

WISCONSIN Master Naturalist



NEWS

Fall 2014

Education, training, and service for volunteers and communities

NORTH LAKELAND RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

The North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters has a great way to recognize graduates of their WI Master Naturalist programs. Follow [this link](#) to see a page with a photo and a short bio for each of the 14 graduates. They also share their reason

Master Naturalist Graduates



Al Hillery
Birds sing, frogs croak, wolves howl; we interpret, to better know them all.



Bob Twelmeyer
Strive to be nature's steward
[read more...](#)



Cheryl Bowen
Curiosity and learning provides more than a walk in the woods.

for taking the course, and each offers their own “nature slogan that might change the world,” such as:

Birds sing, frogs croak, wolves howl; we interpret, to better know them all.

Learning about the natural world is one thing - learning from the natural world is quite another.

Go outside and play!

Everyday is an adventure in the neighborhood!

Strive to be nature's steward.

Nature is good medicine - go outdoors and treat yourself!

I believe we have a moral responsibility to live more wisely with wildlife.

Thanks to Licia Johnson for sharing this great way to validate the work of volunteers in completing the course and to connect them to the host organization.

CURRICULUM FOR THE GREAT LAKES

Staff and partners with the WI Master Naturalist Program are developing a curriculum



for Advanced Training Courses that focus on the Great Lakes. The curriculum is under review now and has been piloted in the Milwaukee area hosted by the Wehr Nature Center in August (see photos). Further pilot testing of the curriculum occurs in October at another Advanced Training in Superior and also at two Instructor Trainings, one at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and the other at Wehr Nature Center. Students in the first course went to Discovery World, lakeside parks, and a water reclamation facility. They all thought the



resources were helpful; and they had many positive comments about the field trip sites, bus, and instructors. We learned that other host organizations may wish to explore bus options in the future, due to comments like: “The bus was awesome! Gave us some debriefing and rest time between stops. Removed confusion...”

REMINDER FOR NEW INSTRUCTORS

We've had a flurry of activity this summer as host organizations have offered courses and organizations new to the program have begun planning future courses. We'd like to remind instructors that you must complete a Course Proposal before planning a course. Find the Course Proposal form on your Instructor Dashboard on the website.

FICTIONAL FRED ASKS...

Fictional Fred has now been quizzing us about who can participate in WIMN courses. His recent questions include:

- 1. If my mother is really interested in the field trip can she come along?*
- 2. If my friend is an experienced amphibian monitor can he join us to help at the pond?*
- 3. My sister is in town from Vermont; is it OK if she comes to the guest lecture with me?*
- 4. My daughter would like to join me on parts of the course. She is in high school.*
- 5. My dog is adorable and really smart and I was just wondering if he could join us...*

We sat down with Fred and went over the section on the website called "[Get Involved](#)" where it describes "who can be a WIMN Volunteer." Course participants must be at least 18 years old to register. In later years we may organize a Junior Master Naturalist program. Also, everyone who participates in any course component must be a registered participant. Guided field trips and small classes with lectures and activities are a benefit of the trainings. Therefore, the answer to all of Fred's questions is "No." We were not sure if he was serious about the dog; the two of them do seem quite attached to each other.

NEW FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR VOLUNTEERS

WIMN volunteers and instructors will receive complimentary membership for a year with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, our partner and sponsor. This includes special

member access to the field trip registration next spring and a NRF field trip booklet. We're very excited about this opportunity provided by the Natural Resources Foundation and thank them for their generosity.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING COURSES

Spring and summer were packed with new courses for the WI Master Naturalist Program. Since May, we have offered volunteer courses at Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point, Cable Natural History Museum and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Welty Environmental Center in Beloit, Hartman Creek in Waupaca, Seno Outdoor Education Center in Burlington, and Treehaven in Tomahawk. An Advanced Training Course to pilot the new Great Lakes Curriculum was hosted by Wehr Nature Center and held in Milwaukee. The schedule for this fall includes the following courses (dates given are start dates):

2014 Volunteer Training Courses

10/14 Hawthorn Glen, Milwaukee region

2014 Instructor Trainings with Great Lakes emphasis- (pilots)

10/23 Lake Superior NERR, Superior

10/30 Wehr Nature Center, Franklin

2014 WIMN Great Lakes Advanced Training Courses- (pilot)

10/25 Lake Superior NERR, Superior

For the latest in course offerings check the website: <http://wimasternaturalist.org/courses>

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Thank you to the following for their recent support of the WI Master Naturalist Program:

- The Robert W. and Susan T. Brown Foundation of Neenah
- Outdoor Heritage Education Center

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