



# Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Spring 2019

## Celebrating 15 Years: WCBM at 15

The Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network was formed in 2004, which means we're celebrating our 15th anniversary this year! Of course, our state's tradition of volunteers partnering with professionals to study our natural resources started long before 2004, so we're commemorating our birthday by honoring not just the last 15 years, but Wisconsin's entire 100 years and more of amazing citizen-based monitoring efforts. Please join us in recognizing the achievements of Wisconsin's citizen-based monitoring volunteers, researchers, resource managers, staff, and organizations.

### Help Us Celebrate

- **Take the Pledge**– We want 2019 to be the most productive CBM year that Wisconsin has ever seen, so we're asking everyone to pledge their time as a volunteer for one or more CBM projects. [Take the pledge today!](#)



The Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program training. Photo: Stephanie Boismenu

- **Contribute to the Timeline**– We've created a timeline of Wisconsin CBM history (see next page) as well as an [extended online timeline](#). We need your help to fill in the extended timeline. Tell us about the creation of a new project, the formation of your group, or a major monitoring success story, and we'll add it to our extended timeline. Share your timeline milestones through our [online form](#).
- **Add to the Year-In-Review Video**– At the end of 2019, we'll be making a video depicting CBM activities throughout the year. Share your current photos and videos with CBM Coordinator Eva Lewandowski (eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov) for inclusion in the Year-In-Review Video.
- **Spread the Word**– We want to celebrate the work CBM volunteers, practitioners, and organizations are doing. Use the hashtag #WCBMat15 on social media to promote events and volunteer opportunities, report success stories, and share your own milestones and memories.

Stay in Touch with the  
WCBM Network

[wiatri.net/cbm](http://wiatri.net/cbm)



YouTube



[Subscribe to WCBM updates](#)

Eva Lewandowski  
Citizen-based Monitoring Coordinator  
Eva.Lewandowski@Wisconsin.gov  
608-264-6057

# THE WISCONSIN CITIZEN-BASED MONITORING NETWORK

## *Celebrating 15 years: 2004-2019*

For over 100 years, WI volunteers dedicated their time to monitoring plants, animals, and waters. As participation increased and new programs emerged, citizen-based monitoring practitioners began to discuss ways to share resources and work together to improve monitoring efforts, culminating in the creation of the WCBM Network in 2004.



Since its creation in 2004, the WCBM Network has provided trainings, technical resources, funding, communication, conferences, and networking opportunities to members of the citizen-based monitoring community. New projects have emerged, and many existing projects have expanded. Over 13,000 WI volunteers participate in citizen-based monitoring each year!

## Partner Updates

- **Winter Weather Impacts 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count**

As birders throughout Wisconsin prepared to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 15-18 many were met with heavy snowfall on top of already deep snowpacks, sometimes resulting in few bird sightings. The worldwide count can be done anywhere, including at a bird feeder, so many participants stayed indoors and counted through their windows. Others ventured outside, either because they didn't have their own yard or because they wanted to visit a different site. Volunteers submitted 2710 checklists and reported 117 species, including snow bunting, mourning dove, and great blue heron. Check out the full Wisconsin results [here](#).

- **Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Enters Final Season**

2019 is slated to be the final year of field work for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II, which is documenting the distribution and abundance of all the bird species that breed in the state. Your help is needed to complete this monumental effort by this fall. The Atlas uses a grid system to divide the state into blocks; about 15% of priority Atlas survey blocks have seen little to no survey effort, while an additional 25% still need some work to be marked complete. A kick-off event will be held April 5-7 in Stevens Point to start the final season off with a bang. Learn more on the [Atlas website](#).

- **Successful Pilot Season for Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade**

In 2018, DNR piloted its newest citizen-based monitoring project, the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade. The first year of the project was a great success! 102 volunteers participated in the pilot, submitting close to 1,200 observations of bumble bees across the state. Wisconsin has 20 native bumble bee species, and the project had verified sightings of 16 of those in 2018. The project involves counting, photographing, and identifying bees. Wisconsinites with a knack for nature photography, experience counting fast moving animals, or a deep passion for bumble bees are encouraged to volunteer! Read more on the [project website](#).

- **Wisconsin's Green Fire Offers Data Support**

[Wisconsin's Green Fire](#), a group dedicated to promoting science-based management of Wisconsin's natural resources, is offering data support for citizen-based monitoring groups. Volunteers with Green Fire can help groups perform basic data summaries, analyses, and visualizations for local monitoring results. If your group needs help with watershed, county, or landscape level data, contact Green Fire at [Info@WIGreenFire.org](mailto:Info@WIGreenFire.org).

- **Journey North Moves to UW-Arboretum**

For 25 years people in Wisconsin and across North America have been participating in Journey North's projects to track phenology and migration, including its incredibly popular and successful tracking of the monarch migration. Now, Journey North has a new home at the UW-Arboretum! Please join us in welcoming this amazing project to Wisconsin. You can learn more about the move [here](#).



Volunteers search for bumble bees during a training at Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center.

## Partner Updates, Continued

- **Citizen Science Day is April 13!**

Citizen Science Day is an annual event to celebrate and promote all things citizen science: incredible volunteers, hardworking practitioners, amazing discoveries, and inspiring projects. There are plenty of ways you can participate in Citizen Science Day this year:

- Participate in the Annual Midwest Crane Count. This one-day event offers volunteers the opportunity to count cranes in wetlands and other birding locations throughout the state. You must register with your County Coordinator in advance. Learn more from the [International Crane Foundation](#).
- Begin monitoring for the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey. In addition to the traditional driving routes, volunteers can now choose a fixed location to monitor throughout the spring and summer. This is perfect for people who live close to a wetland or stream and enjoy listening to the nighttime calls of frogs and toads. Find out more about the project on their [website](#).

- Attend a local event. Organizations like Waukesha County Parks and Madison's Friends of Urban Nature have citizen science events planned.

To find an event happening on or near Citizen Science Day, visit the WCBM Network [event calendar](#). If you'd like to host your own Citizen Science Day event, such as a book discussion, bioblitz, training, or festival, resources are available on the [Citizen Science Association website](#).

- **Webinars Available**

The [Citizen Science Association](#) hosts periodic webinars about a variety of citizen science topics. Recent topics include Citizen Science Day, citizen science research ethics, and the process of publishing scientific research. To learn about upcoming webinars, visit the WCBM Network event calendar or join the Citizen Science Association. Recordings of the webinars are available on [YouTube](#).



Have an update or announcement you'd like to share in our newsletter? Email [eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov).