



## AIS Snapshot Day

### Coming to a Lake or Stream Near You

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES  
**SNAPSHOT DAY**



By Paul Skawinski, Statewide Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Educator, UW-Extension Lakes and Natalie Dutack, Watershed Groups Manager, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Since 2014, AIS Snapshot Day has offered a fun, easy way for anyone to help in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS). This free, half-day training event, held in late summer, teaches participants about aquatic invasive species that occur in their area. Volunteers survey local boat landings and other water access points to help us detect early populations of AIS, like Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, and zebra mussels. Early detection of these invaders helps prevent the spread of AIS and allows for much cheaper and more effective management techniques to be implemented. Data collected during AIS Snapshot Day also helps to confirm reported (but unverified) populations of AIS and refine our understanding of how each species is spread throughout the state.

#### Where are Snapshot Day training sites located?

In 2017, 17 local training sites were scattered across the state. AIS staff from county Land Conservation Departments, universities, and other groups hosted these sites. The statewide event is coordinated by the River Alliance of Wisconsin and UW-Extension Lakes, but local training sites are held wherever there is public interest and a local AIS professional to host the site. Last year, 116 participants sampled 154 lake and stream sites during AIS Snapshot Day, resulting in the discovery of several new AIS locations!

#### What is expected of participants?

AIS Snapshot Day participants gather at a training site in their area and receive free training provided by a local AIS professional. They learn to recognize AIS that occur in their area and how to distinguish them from native species that may look similar. They also learn how to sample a location to search for AIS. Participants then divide into pairs or small teams, and are provided with maps to nearby boat landings or stream access sites. Each



Photo by Zach Wilson

(Continued on page 2)

Volunteers gather at a stream in Iron County.



Volunteer Barb Schmidt tosses a rake to sample for plants during Snapshot Day in 2017.

team is given sampling equipment and other materials to help collect and identify AIS. Teams are asked to collect anything suspicious, so that the task of identification is placed on the site host rather than the participants. Any new populations of AIS are verified and reported by the site host, and the host also handles datasheet entry for the event.

### Who can participate in AIS Snapshot Day?

Anyone! Professionals and volunteers work together to make AIS Snapshot Day a success. Participants are not expected to have any formal training or background in biology or AIS identification. Lake residents, fishermen, gardeners, families... they are all welcome and appreciated at this event.

### How are sites sampled for AIS?

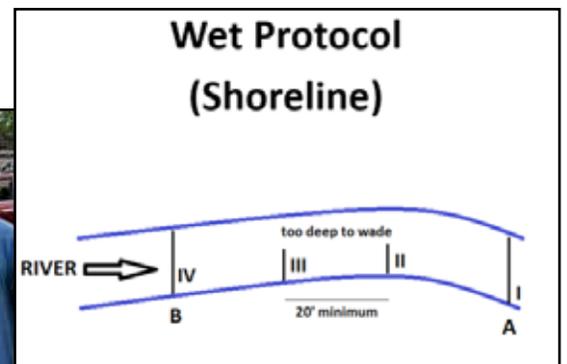
Stream sites are sampled by using one of four methods. Bridge sites and shoreline sites can be

sampled from shore (dry method) or by wading into the stream (wet method). For example, the wet method for a bridge crossing involves observing the shoreline and shallow water, and sampling across the stream at four locations (see diagram). Dry methods are similar in design, but do not require the participant to enter the water.

Provided by Stephanie Boismenu



Professionals and volunteers work together in Oneida County to make AIS Snapshot Day a success.



Lake sites are sampled with a dry method. Participants arrive at a boat landing or public access point, and identify the public boundaries of the site. They visit five points along the water and visually search for AIS at each site. They then toss a rake on a rope from the shoreline to sample aquatic plants.

At both stream or lake sites, participants use the provided resources to help identify plants and animals. Anything suspicious is collected in plastic bags (provided) and brought back to the local training site for expert verification and follow-up.

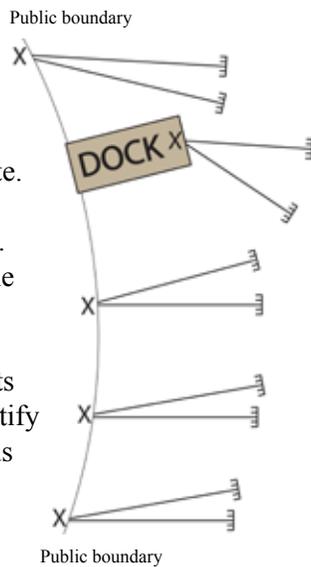


Photo by Chris Hamerla

Anna Cisar identifies and records AIS gathered in Stratton Lake, Waupaca County.

