WISCONSIN’S GREAT WATERS
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF GREAT WATERS
2021 I 2022 CALENDAR
Our climate is changing, with far-ranging consequences for our communities, natural resources and major economic sectors. We can respond in a variety of ways to influence how our changing climate will affect us and the natural and built environments we depend on. Our responses fall into two broad categories: mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation refers to the steps we take to slow down the rate of climate change through reductions of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, while adaptation refers to the ways we prepare for and react to changes in our climate to reduce the risks posed by those changes.

One type of mitigation strategy includes storing carbon in the environment so it cannot be released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas. Wisconsin launched an important mitigation strategy in 2021 with Governor Tony Evers signing an Executive Order pledging to conserve 125,000 acres and plant 75 million trees by 2030 as part of the U.S. Chapter of the Global Trillion Trees Initiative.

When fully realized, the state’s pledge will result in 28.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide stored over the next 50 years. That’s equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide produced by six million passenger vehicles for a year.

Forests are woven into the culture of Wisconsin where 17 million acres of forestland cover nearly half the state and are vital to our social, ecological and economic well-being. Forest products contribute $24.4 billion annually to Wisconsin’s economy. Forests also provide essential benefits like clean air and water, wildlife habitat and recreation.

Because forests are vital for human health as well as the ecological and economic well-being of both rural and urban communities, the pledge also includes planting a million trees in Wisconsin cities by 2030. Benefits of urban tree planting include improved public health, reduced city temperatures, reduced heating and cooling costs, reduced stormwater runoff, improved air quality, increased property values and other social, community, wildlife and economic co-benefits.

With this pledge, Wisconsin recognizes that healthy forests are a key nature-based solution to slow climate change—in addition to safeguarding water resources, providing wildlife habitat and supporting our economy. DNR will implement the pledge in partnership with public, private and non-governmental partners. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund helps preserve these valuable natural areas.

To learn more, see the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change. Also see the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, a collaborative helping people better understand climate change impacts and developing adaptation strategies to build our state’s resilience.
The Office of Great Waters is pleased to present our 13th annual calendar. We hope this calendar will be a daily reminder of how magnificent Wisconsin’s Great Waters are and how we all can help protect them. The calendar is a collection of photos from our 2021 photo contest, creative writings submitted by Wisconsin authors and descriptions of stewardship projects. As these photos and writings clearly show, the Great Lakes and Mississippi River are among Wisconsin’s most scenic and beloved natural resources.

Thank you to all 2021 photographers and authors for sharing your talent with us!

Visit the Office of Great Waters website to see more photos and writing submissions dnr.wi.gov (Search: Photo and Writing Submissions).

WISCONSIN’S GREAT WATERS 2022 PHOTO CONTEST

The DNR’s Office of Great Waters invites you to submit your best photos of the mighty Mississippi, Lake Michigan or Lake Superior for our 2022 photo contest. We’re looking for beautiful shorelines and river fronts, people enjoying the water, cultural and historical aspects of these waters, and people involved in stewardship activities. Photos of all seasons are needed!

Winning photos will be used in the 2022-2023 Wisconsin’s Great Waters calendar and in other DNR publications, presentations, websites and displays. Photo submission deadline is April 1, 2022.

Entry Categories:
1. People enjoying Wisconsin’s Great Waters – Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Images of the many ways people interact with our waters.
2. Historical and cultural features. Lighthouses, harbor towns and river towns, shipping, festivals, etc.
3. Natural features. Show us the awesome beauty of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River waters and shorelines in all seasons. Sunrises, sunsets, vistas, storms, waves, flowing waters and ice formations are examples in this category.
4. Wildlife. Images of the many species of wildlife that rely on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

Rules and instructions:
1. The contest is open to everyone. Photos must be submitted electronically.
2. Attach each photo (jpg format) to a separate email. In each email, please include the photo title, where in Wisconsin the photo was taken, the entry category, your name, email address, mailing address and phone number.
3. Photos must be high resolution (maximum file size 20 MB), horizontal in orientation, and taken in Wisconsin, with some exceptions for border areas. Photo editing is OK!

