

Citizen-Based Monitoring Conference Overview

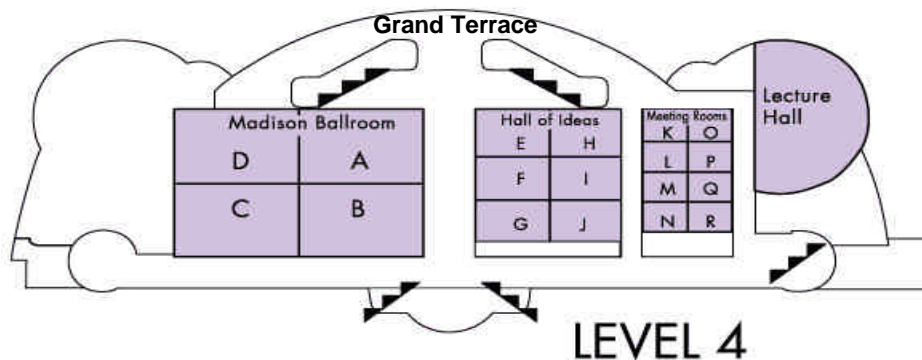
Monona Terrace, Madison, Wisconsin

Friday, August 20, 2004

12:00 noon	Registration Opens	
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Opening Address	Meeting Rooms K-R
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.	General Session	Meeting Rooms K-R
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion	Meeting Rooms K-R
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Break	Hall of Ideas G-J
3:45 – 5:45 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions Breakout I Breakout II Breakout III	Hall of Ideas H Hall of Ideas I Meeting Rooms K-R
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Conference Social	Grand Terrace West
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Keynote Address and Dinner	Grand Terrace West

Saturday, August 21, 2004

7:30 a.m.	Registration Opens	
8:00 – 11:45 a.m.	General Session	Meeting Rooms K-R
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Ballroom A
12:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Working Breakout Sessions I-III	Hall of Ideas H Hall of Ideas I Meeting Rooms K-R
1:45 – 2:30 p.m.	Plenary Session	Meeting Rooms K-R
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Break	Hall of Ideas G-J
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Working Breakout Sessions I-III	Hall of Ideas H Hall of Ideas I Meeting Rooms K-R
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Plenary and Closing Session	Meeting Rooms K-R



Friday, August 20, 2004

12:00 noon

Registration Opens

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Rooms K-R

Opening Address

Wisconsin State Senator, Neal Kedzie

Introduction: Paul Heinen, Legislative Liaison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Rooms K-R

General Session

Models of Coordination from Other States

Moderator: Shannon Fenner, WDNR

- **NJ Watershed Watch Network: A Collaborated Effort Between the Volunteer Community and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection**

Presenter: Danielle Donkersloot, Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Over the past year, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program has been remodeled to establish consistency across the state in terms of who is collecting data and for what purpose. This presentation will discuss the approach that is being used in NJ to collect and use volunteer data. The presentation will include a description of the four-tiered approach to volunteer monitoring: Tier A-Environmental Education, Tier B-Stewardship, Tier C-Community and/ Watershed Level Assessment, Tier D-Indicators/Regulatory Response. Each tier has a specified data users group, data uses and data quality requirements. This will allow for volunteers to collect data that is acceptable to the NJDEP standards, and provide volunteers with a process for submitting data. This presentation will also discuss the collaboration effort between the NJDEP and volunteer monitors throughout the state by using two advisory committees and the Office of Outreach and Education. The Internal Advisory Committee consists of water quality data users and water resource managers throughout the NJDEP. This committee has a vested interest in being able to insure the level of quality assurance needed for data collection which varies from low to high levels of rigor. The second committee is the Watershed Watch Network Council, which consists of volunteer monitoring representatives throughout the state. Their programs vary from tidal, freshwater, chemical, visual, habitat, and biological, and are customized to their watershed's needs.

- **Illinois EcoWatch Network**

Presenter: Dana Curtiss, Ecowatch Network Coordinator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Illinois EcoWatch Network is a statewide terrestrial and aquatic volunteer monitoring program. After 10 years there are several lessons learned that are worth sharing with others. Topics such as setting organizational goals and philosophies, benefits of piloting, dealing with outside political considerations will be addressed. EcoWatch's mistakes and misdirections will be presented to illustrate the lessons learned.

