

# ASC

AQUATIC SCIENCES CHRONICLE

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## Sharing Stories About Science

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The Aquatic Sciences Center is the administrative home of the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute and the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute.

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The University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute is part of a national network of 34 university-based programs funded through the National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and through matching contributions from participating states and the private sector.

The University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute is one of 54 Water Resources Research Institutes nationwide authorized by the federal Water Resources Research Act and administered through the U.S. Geological Survey.

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# Chronicling the Chronicle



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Looking for that [article](#) discussing UW-Madison's microbial ecology expert Trina McMahon's methylmercury research?

Wracking your brain for the issue of the Aquatic Sciences Chronicle that offered a [list of online learning resources](#)?

How about wanting to again refer to that [profile](#) introducing Sea Grant Fisheries Biologist Titus Seilheimer upon his hire in 2013?

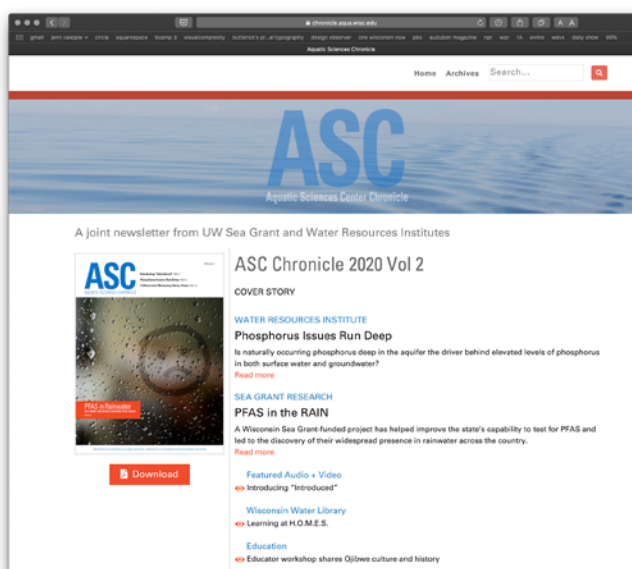
Now, Tom Xiong and James Grandt have made sure you can quickly and easily satisfy those needs, and more.

Web Developer Xiong and Information Technology Specialist Grandt recently launched a brand-new Aquatic Sciences Chronicle website.

The clean and straightforward site serves both Sea Grant and the Water Resources Institute. You can revisit the past by scrolling through 75 issues stretching back to 2005. It's a colorful panorama of the evolution of the Chronicle.

The most-current issue is prominently displayed and available for download as a PDF. Or content is accessible through hotlinks to individual articles.

Other features on the site allow quick access to a subscription page, as well as links to external funders. —MH







## Science Cafés Continue

Sea Grant's two speaker series, the RiverTalks and the LakeTalks, will continue in a virtual mode when they begin their seasons this fall.

More than 1,000 people have participated in informal discussions about the St. Louis River along the Wisconsin-Minnesota border over the seven-year life of the RiverTalks series. Topics for the most recent season ranged from [a search for bloody red shrimp](#), [tribal efforts to protect and restore wild rice](#) (manoomin), and [a unique project to deter Canada geese from eating wild rice](#) in the estuary.

The talks were held at the Lake Superior Estuarium in Superior, Wisconsin, except for the May talk, which was held virtually, to safeguard the participants from coronavirus exposure.

Talk partners include the Wisconsin and Minnesota Sea Grant Programs and the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve. Plans are in the works for next season's series, which will likely continue in virtual mode.

A newer series called the LakeTalks began in spring 2020, with the intent of holding talks in a range of communities near the Lake Michigan shore. Just one LakeTalk — [held March 4 at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay](#) — was able to take place before the rest of the season was postponed due to public health concerns.

This fall, the two events that would have taken place in the spring, as well as two additional talks, will take place virtually. Topics include "Green Bay: A Saga of Life, Destruction and Restoration," with speakers Cadie Olson and Brandon Falish, graduate student researchers at UW-Green Bay, and "But It's So Pretty: Combating Purple Loosestrife With Look-a-Likes" with Molly Bodde, a Sea Grant aquatic invasive species outreach specialist.

