

WISCONSIN Master Naturalist



NEWS

Fall 2015

Education, training, and service for volunteers and communities

BECKY SAPPER LEADING WIMN

We are very pleased to announce that Becky Sapper is the new director of the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program. In the Madison office, Martha Martin and Astrid Newenhouse continue to provide program support and coordination. ([Read more here... \(PDF\)](#))



NEWLY SCHEDULED TRAINING COURSES

Please register to become a WIMN instructor. Instructors are typically staff members from an organization that provides outdoor educational opportunities (a *host organization*), but they can also be WIMN volunteers who are affiliated with a host organization.

An instructor training course will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum **February 5-6, 2016**. Please check our [website](#) under the tab "Courses" to sign up.

Two volunteer training courses are scheduled so far for 2016 and ready for registrations:

- The Chequamegon Bay Area course meets **June 13-18, 2016** and is a collaboration with the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and the Cable Natural History Museum.
- The Hartman Creek State Park volunteer training course will be held in Waupaca on six Saturdays from **Sept. 17-Nov. 19, 2016**.

SUBMIT TRAINING COURSES SOON

For those of you who are already trained WIMN instructors, we encourage you to think about planning a course in 2016. As soon as they are submitted we can post them on our website. The most successful courses have two or more instructors either from the same host organization or in collaboration with another organization. The course schedule is entirely up to you as an instructor, as long as you have 40 hours of training in total, comprised of classroom work and two full days of outdoor field work. Not a WIMN instructor but maybe wondering whether the WIMN program would be a good fit for your organization? We'd be happy to discuss it with you.

ADVANCED TRAINING

You can get advanced training from many different sources to maintain your WIMN certification. Look into programs or workshops offered by your local nature center, UW field



An advanced training with Brian Heeringa, US Forest Service, and a live bat.

stations, state agencies, nature preserves, or museums. The photo of the bat is from the “More on Mammals” workshop given by Cable Natural History Museum and UW-Extension where several WIMN volunteers received Advanced Training hours. We can help you learn if something you are interested in fulfills the goals of WIMN Advanced Training. Check our website for new [advanced training opportunities](#). Instructors, please submit any programs you offer that might fit as advanced trainings and we can add them to the website.

RECENTLY COMPLETED COURSES

Several successful WIMN volunteer training courses were held this past summer and early fall. Below, students from the Riverland Conservancy course get ready to do some stream sampling and fish species observation.



Riverland Conservancy Course

Courses were also held at Welty Nature Center, Kohler-Andrae State Park, the North Lakeland Discovery Center, and jointly at the Cable Natural History Museum and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. A fall course is in session at Devil’s Lake State Park and the MacKenzie Center. When you add these to the spring courses held this year at Hartman Creek State Park, Kickapoo Reserve, UW Platteville, and Wehr Nature Center, 10 courses were held in 2015 and over 120 new volunteers were welcomed to the WIMN program.

WE ARE THANKFUL

In this time of the year when we tend to focus on gathering with friends and family, we’d like to thank all of our volunteers, instructors, guest speakers, and host organizations. We appreciate all you do to give back. Your service provides a valuable contribution to our state’s natural resources, citizens, and visitors.

SERVICE HOURS HELP DESCRIBE WIMN VALUE

Before you forget what you did this past summer and fall, remember to report your service hours. We also encourage instructors to record work on behalf of WIMN that is not part of a paid position. Log into your WIMN dashboard to keep these records current. We really appreciate it. This is especially important as we head towards the end of the year. If you are having trouble recording hours, don’t hesitate to contact us. The data from service hour records is used to help describe the impact provided by the WI Master Naturalist Program. As an example, the service hour records show that WIMN volunteers in the Chequamegon Bay area have provided 785 hours volunteer hours in 2015, a \$17,701 value to their community.

FREE NRF MEMBERSHIP FOR VOLUNTEERS

Be sure to collect your free one-year membership with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, a partner and sponsor of WIMN. Contact us for the application form at info@wimasternaturalist.org. Thank you to the Natural Resources Foundation for the gift memberships.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

Thank you to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin for their continued support of the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program.

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