4. The Wisconsin DNR reserves the right to use an electronic or print copy of any image entered in the contest for non-commercial educational or promotional use with credit to the photographer. For example, photos may be used for DNR displays, slide shows, videos, publications and website.

Email photos and entry information to:
DNRGreatWatersPhotoContest@wisconsin.gov

Judging:
Photos will be judged by a panel of Wisconsin DNR staff. Criteria for judging will include creativity, visual and technical merit, and composition.

Awards:
Winning photographs will be included in the 2022-2023 Wisconsin’s Great Waters calendar and featured on the DNR website. Winning photographers will be contacted by mail or email and will receive the calendar by mail.

WISCONSIN’S GREAT WATERS 2022 WRITING PROJECT

Is your talent writing? Share your original short essays, stories or poems inspired by your connection to our waters. Or describe stewardship efforts to protect and restore healthy habitats for Lake Michigan, Lake Superior or the Mississippi River. Submissions should be approximately 200 words. Share your favorite writings with us and you may find your words in our calendar, website and publications! All authors will be credited. Deadline is April 1, 2022.

E-mail writings and entry information to:
DNRGreatWatersWritingProject@Wisconsin.gov
Great Lakes Provide Great Escapes
By ERIC ENGLUND

There’s a place I go to escape the City, where emails and phone calls are traded for the solitude of hemlock forests and waterfalls.

These inland seas beckon to me, as they have for countless generations. Where cliffs, dunes and beaches, are the places where nature quietly preaches.

The Ojibwe knew the power was here too, when they made their homes on these ancient shores. That energy can still be felt today, as it recharges each of us in some unique way.

Whether listening for the spritely call of the meadowlark, in the last remnant prairies, or enjoying the vineyards and orchards, where they grow the best apples and cherries.

There’s one thing upon which we can all agree, regardless if we live in the city or country. These great lakes provide great escapes.

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ABOVE: “Reflections” By MARK STRAUB Milwaukee Community Sailing Center

Background Photo by ROBERT GUSCHL
New Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated a new national marine sanctuary this summer along Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan coast for shipwrecks that played a vital role in our nation’s early history. The sanctuary includes a 962-square-mile area of Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan from Kewaunee County south to Ozaukee County to protect 36 historically significant shipwrecks, 21 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Well-preserved by Lake Michigan’s cold, fresh water, several of the known shipwrecks are essentially intact and look much like they did when they sank. The area also includes Wisconsin’s two oldest known shipwrecks, with the oldest dating back to 1833. Research suggests that up to 60 additional shipwrecks could be discovered in the sanctuary.

The historic shipwrecks represent the tenacity and entrepreneurial spirit of generations of Americans. Spanning the 1800s through the early 20th century, shipwrecks in the sanctuary represent diverse vessel types that played critical roles in evolving the Great Lakes from a maritime frontier into the nation’s busiest waterway and expanding our nation’s economy. During this period, workaday wooden schooners and innovative steel steamships moved more people, raw materials, agricultural and industrial products than ever before.

In partnership with local communities, the sanctuary designation expands on Wisconsin’s longstanding stewardship of these historic sites, bringing new opportunities for research, resource protection, educational programming, community engagement and economic development.

The sanctuary designation also provides a national stage to promote heritage tourism and recreation — ensuring public access to our most spectacular natural and cultural resources and elevating the status of our state as a premier coastal recreational destination. Learn more at: https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wisconsin/
### Point Beach in November
**By THOM SINGLETON**

It was a fall pilgrimage to a favorite spot on Lake Michigan. Temperature at 50, but still a bracing wind blew. Waves marched ashore like columns of soldiers to its command. Just a handful of people admired the wave-smoothed beach stones. Creeping juniper covered the dunes like a green blanket. We turned into the woods and walked the ridges between water-filled swales, ancient shorelines piled up by Lake Michigan’s forefather, Nipissing. Wind-blown leaves fell from the trees and showered us with gold. Beech trees with their knot-hole eyes winked at us walking by. We ate our picnic lunch, said a fond farewell to a beloved Lake, and headed home.