Stay tuned to the Wisconsin Sea Grant website and social media accounts for more on these events. —JAS and MEZ

OUTREACH

# EDUCATION



Bazile / Lakewolves Program participant

## Going Further Under the Surface

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM EXPANDS

A program in northern Wisconsin uses the healing value and inspiration of spending time in water to aid youths facing significant mental health challenges and to educate middle and high school students. Thanks to funding from Wisconsin Sea Grant, the program is expanding its reach and connecting teens with freshwater science.

Begun in 2012, the [Under the Surface](#) project has been supported by Sea Grant since 2016. The therapeutic program was created when Toben Lafrancois, an aquatic scientist at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, began working with a successful photography program at Northwest Passage, a residential treatment center in northern Wisconsin. Under the Surface was born from this collaboration, taking Northwest Passage clients out to lakes, rivers and Lake Superior on underwater photo excursions. The adventure, art and exploration are part of comprehensive treatment programming.

An extension of the program called [Lakewolves](#) (or Zaaga'igan Ma'iinganag in Ojibwe) reaches students from Bayfield, connecting outings in nearby waters to personal growth, aquatic science and cultural expression.

Lafrancois said Under the Surface is the only program of its kind in the world. "We've spoken with a worldwide audience through the Blue Mind Network and haven't heard anybody say they've got anything like this at all," he said.

The current iteration of Under the Surface is reaching out to teachers, community leaders and treatment staff, although the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed some aspects of this effort.

"A lot of the things I had planned have been shifted around," Lafrancois said. "But the focus of the core program is the same. It's all about the kids, their experience and well-being, and then sharing their photographs. We are taking out a couple of teachers and we're taking out Northwest Passage folks who are involved in the clinical aspects of treatment so they will understand the experiences the kids are having."

One person Lafrancois works closely with at Northwest Passage is Ian Karl, experiential programming coordinator. Lafrancois also hopes to involve tribal elders in the Lakewolves program through involvement in exhibitions and outings, if possible.





## Environmental Racism and Social Justice

The coronavirus has also changed how the staff interact with the teens. Lafrancois explained that because of the nature of the issues the children from Northwest Passage are dealing with, social distancing has always been part of the program. There's also the need not to disturb each other's photographs. However, "The staff wear N95 masks whenever we talk to the kids. We are very careful about leaning over to look at photographs," Lafrancois said.

Under the Surface connects the youths with scientific topics in an indirect way. "It's like jazz," Lafrancois explained. "We know our scales and then we get to the site and we watch what the kids are doing and the things they get excited about. We're prepared for what they might ask, and we go with that. Then we take their curiosity and their photographs and turn it into research projects for them. The kind of project that comes out of it depends on where they are at."

With Lakewolves, the scientific connection can be more direct. Lafrancois works with Bayfield High School Teacher Rick Erickson to weave the students' photography into ongoing research projects. "Either things I'm doing or colleagues around the Bayfield Peninsula are doing. That helps the kids feel connected to that research and it allows us to have good conversations on the rainy and snowy days after the photography is done. We talk about why these things matter locally," Lafrancois said.

>> Continued on page 14

"Underwater photography is a way for me to give the lake a voice for others to interpret. The lake speaks to me and I want others to hear it too."

— A ZAAGA'IGAN MA'IINGANAG  
Lakewolves Program founding member

A disproportionate burden of environmental harm falls on the communities of Black, Indigenous and people of color and on working-class neighborhoods. Harmful infrastructure such as landfills, poor drinking water systems and lack of safe play spaces and harmful practices such as a lack of investment in communities, leads to poorer physical and mental health among residents.

Our core values as librarians encompass providing access to information with the goal of fostering education and lifelong learning. We have created this reading list as a means of providing information and facilitating critical thinking surrounding these topics.

Some suggested readings include:

**CLIMATE JUSTICE: HOPE, RESILIENCE, AND THE FIGHT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE** by Mary Robinson.

**CONFRONTING ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM: VOICES FROM THE GRASSROOTS** by Robert Doyle Bullard.

**DEFENDING MOTHER EARTH: NATIVE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** by Jace Weaver.

**FLINT FIGHTS BACK: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY IN THE FLINT WATER CRISIS** by Benjamin J. Pauli.

