

WISCONSIN Master Naturalist



ANNOUNCEMENT

September 2015

Education, training, and service for volunteers and communities

NEW DIRECTOR

The Wisconsin Master Naturalist (WIMN) program is pleased to announce that Becky Sapper will be the new director of the program effective October 1, 2015. Becky has been involved with the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program since its inception in 2012. She worked with founding director, Kate Reilly, on the original model for Wisconsin's program, which was based on a successful program in Minnesota. Becky helped write the Wisconsin Master Naturalist course curriculum, Great Lakes Advanced Training curriculum, and co-led one of the pilot courses for Volunteer Training in 2012. She has also co-led two additional Volunteer Trainings in 2014 and 2015.



Becky has worked for the University of Wisconsin-Extension since 2007, most recently as the Assistant Manager of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve. In addition to her new role directing the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program, Becky serves as a Natural Resources Educator within UW-Extension, primarily providing facilitation and coordination for the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership. Becky's office is located at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland.

Originally from southern Illinois, Becky attended both Northland College and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where she earned a degree in Wildlife Management and Biology. She worked on stewardship, land protection and education efforts in northern Wisconsin for 10 years with The Nature Conservancy prior to her work with UW-Extension.

The WIMN program is part of the UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center, a statewide integrated center based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Extension. The WIMN program develops a corps of well-informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities. The program has trained almost 300 volunteers and 50 instructors; and volunteers have logged over 6000 hours of service valued at approximately \$135,300.

The WIMN Volunteer Training Course provides 40 hours of coursework in natural history, interpretation, and conservation stewardship. Courses combine classroom instruction with field experiences and are taught by professional natural resources educators and scientists who are trained to deliver the WIMN course. Training opportunities are located at "host organizations" — university and college campuses, environmental education centers, and museums across the state.

Similar Master Naturalist "train-the-trainer" efforts are being offered in 48 states across the country.

For more information on the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program please visit

www.wimasternaturalist.org/

or call 608.262.0020