

# WISCONSIN Master Naturalist



NEWS

Spring/Summer 2014

## *Education, training, and service for volunteers and communities*

### **DOOR COUNTY CLASS ENTHUSIASTIC!**

A group of 23 students successfully completed the first Door County WMN program in February and wrote a letter to Program Director Kate Reilly.

*With the background provided by the high quality program materials and the excellent classroom and field experience, we eagerly look forward to the next phase of our volunteer work.*

The students gave a shout-out to their instructors Karen Newbern and Kathleen Harris, who provided a lively learning pace and instructive, enjoyable activities. Even snowy cold days did not hamper these leaders and outdoor enthusiasts. The program was “an impressive achievement. We can now lay plans to leverage this experience with the many fine organizations here in the months ahead, better equipped and highly motivated.” Thank you, inaugural Door County class. And thanks to The Clearing in Ellison Bay for hosting.

### **FOCUS ON THE GREAT LAKES**

Last fall, the WI Master Naturalist Program received funding to offer Advanced Training Courses with a focus on the Great Lakes. Why this emphasis? As early as 2009, federal scientists with the Great Lakes Sea Grant program noted the importance of stewardship of these lakes. They created the Great Lakes Literacy Principles which include recognizing that the lakes are connected to each other and to the world oceans, the lakes shape the features of their watershed and influence local

and regional weather and climate. The Great Lakes are socially, economically, and environmentally significant to the region, nation and planet. They support a broad diversity of life and ecosystems and supply fresh water to

sustain life. The WIMN Program is proud to help people understand and take care of our Great Lakes.



Grass of Parnassus, Wehr N C

### **FICTIONAL FRED ASKS...**

Fictional Fred has been quizzing us in the WIMN office about WIMN volunteer service and certification. He showed up asking a host of questions recently such as:

- 1. If I visit the Whooping Crane migration site in Nebraska and help birders while I am there, does that count for my volunteer hours?*
- 2. If I do some birding on my own, as part of my own personal nature study, can I log that as volunteer hours towards certification?*
- 3. If I move to Idaho how do I continue to get certified?*
- 4. May I bring a friend or family member on the course field trip days? And finally,*
- 5. If I take my Volunteer Training Course during the last week of February in a leap year, doesn't it follow that I only need to do ¼ of the volunteer commitment, so 10 hours?*

We showed Fred the *Volunteer Resources* page on the Volunteer Dashboard, which now describes both service and certification FAQs for our volunteers. Volunteer work needs to be done in Wisconsin to help a host organization such as (but not limited to) one of the over 240 EE organizations in Wisconsin. Also, volunteer work needs to be service in one of three areas: Education/Interpretive, Stewardship, or Citizen Science. And since guided field trips are a benefit of the trainings, only those registered for training may attend. Therefore, the answer to Fred's questions are (1) No, (2) No, (3) Join the Idaho group, and (4) No. We were quite flummoxed over his Leap Year question and although the answer is "No" we admired his creative thinking.

### PROGRAM GRADUATES

To date, the WI Master Naturalist Program has offered nine Volunteer Trainings and graduated 157 volunteers. Forty-three people completed one of three trainings to become Certified WI Master Naturalist Instructors. Fifteen host organizations have helped to deliver these trainings.



WIMN trainees exploring Cedarburg Bog

### UPCOMING COURSE SCHEDULE

During 2014, the second year of the WI Master Naturalist Program, we have already offered several courses and plan many more to train both volunteers and instructors. The new Great Lakes curriculum will launch later this year with

both Instructor Trainings and Advanced Trainings offered. Schedule of 2014 courses:

#### 2014 Volunteer Training Courses – start dates

6/16 Chequamegon Bay region  
8/28 Welty Center, Beloit  
9/6 Devil's Lake State Park, Baraboo  
9/27 Treehaven, Tomahawk

#### 2014 Instructor Trainings with Great Lakes emphasis- start dates (pilots)

9/15 Lake Superior NERR, Superior  
10/30 Wehr Nature Center, Franklin

#### 2014 WIMN Great Lakes Advanced Training Courses- (pilots)

8/16 Wehr Nature Center, Franklin  
9/13 Lake Superior NERR, Superior

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

### JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/wimasternaturalist](http://www.facebook.com/wimasternaturalist)

Share your successes, photos, and challenges with other Volunteers and Instructors on our Facebook page. Thanks for posting!

### PLEASE SEND US YOUR SERVICE HOURS

Part of the success of the WI Master Naturalist Program lies in sharing knowledge and skills with a broad audience through service to the community. Volunteers and Instructors, please record your service hours. To do so, go to the dashboard on our website. You'll see this in the top tool bar after you log in. Click on 'Dashboard'. Please contact [info@wimasternaturalist.org](mailto:info@wimasternaturalist.org) if you need assistance.

### PROGRAM SUPPORT

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

- Outdoor Heritage Education Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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