**IT'S OUR WORLD, TOO! STORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE** by Phillip Hoose.

**SLOW VIOLENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENTALISM OF THE POOR** by Rob Nixon.

**THE POISONED CITY: FLINT'S WATER AND THE AMERICAN URBAN TRAGEDY** by Anne (Anna Leigh) Clark.

**THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER: ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN INDIGENOUS AND BLACK COMMUNITIES** by Ingrid Waldron.

This list is meant to be an introduction to environmental racism and is by no means exhaustive. For more readings, visit [waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu/ejlist](http://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu/ejlist).

If we can be of any support during these challenging times, please reach out to [askwater@aqua.wisc.edu](mailto:askwater@aqua.wisc.edu). The library is here to help.

Please visit the Wisconsin Water Library online at [waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu](http://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu) for more information about the library's resources on a wide range of aquatic topics.

Anyone in Wisconsin can borrow the books discussed here. Just email [askwater@aqua.wisc.edu](mailto:askwater@aqua.wisc.edu).

## Long-Surviving *E. coli* Strains Make Identifying Contaminated Beaches More Complex Than Previously Thought

# Stayin' Alive



Natalie Rumball digging up *E. coli* samples that have been buried in growth chambers.

**M**ilwaukee is known for its busy urban beaches along Lake Michigan. As in cities elsewhere, beach managers use *E. coli* as an indicator of the presence of pathogens, and elevated *E. coli* levels can result in beach closures during prime swimming season.

*E. coli*, which can come from either human or animal fecal matter, can, at certain levels, cause human health problems. As the Milwaukee Health Department notes on its website, "Symptoms such as upset stomach, nausea, vomiting, headache and fever can result from exposure to disease-causing organisms in lake water."

As Wisconsin Sea Grant-funded researchers are finding, though, not all *E. coli* at the beach is the same, making it more complex than previously thought to determine if a beach is truly unsafe for humans.

Sandra McLellan, a professor at the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences, and Natalie A. Rumball, a Ph.D. candidate working with McLellan, are investigating this issue.

Said Rumball, "I study the survival of *E. coli* in beach sand. This is really significant because, all around the Great Lakes and on the ocean coasts, we use *E. coli* as an indicator of fecal pollution... and to determine if water is safe to swim in."

Yet, she said, *E. coli* can sometimes survive for a long time in beach sand. Because of that, the presence of *E. coli* is not necessarily an indicator of recent fecal pollution and contaminated water. As Rumball explained, "Not all *E. coli* are created equal. Certain strains are highly pathogenic, while others are

a normal part of the gut microbiome. Generally, the *E. coli* that I have found in beach sand have been non-pathogenic."

Rumball and McLellan have been focusing on the genetics underlying why some strains are able to survive versus others.

While the current pandemic has made work more complicated for many researchers, Rumball says she is fortunate to be in the data analysis stage of the project at present, having already conducted experiments in the field.

Her process entailed collecting *E. coli* samples from Milwaukee beach sand, sewage and seagull waste and putting them in growth chambers (also called microcosms). She then buried the microcosms for six weeks at several beach locations. After digging up the microcosms, she then determined which strains were able to survive and which were not, and compared the genomes of those two groups.

Based on DNA sequencing, she found that the hardy survivors "tend to have more metabolic capabilities, so they're able to break down more substrates for nutrients."

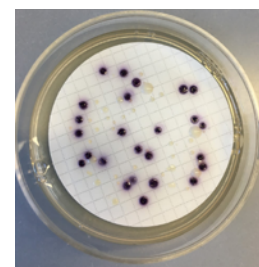
Before Rumball joined the project that McLellan leads as principal investigator, sampling was done at Milwaukee's Bradford Beach. Rumball also sampled at Bradford Beach, Atwater Beach and the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center.

One discovery Rumball made is that *E. coli* from different sources were able to survive long-term. "Originally, I had thought that maybe *E. coli* from a certain animal, or from a certain source of waste pollution, would survive better than





One of the study sites, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center.



Natalie Rumball

*E. coli* grown in a lab.

Natalie Rumball



Researcher Natalie Rumball took samples of *E. coli* from sand, sewage and gull waste, mixed them into sand, and sealed them in these microcosms (growth chambers). After six weeks she dug the microcosms up and isolated any *E. coli* that survived. Then she compared the genomes of those *E. coli* which could survive with those which could not.

the others,” she said. But she found *E. coli* from the human gut and from seagull droppings survived at about the same rate in beach sand.

