

THE NOTE

WHAT'S NEW(S)

MEMBERSHIP

TRAINING

CONFERENCE

SOC

SOURCE WATER

YOUTH ED

WELCOME TO E-NOTE

Our newest edition of The Note.

E-Note keeps you in the loop with the latest updates in county conservation and with what's happening in WI Land+Water.

To our members. For our members.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- May 28 Southern Area Association meeting
- June 2 State Land and Water Conservation Board meeting
- June 5 Technical Committee meeting
- June 12 North Central Area Association meeting
- June 19 Lake Michigan Area Association meeting
- July 9 County Conservationist meeting

- July 10 WI Land+Water Board of Directors meeting
- Leg./Admin. Committee meeting
- July 17 Lake Michigan Area Association meeting
- August 4 State Land and Water Conservation Board meeting
- August 6 Conservation Observance Day

*These events are subject to change, due to social distancing limitations. Please check our events page on our website or contact Penny Pohle with questions.



Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association
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Madison, WI 53703
(608) 441-2677

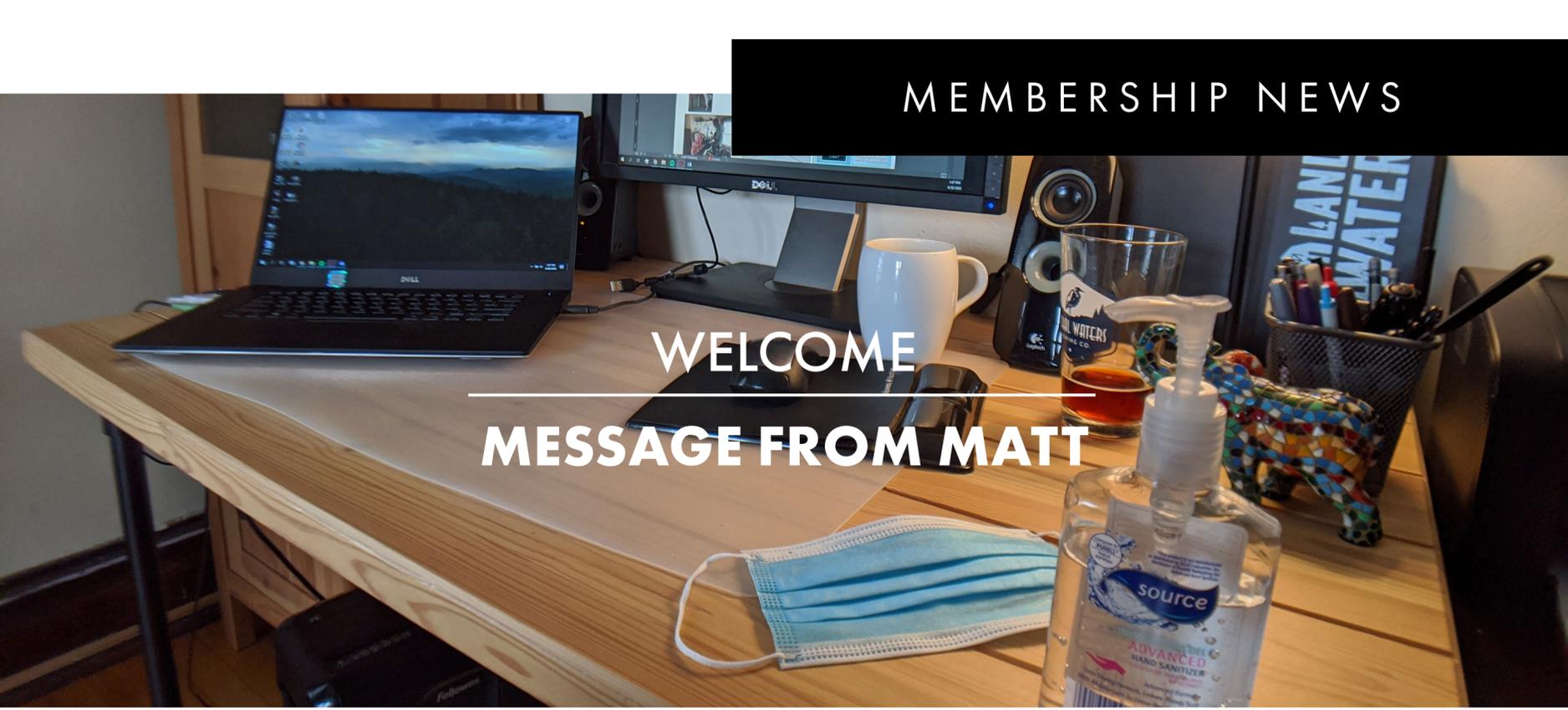
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Membership Directory



