



*Volunteer Lake Monitors have been an integral part of the Wisconsin lakes since 1986 and are the core of Wisconsin's Lakes Partnership.*

### **If you would like to:**

- **Learn more about your lake,**
- **Collect valuable data,**
- **Watch for long-term changes in lake water quality....**

**Then Lake Monitoring is for you!** You can join over 1,000 volunteers now participating statewide. The Department of Natural Resources provides training and equipment while citizens volunteer their time and energy. The assistance and enthusiasm of local volunteers play an important part in lake monitoring and protection.

### **Water Clarity Monitoring** ➤

Volunteers observe and document lake water quality by measuring water clarity with a Secchi disk. The 8-inch diameter black and white disk is lowered into the water on a rope until it can no longer be seen, then this depth is recorded. You can track your lake's clarity over time, and if problems are detected action can then be taken.

### **Water Chemistry Monitoring**

After a year of water clarity monitoring some volunteers begin water chemistry monitoring. These citizen monitors sample four to five times a year for clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll, and lake temperature. With this information the trophic state (overall health) of your lake can be measured more reliably. Some chemistry monitors also take a dissolved oxygen profile of their lake. Openings for chemistry monitoring are limited and depend on the interest of the volunteers and the needs of the lake.



### **Aquatic Plant Monitoring**

Aquatic plants are another indicator of lake health and is an essential part of a healthy lake ecosystem. Volunteers are trained to collect and press their lake's aquatic plants. Materials are provided to help to identify aquatic plants and to help the observer map the location and size of plant beds.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring**

#### **Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussel Watch, and Purple Loosestrife**



These are a few of the invasive species threatening Wisconsin lakes. Education and early identification of these nasty aquatic exotics (non-natives) is the key to control. Volunteers learn to identify these exotics and are the eyes for water biologists to monitor the 15,081 Wisconsin lakes.

## Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspectors

Volunteers can once again be a valuable tool to lake managers in helping stop the spread of invasive species across the state. Volunteers are trained to organize and conduct watercraft inspections at the boat landings in their communities. Trained volunteers then educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies. By performing boat and trailers checks, distributing informational brochures, collecting and reporting suspect specimens, volunteers can make a difference in helping to prevent the spread of invasive species.

## Lake Leaders Institute

The Institute seminars are designed to stretch the minds of people. Explore new ideas about lakes and the management of human use of lakes. The Institute also seeks to develop networks to share experiences and to encourage participants to learn from each other. The core curriculum is delivered every other year. For more information visit: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/lakeleaders/>

## Loon Watch

LoonWatch, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, protects loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research. Volunteers monitor loon activity and threats to loon habitat on their lake and submit information as part of the Annual Lake Monitoring Program. For more information, contact the LoonWatch Coordinator at 715-682-1220 or visit: <http://www.northland.edu/loonwatch>

**If you are interested in volunteering fill out the form below or call us at 1-888-947-3282. If you would like additional information about Volunteer Lake monitoring, visit our website at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/lakes/shlmmain.htm>.**



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Volunteer Lake Monitoring - Department of Natural Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

YES, I am interested in volunteering in Volunteer Lake Monitoring!

- Water Clarity
- Aquatic Plant Monitoring
- Aquatic Invasives Species Monitoring
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspectors
- Lake Leaders Institute
- LoonWatch

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Lake: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_