The project has also provided opportunities for science mentoring. Rumball has worked with both UW-Milwaukee undergraduates and a high school student, HannahRose Mayer, from nearby Whitefish Bay High School.

Eventually, beach managers will be able to apply the knowledge gained from Rumball and McLellan’s work.

“The methods developed in this work could be used to assess those beaches that appear to be chronically contaminated with *E. coli*,” Rumball said.

Based on the team’s genomics work, molecular markers could be designed that would indicate if a beach has long-term *E. coli* survivors in the sand — that then disperse via the wind — or if that beach truly suffers from consistent fecal input that poses a health risk to beachgoers. — JAS



# Undergraduate Research Scholars Tackle Great Lakes Issues

As participants in the UW-Madison's [Undergraduate Research Scholars \(URS\)](#) program know, it's never too soon to gain exposure to the kind of research that goes on at a large university.

The URS program is designed as a two-semester course aimed at first- and second-year students. Participants take a weekly seminar and are paired with a research mentor who guides them as they conduct an original research project. Near the conclusion of the academic year, students present their research at a symposium.

While the COVID-19 pandemic meant that students finished out this spring 2020 semester at their permanent homes rather than on campus — and that the typical in-person symposium was replaced by virtual presentations — it still proved to be a valuable experience for two students mentored by Wisconsin Sea Grant Assistant Director for Extension David Hart.

Rykia Amos of Washington, D.C., and Celeste Gunderson of Milwaukee each zeroed in on challenging topics. We checked in with both to hear about their experiences.



## Rykia Amos

**Topic:** A process to prioritize where to plant trees to decrease future stream temperatures to protect brook trout in the Black Earth Creek watershed

A wildlife ecology major, Amos went into her trout project as someone more focused on mammals. Yet, she said, “I realized I was a lot more interested in looking at fish than I expected.”

Trout fishing is a popular activity that also carries significant economic value in Wisconsin. Yet climate change projections and warming streams are worrisome. Said Amos, “They’re (brook trout) a very vulnerable species because most of them currently live in cold-water conditions.”

If the climate continues to warm as current scientific projections say, what will that mean for fish like the brook trout and brown trout?

Amos focused on the role played by tree cover and whether that can help mitigate warming temperatures in certain stream segments, to the benefit of the fish. “Data show that tree planting is a cost-efficient and effective way to help temperatures decrease,” said Amos.

She used data from a U.S. Geological Survey program called FishVis to populate a spreadsheet of stream segments in the Black Earth Creek watershed, located west of Madison. She looked at both present conditions and projected conditions for the period 2046–65.



Kristen Rost



Important variables that she considered were where the stream was projected to change from a colder to warmer temperature regime and where brook trout populations were being replaced by brown trout, which can tolerate warmer temperatures. She concluded by assessing the existing tree canopy and developing a formula to prioritize the variables.

Said Hart, “I think there’s a lot of promise for this prioritization of the areas where you could plant tree cover and it would make a difference to decrease stream temperatures. As far as methods went, it was a great proof of concept.”

Going forward, this work could be expanded upon by adding more variables to the modeling, such as land ownership (which could impact the feasibility of tree planting). Hart has begun to look into a tool for constructing 3D tree canopy models from LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data and thinking about how that could come into play. “I wouldn’t have thought of this if I hadn’t worked with Rykia on this project,” he said.



## Celeste Gunderson

**Topic:** Geodesign to guide green infrastructure practices for stormwater management in a changing climate

Gunderson, a resident of Milwaukee’s east side, examined issues that literally are close to home for her: the impacts of climate change on residents of Great Lakes communities and how increased precipitation events and severe weather affect lives and property.

Flooding is an issue her family faced in 2008, when Milwaukee endured widespread flooding caused by heavy precipitation.

“It had a lot of effects on the foundation of our house,” said Gunderson, “and we had to get construction done... We’ve already felt the effects of increased precipitation and severe weather events.”

Gunderson is double majoring in environmental studies and people-environment geography. She explored mitigation strategies using a tool called GeoPlanner for ArcGIS, a geographic information systems product that allows users to create and analyze various planning scenarios.