- **An Overview of Volunteer Stream Monitoring and Lake Monitoring in Region 5 States (IL, IN, OH, MI, MN & WI) as of February 2004**

Presenter: Dale Luecht, Environmental Scientist, Water Division, Region 5 US Environmental Protection Agency

The information discussed on Volunteer Monitoring of Water Quality will be limited to collecting chemical, physical and biological parameters that characterize a segment of a stream or an area of a lake. What, When, How, Who and Why you collect Volunteer monitoring water quality data will be described and compared for Region 5 states for streams and for lakes. The Central Data Exchange that is under development by USEPA, States, and Tribes will when implemented allow government and private citizens easy access to a vast amount of environmental data across the USA that can be accessed from a desk top computer by asking relatively simple questions.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Rooms K-R

Panel Discussion

Discussion of Other State Models

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Hall of Ideas G-J

Break

3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Highlights of Existing Programs in Wisconsin

Breakout Session I

Hall of Ideas H

- **Counting Wolves and Other Carnivores (with a little help from our friends)**

Presenter: Jane Wiedenhoft and Sarah Boles, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin's Volunteer Carnivore Tracking Program was developed by the Department of Natural Resources in 1995, primarily to help monitor Wisconsin's growing and expanding wolf population and to search for other rare carnivores such as lynx and cougar. Volunteers are required to attend two training courses after which they are assigned to one or more of the 133 track survey blocks in northern and central Wisconsin. Volunteers are asked to complete at least three good track surveys in their block over the course of the winter snow tracking season. More than 450 people participated in volunteer track surveys between 1995 and 2003. In most years, volunteers have allowed us to double the amount of miles covered in snow track surveys. Statistical analyses have shown that both training and experience are important aspects in considering the usability of the volunteer data. Data from volunteers who have completed training and have 40 hours tracking experience is used in combination with other data sources to determine the overwinter wolf count and to map wolf distribution in the state. Volunteers have become an important part of our integrated approach to monitoring Wisconsin's wolf population.

- **Birders as Citizen Scientists: Past, Present & Future!**

Presenter: Andy Paulios, Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Birders and amateur ornithologists have a long and storied history of contribution to our understanding of avian ecology and populations. Long-running surveys like the Christmas Bird Count and the Federal Breeding Bird Survey have helped track changes in bird populations and have helped galvanize support for conservation action. Currently thousands of birders participate in a number of programs across the country, and current initiatives will require even more effort from citizen scientists if we are to understand how all of our bird species are faring in today's world.

- **LoonWatch**

Presenter: Cory Counard MacNulty, Ecologist/LoonWatch Coordinator, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College

LoonWatch was established in 1978 in response to growing concerns about the shrinking range of Common Loons in the Upper Midwest. With an active network of volunteers, LoonWatch works to protect Common Loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring and research. Approximately 200 citizen volunteers monitor loons each year, providing long-term loon reproduction data at individual lakes in Wisconsin. LoonWatch volunteers also participate in a survey every 5 years to estimate Wisconsin's loon population.

- **Utilizing the Internet and GIS to Coordinate Regional Control Efforts for Purple Loosestrife**

Presenter: Miles Falck, Wildlife Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

GLIFWC has compiled data on purple loosestrife distribution and control efforts from several sources to help guide and coordinate control efforts by resource managers and citizen volunteers. The data is presented in an interactive GIS database via the Internet at: www.glifwc-maps.org.

Breakout Session II	Hall of Ideas I
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- **Water Action Volunteers' Citizen Stream Monitoring Program**

Presenter: Suzanne Wade, Basin Educator, Rock River Basin

Water Action Volunteers (WAV) is a statewide program for Wisconsin citizens who want to learn about and improve the quality of Wisconsin's streams and rivers. The program is coordinated through a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin - Cooperative Extension.

Citizens, civic groups, 4-H clubs, students and other volunteer groups are participating in WAV programs across the state. WAV currently offers informational materials and support for citizen stream monitoring, as well as storm drain stenciling, river cleanups and other action-oriented water resource protection projects.

- **Volunteer Water Monitoring Support through the UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education**

Presenter: Nancy Turyk, Water Resource Scientist, Center for Watershed Science and Education, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

UWSP has water programs that have provided support to citizens for more than 25 years in groundwater, lake, and river monitoring efforts. We support citizens that are conducting the monitoring with training in appropriate sampling techniques, database management, and interpretation of data. We also work side-by-side with citizens on detailed assessments of their lakes, rivers, and watersheds.