### A Lakeshore Hike at Hartman Creek State Park on a Warm November Day
**By THOM SINGLETON**

The far shore gleams in the morning sun, its trees reflected with perfection in the still water. In the distance, the tamarack, its foliage changed to gold by the Midas touch of fall, glows like a sunrise and seems to melt into the watery mirror of the lake. Sunlight shines on a nearshore pine, its branches low over the water, catching reflected ripples of light in the shadows. Tiny bufflehead ducks dive for food, then bob up, sunlight highlighting the stark contrast in white and black of their head and body. A flock of honking geese, no doubt taking a break from their southerly migration, land on the water, disturbing for a time its glassy surface. A cathedral of pines stands in praise for all that is good in the world.
The Night Shift
By PATRICIA WILLIAMS

A “vee” of Canada geese silhouetted against the moon, take leave — cross pastures, cities and no-stoplight towns — fly the night shift.

Maple and oak, birch and unsung sumacs transform overnight — an advent of red and gold — a hidden force works the night shift.

Bears and ground hogs hibernate the winter away, prairies and fields — soon pallid — sleep. No one on the night shift.

Out of Reach
By PATRICIA WILLIAMS

Shadows play in painted light that filters through the trees at sundown — bathes every living thing in the molten gold of a sunflower field — fades — gives way to hovering darkness.

The mirrored moon floats on water, — visible but untouchable — washed in the piercing pain of wanting something you can’t have.
Snow Lessons
By MARILYN ZELKE WINDAU

In silence, in the dark, snow is falling to the earth. In my state of Wisconsin, it will be four inches of white tonight, crystalline soft fluff.

The anticipation of flake touch on tongues will call early to expressive machines, loud in their rasping of cement.

Inside, paper is waiting. Scissors are silent, anticipating small hands.

Children cut out individuals. They know no two are alike. Windows will soon be adorned in beauty and pride.

Classes in Snow Rolling 101 utilize mittened hands to create heads and bodies, balled weapons against siblings, structural strength of forts to be lessons in play.

In Sheboygan, at Lake Michigan’s shore, water warmer than air accepts these gifts. Melting like white chocolate, snow frostings dissolve, await humans who dip annually, plunge joyfully to greet a new year.

Remember to submit your best Great Waters photos and writings! See information on the first pages of this calendar. Deadline is April 1, 2022
February 2022

By PATRICIA WILLIAMS
– from her collected poems, Midwest Medley, Kelsay Books, 2018.

A portly, gray, contortionist hangs upside down on the feeder, one hind leg extended in the air—pillages birdseed. His friends play chase, spiral up a pine, paws lug in all-wheel drive. Dark-eyed juncos, winter visitors, vacation here from farther north, vie with jays and doves for seed spillage.

Eighteen turkey roosters—a flock of jakes and toms—heads down, beards dragging, forage in the snow; scurry back and forth in dizzy disorder. The cat surveys the scene, mutters cat-talk to himself—an old man grousing about unruly children disturbing his late morning nap—

The groundhog says I have six more weeks to sit and watch, wait patiently for spring.

February

By CELINA BRAULT
Cave Point County Park, near Sturgeon Bay, WI

ABOVE: “New Beginnings” by CELINA BRAULT

aBoVe: “New Beginnings”

By CELINA BRAULT
cave Point county Park, near Sturgeon Bay, WI

Photo by LISA QUISTORF
### Spring is Magical

**By KAREN GERSONDE**

Spring is a magical time in Wisconsin. Life emerges from the deep sleep of winter.

With the last traces of snow on the ground, Early wildflowers start to push their Sleepy heads above the ground.

A welcoming sight, a sight to behold. Trout lilies, trilliums and wood violets All pop up to say, “Hello.”

Ice is waning on the frozen lakes. The waters open up and boats begin to venture out.

Fishermen are eager to get out and catch their “Prize.”

Animals can be seen on the shores, Lapping up water that is cold and clean, A refreshing drink for them.

People once again walk the shores. They are happy it is spring and anticipate The summer that is to come.

Seagulls soar above the waves, Looking for lunch, dinner or whatever they can find.

