhead, please do. If it doesn't work with your schedule, that's ok too! [CLICK HERE](#) for the satellite schedule. Also, remember that our water clarity monitoring tutorial video is available on YouTube [here!](#)

Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention To Be Held Online

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention will not be held in-person as originally planned. Instead, a nearly identical agenda will be presented online via multiple webinars (web-based seminars) on the same dates, April 1-3, 2020. Attendees will be able to move between presentation streams as they wish, just as you would be able to do during the in-person Convention. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the UW-Extension Lakes website for more information. Please also note that the UW-Extension Lakes website may be slower than usual to load, due to high traffic from UW-Stevens Point staff and students using the site for remote teaching and other work.

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A bi-monthly electronic publication of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

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