## Partnership with Minnesota

AIS Snapshot Day runs concurrently with a sister-event in Minnesota called Starry Trek. Minnesota's event focuses primarily on starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), an invasive species of large algae that has recently arrived in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Impacts and behavior of starry stonewort in the Midwest are poorly understood, so both events train participants on how to search for and identify this species.

In 2017, volunteers reported one or more invasive species at about 50% of the visited sites, including newly discovered and previously documented populations. The most common species were Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, curly-leaf pondweed, and purple loosestrife. No prohibited aquatic plants were found, but one prohibited aquatic animal (Asian clam) was found in Waupaca County.

Local coordinators chose their group's monitoring sites based on local knowledge of nearby waterbodies, and by referring to maps of priority sites generated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. These maps show where prohibited aquatic invasive species have been documented, and sites located within 15 miles of these documented locations are considered highest priority for AIS monitoring.

## 2018 AIS Snapshot Day

This year, county AIS Coordinators, university staff, DNR staff, and others will again host dozens of local training sites across Wisconsin and Minnesota and sample hundreds of waterbodies for AIS on August 18th. You can get involved too! Contact your local AIS Coordinator or county Land & Water Conservation Department, and let them know that you would like to participate in this important event. For more information, contact Natalie Dutack at River Alliance of Wisconsin: [ndutack@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:ndutack@wisconsinrivers.org) or (608) 257-2424 x111

Photo by Paul Skawinski



A new population of purple loosestrife was discovered in Wild Rose by volunteer Barb Schmidt during 2017 Snapshot Day.



# Capacity Corner

## Focus: Organizational Capacity

By Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist, UW-Extension Lakes

*“Organizational development is critical to the long-term sustainability of member and relational capacities and survival of community initiatives”*

- Mae Davenport and Erin Seekamp

The Lakes Partnership is working to help lake organizations be effective forces of change in protecting lake health. Our mental model of lake organization capacity is built around four related parts: membership, organization, relationships, and programs. Membership is the basis for the other three: a group needs members who provide financial and volunteer support that fuels all other efforts. Organizational capacity is mostly about how a lake association or lake district conducts its internal affairs, and organizations develop relational capacity by collaborating and networking with external people and groups. Lake groups leverage these first three types of capacity to increase their ability to get things done: programmatic capacity.

These four dimensions of capacity will serve as quarterly guideposts for our efforts to share ideas, tips and stories about capacity development in *Lake Tides*. In our previous issue of *Lake Tides*, we explored membership capacity. This time around, we are looking more closely at organizational capacity.



### Organizational Capacity



Analyzing organizational capacity provides a window into how well a lake group functions internally. Any group needs to have some basic operational guidance that distinguishes its activities from chaos. Beyond those basics, groups develop specific practices that enable it to excel: they strategically seek collaborators, they recruit and sustain members and volunteers, and they earn a reputation for getting things done.

Drawing on the research of Mae Davenport and Erin Seekamp, Aaron Thompson at UW-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources identified five facets of organizational capacity that lake organizations would ideally employ to better carry out their efforts:

1. **Policies:** Efforts are made to record, follow, discuss and improve how the organization conducts all of its business (financial, volunteer/staff management, public relations, etc.).
2. **Defined Roles:** Volunteer and/or staff roles are clearly defined within the organization, including clear expectations for leadership and a timeline setting the commitment for different tasks.
3. **Conflict Management:** There is a known set of actions that addresses what steps will be taken to resolve disputes if there is a conflict of interest or disagreement between members of the organization.
4. **Media Management/Outreach:** A communication plan is in place that designates spokespersons to regularly update local media about efforts of the organization.
5. **Access to Advisors:** The organization has identified a group of technical experts, community leaders, and others who can speak to water management issues and have agreed to support the organization.



(Capacity Corner, continued)

These are the ideals, and it is not likely that every lake group is going to excel in each one of them. Working together, however, we can learn from each other's experiences and develop a catalogue of ideas for improving organizational capacity. Beginning in 2017, the Lakes Partnership began holding workshops with participants from lake groups to brainstorm some of the basic steps and ingredients needed to actually carry out these types of activities. Two groups of participants at Advanced Lake Leaders this past fall discussed what works and what doesn't work when it comes to establishing and maintaining policies. We are sharing these ideas to give lake groups across the state a jumping-off point to begin their own efforts to strengthen their organizational capacity.