Spring in Wisconsin! There is nothing like it. Nothing can compare.
As Nostalgia Awakens the Senses
By KRISTINE KUCERA

The smelt are running! Those four words echo through the community and drive families and friends to the piers of Lake Michigan.

During the night together, side by side, the groups become friends united by the shared camaraderie of this annual ritual. Sometimes there is silence as the nets are lowered and raised. Sometimes there are cheers when the bounty is great.

With the rise of dawn, the smelters disappear one-by-one and the piers are once again empty — with no signs of the gathering to harvest the bounty offered up by our Great Waters. This annual shared community only comes together in the dead of night.

If I close my eyes, I can still hear the murmurs of the smelters and see the lights on the crowded pier. I can smell the cooking oil as the flour-dredged smelt are fried. I can almost taste the memories and feel the generational connection touch my soul.

Next year. Same time. Same place. Always.
### May 2022

#### A Tribute to Lake Michigan
**By LISA LEHMANN**

The lake!
Oh, beautiful Lake Michigan
An environment, a playground, a living, life
Sculpted by wind, wave and ice
H2O unsalted

The shore!
Still, serene, lapping
Rolling, rolling, roaring, morphing, changing
Surprising every day Mishigami
Great water, Great Lake

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#### Late Spring Camp, Peninsula State Park
**By THOM SINGLETON**

A garden of sapling cedar, beech, and birch.
A sprinkling of forget-me-nots and trilliums
Bursting with life resplendent in the spring rain.
Camped in this verdant wood, I imagine my reflection
In the glimmer-glass foliage, so gleaming the green.
At the water’s edge, the eternal lap of waves smoothing the seemingly solid stone,
While flight-weary vagabonds - egrets, pelicans, and mergansers - Alight for a time, take respite from their long migration North.
Door County Fish Boil
By REBECCA SEYMOUR

Twilight softly settles in as the sun emits its final golden glow before being swallowed by the western edges of the rolling landscape. A moment of magic as day blends blissfully into night. Swooping sea gulls give up the sky as twinkling fireflies dance over tables set in the sand for feasting.

A mesmerized hush focuses guests on the fire-licked caldron, suddenly overflowing frothy, briny water – a clarion call for imbibing the sweet whitefish taken from Lake Michigan’s depths.

Contented sighs and bursts of laughter waft through the heady summer air as a full moon finally slips free from the eastern horizon’s watery mooring.

Hearts content and bellies full, promises are made to gather again real soon for this sumptuous meal under the stars.

Juneteenth

Wisconsin’s Great Waters!
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources | Office of Great Waters
### Lake Michigan Morning

**By MICHAEL GAYNOR**

As we motor through the rocks opening to Lake Michigan, the Oak Creek Power Plant illuminates the lake. We throttle up to speed and head due east to 92 feet where we switch to the trolling motor.

Michigan is calm this morning, so we can both set lines allowing the boat to push along about 1.5 mph. Six lines in the water, I bump the trolling speed, hoping for the early morning bite. A flicker of light pops on the eastern horizon. We look at one another and smile. In our 70's, alive, healthy, and fishing on a magnificent body of water, we realize this is a special time on a special lake as two good friends enjoy each other's company and Michigan's ambiance. Then, it happens!

The dipsy rod starts thumping. “Fish on, buddy!” It takes teamwork to steer the boat, bring the fish in, net it and keep our lines straight. Ten minutes later, the lake rewards us with a beautiful chinook. Lines are back in the water, the sun is glowing spectacularly on the Lake Michigan horizon, and two old fishermen have another tale to tell. Hold on! Rod is thumping! “Fish on, buddy!”

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**365 Shades of Blue**

By PETER SWART

If you live on the Lake, you know that it’s true, each day on the Lake brings a new shade of Blue.

From day to day and dawn to dusk, the Blue shades shift and speak to us.

The aqua Blues and summer sun remind us that it’s time for fun.

The milky Blues with silky fog suggest a day to walk the dog.

The dark black Blues with angry waves demand a more respectful play.

And so it goes from day to day, the Blue shades shift, the Blue shades say, a different story every day.

