



### WHO WE ARE...

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) is an independent, non-profit organization that identifies issues and advocates effective policies and actions to protect, restore and sustain the water resources of Wisconsin's Fox-Wolf River Basin.

The FWWA vision is to have a citizen monitor on every stream, river and lake in the Fox-Wolf Watersheds. The goal of FWWA is to foster the development of water quality monitoring by:

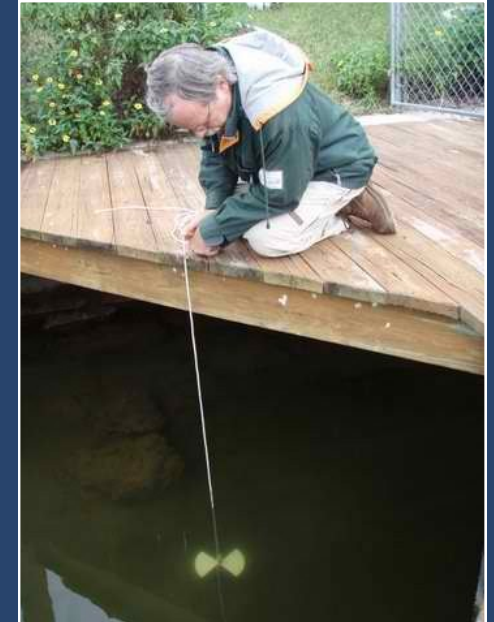


- **Educating** citizens on water issues
- **Training** citizens to gather credible water information by using standardized equipment and techniques
- **Empowering** citizens to make a positive impact by using their water monitoring data for environmental education, water body restoration and protection, and involvement in watershed stewardship

The success of FWWA depends on the volunteerism and commitment of citizens like you.

**FOX-WOLF**  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE  
P.O. Box 1861  
APPLETON, WI 54912  
FWWA.ORG

# CITIZEN MONITORING



*Volunteer to be the eyes  
and ears of your lake.*



# WATER QUALITY

No matter where you live your life is affected by water quality. Water quality issues raise many questions that are important to us all at some point or another. *Is the tap water safe to drink? Will I get sick if I swim in this lake? Why are so many fish dying in the bay? Why does this water look unusually murky, discolored, or even remarkably clear?*

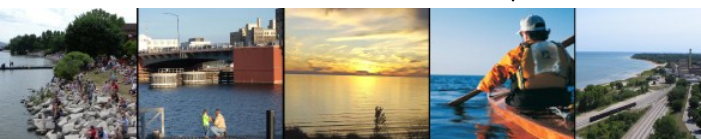
Perhaps one of the most important questions to ask is: *How do we know*



*when our water is healthy?* To put it simply, healthy water is water that can support and sustain life. “Water quality” is a blanket term for how the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of a water sample measure up to a set of standards. Water quality can be evaluated through a number of different tests such as color, odor, temperature, acidity, bacteria content, biological diversity, and many others.

Written by Erin Bardar for NASA Earth Observatory

**Renew Our Waters** Every choice counts.



[RenewOurWaters.org](http://RenewOurWaters.org)

VOLUNTEER TO BE THE EYES AND EARS OF YOUR LAKE

## CITIZEN MONITORS CONTRIBUTE USING THEIR OWN OBSERVATIONS

### Measure water clarity

- Great way for volunteer monitors to get started
- FWWA will provide training and measurement tool (Secchi disk)
- Volunteers regularly measure the water clarity of the water body they are monitoring



European Frog-Bit; photo by Erich Haber

### Monitor for Aquatic Invasive Species

- Watch for invasive plants and animals such as purple loosestrife, European frog-bit, zebra mussels, rusty crawfish, etc.
- Learn what to do if you find an invasive species in your lake

### Monitor wildlife

- Another way to monitor the health of local water bodies is to monitor native wildlife.
- Loons are sensitive to disturbances and pollutants so monitoring loon activity is a great way to monitor the health of your lake.



Loon; photo by Julie Larsen Maher, WCS.

Government funded scientists and Universities monitor water quality at the mouth of major river systems, but not enough resources are available for water quality to be tracked through every river and stream. This makes volunteer citizen monitors extremely important in tracking and maintaining the water quality standards across Northeast Wisconsin.



FWWA Citizen Monitors gather to be educated on local water quality issues and receive hands-on training. The FWWA Project Coordinator is available to monitors throughout the process to answer questions and guide in submitting findings.

**CALL THE FWWA PROJECT COORDINATOR AT 920.604.1238 TO GET STARTED ON YOUR LAKE!**