



# The Monitor

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*The newsletter of Wisconsin's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network*

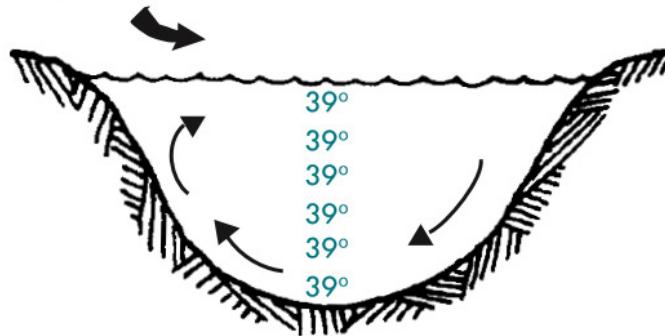
## Turnover (not the yummy blueberry kind)

It's nearly the end of winter in Wisconsin. Solid sheets of ice still cover lakes like tectonic plates floating on molten Earth. They separate dark, isolated, watery worlds from a bright, crystalline world above, where cold-blooded animals have either retreated south, burrowed far away from the cold, or produced antifreeze compounds in their blood to avoid freezing to death. Beneath that ice, a lake remains alive and is preparing for a new open-water season. Water temperature is warmest near the bottom (about 39 degrees F), and coldest just underneath the ice sheet (about 32 degrees F).

As the days lengthen, the warm, spring sun eats away at the ice, turning it an ominous dark color that signals the end of the ice fishing season. Lake life near the bottom anxiously waits for what limnologists call "turnover". It happens when the ice melts, the water temperature becomes roughly equal from top to bottom, and a strong wind creates circulation in the lake, sending oxygen-rich water to the bottom, and nutrient-rich water to the top. This circulation can continue for up to a few weeks, depending on weather conditions. The lake then stratifies, or separates into two layers, and these layers usually stay separated until another *delicious* turnover happens in fall.

### SPRING OVERTURN (March-April)

#### WIND



This illustration shows the uniform temperature of a lake's water in early spring, as turnover is occurring. From *Understanding Lake Data* by Shaw et al. 2002

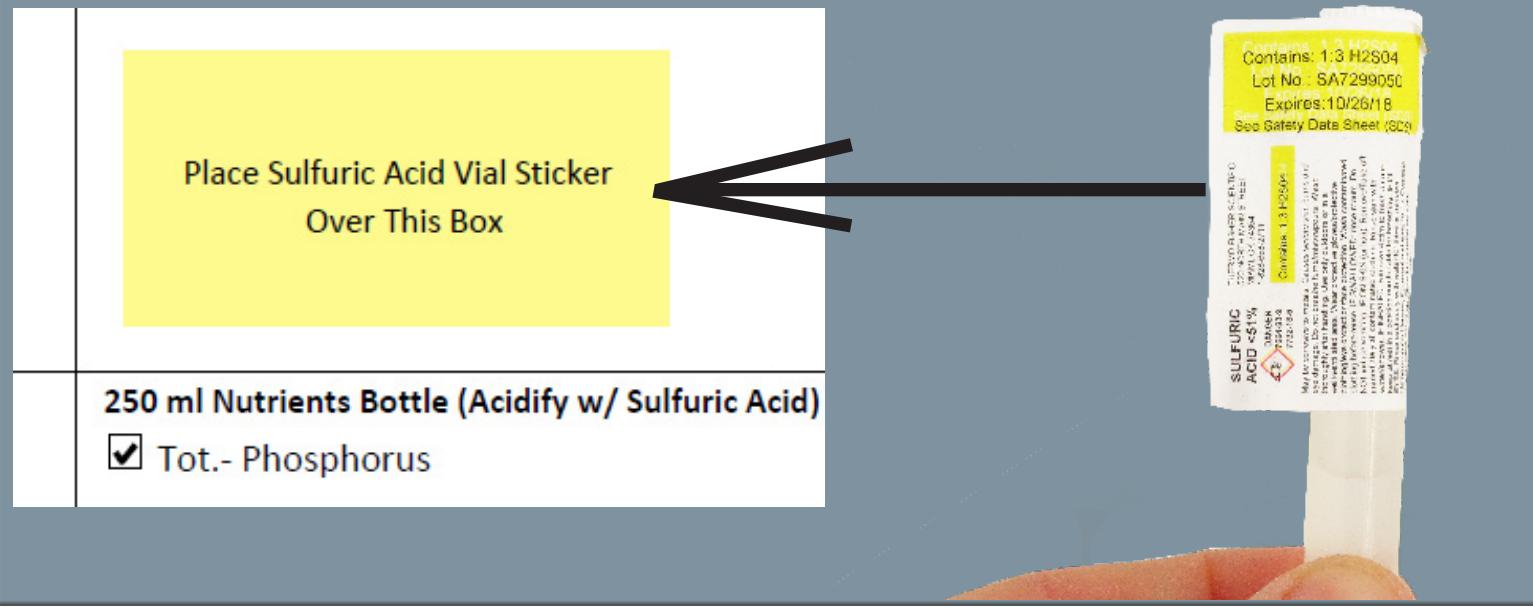


Many aquatic plants remain green all winter long and provide refuge for fish and other aquatic creatures, as shown in this January photo from a northern Wisconsin lake.

# Announcements

## New Sticker Must be Placed on Chemistry Lab Slips

On your State Lab of Hygiene lab slip, there will now be a highlighted box that says "Place Sulfuric Acid Vial Sticker Over This Box". Please remove the sticker from your acid vial and attach it over this box on your lab slip. This is an additional quality control step that the State Lab is implementing.



## 2018 Satellite Schedule Now Available

Visit the link below to see the 2018 satellite schedule. If possible, try to take your water clarity readings on the same day that the satellite is flying overhead. We understand this is not always possible due to personal schedules or weather conditions. Readings taken on the same day will be used to calibrate the satellite's equipment and allow the satellite to estimate water clarity on additional lakes across the state. Click on this link to find the schedule and other water clarity resources: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/clmn/clarity.aspx#resources>

## View and Share your Lake Data!

Your monitoring data is summarized and available any day of the year on our annual reports page. You can also view past years' data or data from other lakes in your area. Please share your data with neighbors, friends, and local officials. <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>

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