The Lake is not a lifeless thing. It changes each day, from Summer through Spring.

It changes us too, if we stop and we listen. If we slow ourselves down, and we see what we’re missing.

We’ll see some new Blues and we’ll learn some new things. We’ll see the fresh dew and we’ll hear the gulls sing.

We’ll feel the cool breeze and we’ll find the Lake’s pace. We’ll love how it proves life just isn’t a race.

If you want to learn more, take a walk on the shore. Put your toes in the sand and a hand in your hand,

And enjoy the Lake views, enjoy all of its beaches, enjoy all of its Blues, and enjoy what it teaches.
Shoreline Therapy
By ELIZABETH SPROEHLICH

We come by the hundreds, we come all alone
We’re seeking some answers, some peace of our own

We briefly pass by for a breathtaking glance
We linger for hours and wish it could last

We cast off our burdens, our heartaches, our woes
We fill up our pant cuffs, our shoes, and our toes

We empty our souls as our spirits refill
We need help with healing, we seek some goodwill

We exhale the thoughts, that gave us our pain
We inhale new strength, and perspective is gained

We sit and reflect or we run, shout, and dive
Our shorelines and waters allow us to thrive

We leave with so much: comfort, clarity, hope
Yet feel so much lighter, we’re ready to cope
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**Lake Michigan Voices**

By **Marilyn Zelke Windau**

It’s the sound of a woman’s skirt ruffles slapping her knees as she sashays down a corridor.

It’s the sound of a huge bird, perhaps an eagle, whooshing cooled air, combating wind forces to take flight.

It’s the sound of doors opening on Black Friday at dawn—then the constant disruption of silence, the rush-echo of forward.

It’s the sound of soothe, the soft babbling of foam bubbles, stretching, reaching for shore, for sleep, for comfort, for home.

My lake has many voices, many spoken languages. It communicates eternally to those who listen.

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**Photo by**

*JON MATTRISCH*

*KRISTINE HINRICHS*

*WENDI HUFFMAN*
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**Winter Storm**

By **MARILYN ZELKE WINDAU**

I faced her fierceness from the shore. Seeking the horizon, I saw only fog and furor — no freighters. Lake Michigan this day was the lake of the past which took the Carl Bradley to its depths in 1958.

Far out, navy blue became murky brown as the lake bottom churned up and over, up and over, time and again.

Eight-foot waves crashed the rocky shore, pelting bullets of water, spewing “bb”s of ice.

Piers disappeared under rising waters. No seagulls in sight. No place to alight. Mallards sheltered, crouched beneath trees, shielded their bills in tail feathers. No floating out there today.

Allied with the northeast wind, Lake Michigan’s roar was deafening. I closed my eyes to listen intently to the pounding rhythm of her stormy symphony.
## Fuse

**By ED WERSTEIN**  
First published in *The Camel Saloon*

All’s quiet on the eastern front  
as a thin white cloud  
an open parenthesis  
curves up from the line  
separating the gray-blue sky  
from the blue-gray lake.

Gradually it begins to glow  
red-orange  
like a lit fuse.

Slowly the sun,  
like a programmed cherry bomb  
rising light by light  
from the bottom of a Times Square  
billboard,  
climbs out of the lake.

As it crowns into view  
the horizon explodes,  
flashes brilliant north to south, afire  
like a distant war zone  
only silently, and with hope.

## Milwaukee Lakefront

**By ED WERSTEIN**  
First published in *Verse-Virtual*

Beyond the Calatrava  
in the harbor  
the freighters there, they come and go  
ever mentioning Michelangelo

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### Calendar

**December 2022**

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**Wisconsin Great Lakes Restoration Strategy released in 2005**

**Great Lakes Compact Enacted in 2008**

**First Quarter Moon**

**New Quarter Moon**

**New Year’s Eve**

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*ABOVE: “Burnt Orange Sunrise”*  
By LINDA RAPPE  
Manitowoc, WI

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*WISCONSIN’S GREAT WATERS!*  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  |  Office of Great Waters
“The ultimate test of a man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”

GAYLORD NELSON
Former Wisconsin governor and co-founder of Earth Day

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