

WISCONSIN Master Naturalist



NEWS

Summer 2015

Education, training, and service for volunteers and communities



MANY VOLUNTEER COURSES HELD

Six host organizations provided four volunteer training courses for the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program (WIMN) this summer, training 53 volunteers. Thanks go to Welty Environmental Center and Beloit College, Cable Natural History Museum and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (photo), Friends of Kohler-Andrae State Park, and Riverland Conservancy. Thanks also go out to the staff of host organizations who held successful volunteer training courses in the spring: UW Platteville, Wehr Nature Center, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, the Valley Stewardship Network, and Friends of Hartman Creek State Park. There are currently three more volunteer training courses being offered this fall at Devil's Lake State Park and the MacKenzie Center, North Lakeland Discovery Center, and again at Hartman Creek State Park.

WIMN SOON TO ANNOUNCE NEW LEADERSHIP

Kate Reilly, the former director and original champion of the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program, retired this past spring. We are

currently looking into the best way to lead the program based on the current staff and budget at the UW Extension Environmental Resources Center. We'll keep you posted.

A SHOUT OUT TO OUR INSTRUCTORS

As part of the WIMN program evaluation, we are privileged to see comments from students

about their instructors. After offering the course, each instructor receives a detailed evaluation report including students comments. Our 2015 cadre of instructors is a passionate, knowledgeable group and we'd like to give a shout out to them. Thank you, Jared McGovern; Pat Fojut, Ken Keffer, and Emily Brown; Jonel Kiseau and Paul Hayes; Shelly Brennehan and Vicki Ramsay; Mary Trainor and Sue Eiler; Lena Verkuilen and Dan Bartlett; Jim Buchholz and Andrew Morris; Becky Sapper and Emily Stone; Linda Lynch; Licia Johnson; and Sue Johansen. Here's a sample of what students wrote: "I was amazed at the competence and experience of the instructors." "Absolutely incredible instructors, making learning very fun and applicable!!!" "Very competent teachers with passion for our natural environment."

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING COURSES

The fall schedule includes three WIMN volunteer training courses. The North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters offers a course that meets weekly on Tuesdays plus

some Fridays and Saturdays September 2-October 13. Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca offers a course that meets every other Saturday September 12-November 14. Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo and the MacKenzie Center in Poynette offer a course that meets Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for two weekends on November 13 and 22. Below is a calendar of the courses and their start dates. To enroll, see <http://wimasternaturalist.org/upcoming-volunteer-courses>

Upcoming 2015 Volunteer Training Courses

9/2 North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters
9/12 Hartman Creek State Park, Waupaca
11/13 Devil's Lake State Park and MacKenzie Center, Baraboo area

2015 Advanced Training Courses

UW-Milwaukee Field Station and Northland College are some of the organizations offering training workshops that count towards maintaining your WIMN certification. Many types of study fit the bill for advanced training; don't hesitate to ask us about something you are interested in. For the latest offerings see <http://wimasternaturalist.org/upcoming-advanced-training-courses>

FICTIONAL FRED ASKS...

Fictional Fred recently called us from a supper club where he was enjoying a fish fry with a friend of his. He asked "What's the deal with host organizations? I got my training at a state park and my buddy here tells me he got his Master Naturalist training at a college. Which class is better?" It was pretty easy to answer this question. Every host organization uses the same statewide curriculum which they tailor to their locale, and every instructor from the host organization is trained by state WIMN staff. We do a thorough evaluation of each class and could reassure Fred that the vast majority of people who take the class have a good experience. We invited Fictional Fred and his buddy to come down to Madison some time

and read evaluations with us at the UW Memorial Union Terrace. It's fun to read so many comments like "I was totally happy with my experience in the WI Master Naturalist Program. I never was bored and all the speakers were great. I would highly recommend this program to my friends." "Our instructors were knowledgeable and brought topics to life. The reading materials were extensive and gave a great supplement to the classroom experience. I really enjoyed the mix of classroom vs field trips." Maybe we'll see Fred sometime at the Lakeshore Terrace in Madison. We can share a refreshing drink and an enjoyable read.

REMEMBER TO LOG YOUR SERVICE HOURS

Summer and fall offer prime opportunities to work outside and give back to your community. Whether you are monitoring frog species at a local pond or helping your local nature center with their booth at the fair, don't forget to keep track of your hours toward certification by logging in to your WIMN dashboard. We appreciate it.

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. If you need the application form, contact us at info@wimasternaturalist.org. 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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