## Lake Districts

Most lake groups have a policy foundation that provides a basic structure to their operations. For lake districts, these are embodied in Wisconsin's state statutes, largely through Chapter 33. This law specifies operational details for lake districts, like how many commissioners will govern the lake district, how their budget will be developed and presented to district electors and property owners, and how the district can be dissolved and wound-down. Lake districts can develop additional policies and bylaws, but they cannot conflict with Chapter 33 or other applicable statutes, and, as discussed in this issue's *Lake District Q&A* (page 14), district bylaws can cause more trouble than they are worth.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

The online version of state statutes is continually updated to reflect bills that have been signed into law by the Governor (known as acts). Chapter 33 is found at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/33>

## Lake Associations

Lake associations, in contrast, often have and depend on bylaws to provide basic procedural guidance. For many years, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has provided a set of "model" bylaws that groups can modify and adopt for their local purposes. The model bylaws were the product of many years of discussions and development among lake organizations in Wisconsin, but we always encourage local lake groups to modify them in order to fit their local circumstances.

## Policies and Procedures

There are some practices that a lake organization may want to consistently follow which do not rise to the level of State Statute or bylaws. These can be included in a policy and procedure manual.

Last fall's Lake Leaders discussed that the creation of a policy and procedure manual should start small and focus on those matters that clearly require some sort of standard; a lake group does not benefit if it becomes bogged down in meeting after meeting to discuss minor policies or procedures. For example, it is common to establish a policy regarding how a lake group's checking account will be managed (the number of signatures required on checks, how many different people will have signature authority, what dollar amounts require full board approval, etc.). These are important matters, but if a group addressed them in too much detail in their bylaws, they might find it hard to adjust to changing circumstances without going through a process of updating the bylaws.

(Continued on page 15)

## Lake Group Resource

*People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations* includes the model bylaws for a lake association as Appendix

A. You can download it as a PDF or order a printed copy from our bookstore at [www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes).



## Lake District Requirement

Lake districts are local units of government and are required by state law to enact an employee grievance procedure. You can download an example procedure provided by the Legend Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District on the UWEX Lakes website:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/districts/default.aspx>





# Let's Make Healthy Lakes Together!

The Healthy Lakes 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 feature story to Pamela Toshner ([pamela.toshner@wi.gov](mailto:pamela.toshner@wi.gov)) or Amy Kowalski ([amy.kowalski@uwsp.edu](mailto:amy.kowalski@uwsp.edu)).

## Featuring: Local Champion, Jim Giffin, Lake Minnesuing

*Since the Healthy Lakes initiative began, there have been folks across the state who have voluntarily stepped up to make sure these projects are implemented on the lakes in their area. We affectionately refer to these individuals as local champions. Recently, we asked one of our local champions, Jim Giffin, why he became a Healthy Lakes local coordinator.*

I have always found the process of learning inspiring. It is something that seems to keep us, well, maybe a little younger. The concepts of Healthy Lakes were clear to me. They seemed, and in fact are, very practical, simple projects that can be done to slow the aging of our lakes.

The opportunity to share this information with my neighbors and lake property owners was just sitting out there so I chose to “just do it.” When I experienced failure trying to get a friend or neighbor interested in a Healthy Lakes project, I began to wonder what I was doing. **Keeping at it was the key.** Other property owners showed interest and soon we had three property owners with planned projects! And, we were successful in receiving the Healthy Lakes grants to accomplish them.

Once those projects came to life it became far easier to talk to others about the merits of Healthy Lakes.

**What's great about Healthy Lakes is that completed projects not only benefit the lake, but also benefit the individual property owners and their investment in that property. It's a clear win-win.**



Photos provided by Jim Giffin

Tyra, and helper Isla, admire their work; diversion, spillway and rain garden!

*When we asked Jim which projects he was most proud of and why, here's what he had to say.*

For me, it's not really being proud of any project, it's being proud of the people who accomplished them. When Debbie emailed me with photos of their project, while she stood in the pouring rain with runoff cascading down the impervious drive into the newly constructed rain garden, well, that's the real deal.