With guidance from Hart and graduate project assistant Kayla Wandsnider, said Gunderson, “We looked at how geodesign — which is a process using GIS technology to look at different planning scenarios — could be used to then guide green infrastructure practices for stormwater management” in the part of the UW-Madison campus that drains to Willow Creek, specifically with an increase in precipitation.

Gunderson continued working on this topic over the summer as a Wisconsin Sea Grant intern.

Said Hart, “Celeste was a real help. She made a great connection with Kayla, and together they bounced ideas off of each other and it magnified Kayla’s work” as a graduate student with a double focus on urban and regional planning and water resources management. “I think that the methods developed out of this [project] will be really useful for coastal communities.”

Continuing to focus on this area will also be gratifying for the Milwaukeean. Concluded Gunderson, “Sometimes you learn the science behind climate change, and this project explores the direct impacts and ways we’re going to have to adapt in the future... It felt very relevant and important, and that made it a very fulfilling experience.” —JAS

# Sharing Stories About Science

## BRIDGING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

A report released last year showed that Wisconsin has the largest academic achievement gap between African American and white students in the nation. The National Assessment of Education Progress tested fourth- and eighth-graders in 2019. African American students in Wisconsin posted the lowest reading and math scores, as well as in science.

A new two-year Water Resources Institute project will work to help close this gap. Set in Milwaukee, home to the largest number of African American students in the state, the project is a collaboration among the University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension Natural Resources Institute staff and three partner schools. Approximately 100 students, ages 10 to 15, and at least two educators will take part in the project.

Extension staff will train teachers in ways to foster student inquiry and science observations skills. They will also travel to the schools — Escuela Verde, La Escuela Fratney and Maryland Avenue Montessori — to facilitate sessions with students to develop water-related research projects.

Justin Hougham, project principal investigator, is director of the university's Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center and an associate professor at UW-Madison. Hougham said, in addition to meeting needs identified by the national assessment survey, the project's framework comes from a biannual survey Extension conducts on the status and needs of environmental education groups in Wisconsin.

"The No. 1 skill that people wanted was for their organizations to be better at diversity, equity and inclusivity work in environmental education. The No. 1 content area (which is different than a skill), was support for STEM work. They also wanted increased information and opportunity for professional

development around using technology in environmental education," Hougham said.

Students will receive hands-on experience using science technology in the field in their local communities. This includes equipment such as thermal imagers, digital microscopes and water testing tools. They will also learn how to apply the scientific method to their projects.

Hougham explained how he and his team of Isabelle Herde and Zoe Goodrow with UW-Madison will take the project one step further. "We realized the more important or impactful thing we can do is not just have people be better at looking at data, but to be more skilled at telling stories with that information. More specifically, telling stories about environmental issues in their community that are important to them. We want to look at environmental issues through the lens of our youth and educators."

The students can share their stories via social media, science fairs and community events.

Because the rivers flowing through Milwaukee are part of the Great Lakes watershed, the project will connect students to the Great Lakes through their research projects, and so will improve their Great Lakes literacy.

"We're excited to be doing this work," Hougham said. "It's connected to a lot of previous projects that we have had in the Milwaukee area, which will allow it to be successful. It's important to take the long view on environmental issues, but also with community engagement in them."

The team hopes these connections will help build a generation invested in the health of one of the largest sources of fresh water in the world — and close academic gaps. —MEZ





All photos by Justin Hougham





NOAA

EDUCATION

## Wisconsin's Knauss Fellow Broadens Horizons

Joe Naughton is broadening his horizons even while working from his Washington, D.C., apartment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally from Brookfield, Wisconsin, Naughton is one of 68 fellows in the 2020 class of the [John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program](#). The prestigious program places early-career professionals in one-year fellowships working in federal government offices. The program is run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Sea Grant Office.

After [being chosen](#) through a competitive state and national process in July of 2019 and then receiving his placement in last fall, Naughton began his post in early February 2020. Like many, he shifted from days spent in the office to telework in mid-March.

Naughton serves as the interagency ocean policy coordinator within NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. His role is a mix of science and communication, and his primary responsibility is as executive secretary of the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST).