- **Clean Boats, Clean Waters a fighting chance!**

Presenter: Laura Felda-Marquardt, Invasive Species Lakes Specialist, University of Wisconsin Extension-Stevens Point

No one likes to fight, but when it comes to protecting Wisconsin waterways from aquatic invasive plants, that's something to fight about!

Clean Boats, Clean Waters, volunteer watercraft inspection program, began in 2003 to assist volunteers to organize and conduct a boater education program in their community. Trained adult and youth teams educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into waterbodies. By performing boat and trailer checks, distributing informational brochures and collecting and reporting suspect specimens; volunteers can make a difference in helping to prevent the spread of invasive species.

This presentation will describe how to organize a statewide volunteer effort to battle invasive species and review the valuable data volunteers are collecting at the boat landings.

- **Self-Help Monitoring – A Wisconsin Lake**

Presenter: Mary Jane Bumby, Green Lake Association

The health of lake water gives an indication of how we do on land within the watershed. I will show and discuss Green Lake's (Green Lake County) Secchi disk data (usually collected May to Oct) and its watershed. According to these estimated average yearly data from 1980-2003: first, valid differences in these measurements show drought times (clear lake) and rainy times (turbid lake); second, a trend exists showing some improvement in lake clarity. In addition, the east end of the lake is more turbid than the west end. About 68% of the 114 sq mi watershed's area drains into the eastern part of the lake. Because of "Big" Green Lake's size and depth, monitoring occurs at both an east and west deep-water station of the lake. At the time of Secchi disk readings, records are taken of temperatures of the air and surface water, color of the water and 17 ft vertical plankton tows for later microscope observations. Digital camera used.

Breakout Session III	Meeting Rooms K-R
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- **Building a State and National Phenological Network**

Presenter: Mark Schwartz, President, Wisconsin Phenological Society and Professor of Geography, UW-Milwaukee

Monitoring of spring plant phenology is an important way to assess the impact of global warming on the biosphere. A nationwide network is being created with volunteer observers.

- **Citizen Monitoring – Keys to Success**

Presenters: Russ Tooley, President, Centerville CARES and Doug Rossberg, Basin Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Doug and Russ will present keys to successfully forming a volunteer monitoring group. Their experience in channeling the energy of citizens concerned about pollution in local streams will be helpful to anyone charged with organizing a group. This presentation will feature practical, specific tips that will work in any community.

- **Wisconsin School Forests: Opportunities for Student Monitoring**

Presenter: Jeremy Solin, Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, UW-Stevens Point

This session will provide an overview of the Wisconsin School Forest program. With nearly 1/2 of the school districts in the state having a registered school forest, these sites present a great opportunity to develop a network of student science monitoring projects.

- **The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project**

Presenter: Karen Oberhauser, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota

The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project involves a network of citizen scientists stretching across North America in a long-term study of monarch butterflies. These volunteer monitors conduct weekly monarch and milkweed surveys to document how monarch populations vary in time and space. The results of these efforts aid monarch conservation, result in increased understanding of the process of science for the volunteers and others, and advance our understanding of butterfly ecology. Learn about the methods and findings of the project, and see how we've engaged and supported volunteers in this intensive monitoring effort.

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Grand Terrace West

Conference Social

7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Grand Terrace West

Keynote Address

Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive

Introduction: Jack Sullivan, Integrated Science Services Bureau Director, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Grand Terrace West

Dinner

Saturday, August 21, 2004

7:30 a.m.

Registration Opens

8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Rooms K-R

General Session

Moderator: Mary Hamel, WDNR

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

- **Water Monitoring Strategies**

Introduction: *Todd Ambs, Water Division Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Volunteer Monitoring on Lakes: *Jeff Bode, Lakes and Wetlands Section Chief, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Volunteer Monitoring on Rivers: *Mike Miller, Water Resources Management Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Moderator: Sheena Carey, Marquette University, WDNR

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

- **Panel Discussion: Future Visions**

*Participants: Erin O'Brien, River Alliance of Wisconsin
Lisa Conley, Wisconsin Association of Lakes
Jeff Bode, Lakes and Wetlands Section Chief, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Mike Miller, Water Resources Management Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Panel Discussion**

*Participants: Paul West, The Nature Conservancy
George Meyer, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Anne Lacy, Sandhill Crane Project Manager, International Crane Foundation
Rita Hayen, Environmental Department Manager, American Transmission Company
Andrew Hanson, Staff Attorney, Midwest Environmental Advocates*

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Hall of Ideas G-J

Break

General Session (cont.)