Email us if there is a staff or supervisor change in your county.



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM MATT

As we read the latest edition of The Note from the comfort and safety of our homes, signs of spring abound in southern Wisconsin: days are getting longer, spring ephemeral wildflowers are carpeting the woodlands, and migratory birds are passing through. More than any spring in memory, I've truly taken comfort in these familiar rhythms of nature, particularly as the rest of the world seems unfamiliar in a way few of us have ever experienced before.

Even if you, your friends, or loved ones have been fortunate enough to have not been affected directly by the coronavirus (COVID-19), it has turned our world upside-down and impacted our lives in nearly every way imaginable — and likely in ways that we haven't even imagined yet.

Like all of you, WI Land+Water is reacting to an ever-changing set of circumstances while simultaneously attempting to anticipate and plan for an uncertain future. Our office is closed, but our staff is working remotely from home, and like many of you, adjusting to our new work spaces and coworkers. We made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Wisconsin Envirothon. We also canceled our in-person biannual Land Conservation Committee training and repurposed it into a package of online webinars (see more in the training section). We are carefully assessing the safety and feasibility of holding an in-person County Conservation meeting this summer, at the same time evaluating what a "virtual" meeting format might look like.

There's no sugar-coating it — the breadth and scale of the challenge we currently face is unprecedented in our lifetime, and it's hitting counties hard. Along with

emergency management, law enforcement, public health, and other departments, conservation departments have indeed demonstrated the essential services they provide during this crisis. Locally led conservation is particularly important right now for farmers dealing with a worsening financial situation that has forced the dumping of milk and discussion of culling animals.

It's hard to know when this difficult situation will end, and what sort of shape we'll be in economically, psychologically, socially, and civically when it does. As of now, credible pandemic experts are suggesting that some level of social distancing may be necessary for a period of a few years—not months. When that comes to an end, we'll most certainly have a new perspective on the world.

Very soon, we will begin state-level policy discussions on how to fund basic local governmental services, including chronically under-funded county conservation departments, and we will attempt to revive beleaguered industries such as agriculture, at the same time. In doing so, we should bear in mind that the reckoning following times of crisis have historically provided opportunities for innovation, and there may be a real chance to advance a new vision of conservation in Wisconsin. We will strategically seek out these opportunities, and do so with focus and persistence. In the meantime, please stay safe.



Matt Krueger
Executive Director

RESOURCES



**COVID-19
response**

Stay Informed

WI Land+Water is providing the latest updates regarding COVID-19 impacts on locally led conservation on our [website](#) | [more information](#)

ADVOCACY



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, WI Land+Water was putting into action an all-hands on deck effort to ensure the passage of AB 790/SB 723, which sought to provide an additional \$3 million in annual funding to county conservation departments. The Assembly passed the bill unanimously, and the Senate was due to take it up at the end of March. The coronavirus caused the Senate to cancel its remaining floor period and acted to officially end the legislative session, which means SB 723 died (along with any bills passed by one house and not the other, including all Water Quality Task Force bills).