I was attending another family's celebration last fall, when Ernest came over – he was energized – and said to me, “Remember that rain we had two weeks ago? I stood out in it, getting soaked, watching the stormwater gushing down my driveway into the diversion we constructed on the drive. Down the drive it came, getting redirected by the diversion down the spillway into the rain garden we built. It worked!”

That's what it's all about. Using real examples, including before and after photos, is priceless when talking to other property owners or lake groups interested in Healthy Lakes projects.

**The goal is to share experience.** By demonstrating the elements of real projects, others can imagine the results in their own environment. 💧

# Lakes 101

By Michala Feigal, UWSP Alumni

## Topic: Measuring Water Clarity

*The lakes are thawed, the air is warmer and the sun shines longer... it's (almost) summer! It's the time of year for Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) volunteers to gear up for the monitoring season. There are over 1,000 citizen volunteers throughout the state of Wisconsin that monitor our waters. CLMN volunteers monitor several aspects of our lakes including:*

- Water Clarity
- Water Chemistry
- Ice-on and Ice-off
- Lake Level Fluctuation
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- Native Aquatic Plants

## Water Clarity (Secchi) Monitoring

Once trained, water clarity monitoring is quite simple and a great excuse to get out on the water! Water clarity monitoring uses an eight-inch black and white disc, called a Secchi disc, to determine clarity. These measurements are taken on a sunny or partly cloudy day between 10:00am-4:00pm. The Secchi disc, attached to a rope marked at one-foot increments, is lowered until the disc is no longer visible. This depth is marked on the rope with a clothespin. The rope is then lowered a couple more feet and then raised until the Secchi disc comes into sight, this depth is also marked with a clothespin. An average of the two measurements is recorded as the Secchi depth. Volunteers record this depth every 10-14 days

*Lakes 101 is a recurring section of Lake Tides that is meant to help explain the basics of lake related topics. If you are curious about a lake issue or water related topic, let us know and we will explore it in a future issue ([uwexlakes@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwexlakes@uwsp.edu) or 715-346-4744). You can also connect with us on Facebook by typing "Wisconsin Lakes Partnership" into the search box at <http://www.facebook.com>.*

throughout the open-water season, and enter the data into a statewide database. A single Secchi measurement is not particularly useful, but many Secchi measurements over a period of time can tell us a story about our lakes. The measurements can tell us if our water clarity is improving, declining or remaining the same.

## Interested in becoming a CLMN Volunteer?

Paul Skawinski is the Statewide CLMN Educator. Contact Paul at (715) 346-4853 or [paul.skawinski@uwsp.edu](mailto:paul.skawinski@uwsp.edu).

For more information click on the CLMN logo at [www.uwsp.edu/UWEXLakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/UWEXLakes).



Photo by Laura Hemman



## Water Clarity Checklist:

- Secchi Disc on a rope
- Two clothespins
- Sunny or partly cloudy day, between 10:00am-4:00pm (on open water)
- Boat
- Anchor
- Life Jacket
- Data sheet
- Pencil



## Watch the Video!

Check out our video on the proper way to monitor for water clarity with a Secchi disc. Go to [www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes), click the CLMN logo, scroll down the page and click the "Water Clarity" icon.



# Neuroconservation

## A Small-scale, Long-term Project at the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

By Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist, UW-Extension Lakes

*That's the neurologic cascade. The emotional services that healthy lakes, rivers, oceans, waterways provide."*

- J. Nichols

What started as a casual conversation about the subtle presence of water at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn Convention Center is now becoming a real, albeit small, effort to advance the idea of neuroconservation. In 2017, Wallace J. Nichols gave the opening keynote at the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point. He made a compelling argument that the emotional and mental health benefits of being around water are widely underappreciated. Nichols

contended that we would all benefit by taking stock of the many ways that water supports us, and that if we participate in small efforts to improve waterway health we can benefit from a neurologic cascade, a series of indirectly connected changes that make our lives better.

We are starting with the pond at the Holiday Inn, not necessarily because of its ecological importance, but more because of its symbolic and neurologic potential. It may be small, but it is seen by hundreds of thousands of people every year. For its first decade, it was simply a runoff pond encircled by rocks and boulders. Most people probably never give it a second thought. Our vision is to turn it into a more robust amenity, surrounded by diverse plants and wildlife, with greater scenic beauty and places for people to sit and allow the water to work its inherent magic.

