



Working for clean, safe, healthy lakes for everyone

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## West Wisconsin Lakes Workshop

Join us August 11th for a lakes protection workshop in Rice Lake. This workshop will provide tools you can use to help shape the future of your lake community.



Download [workshop brochure](#) (schedule, paper registration form)

[Register online](#)

### *Program agenda*

#### **8:00 - 9:00 AM**

**Registration.** View lake-related educational displays, network with lakes folks, and enjoy morning refreshments.

#### **9:00 – 9:15**

**Welcome and opening remarks.**

*Darren Lochner, UW-Extension Lower Chippewa Basin Educator, and*

*Meg Marshall, Island Lakes Chain in Rusk County and Wisconsin Association of Lakes Board of Directors.*

#### **9:15 - 10:00**

#### **Troubled Waters?**

*Jeff Bode, DNR Lakes and Wetlands.*

Wisconsin's lakes are changing fast. Discover what we've learned about lakes trends, what science can and cannot tell us about the future of Wisconsin's lakes. Waterfront property owners, lake users, and

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our elected officials will decide the future of our lakes. What do we want to leave for future generations? What can we do now to make sure lakes stay healthy?

**10:00 - 10:45**

**Developing Nutrient Standards for Lakes: Lessons from Minnesota.**

*Steve Heiskary, Research Scientist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.*

Both Minnesota and Wisconsin are blessed with numerous lakes. Cultural eutrophication, or nutrient loading, of these valuable resources is the driving force behind the development of lake eutrophication criteria in both states. This presentation will provide an introduction to lake science, an overview of cultural eutrophication, and share some of the science used to develop lake nutrient standards. Discover how Minnesota's experiences could be applied to Wisconsin's lakes.

**10:45 - 11:00**

**Refreshment break**

**11:00 - 11:45**

**Human Impacts of Lakeshore Development on Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Obvious Remedies, Yet Difficult Choices.**

*Paul Cunningham, DNR Fisheries Ecologist.*

A lake reflects the land around it. Learn how lakes work: how they respond to changes such as shoreline domestication, watershed and shoreland development. Learn about fish and wildlife habitat needs. Discover what we can do to help restore and protect lake habitats that will ensure good fishing and wildlife watching experiences for years to come.

**11:45 – 12:00**

Questions and discussion with all our morning speakers.

**12:00 - 1:00**

Luncheon

**1:00 - 1:45** Choose 1 of 3 concurrent sessions:

**1 A: Alternative Landscape Management to Protect Water Resources: Lake-friendly yard care.**

*John Barten, Water Resources Manager at Three Rivers Park District.*

Soil compaction during urban development is a significant problem affecting both surface and groundwater resources in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA). Field research from lawns in the west TCMA suburbs show significant compaction of the upper soil layers, and impaired plant root growth. Turf establishment and maintenance on these compacted soils requires the use of large amounts of fertilizers and pesticides, requires excessive amounts of groundwater during summer months, increases the volume of rainfall runoff, and due to the greater pollutant availability, increases the rate of pollutant export. Recent research has demonstrated that turf areas export significant quantities of nutrients, particularly phosphorus, to lakes and streams in urban area.

Reducing soil compaction, therefore, needs to be a mandatory component of storm water management in urban areas. John will address numerous strategies to reduce soil compaction during and after the land development process, and discuss strategies to replace turf with deep-rooted plant species that will improve rainfall infiltration. These strategies have the long term goal of reducing storm water runoff, reducing pollutant export from urban areas, and reducing the use of groundwater.

### **1 B Aquatic Plant Management on Lake Nancy.**

*Dave Butt, Vice President of the Lake Nancy Protective Association in Washburn County.*

Discover how the Lake Nancy Protective Association has been successfully containing Eurasian water milfoil over the past 6 years. Lake Nancy is a beautiful 780 acre lake located in the northwest corner of Washburn County. Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) was introduced into the northeast corner of the lake sometime in the late 1980's. Learning on the fly, the association obtained lake grants, conducted a lake study, and determined the best management strategy for their lake. It is likely that without a systematic chemical treatment and monitoring program, EWM would have taken over much of the lake, pushed out native aquatic vegetation and caused navigation problems. Dave has been a board member of the Lake Nancy Association for seven years and vice president for the last five years.

### **1 C: Communications for Change: How to craft effective communication strategies to foster sustainable behavior.**

*Dorothy Lagerroos, Professor of Government at Northland*

*College, and Pat Shifferd.*

**1:55 - 2:40** Choose 1 of 3 concurrent sessions:

**2 A: Turf Management to Protect Water Resources.**

*John Barten, Three Rivers Park District.*

A review of land cover in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area shows that the majority of land in urban areas is used to grow turf. Although turf has the theoretical capacity to infiltrate rainfall, soil compaction during and after development significantly reduces this capacity. Compounding this problem is the reality that the focus of most lawn management activities is to optimize the aesthetic appearance the grass, not to maximize the health of the underlying soil. Homeowners spend significant dollars installing automated irrigation systems, but very little de-compacting soils to increase rainfall infiltration.

