



Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Winter 2017

Conference Update

March 22-24, 2018

Eau Claire

[Register Now](#)

View Full Conference Details at

wiatri.net/cbm/Conference/2018



**Wisconsin Summit for
Natural Resources
Volunteers**

Planning is well underway for the upcoming joint conference of the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network and the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program. Here's what to expect:

- Registration**

[Registration](#) is open now. This is a first come, first serve registration and spots are limited. Reserve your spot today! Early Bird Registration will close on February 9 or when capacity is met. There will be an additional \$15 charge for registrations completed February 10 through March 2.

Early Bird Registration Details			
Date	Cost	Programming	Meals
Thursday, March 22 (Half Day)	\$20	Workshops, Trainings, Field Trips*	Afternoon Snack
Friday, March 23 (Full Day)	\$50	Keynote Speaker: Julia Robson Concurrent Presentations Poster & Networking Session Silent Auction & Awards Banquet Workshops & Trainings*	Morning Snack Lunch Afternoon Snack Dinner
(Half Day)	\$20	Concurrent Presentation Sessions Volunteer Fair Workshops & Trainings*	Morning Snack

*If you wish to attend a workshop, training, or field trip, you must select it during registration.

Conference Updates, continued

- **Volunteer Fair**

There will be a one hour volunteer fair on Saturday, March 24. This will give projects and organizations a chance to connect with conference attendees who are looking for volunteer opportunities. If your project or organization wants a spot, be sure to select the volunteer fair option during registration. Volunteers, make sure you plan to attend the volunteer fair; this is a unique opportunity to find citizen-based monitoring, stewardship, and environmental education volunteer positions.

- **Silent Auction**

There will be a silent auction during the evening on Friday, March 23 to benefit the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program and the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network. We will only be accepting cash or check, so come prepared to bid! If you have an item you'd like to donate to the auction, contact Eva Lewandowski.

- **Exhibit/Display Tables**

Tables are available for exhibits and displays for \$100 for commercial exhibitors and \$15 for nonprofit or educational groups. Tables are 6x2.5 feet, and table cloths will be provided. Displays should be up both Friday and Saturday, and tables should be staffed at minimum during the breaks. Conference registration is required to host a table; be sure to select the table option when registering.

- **Keynote speaker announced**

Julia Robson, Milwaukee County Parks, will be giving the keynote address, entitled "A Ripple Effect: Ephemeral Ponds to the Great Lakes, a Tale of Conservation." Julia is well-known in the citizen-based monitoring community for her

commitment to both conservation and citizen science. In 2017, Julia was awarded the Public Policy Forum's Jean B. Tyler Leader of the Future Award for her efforts with Milwaukee County's Parks Department, including developing the award-winning Citizen-based Wetland Monitoring Program.

Julia's passion for environmental conservation and fostering community-based stewardship initiatives all began with her roots as a volunteer. In the fall of 2017 she took her experience as an ecologist, educator, and advocate to an entirely new level. She and a colleague embarked on a 343-mile walk across Wisconsin, from Milwaukee to Lake Superior, to raise awareness for Great Lakes and freshwater conservation. This "Walk to Sustain Our Great Lakes" raised nearly \$10,000 for environmental non-profits in the Great Lakes basin and garnered local, statewide, and national news media coverage. Julia strongly believes that volunteers have an evolving role to play in bridging the ever-growing divide between people and environmental conservation. Her story of her own volunteerism and growth as a conservationist is testament that the impacts of just one individual can be far-reaching and help inspire change.



Photo: Julia Robson



Have an update or announcement you'd like to share in our newsletter? Email eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov.

Partner Updates

- ### New Paper Examines Water Monitoring Projects Nationwide

Many of us are familiar with Wisconsin's large volunteer water monitoring projects, Water Action Volunteers and the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, but have you ever wondered about water quality monitoring in other states? Former Water Action Volunteers coordinator Kris Stepenuck teamed up with UW-Madison's Professor Ken Genskow to examine volunteer water monitoring projects throughout the United States. They surveyed projects across the country to determine their format, scope, and role in managing and protecting water quality. The study found that most volunteer water monitoring efforts are coordinated by non-profit groups and have no or only one paid staff person, less than half the groups have government-approved quality assurance plans, and most felt that natural resource managers were at least somewhat supportive of using their volunteer data in water management decisions. You can read the full paper [here](#).

- ### New Wisconsin Monarch and Pollinator Email Lists

Are you interested in pollinators? The Wisconsin DNR has a new way to stay updated on pollinator news. You can sign up for the new monarch email list, pollinator email list, or both! Visit the DNR's [Native Pollinator page](#) to sign up today.

- ### eBird Introduces Automatic Tracking

Many birders find it difficult to accurately estimate the distance they have covered during a traveling count. For those who use eBird Mobile an Android or iOS smartphone, there is a new solution. Birders can now automatically track their route, including distance and time, using the mobile app. This will greatly simplify data submission and ensure that these important metrics for birding effort are recorded correctly. Learn more [here](#).



Water Action Volunteers monitoring water quality. Photo: Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

- ### Snapshot Wisconsin Releases Season 6

A new season of trail camera images from the popular statewide citizen-based monitoring project is now out on Zooniverse! Everyone is welcome to visit the website and contribute to our knowledge of Wisconsin's animals by classifying wildlife images. The new season features several improvements, including fewer images of common species like deer and shorter requirements for retiring all photos. These are sure to make classifying images even more fun than before! [Start classifying](#) wildlife images today!



Snapshot Wisconsin trail cameras sometimes capture two species at once, as in this photo of a deer and a sandhill crane.

Network Updates

- Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Directory Updates**

The WCBM Network's [Directory](#) makes it easy for volunteers to find projects and monitoring groups in their area. Citizen-based monitoring projects, host sites, and groups that are active in Wisconsin are welcome to join the directory. Just fill out this simple [form](#) and join the over 190 organizations and projects already listed. If you need to make changes to an existing Directory entry, email eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov.

- Citizen Science Association Provides Valuable Resources**

Board Members from the Citizen Science Association, an international organization for members of the citizen science community, have created a list of their favorite free, online resources. These include resources for evaluation, forming successful collaborations, using citizen science with youth, and more. You can view the full list, and suggest your own recommendations on the Citizen Science Association [website](#).

- Citizen Science Day 2018 Announced**

Mark your calendars for April 14, 2018, the date of the next Citizen Science Day. This annual event is celebrated by citizen science enthusiasts throughout the world. Citizen Science Day is a great opportunity for projects and host sites to engage volunteers and celebrate successes, and it's a popular time for citizen scientists to connect with a new volunteer opportunity. Find resources and learn more from the [Citizen Science Association](#).



Citizen-based monitoring is a year-round task in Wisconsin, with many volunteers undaunted by the snow and cold temperatures. Photo: Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

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**CITIZEN
SCIENCE**
 — DAY

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The Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network is a collaboration of individuals and organizations that works to improve the effectiveness of natural resource monitoring efforts through communications, resources, and recognition.