After the 2017 Convention, we worked with the staff at the hotel to discuss this concept and gauge their interest. Michelle Sedlak, our sales representative, and Noall Sylvester, the hotel's general manager, communicated with the hotel owners and all agreed that we could and should do something different with the landscaping around the pond. We were ready to integrate the project into the 2018 Lakes Partnership Convention, but the late spring blizzard in Stevens Point delayed us. Finally, this past May, volunteers from the hotel and staff from UW-Extension Lakes got together to begin realizing the vision of a more attractive pond.

We "bit off" an area of about 10ft. x 40ft., similar to what a lakeshore property owner might take on as part of a Healthy Lakes project. The Holiday Inn purchased over 400 plants from Dragonfly Gardens in western Wisconsin, which was one of the only greenhouses that had two-year-old native perennials available at the time. The hardest part of the project was removing and relocating the rocks that stood in our way, but many

### Wallace J. Nichols Discusses Neurologic Cascade

*...excerpt from J. Nichols' keynote address at the 2017 Wisconsin Lakes Convention*

"We talk about trophic cascades... you bring back a top predator, it influences the prey, that influences their prey, that influences the plant community, which starts to change the waterway. Last night we walked out to the small pond that's out near the parking lot and we discussed the potential there. What would that look like? We discussed the plants that could be brought back, we discussed the substrate - remove some rocks, bring in some more soil, bring in some different plants, bring in some animals, bring in some turtles... Then what? It's going to attract more wildlife, more migratory species, the ones that are just going to wander in and call it home. So that creates a trophic cascade - you change some species and there's a cascade, and the ecosystem services change. These are concepts that are alive and well in our community. What I want to ask you to pivot onto and include are the neurologic cascades. So that pond out there, outside by the parking lot, then what happens? People walk out there during their breaks in their conference, and they just hang out there and have a conversation by it, they look at the wildlife that has been attracted there, they relax, they take a break from "conferencing." Maybe they go and have their photograph taken there because they're having their wedding here. Maybe they just needed a moment to get away from their family, or get away from a conversation, or get away from the noise, and that little patch of water with those turtles swimming around provided that. That's the neurologic cascade. The emotional services that healthy lakes, rivers, oceans, waterways provide."

hands and a little sweat equity cleared the area in just over an hour. Patrick Goggin and Paul Skawinski guided the planting of the flowering perennials, and the Holiday Inn volunteers were impressed with how fast that part went after the more labor-intensive site preparation. Afterwards, the Holiday Inn treated everyone to a lunch in appreciation of their efforts.

Our plan is to continue nibbling away at this project year after year, using the pond as a training site for Healthy Lakes practices and showing how incremental change can improve a waterbody.

Each year we will be able to revisit plantings from prior years to discuss maintenance and performance issues. In time, we may be able to divide the perennials to provide free planting stock for the next increment. We also will be working with the hotel to plan for seating and signage at the site. Ultimately, we will be working towards the neurologic cascade that transforms a stormwater pond into a place for making memories and finding the tranquility that water provides. 💧



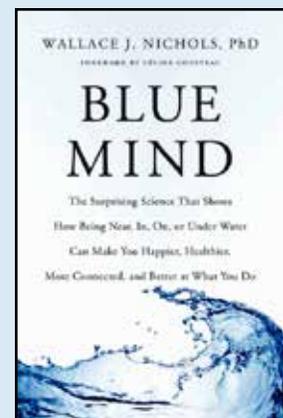
## Did you know about neuroconservation?

# DYK

By Elizabeth Spry, UW-Stevens Point Alumni

Water is powerful and expansive. It covers over 70 percent of the earth's surface, with the oceans holding nearly all of it. And while many people enjoy being near and in lakes, streams, and oceans, no one really began to explore why until Dr. Wallace J. Nichols. Nichols, known in conversation as "J," introduced the idea of a "blue mind." A person experiences "blue mind" when they are near or immersed in water, and this interaction with water yields cognitive, emotional and spiritual benefits. Nichols, witnessing and experiencing these benefits himself, began a field of study known as "neuroconservation" to better understand the relationship between the mind and the water that fills most of our earth, as well as our own bodies!

Greater compassion and care for the natural world exists if we deeply understand and appreciate our "blue mind." As Outside magazine, in an article on Nichols, states, "If we learn precisely why we love the ocean [...] we'll have an immensely powerful new tool to protect it." Neuroconservation can encourage us to protect nature in a new, more personal way. This is the ultimate goal of neuroconservation, and we have Nichols to thank for it.