Unless the Legislature takes our bill up in an extraordinary session this summer, this will be another unfortunate footnote in the long list of coronavirus impacts that could not have been anticipated. Though the state will without question be in a difficult fiscal position next biennial budget, we will work with a wide range of partners to build off of the momentum gained via last year’s Water Quality Task Force public meetings and legislative hearings, and continue to build support for the value and necessity of county conservation.



Conservation Observance Day

Kevin and Carolyn Parr, WI Land+Water’s 2020 Farm Family of the Year, invite you to their farm in Vernon County on Thursday, August 6. The day will include a farm tour, lunch, and speaker presentations. | [More details](#)

New Technical Gallery

The Technical Gallery is now on Flickr. Browse through hundreds of photos from our members that can provide technical ideas and guidance. Please keep helping us improve the gallery by submitting project photos from your county. | [Submit here](#)

RESOURCES



IN YOUR INBOX

Weekly News.

This Week in Conservation gives you the latest headlines about Wisconsin conservation and agriculture.

Monthly Trainings.

Stay relevant with the latest trainings, webinars, and educational events from SITCOM.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Stuck at home? So are we. There are a whole lot of new things we're all adjusting to — wild workmates, pestering pets, or technology troubles to name a few. Of course, there are many more things we're all wondering about too. Will I be able to go back to my favorite bar? Which one of my kids ate the chocolate I hid in the back of the cabinet? Why do video chats have to be so darn complicated?

Some questions may never get answered, but these can be. Let's see how well you know the WI Land+Water team in their stay-at-home circumstances.

Answers on page 6



1. Matt's dog Jack is afraid of...
- a) Bats
 - b) Thunderstorms
 - c) Fireworks
 - d) The intro beep of the National Weather Service radio warnings
 - e) All the above



2. When will Harper change out of his bunny suit?
- a) When the temperature reaches 80 degrees
 - b) When he finds his Chewbacca suit
 - c) When he can go back to school
 - d) Your guess is as good as ours!

3. During the work day, Chris' dog Pumpkin loves napping in the sun, begging for potato chips, and barking like crazy at other dogs walking by (carefully calculated during Chris' conference calls). But above all, Pumpkin's favorite activity is swimming.

True False



4. What is Kate's dog Sherlock wondering?
- a) Will I ever catch a squirrel?
 - b) What's for dinner tonight?
 - c) Are those rabbits in the yard multiplying?
 - d) Do humans walk me or do I walk humans?



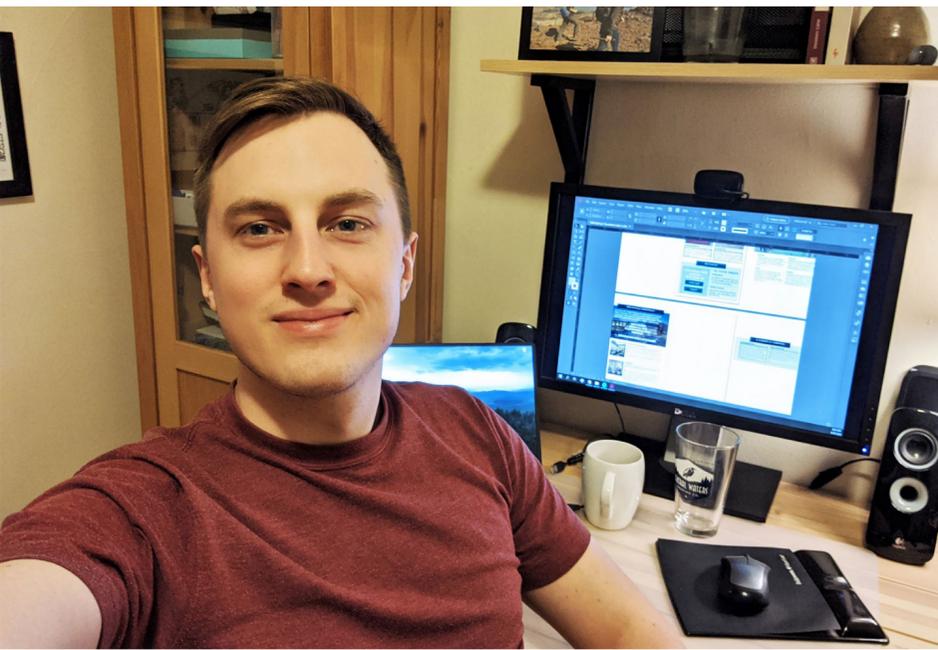
5. Behind Penny is the 16th largest lake in Wisconsin. She looks forward to boating on it this summer as a good outdoor social distancing activity.

