



## Record-Keeping

### Keeping a "Lake Log"

As a CLMN volunteer, you are a record-keeper of your lake's overall health. The Secchi data, water chemistry information, and observations that you supply help with current management activities and also provide a basis for future management. The information that you collect in the field, as well as, the summary results presented in CLMN reports, can be used to create a "lake log" (i.e. a long-term record of your lake's overall history and health).

The field data sheet copies of your water clarity and chemistry information can be used as basic information for starting your lake log. Eventually you can add graphs, news clippings, lake history, maps, wildlife sightings, land use records, etc., to make your log complete. The sky's the limit! But don't take on this responsibility alone. You can share record-keeping responsibilities by enlisting the help of lakeshore residents, lake association members, and youth or school groups to help collect and compile information. For a *basic*

PHOTOS: SUJINE KONOS

ROBERT QUEEN

## SECCHI DIP-IN

The Secchi Dip-In is an annual event coordinated by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS). Individuals from all over the world take a Secchi reading sometime in July each year. You should report your data from these dates to the Network. You can also report them to the Secchi Dip-In online. For more information on this annual event please visit [www.secchidipin.org](http://www.secchidipin.org).

## REMOTE SENSING

In recent years, the WDNR has implemented a satellite water clarity program. This program originated in 1999 as a UW–Madison research project that has now transitioned into a WDNR operational program that estimates water clarity on approximately 8000 lakes annually across Wisconsin. The WDNR depends on citizen-based monitoring (CBM) for field measurements needed in satellite calibration. This powerful management tool that helps the agency monitor a large number of lakes in a cost-effective manner (less than \$1 a lake). The large database supplied by this effort can assist managers is looking at the “big picture” with respect to Wisconsin’s changing lake conditions, i.e. how are lakes changing in different regions of the state, different lake classes, different size lakes? In the near future, we hope to start examining how are lakes responding to past and future climatic conditions and landuse changes. Take Secchi readings on as many of the dates as you can. If you collect data on “satellite dates,” you don’t need to do anything special to report it. The Network will automatically include your data in the analysis of the satellite imagery. Just think, on a clear satellite day, your Secchi reading may translate into hundreds of other readings; almost as if you’re monitoring hundreds of lakes at one time!

lake log, the following items are recommended: a lake map, copies of your field data sheets and notes, and your annual data summary sheets. In addition to the items listed above, if you would like to compile a more comprehensive lake log the following items are recommended.

- Graphs of your results
- General lake ecology information (e.g., CLMN reports, *Understanding Lake Data*, etc.)
- Planning and protection grant information
- Precipitation and other weather information
- Ice-on and ice-off dates
- Wildlife sightings
- Illustrations and photographs
- Aquatic plant information
- Lake history notes from interviews with long-time residents
- Historical maps showing watershed development
- Video or photos of shoreline development runoff, plants, algal blooms, etc.
- Any other data or information collected about your lake

### Assembling the Basics

You will receive a lake map showing your sampling site from your CLMN regional coordinator. Lake maps can also be found online.

When you sample, make careful observations. Your initial observations are important since they can help you remember (and others understand) what is happening in and around your lake. In addition, taking careful field notes can provide a better understanding of the water quality and ecosystem conditions on your lake.