# Happy 40th LoonWatch!

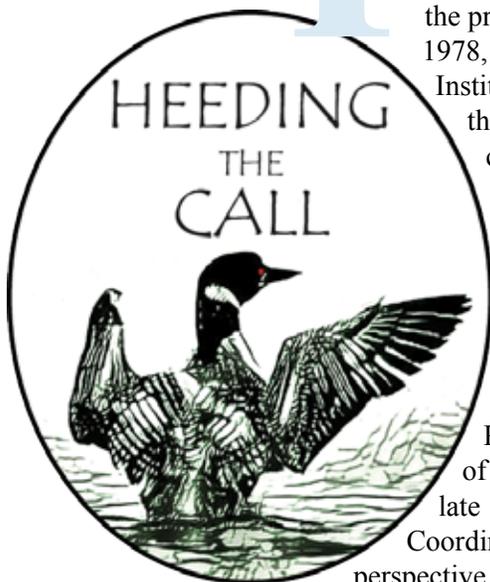
## Celebrating at the 2018 Lakes Convention

Featured at this spring's Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention was a panel discussion with past and present LoonWatch leaders to celebrate the program's 40th anniversary. In 1978, the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College began the LoonWatch program to "protect common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research."

We heard an entertaining tale from Gary Zimmer about how the LoonWatch program came from his graduate work with Dr. Ray Anderson at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the late 1970s. Terry Daulton, LoonWatch Coordinator from 1989-1997, gave some perspective to the program and celebrated many of the folks who were important to LoonWatch's success. A brief examination of

decades of research on the common loon was presented by Mike Meyer, a retired wildlife toxicologist, which spurred an engaging discussion. And, today's LoonWatch and Citizen Science Coordinator, Erica LeMoine, shared an overview of the program and its many accomplishments. Currently, over 430 volunteers monitor loons across Wisconsin as part of this program, and some of these LoonRangers have been at it for over 25 years! Now that's "heeding the call!"

If you weren't able to make it to this year's Convention, or you would like to view these presentations again, they are available on our archive page (both as PDF and video). Go to [www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes) and click on "Convention 2018" under *Events* in the left navigation column. You will also find many more presentations from our impressive list of speakers, photo contest winners, Lake Stewardship and Volunteer Stream Monitoring award recipients, and more! 💧



*"Loon panel was awesome!! Talks about restoring fish habitat by Trout Unlimited and Bad River were outstanding!!"*

-2018 Lakes Convention Attendee

Photo by Linda Grenzer



*This photo, aptly named "Breakfast Club," won first prize in the Natural Features In and Around Lakes and Underwater category of this year's Lakes Photo Contest. It was taken on Muskellunge Lake by Linda Grenzer. Find all the winners on the convention archive page at [www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes).*



*"We budget to attend this conference every year and it's a great event and encouraging others to attend will only help others see the bigger picture."*

-2018 Lakes Convention Attendee



## 2018 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership presents these Lake Stewardship Awards at the annual Lakes Convention to celebrate the extraordinary volunteer and professional efforts made to protect and improve lakes in Wisconsin. The Lake Stewardship Awards represent our best collective effort to honor and celebrate all the incredible work that goes into ensuring the future of our state's legacy of lakes. To view videos of some of the amazing accomplishments of these lake stewards, check out the convention archives at [www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes).



**Citizen**  
**Waldo Peterson**



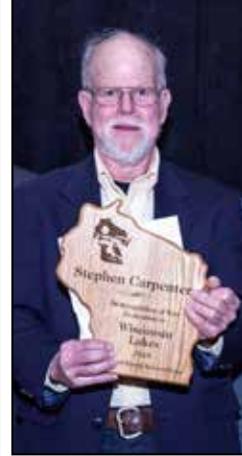
**Business**  
**Lakescape Solutions, LLC.**  
(Nick Homan, owner)



**Public Service**  
**Derek Kavanaugh**



**Youth/Educator**  
**Harold Resch**



**Lowell Klessig Memorial Prize**  
**Stephen Carpenter**

*All photos on this page by Doug Moore*



**Group (Single Lake)**  
**Lake Association of White Lake**  
*Pictured here (L to R): Chris Oatman, Elmer Mulhollon, Andrew Tesheneck, Buck Brown and Terry Smith*



**Group (Multiple Lakes/Regional)**  
**Manitowoc County Lakes Association**  
*Pictured here with Cathie Erickson, President of Wisconsin Lakes, (L to R): Dick Jens, David Pozorski, John Brotz, Tom Ward, Phil Knauf and Scott Otterson*



# All Hands on Deck for This Year's Landing Blitz

By Jeanne Scherer, AIS Outreach Specialist, UW Environmental Resources Center

Photo provided by Lake Association of White Lake



#CleanBoatsCleanWaters

Members of Lake Association of White Lake engage in various educational projects including the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection Program.

