



Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Fall 2018

Save the Date for Upcoming CBM Events!

- **Funding Your Citizen-based Monitoring Work Webinar
September 25, 12-1pm**

Do you need funding to cover the costs of citizen-based monitoring efforts for your school, nature center, or community group? There are many options for funding CBM efforts in Wisconsin, ranging from grants to contracts to creative fundraisers. Join Eva Lewandowski, DNR CBM Coordinator, and Caitlin Williamson, Director of Conservation Programs at the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, to learn about funding opportunities and keys to successfully obtaining funding for your CBM efforts. You can join the webinar live online, and a recording will be available for those who can't attend. Join the webinar [here](#).

- **October Big Day
October 6**

Join birders worldwide for this massive, one day effort to document the earth's birds. This is a

great opportunity for birders of all skill levels and commitments. Whether you watch birds out your window, visit a local park, or trek through the Northwoods in search of an elusive lifer, you can contribute to eBird's very first October Big Day. Learn more [here](#).

- **Citizen Science Day 2019
April 13**

The next international Citizen Science Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 13. Citizen Science Day, sponsored by the Citizen Science Association and SciStarter, celebrates the amazing volunteers, staff, projects, and discoveries that are part of the citizen science movement. If you want to host a citizen science day festival, bioblitz, talk, or other event, now is a good time to start planning! The Citizen Science Day Association offers a variety of resources for planning and promoting events on their [website](#).



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Network Updates

- **Event Calendar Gets a Makeover**

We're pleased to share that our [online event calendar](#) has been reformatted to make it easier to find and view events! If you're looking for a citizen-based monitoring activity in your area, be sure to check the calendar. If you have a citizen-based monitoring talk, workday, training, or other event you'd like added to the calendar, email eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov

- **Planning Underway for WCBM Network's 15th Anniversary**

2019 will mark the 15th anniversary of the WCBM Network, and we have some exciting plans for commemorating the occasion. Among other things, we'll be highlighting outstanding partner groups, projects, and people; we'll be looking for your recommendations later this fall.

Stay tuned for more on that project and other anniversary news in future emails and on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

- **New Resources on the WCBM website**

Have you checked the [Resources page](#) on the WCBM Network website recently? We've added great new resources to help your monitoring efforts succeed. New additions include:

- Guidebook for starting a wetland monitoring program, from Milwaukee County Parks
- Handbook for monitoring invasive plants in Wisconsin, from Dane County Parks and the Wisconsin First Detectors Network
- Updated information on funding opportunities for citizen-based monitoring activities



Volunteers searched for Karner blue butterflies during a citizen science training this summer.

Have an update or announcement you'd like to share in our newsletter? Email eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov.

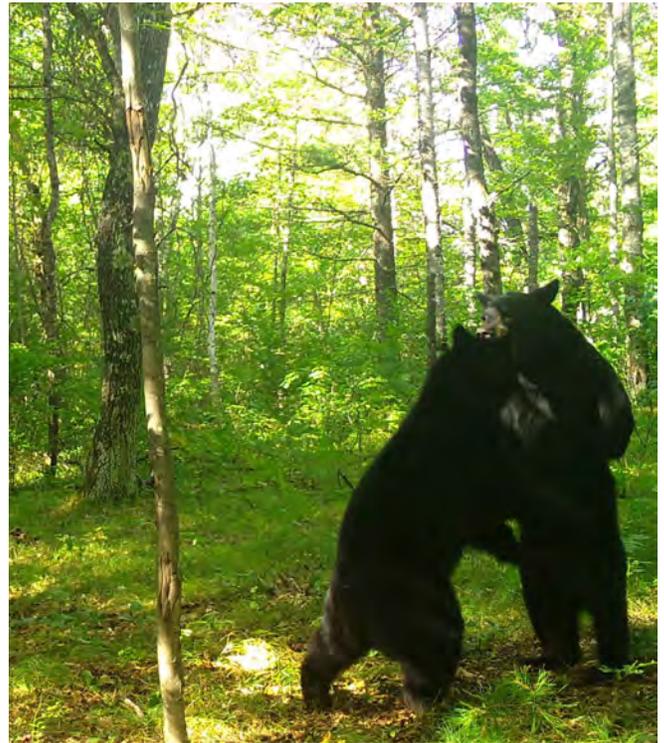
Partner Updates

- **Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program Videos Available**

The Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program, which monitors the distribution and abundance of our native mussels, has new videos available to help you get involved in searching for these important animals. Learn to create a bathyscope (underwater viewing device), do casual or timed searches, and photograph mussels for online reporting. You can view all the mussel videos on the WCBM Network's [YouTube channel](#).

- **Snapshot Wisconsin Goes Statewide**

Snapshot Wisconsin is a statewide network of trail cameras that are used to monitor wildlife ranging from deer to porcupines to grouse. Public and private landowners in all Wisconsin counties can now apply to be trail camera hosts, provided they have at least 10 acres of land. If you can't host a trail camera, you can go online and identify the animals captured in the trail camera photographs. Learn more on the [project's website](#).



Bears caught on a Snapshot WI camera in Marinette County.

Research Roundup

- **eBird Reveals Patterns in Raven-Crow Aggression**

Crows and ravens often behave aggressively towards each other; birders in northern Wisconsin have probably seen multiple crows mobbing a raven, or vice versa. Recently, scientists decided to look more closely at the patterns of those aggressive interactions. They pulled observations from the citizen science platform eBird that contained comments about aggressive interactions between crows and ravens, including records from Wisconsin. The researchers found that crows were the aggressors 98% of the time and that the crows almost always outnumbered the ravens during their interactions. The research also showed that most aggression occurred during the crows' breeding period. Read the full study [here](#).

- **New Research on Tick Distribution**

In 2016 and 2017, citizen science volunteers from across the country were asked to mail in ticks to the University of Arizona for identification and research. The researchers received specimens from 13 different tick species, and many of the specimens were new county records for that species. In Wisconsin, the study led to four new county records of *Ixodes scapularis*, the black-legged tick. With over 16,000 ticks submitted from across the country, the project made important gains in our understanding of tick distribution, and it demonstrates the willingness of the public to participate in tick research. Find the full study [online](#).