



Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Summer 2019

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming CBM Events

- **Volunteer Engagement Webinar**
June 27, 2019, 1pm

Citizen science programs ask volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, including monitoring, reporting, analysis, and even outreach. But do you struggle to make the most of volunteer potential? This session will introduce a model that describes the full life cycle of a volunteer's experience across their volunteering career, putting training in the context of other essential program components. This model is easily adaptable to any volunteer program that involves initial training prior to service. This free webinar is part of a series from the Citizen Science Association. Get more details and register [here](#).

- **Great Wisconsin Bat Count, Part 2**
July 19-21, 2019

Wisconsin's bats continue to be imperiled from the fungal disease white-nose syndrome. As a result, it's more important than ever that we have accurate information on bat distribution, abundance, and reproduction. You can help by counting bats during the Great Wisconsin Bat Count! This event happens twice each summer, once in late May or early June before the young bats can fly, and once in July when the young bats are flying on their own. Volunteers visit a bat roost, like a bat house or barn, at sunset and count the bats that emerge. Learn more from the [Wisconsin Bat Program](#).

- **National Moth Week**
July 20-28, 2019

People across the world will be monitoring moths during this annual event. You can find a moth event close to you, or monitor on your own. Check out the [event website](#) for information on finding moths, collecting data, and more. You can submit observations of rare moths to the Wisconsin DNR; view a list of the state's rare moths and butterflies and how to report them on the [DNR website](#).



Three-staff underwing moth (*Catocala amestris*). Photo: Marci O'Connor

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Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming CBM Events

- **International Monarch Monitoring Blitz**
July 27-August 4, 2019

Join citizen scientists across North America to monitor milkweed for monarch eggs, larvae, and pupae. While many volunteers monitor monarchs all summer long, this week-long event creates a larger snapshot of monarch reproduction throughout the full range of the species. Learn about identifying monarch life stages and how you can get involved in the blitz on the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project [website](#).

- **9th WCBM Network Conference**
March 20-21, 2020

Save the date for the 2020 WCBM Network Conference, to be held in Manitowoc. The conference will be an opportunity to network, share your citizen-based monitoring experiences and results, get new resources, and find out about the newest volunteer opportunities. Volunteers, project managers, nature center staff, students, and anyone else interested in citizen-based monitoring are encouraged to attend. We are in the early stages of conference planning, but as more details become available we will share them on our [website](#).



Milkweed monitoring. Photo: Wendy Caldwell



CBM conferences offer a chance to learn and share with other members of the WCBM community.

The Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network is a collaboration of individuals and organizations that works to improve the effectiveness of natural resource monitoring efforts through communications, resources, and recognition.

Partner Updates

- **Trail Camera Snaps Photo of Endangered Mammal**

In late February, a Snapshot Wisconsin trail camera deployed in Vilas County captured an American marten (*Martes americana*), a state endangered animal (see photo below). This is the first time an American marten has been captured on a Snapshot Wisconsin camera! The marten was identified by trail camera host Ashley, and the identification was then confirmed by several species experts in the Wisconsin DNR. While American marten can vary in color, they are best identified by their pale buff to orange throats, dark legs and tails, vertical black lines running above the inner corners of their eyes, and bushy tails that account for one-third of their total length. [Follow this link](#) to learn more about American marten in Wisconsin.



American marten (*Martes americana*). Photo: Snapshot Wisconsin

- **New "Clam Chronicle" Shares Native Mussel Monitoring Updates**

The Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program (WMMP) has launched its own newsletter, the Clam Chronicle, to share results and updates on from the program. WMMP volunteers conduct surveys for native mussels by walking in wadable water or by submitting photos of mussels incidentally found while enjoying Wisconsin's waters. The first issue of the Clam Chronicle is available on the [WMMP website](#), and contains tips for monitoring mussels, information on mussel conservation projects, and more!

- **Another Successful Year for the Rare Plant Monitoring Program**

2018 was the 5th year of the Rare Plant Monitoring Program, which continues to make strides in documenting the status of our state's rare plant populations. According to the program's new annual report, 54 volunteers participated last year, together submitting over 200 reports of rare plants. That includes a report of a waxleaf meadow rue (*Thalictrum revolutum*) population near Cedarburg that hadn't been documented at the site in 42 years, as well as a report of a Rock County population of kitten-tails (*Besseya bullii*) that hadn't been recorded at the site in over 100 years! Get more exciting rare plant stories in the program's [online annual report](#).



Mussel monitoring. Photo: DNR

Research Roundup

- **3-Generation Migration of Common Green Darner**

The common green darner (*Anax junius*) is widespread throughout North America. A recent study used citizen science data, including observations from here in Wisconsin, and paired them with stable-hydrogen isotope analysis, a technique that matches chemical variations in a biological specimen to geographic locations.

The researchers discovered that common green darners have an annual migration that covers North America over the course of three generations. Each year, common green darners emerge in February through May in Mexico and the southern United States. These individuals migrate north to Wisconsin and other states, where they reproduce. The resulting second generation is born in the north and, in late summer or fall, migrates south where they reproduce and die. Their offspring form the third generation of the annual cycle; they do not migrate, instead remaining in the south during the winter and eventually producing the first generation of the following year. That new generation migrates north, repeating the cycle. Read the full article and view migration maps [here](#).



Common green darner (*Anax junius*). Photo: Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

- **Wisconsin Researchers Pilot New Water Quality Sampling Device**

Three years ago, UW-Whitewater and the Rock River Coalition worked together to develop an instrument that monitors pH, dissolved oxygen, and other water quality measures. Uniquely, the device was designed to be paired with a cellphone, allowing each sample to be automatically tagged with date, time, and location information and uploaded to a website in real time. Many readers will remember the 11-day "Testing the Waters" paddling trip along the Rock River that tested the monitoring device. Now a paper has been published describing the instrument and its debut, including lessons learned and suggestions for others who might want to use a similar technique. The paper is available [here](#).



- **Oconomowoc Boy Scouts Assess Tree Health**

The US Forest Service partnered with a Boy Scout troop from Oconomowoc to assess the health of the city's ash trees in the wake of the presence of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. The boys and their scout leaders were trained to collect data on characteristics like defoliation and leaf discoloration. The Forest Service compared data collected by the boy scouts to those collected by a tree health expert and found a high degree of agreement between their assessments. Not only did the boy scouts provide high quality data, but comparing their data to an expert provides even more support for the utility of citizen-based monitoring. Read the full study [here](#).