Explained Naughton, "The SOST is a federal coordinating body that sits under the NSTC (National Science and Technology Council), so it's under White House purview. It coordinates all federal work related to ocean science and technology. I do a lot of work across these different agencies, coordinating communication, working on various reports, and then





NSF

SOST  
“I have a lot of video calls, whether it’s hopping on these technical working groups or having quick tag-ups with NOAA, NSF or whatever other agency it may be.”

I communicate all of this correspondence up to the co-chairs of this subcommittee. The co-chairs are from NOAA, the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and I serve as the SOST liaison to these agencies. But also, within the SOST, there are these technical working groups, which I really enjoy, since it’s a little more science-focused.”

With a background in water resources engineering from his studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Marquette University — where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, respectively — Naughton is finding that the fellowship is pushing him in some new directions. While he previously focused on hydrology and urban water issues, now he’s learning more about ocean concerns. “That’s a whole new world for me,” he said.

He’s also found unexpected benefits on the communication side: “One really great thing is I’ve worked a lot on my writing, which I didn’t foresee initially. I’ve been getting my hands on a lot of reports, and that’s a huge change.”

Like many professionals these days, Naughton spends a good chunk of his days interacting with his colleagues on a screen. “I have a lot of video calls, whether it’s hopping on these technical working groups or having quick tag-ups with NOAA, NSF or whatever other agency it may be. A lot of it is expressing concerns; these agencies have their missions, and they want that vocalized in whatever federal, coordinated ocean science work is being done.”

Naughton is also gaining exposure to some NOAA-specific efforts, such as the Ambassadors Initiative, in which someone like a fellow or an administrator goes to present in a school or other setting. Naughton helps assemble collections of materials for the ambassador’s visit.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has put a damper on some of the travel, conference and professional development aspects of the Knauss Fellowship experience, Naughton is hopeful that some of those things will be possible towards the latter part of his one-year commitment.

In the meantime, he said, he’s found a supportive climate in his contacts with Wisconsin Sea Grant, the National Sea Grant Office and the other members of his Knauss class, who have been connecting virtually, whether to discuss each other’s research or simply have coffee.

Naughton is also enjoying the company of his roommate’s new puppy, a rescued Lab/beagle mix named Suki. While the pet adoption was in motion before the pandemic hit, it’s been a silver lining to be home with the new pup and help her get acclimated, or simply take a walk at lunchtime and get some fresh air.

Despite this highly unusual Knauss Fellowship year, Naughton and others in his cohort are making the most of it. Said Naughton, “The amount I’m able to touch in this fellowship is really great, and something I didn’t expect.” And despite the adjustments necessitated by the pandemic, said Naughton, “I’m definitely still fortunate to have this experience.” —JAS

## Underwater Photography

>> Continued from page 5

Outcomes in Under the Surface can be hard to measure because of the array of reasons why teens end up at the treatment center. Many have histories of anxiety, depression and trauma. Lafrancois said the ideal is to have the kids require a lower level of care than they needed before treatment.

The program has had many success stories and Lafrancois offered one. [Sadaf Nasir](#) is currently a college student at Marquette University, double majoring in biomedical sciences and psychology. “She directly associates underwater photography with locking in her treatment outcomes. She’ll tell you that being in the water saved her life,” Lafrancois said.

Nasir is planning to attend graduate school. Lafrancois said she wants to continue studying psychology to help measure outcomes from programs like Under the Surface.

Lafrancois also said many graduates of the Lakewolves program have gone on to serve Lake Superior in various ways, including working for the National Park Service in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. All of the founding members of the program have continued their education after high school.

Lafrancois and Karl are thankful for Sea Grant support, but Lafrancois said maintaining the program is a struggle. “It’s been an amazing journey – seeing the program become an institution. We plan on trying to keep it that way,” he said.

Under the Surface is also supported by Northwest Passage, Bayfield High School and the National Park Service. —MEZ

## Adapting the Delivery of Extension Services

Sea Grant outreach activities are far and away not the only events to be affected by the new coronavirus as public health officials have advised against in-person interaction.

Pre-pandemic, [Sea Grant’s specialists](#) would be fanned out across the state meeting with local officials, delivering presentations and consulting with businesses. Now, they are pivoting to new ways to serve stakeholders and connect with collaborators to meet coastal needs.