What lake is it?



6. After making this newsletter, Elliot wished he was visiting his favorite Wisconsin brewery while having a pint of their IPA. Which company (hint in picture)?
- a) New Glarus
 - b) Central Waters
 - c) 3 Sheeps
 - d) Lakefront

7. What is Kim's cat Archie thinking?
- a) With all of you working from home, I'm loving all of this cuddle time.
 - b) Move human, you are in my space. If you don't go back to the office soon, I'll scratch your eyes out.





SOCIAL DISTANCE LEARNING

As we are not able to attend classroom and field trainings in this time of social distancing, webinars are a great way to stay current and learn new information!

If you have a training idea, [contact us](#) and we will attempt to develop a relevant learning opportunity. For example, a county staff person requested a training on non-metallic mine reclamation plans, which is why two of the following webinars are now being offered.

Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation Plans: Heart of the Plan Tuesday, June 23 | 8:30-9:30 AM

The second webinar in the Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation Plans webinar series will take a deeper dive into the main parts of a reclamation plan, particularly the site information and reclamation measures sections.

Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation Plans: In the Field Tuesday, August 18 | 8:30-9:30 AM

The final webinar in the series will take a virtual whirlwind tour of how the reclamation plan plays out in the real world. The tour will include successful applications and things to avoid.

How to Start Restoring Cold-Water Streams in your County Tuesday, July 21 | 8:30-9:15 AM

There is a strong interest by counties over the past decade to work with landowners on stream projects that involve bank stabilization and habitat for both game and non-game species (frogs, birds, snakes, etc.). Stream projects often involve multiple areas of expertise, different partners, and several funding sources. Where do you find the technical expertise and funding to get started? Join Jeff Hastings, former county employee and now with Trout Unlimited, for an informal discussion on how to develop a roadmap for success!

Recordings of these webinars will be posted under WI Land+Water Hosted Webinars, along with the wide variety of previously recorded webinars, [on our media website](#). To join these webinars, as well as see all the trainings being offered, visit [the training section of our website](#).

SUPERVISORS & STAFF

Are you a new member of a Land Conservation Committee (LCC) or previously served on the committee? Either way, a great way to learn about WI Land+Water and agency programs is to watch our prerecorded webinars at your committee meetings or at your homes. All of these webinars are less than ten minutes in length. Conservation staff will also find these webinars beneficial to watch.

Starting in June we will begin rolling out the following webinars:

- Roles of LCDs vs. LCCs/Chapter 92 | *WI Land+Water*
- Advice for New LCCs, from Seasoned LCCs | *WI Land+Water*
- Advice for New LCCs, from Seasoned County Conservationists | *WI Land+Water*
- Land and Water Conservation Board Basics | *LWCB Chair Mark Cupp*
- Introduction to DNR Nonpoint Funding Assistance | *Wisconsin DNR*
- How Did We Get Here? History of Wisconsin's Nonpoint Program | *Wisconsin DNR*
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) | *Wisconsin DATCP*

As these new webinars become available, they will be posted on the WI Land+Water media website and will be announced to our membership.

DON'T WAIT TO START LEARNING

WI Land+Water keeps a library of webinars that LCC supervisors and staff can access at any time. If you are looking for ways to expand your knowledge, this library covers a wide array of topics and are taught by various professionals.

Informative training webinars include:

- Who is WI Land+Water? | Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water
- How to Get Involved | Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water
- Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grants | Susan Mockert, DATCP
- Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plans | Lisa Trumble, DATCP
- Wisconsin TMDLs | Keith Marquardt, DNR
- Introduction to DATCP's Nutrient Management Program | Ryan Erisman, DATCP

The [2020 LCC Handbook](#) will be provided to all LCC supervisors and land conservation departments. In the handbook, you can read about the history of land and water conservation in Wisconsin, roles and responsibilities, assistance and funding, and more.

We also provide an up-to-date [membership directory](#) for the association. Contact [Penny](#) for more information or visit our [LCC Training page](#).



UPDATES

NEW ON FLICKR



SITCOM

Upcoming Survey

The State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) is developing a survey to identify training needs across the state. The survey will be emailed to land conservation staff in the near future.

Answers to Staff Trivia

1. e 2. d 3. true 4. b 5. Beaver Dam Lake 6. Central Waters 7. b

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR 67TH CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Mark your calendars for next year's conference
March 3-5, 2021 | KI Convention Center | Green Bay, WI

Over 450 conservationists convened for our 67th Annual Conference this past March at the KI Center in Green Bay. Attendees had the opportunity to learn and participate in professional improvement breakout sessions, connect with other passionate conservationists, and attend area association meetings and the silent auction.

Kicking off the conference, we had an inspiring opening luncheon with youth speaking contest winners and keynote Anne Sayers, Deputy Secretary for the Department of Tourism. Our forty breakout sessions commenced thereafter, covering a wide array of pertinent topics, like climate change mitigation, generational differences, well testing and groundwater, chronic wasting disease, and LCC/LCD partnerships.

Thank you to the attendees, sponsors, and volunteers for helping make this year's conference a huge success!

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE SPONSORS



American Transmission Company | Transcendent Technologies
Conservation Services, Inc. | Complete Fencing, LLC | Certified
Crop Advisors | Wisconsin Farmers Union

The Nature Conservancy | Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance | UWSP Center for
Watershed Science and Education | GrassWorks, Inc. | Pheasants Forever | WAPAC |
Prescott College | Wisconsin's Green Fire | Wisconsin Discovery Farms | USDA-NRCS

2020 Conservation Award Winners

- Kevin and Carolyn Parr of Harmony Hills Farm – *Conservation Farm Family of the Year*
- Representative Katrina Shankland – *Friend of Conservation*
- Seth Ebel – *Outstanding Conservation Employee, Engineer*
- Eric Fehlhaber – *Outstanding Conservation Employee, County Conservationist*
- Zach Wilson – *Brad Matson Youth Education Award*

63rd Annual Poster & Speaking Contest

Congratulations to all the students across Wisconsin who participated in this year's Poster and Speaking Contest. We heard amazing speeches and saw incredible creativity in the posters on display. Thank you to the volunteers from the Youth Education Committee and all association members who voted on the posters. | [see the list of winners](#) and [photos](#)

SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLES

44 Items donated to the Silent Auction
\$5,421.36 Raised for Youth Education programs
ADAMS COUNTY Donated the most Silent Auction items
24 Awesome volunteers
\$2,536.00 Raised from PIC & 50/50 Raffles to support the Membership Training Scholarship Program

A big thank you to Grassy Narrows Lodge for donating an incredible fishing trip experience at Lake of the Woods in Ontario, Canada. The fishing trip raffle raised \$4,640 for our Youth Education programs.

STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Standard Updates

SOC teams are in the process of working on technical standard updates for the following:

- NRCS stream restoration standards (CPS 395 Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, CPS 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection, CPS 582 Open Channel, and CPS 584 Channel Bed Stabilization);
- DATCP 01 Verification of Depth to Bedrock (*Broad Review open to the public soon!*);
- DNR 1010 Proprietary Filtration Devices;
- DNR 1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling.

For more information on the progress of these standards, visit the SOC website.
Subscribe to SOC listservs to keep updated on standards.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION



Funding

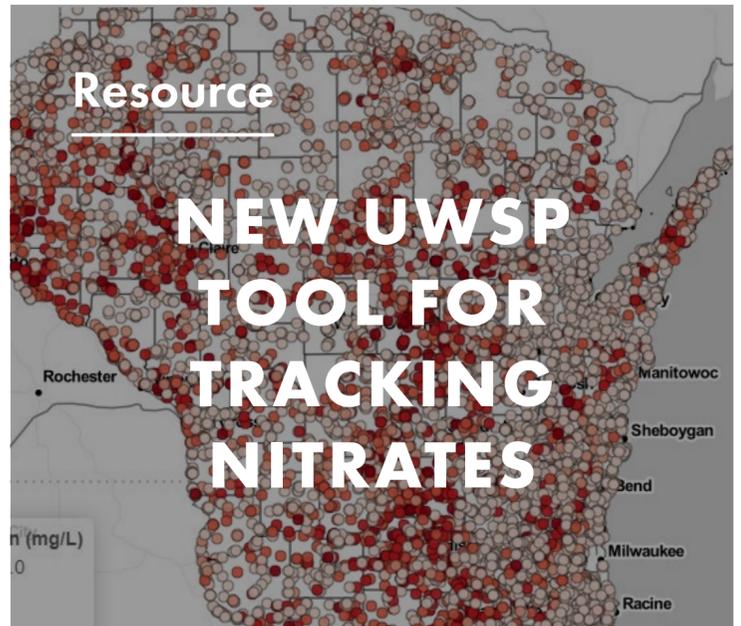
NEW FUNDING FOR SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

NRCS Source Water Protection

NRCS is providing a new funding opportunity for landowners in Source Water Protection priority areas across the state. The 2018 Farm Bill directed all states to allocate 10% of their funding to Source Water Protection areas through 2023. Priority areas were set both [nationally](#) and [locally](#).

Landowners in the priority areas can receive higher payment rates for [designated practices through EQIP](#). The first batch of EQIP applications have been received and are now being evaluated by local field offices. If dedicated funds remain, a second application batching date for EQIP will be June 5th.

The CSP program has also included ranking questions that reward applications within priority SWP watersheds. | [More details](#)



Resource

NEW UWSP TOOL FOR TRACKING NITRATES

UWSP Nitrate in Wisconsin Viewer

UWSP is developing a Nitrate in Wisconsin Public Water System viewer. This viewer will be extremely helpful in identifying trends in public wells and prioritizing areas within a watershed.

WI Land+Water is working with UWSP and DNR to develop a workshop to demonstrate the viewer and how to customize outputs to integrate into planning efforts, including LWRM and/or 9-Key Element plans. If in-person trainings are not possible due to COVID-19, there are plans to hold the workshops virtually. | [More details](#)

Stay in the loop.

See the latest research and tools for all your local source water needs.

YOUTH EDUCATION

SUMMER CANCELLATIONS

2020 Wisconsin Envirothon

In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of students and volunteers, this year's Wisconsin Envirothon that was scheduled for April 17 was canceled.

Soon after our announcement, the NCF-Envirothon also canceled the national Envirothon, scheduled for July 26 - August 1 at the University of Nebraska. We have been in touch with our volunteers, advisors and sponsors.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and understanding. We look forward to working with everyone to plan for the 2021 Envirothon. | [More details](#)

2020 Youth Conservation Summer Camps

Due to COVID-19, we unfortunately are announcing that this year's Sand Lake Conservation Camp at Lake Crivitz for middle schoolers and the WI Land+Water Conservation camp for high schoolers at the Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters are now canceled.

While we were hoping to find a way to put on our summer camps, there are too many uncertainties and in an effort to protect the health of our volunteers and campers, canceling is the best choice for everyone. We wish our campers who will be graduating this year all the best and we look forward to seeing new campers in 2021. | [More details](#)