

WISCONSIN Master Naturalist



NEWS

Spring 2015

Education, training, and service for volunteers and communities

KATE REILLY RETIRES

The Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program (WIMN) gives a huge thanks and a heartfelt “Best wishes” to Director Kate Reilly, who



retires from the University of Wisconsin this spring. Kate started WIMN and developed it into a successful statewide adult education course to improve literacy in the natural sciences and to build

capacity among the state’s environmental education community to engage volunteers. Before the first pilot course was held in 2012, Kate worked on the mission, structure, curriculum, and funding for the course. Two pilot courses were held: one in Madison hosted by the UW Arboretum and Aldo Leopold Nature Center and the other in Ashland hosted by the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Northland College, and the Cable Museum of Natural History. In spring 2013 the WI Master Naturalist Program launched. By the end of 2014 a total of 18 courses had been offered, 228 volunteers certified and 50 instructors trained. Volunteers logged 5639 hours of service valued at approximately \$127,160.

Kate graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Masters of Education in the Environmental Sciences and worked in New

York State as a science museum curator, state parks consultant, and executive director of an environmental non-profit. In 2000, Kate began working at the UW Environmental Resources Center as an environmental education specialist. She developed and managed several state and national projects in environmental education for youth and adults. She is the author of numerous curricula, reports, and research publications on best practices in environmental education. Kate writes, “Helping to envision, develop, and direct the WI Master Naturalist Program has been a very rewarding part of my work at the University. We’re grateful for your commitment to education, stewardship, and citizen science on behalf of the state’s natural resources and citizens. That commitment is even more important as budgets for natural resources research, state parks, and environmental education are eliminated.” Kate plans to stay in the Madison area and “once again join the ranks of the naturalist volunteers.” A new leader will be identified for the WIMN program. During this transition time, Astrid Newenhouse and Martha Martin will continue to provide office support.

RECOGNIZING ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

As of 2014, four certified WI Master Naturalists devoted 500 or more cumulative hours to service or advanced training and we would like to recognize them. They are: Jim Ellis, Richard Jenks, Jim Limburg, and Jane Whitney. Twenty-three people devoted 100 or more cumulative hours to service or advanced training. They are:

Tracy Arnold, Beth Bartoli, Ann Demorest, Sue Eiler, Marian Farrow, Frankie Fuller, Mary Gruhl, Laura Herzog, Mary Jenks, Tari Jurkowski, Phil Kress, Krystal Kuhl, Christine Lilek, Laurie McCoy, Sharon Reilly, Calico Schmidt, Beth Stetenfeld, Kathryn Stewart, Mary Trainor, Freda van den Broek, Cathy Zimmerman, Wende Zinda, and Connie Jo Zwettler. Thank you so much for your dedication and work!

Also, those of you who completed your certification requirements in 2014 will receive your annual service pin. The bulk pin order is a bit complicated, so please be patient.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING COURSES

Several WIMN courses have already been offered this year and more are planned. Courses were offered at UW-Platteville, Wehr Nature Center, Kickapoo Valley Reserve (with the Valley Stewardship Network), and Hartman Creek State Park. Host organizations set the schedule for each course according to their local needs. Some courses meet on Saturdays, some on a regular week night, or every day for a week, or a combination. The courses planned for this spring and fall include the following (dates given are start dates):

Upcoming 2015 Volunteer Training Courses

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| 5/9 | Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sheboygan |
| 6/15 | Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and Cable Natural History Museum, Chequamegon Bay area |
| 6/20 | Riverland Conservancy, Merrimac |
| 9/2 | North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters |
| 11/13 | Devil's Lake State Park and MacKenzie Center, Baraboo area |

2015 Advanced Training Courses

UW-Milwaukee Field Station, Northland College, and Upham Woods are some of the organizations offering adult summer training workshops. Please send us information about your organization's trainings. If you are seeking to complete advanced training and are curious

about whether a program fits, don't hesitate to ask us. For the latest in course offerings check <http://wimasternaturalist.org/courses>.

FICTIONAL FRED ASKS...

Fictional Fred recently asked us about logging service hours. "What's the big deal with that? I've been busy planting my garden and I don't have time to track my service hours now. I'll do it next winter." We visited with Fred and explained how we use the service logs all year to help us describe the depth and breadth of the program, for example to potential funders or to potential host organizations. It's much easier to get into the habit of logging into your dashboard and entering hours as you go. If left to the end of the year you risk forgetting about work you did or training you received. Every little bit adds up toward your certification and helps us as well. We hope Fred put aside his planting list for a moment and logged his maple syrup education hours...

FREE NRF MEMBERSHIP FOR VOLUNTEERS

WIMN volunteers and instructors receive complimentary membership for a year with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, a partner and sponsor. Contact us at info@wimasternaturalist.org if you need the membership application form. Thank you to the Natural Resources Foundation for the gift memberships.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

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

- Natural Resources Foundation of WI
- WI Coastal Management Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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