This presentation will address soil compaction issues during and after lawn establishment, and discuss turf management practices to reduce compaction, promote increased plant rooting depth, increase soil organic matter, and increase soil moisture holding capacity. Implementation of these practices will improve turf growth, reduce weed growth, and reduce chemical inputs to improve rainwater infiltration and decrease runoff volume and pollutant export.

**2 B: Aquatic Plants: How to identify them and their role in healthy lakes.**

*Susan Knight, UW-Madison and UW-Extension*

This session will introduce people to five groups of aquatic plants: pondweeds, water-milfoil and others with thread-like leaves, floating-leaved plants, short "turf-like" plants, and other common species. Learn about the value of these plants in lakes, their neat adaptations and characteristics, and how to use the UW-Extension publication, *Through the Looking Glass*, to identify aquatic plants in your favorite lake.

**2 C: Developing a Communication Strategy for Your Lake.**

*Dorothy Lageroos, Professor of Government at Northland College, and Pat Shifferd.*

**2:40 – 2:55** Break

**3:00 – 3:45** Choose 1 of 3 concurrent sessions:

**3 A: Grants to Help Your Lakes: How to successfully apply for and manage lakes and rivers grants. .**

*Carroll Schaal, DNR Lakes Program.*

This talk will provide an overview of the lake planning and protection, aquatic invasive species control, and river planning and protection grants available from the State. Qualified lake and other conservation organizations and local governments can apply for these grants. Learn about the kinds of projects that are funded, application requirements and deadlines, cost share, eligible costs and financial details. You'll also receive tips and resources to help you plan good projects that will protect and improve our waters.

**3 B: Nature Mapping: Citizens observing and documenting nature. Frogs in Your Face: Why frogs are excellent species to monitor.**

*Sara Schmidt, Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center Director*

*John Haack, UW-Extension St. Croix Basin Educator.*

Lakes are homes for many species of Wisconsin wildlife. Lakeshore residents often have stories to tell about a curious bear, interesting tracks, or favorite waterfowl. These stories of common and uncommon wildlife observations become valuable data with the Wisconsin NatureMapping Program. NatureMapping is a statewide survey program for people of all ages and educational backgrounds. School children, citizens, community groups, and other city, county and state organizations are all invited to help collect wildlife-related information. The program provides an opportunity for students and volunteers to perform field studies that contribute to the state's biological databases. By helping collect this data, NatureMappers become more aware of their surroundings, deepen their sense of place, and strengthen their connection to the environment.

There are many compelling reasons to monitor frogs. Their unique life cycles make them excellent indicators of the health of their habitats. Three of our Wisconsin frogs are shoreland dependant species. That is, they only live in and entirely depend on they area where water meets the land. Many people (especially kids!) have an interesting affinity for frogs. Frog songs are easy to learn how to identify, and monitoring them is fun for all ages.

The two presenters in this session will offer many examples and resources to help you start observing and documenting the wildlife in your favorite lake community!

### **3 C: Working with Local Governments: Examples of innovation in Wisconsin towns and counties.**

*Eric Olson, UW-Extension Center for Land Use Education, Buzz Sorge, DNR Lakes Coordinator.*

Examples of county lakes classification projects, town lake committees, and local land use planning initiatives illustrate how lakes groups and local governments are working together to achieve lake and watershed protection. This session will share examples from Adams and Vilas Counties and others that are creating new partnerships and leveraging funding from local, state and federal sources to accomplish lake and watershed protection at the county and town levels.

Adams County, for example, is gathering lake data to create lake management plans and set water quality goals for all the county's lakes. A combination of different lakes grants are used to create lake management plans and fund implementation activities. This comprehensive approach uses the lake classification tool to link lake-specific plans and implementation projects for all of Adams County's lakes.

## *Special training opportunities*

**8:00 AM – 12:00**

### **Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Program.**

*Laura Felda-Marquardt, DNR\UWEX Lakes Program.*

Hands-on instruction will prepare lake leaders to organize an effective boater education and watercraft inspection program to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. This workshop provides an overview of aquatic invasive species, instructions on how to organize and conduct an effective volunteer watercraft inspection program. An optional handbook and resource tool kit is available for \$25.

***Please note: This workshop runs at the same time as morning plenary sessions listed above. Class size is limited. Pre-registration required.***

**1:00 – 3:45**

**Monitoring for Invasive Species Beyond the Boat Landing.**

*Laura Herman, DNR\UWEX Lakes Program.*

This new training program focuses on whole-lake monitoring for aquatic invasives like zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, and Eurasian water milfoil. Monitoring protocols for each species will be discussed and you will receive monitoring equipment. Whole lake monitoring methods will also be explained to assist in developing a proactive approach in early detection and rapid response efforts. An optional resource kit is available for \$25.

***Please note: This workshop runs at the same time as the other 3 sets of afternoon break-out sessions listed above. Class size is limited. Pre-registration required.***

### Registration information

*Space is limited, please pre-register early!*

**Registration fee** is **\$30** per person.

*Fee includes refreshments, luncheon, and program materials.*

Special trainings may have additional fees, attendance is limited: first come first serve basis.

[Register online](#)

***"Working for clean, safe, healthy lakes for everyone"***

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