The staff has weekly meetings and the topic of how best to provide service while working remotely is always discussed given it’s unclear when past practices will again become possible.

They are also discussing whether past practices can be adapted, such as participating in small gatherings, perhaps one-on-one, and following now-familiar behaviors like distancing, wearing face masks and attuning to the emergence of any symptoms before and after a meeting. Activities like meeting with a marina operator in an outdoor setting or with a single volunteer working on controlling aquatic invasive species at the side of a stream would be undertaken with great care and with approval from university administrators.

In the meantime, specialists are offering virtual presentations to share know-how. Some archived examples include:

Water Quality Specialist Julia Noordyk said she has heard from numerous people that a presentation about the [history of Green Bay](#), actually recorded before the emergence of COVID-19, has been informative.

Fisheries Specialist Titus Seilheimer hosted a meeting of the [Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum](#).

Climate and Tourism Specialist Natalie Chin organized a meeting about [Lake Superior resiliency](#).







## Willison Wins

Wisconsin Sea Grant captured a global Circle of Excellence silver award for [Voices of the Coast, Mary Lou Schneider](#) in the category of video on a shoestring. Bonnie Willison, Sea Grant's digital media producer, filmed and edited the video.

The awards of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education annually showcase outstanding work in academia's advancement services, alumni relations, communications, fundraising and marketing and are open to professionals working at member colleges, universities, independent schools and their affiliated nonprofits around the world.



"I'm so glad I was able to highlight Mary Lou Schneider as part of the Voices of the Coast series," said Willison. "Voices of the Coast is built on connections that Wisconsin Sea Grant staff have made with stakeholders. Our education lead Anne Moser was able to introduce me to Mary Lou, and Mary Lou welcomed us into her colorful home for this video, which highlights Wisconsin's natural resources and an inspiring woman who has made her mark on a Wisconsin tradition."

The 86-year-old Schneider is a folk artist who carves wooden lake sturgeon decoys, as well as hunting and fishing. Her story acts as a microcosm for Great Lakes conservation stories.

The award competition attracted 2,752 entries from 587 institutions in 28 countries. Willison's silver award is one of 146 that was conferred in other categories like website design, writing and graphic design of publications.

The judges wrote, "A well-crafted, almost documentary-style video on a community adventurer with a quirky and colorful life story. The video does a fantastic job of serving as a portrait of a familiar community face, while also adding to the library of stories that support the University of Wisconsin's Sea Grant College Program. The narrative adds to the overarching commitment of science-based stewardship and serving the community." —MH

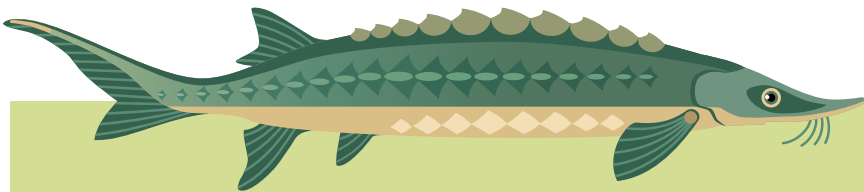




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## Aquatic Sciences Chronicle

a joint newsletter from UW Sea Grant and Water Resources Institutes

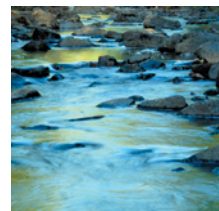


### Explore Lake Sturgeon

From the depths of the Great Lakes to the running waters of tributary rivers, lake sturgeon in Wisconsin are an impressive sight with a compelling backstory. They can live up to 150 years, grow to more than 6 feet and weigh hundreds of pounds. They are gentle giants who have been on the planet since the time of the dinosaurs. Sea Grant recently gathered [educational material](#) for lake sturgeon learn-at-home activities, including a new video. An accompanying worksheet is also new and is available in both English and Spanish.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### Check Online for Calendar Updates

Due to the disruption caused by the spread of coronavirus and public health guidelines to maintain social distancing, large public meetings focused on water science have been postponed or outright cancelled.

Check the websites of organizations you are interested in for updates regarding scheduling. For the latest on Sea Grant and University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute functions and other news, visit [seagrant.wisc.edu](http://seagrant.wisc.edu) or [wri.wisc.edu](http://wri.wisc.edu) or follow our social media channels.