**T**housands of Wisconsinites will take to the water this Fourth-of-July for the state's busiest boating holiday. During the tenth annual Landing Blitz, June 29-July 4, many boaters will be greeted at landings and access points by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff, volunteers and regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) partners sharing a simple but powerful message, "YOU can protect lakes and rivers from aquatic invasive species."

The Landing Blitz is a statewide effort to remind boaters and users of all other watercraft that they can take actions to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, which pose great risks to the health of our lakes and fisheries. "This campaign has become a mainstay of our prevention efforts, since the holiday draws both frequent and infrequent boaters to the water, allowing us to empower a lot of people," says Bob Wakeman, Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Volunteers, AIS partners and DNR boat inspectors will be on hand at landings around the state to demonstrate the prevention steps and answer questions about invasive species. Their efforts will build on the success of last year's campaign, when watercraft inspectors encountered over 14,000 boats and spoke with over 32,000 people.

"One of the most exciting things about this campaign is the strong volunteer effort. Every year hundreds of concerned citizens participate as volunteers to help us raise awareness and empower boaters," says Wakeman.

Invasive plants and animals, like Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas and zebra mussels, can spread easily by hitching a ride on boats and other equipment, including trailers, anchors, livewells, buckets and bilges. Because many invasive species can also be hidden in

For those who use social media, please help spread the word about the importance of aquatic invasive species prevention by posting photos and messages using #CleanBoatsCleanWaters.



mud, it is vital to clean off anchors. Boaters can easily prevent the spread of AIS by taking the following simple steps before they leave a boat landing:

Following these steps also helps boaters comply with Wisconsin state law, which

prohibits the transport of aquatic invasive species.

To learn more about invasive species and their impacts to Wisconsin's waters and economy, visit [DNR.wi.gov](http://DNR.wi.gov) and search "Invasive Species."💧

- INSPECT** boats, trailers and equipment.
- REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles and equipment.
- NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.



Photo by Amy Kowalski



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

## June is Invasive Species Action Month

Take action and join others in helping to prevent the spread of invasive species in Wisconsin. Contact your local Land and Water Conservation Department or your local aquatic invasive species coordinator to find out if there are any events in your area.



# Q & A Lake Districts

We often get phone calls and emails from Lake Tides readers with a variety of questions about lake districts. Do you have a question about lake districts that you would like to see answered in Lake Tides? Send it to [uwexplakes@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwexplakes@uwsp.edu) so we can include it in a future issue.

## Q: What happens if lake district bylaws conflict with statute?

A. As we noted in a previous Lake District Q&A (Volume 37, No. 3 Summer/Fall 2012), lake districts do not need bylaws. If a district adopts bylaws, they cannot conflict with state statute, as statute will always outweigh local bylaws. Some lakes adopt bylaws that draw references from state statutes; this may be all fine and good, until state statute changes.

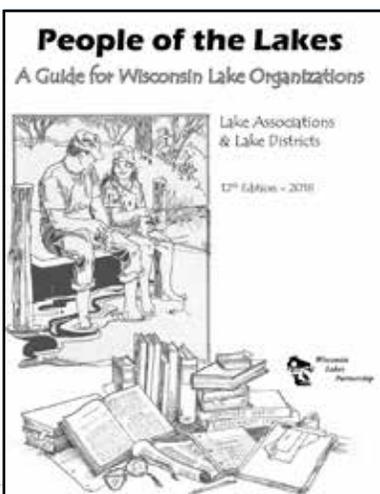


The online version of state statutes is continually updated to reflect bills that have been signed into law by the Governor (known as acts). Chapter 33 is found at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/33>

The online version of statutes also includes links that take you directly to the text of historic acts that have impacted a section of the law. You will also find links to the court decisions that have impacted a section of statutes. Finally, where there are Attorney General opinions that impact how statutes are to be interpreted, the website provides direct links to those opinions. This is much more dynamic and useful than a simple printout of Chapter 33, and it provides plenty of reading material for anyone who wants a better understanding of lake district law and the history to major statutory changes and court cases.