Moderator: Sheena Carey, Marquette University, WDNR

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

- **Results and Recommendations from the Survey of Wisconsin Volunteer Monitoring Programs**

Presenters: Volunteer Monitoring Task Force

Cory Counard-MacNulty, Northland College

Laura Felda-Marquardt, UW-Extension, Stevens Point

Nancy Turyk, UW-Stevens Point

We'll give an overview of the volunteer monitoring task force- who is involved, why it was formed, and what our current goals are (to determine the status of volunteer environmental monitoring in WI). Then we'll explain the survey we created, and briefly describe who we solicited for responses. We'll then cover responses to the survey in detail, describing why and when volunteer monitoring programs were initiated, what sort of support they offer their volunteers, how they use their data, and who their data users are, and what their most significant concerns are with operating their programs. We follow that up by sharing our respondents input re: whether to establish a statewide network of volunteer monitoring programs. We'll mention specific benefits and drawbacks they noted in the survey. Finally, we close by offering a list of potential next steps for the volunteer monitoring task force.

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

- **Wisconsin NatureMapping**

Presenter: Paul Tweed, Beaver Creek Reserve

Wisconsin NatureMapping began one year ago as a partnership between the Wi. DNR Aquatic and Terrestrial Resource Inventory and Beaver Creek Citizen Science Center in Fall Creek. NatureMapping is a statewide program designed to involve the public in helping inventory the states vertebrate resources. Other special NatureMapping projects such as invasive plant inventories are also under development. Wisconsin NatureMapping in partnership with Pathfinder Science, has developed the first in the nation completely online GIS data collection and visualization system that is customizable for a wide variety of research and monitoring involving a geographic component.

- **From Picasso to Da Vinci: What is the Resource Monitoring Picture in Wisconsin?**

Presenter: Loren Ayers, Terrestrial Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin has a lot of projects, programs, and budding ideas for good resource monitoring projects. Unfortunately, few are interconnected in their location, methods, objectives, spatial scales, timeline, advertising, incentives, reporting plans, or overall direction. We have an array of important projects and programs, but lack a larger vision or plan to bring the surveys and information together. Several states have systematic biotic inventories and the USFS and USGS are testing new protocols for multi-species monitoring programs. We will illustrate some of these programs and offer ideas for establishing a coordinated monitoring and data sharing network in Wisconsin.

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ballroom A

Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Working Breakout Sessions

Moderator: Mark Stokstad, WDNR

Blue Room: Meeting Rooms K-R

Moderator: Mary Hamel, WDNR

Red Room: Hall of Ideas H

Moderator: Sheena Carey, Marquette Univ., WDNR

Yellow Room: Hall of Ideas I

Developing a vision for volunteer monitoring in Wisconsin.

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Rooms K-R

Plenary Session

Developing a shared vision for volunteer monitoring in Wisconsin.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Hall of Ideas G-J

Break

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Working Breakout Sessions

Moderator: Mark Stokstad, WDNR

Blue Room: Meeting Rooms K-R

Moderator: Mary Hamel, WDNR

Red Room: Hall of Ideas H

Moderator: Sheena Carey, Marquette Univ., WDNR

Yellow Room: Hall of Ideas I

Developing next steps.

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Meeting Rooms K-R

Plenary and Closing Session

List of Exhibitors

Bad River Watershed Association
Center for Watershed Science and Education
Clean Boats, Clean Waters
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Madison Audubon Society
Midwest Spatial Decision Support System Partnership
Minnesota Worm Watch
Monarch Larva Monitoring Project
The Nature Conservancy
River Alliance of Wisconsin
Rock River Coalition
Self-Help Lake Monitoring
Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute: LoonWatch & Timber Wolf Alliance
Volunteer Carnivore Tracking Program
Water Action Volunteers
Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative
Wisconsin Checklist Project
Wisconsin Groundwater Guardian Program
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology