



PHOTOS: JUNE KONOS

Record-Keeping

Keeping a "Lake Log"

As a CLMN volunteer, you are a record-keeper of your lake's overall health. The Secchi data, water chemistry information, and observations that you supply help with current management activities and also provide a basis for future management. The information that you collect in the field, as well as, the summary results presented in CLMN reports, should be used to create a "lake log" (i.e. a long-term record of your lake's overall history and health).

The field data sheet copies of your water clarity and chemistry information can be used as basic information for starting your lake log. Eventually you can add graphs, news clippings, lake history, maps, wildlife sightings, land use records, etc., to make your log complete. The sky's the limit! But don't take on this responsibility alone. You can share record-keeping responsibilities by enlisting the help of lakeshore residents, lake association members, and youth or school groups to help collect and compile information.

ROBERT QUEEN

For a *basic* lake log, the following items are recommended: a lake map, copies of your field data sheets and notes, and your annual data summary sheets. In addition to the items listed above, if you would like to compile a more comprehensive lake log the following items are recommended.

- ✓ Graphs of your results
- ✓ General lake ecology information (e.g., CLMN reports, *Understanding Lake Data*, etc.)
- ✓ Statewide CLMN data summary sheets
- ✓ Planning and protection grant information
- ✓ Precipitation and other weather information
- ✓ Ice-on and ice-off dates
- ✓ Wildlife sightings
- ✓ Illustrations and photographs
- ✓ Aquatic plant information
- ✓ Lake history notes from interviews with long-time residents
- ✓ Historical maps showing watershed development
- ✓ Video or photos of shoreline development runoff, plants, algal blooms, etc.
- ✓ Any other data or information collected about your lake

Assembling the Basics

You will receive a lake map showing your sampling site from your CLMN regional coordinator. Lake maps can also be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/maps/>.

When you sample, make careful observations. Your initial observations are important since they can help you remember (and others understand) what is happening in and around your lake. In addition, taking careful field notes can provide a better understanding of the water quality and ecosystem conditions on your lake. Always remember to keep copies of your field data sheets, annual data summary sheets for your lake, and the statewide data summaries. The easiest way to do this is to three-hole punch them and add them to your lake log binder.



SECCHI DIP-IN

The Secchi Dip-In is an annual event coordinated by Kent State University, where individuals from all over the world take a Secchi reading sometime between the end of June and the middle of July each year. You should report your data from these dates to the Network, and optionally, you can also report them to the Secchi Dip-In online. For more information on this annual event please visit <http://dipin.kent.edu/> or email dipin@kent.edu.

REMOTE SENSING

Since 1999, volunteers have assisted in a collaborative research effort with University of Wisconsin Environmental Remote Sensing Center by taking Secchi readings on dates when the satellites were over their lakes. The volunteers' participation has allowed the University to successfully calibrate computer programs that use satellite imagery to predict Secchi disc depth and other water quality parameters on lakes. The ultimate goal is to put the satellite data into everyday use by making the water clarity data derived from the satellite imagery available to the Wisconsin DNR and to the public. The dates that satellite photos will be taken of your lake are available online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/remotesensing/>. Take Secchi readings on as many of the dates as you can. If you collect data on "satellite dates," you don't need to do anything special to report it. The Network will automatically include your data in the analysis of the satellite imagery. Just think, on a clear satellite day, your Secchi reading may translate into hundreds of other readings; almost as if you're monitoring hundreds of lakes at one time!