The legislature does not often change Chapter 33, the section of statute that most directly impacts lake districts, but when they do, the new law can create a conflict with local bylaws. For example, a lake district had developed bylaws after a 1989 law that modified Chapter 33 to allow districts to adopt rules relating to voting at annual and special meetings. Statute explicitly said that districts could adopt rules limiting the number of votes that may be cast with respect to any property that has more than one owner. Four years later, the legislature eliminated that specific language from Chapter 33, but the lake district never updated their bylaws to reflect that change. This has created some confusion for them when it comes time to hand out ballots for the annual meeting. The legislature deleted the language allowing for local rules governing ballots, so the district must fall back on the general guidance that statute provides: Chapter 33.01 (9) (ar) defines “property owner” for the purpose of voting at an annual or special meeting, and it does not limit the number of owners that can be eligible to vote.

For more information on lake districts, see *People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations*, [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/districts](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/districts).



## Updates to *People of the Lakes*

We have updated *People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations* (12th edition) to reflect the law changes related to lake district commissioners appointed by towns, cities and villages. These changes were the subject of two recent Lake District Q&A articles (Summer 2015 and Spring 2016). Now that the dust has settled, it was necessary to update *People of the Lakes* to accurately reflect the law. Minor changes were also made to reflect webpage and organizational changes since 2006. You can download and print Chapter 5 from our bookstore ([www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes)) if you want the most recent changes without printing the whole guide, or you can download and print the entire document. You are also welcome to order a printed copy from the UW-Extension Lakes online bookstore.



(Capacity Corner, continued)

The policies and procedures of a lake group will grow in scale and scope as it develops its programs for protecting or restoring lakes. A new group that forms to develop social cohesion among neighbors on a small lake will not have the same needs as a more established group on a lake with hundreds of homes, a large budget, and professional staff. Lake Leaders suggested that groups consider developing a cycle of reviewing policies using an ad-hoc governance committee. The committee can be made up of former lake association board members or lake district commissioners and they would be asked to either develop or review policies and make recommendations to the current board.

After reviewing policies and procedures, a lake group might also want to create a short orientation guide for new board members or commissioners. This can be helpful not only for bringing new people onto the board, but also as a tool for reaching out to candidates or prospective board members. People generally want to know what they are getting themselves into before they are elected or appointed to a board! The website [boardsource.com](http://boardsource.com) has a nonprofit board orientation checklist that you can download for free at <https://boardsource.org/nonprofit-board-orientation-checklist/> 

### [Read More](#)

Find links and articles about developing organizational capacity on our UW Extension Lakes webpage: [www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes)

# CALENDAR

## **June-August, 2018 – Summer Workshops for Plants and Animals, Saukville, WI**

Offered by UW-Milwaukee College of Letters & Science Field Station, some for CEUs.

For more information: <http://uwm.edu/field-station/workshops/summer-workshops/>

## **June 26 or 27, 2018 – Aquatic Plant ID Workshops, Woodruff, WI**

Learn how to identify aquatic plants from the experts! Offered at the Kemp Natural Resources Station on these dates or in the central part of the state in early June.

For more information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes> then click *Plant ID Workshops* under the *Events* tab in the left navigation column

## **July 29-August 2, 2018 – Women & Water 2018, Lac Courte Oreilles, WI**

Register before June 30, 2018 for this second annual “Women and Water Coming Together” symposium. For more information: <https://www.spiritofthewater.org>

## **June 29-July 4, 2018 – Landing Blitz, Statewide**

Read more about it on page 12 of this issue of *Lake Tides*.

## **July 13, 2018 – Annual Lakes Meeting/Conference, Nicolet College, Rhinelander, WI**

Annual morning gathering of lake and river advocates from Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties. Speakers will address water quality, stewardship, community and government through the lens of the northwoods economy. County groups will break out at noon for their Annual Meetings. For more information: <http://www.oclra.org/>

## **August 18, 2018 – AIS Snapshot Day, Wisconsin and Starry Trek Day, Minnesota**

Read more about it in our feature article on page 1 of this issue of *Lake Tides*.



# Lake Tides -- PRJ85HX

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### A quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

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## Reflections

*... gradually the idea is taking form that the land must be held in safekeeping, that one generation is to some extent responsible to the next, and that it is contrary to the public good to allow an individual, merely because of his whims or his ambitions, to destroy almost beyond repair any part of the soil or the water or even the view.*

~ E. B. White  
from One Man's Meat

