

## 1. #LIVEfromtheField: Lessons Learned about Virtual Programming

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**Partners:** Fox Demo Farms, Door-Kewaunee Demo Farms

**Geography:** Lower Fox and Door-Kewaunee

**Timeframe:** 2020 and beyond

**Funding Source(s):**

**Goal:** Adapting outreach strategies during the pandemic.

2020 forced us to move outside our comfort zone when it comes to implementing outreach. This talk will feature tips and tricks for transforming outreach into the virtual space and how to utilize social media to interact with your audience in real-time.

## 2. The East River Resiliency Collaborative: A Watershed Approach to Resilience Planning

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**Partners:** The Nature Conservancy, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering & NEW Water, the brand of the Green Bay Metro Sewerage District

**Geography:** East River Watershed

**Timeframe:** 07/2020-12/2021

**Funding Source(s):** Wisconsin Coastal Management Program & Fund for Lake Michigan

**Goal:** Support knowledge sharing and collaboration to overcome flooding and water quality challenges in the East River Watershed through development of the East River Resiliency Collaborative and the Flood Risk Modeling Study.

The East River Resiliency Collaborative (ERRC) is a grant-funded initiative intended to build strong local partnerships through outreach and knowledge sharing, while also identifying resource and information gaps in the watershed. We will share preliminary findings from our review of stakeholder interviews regarding these shortfalls and discuss how these findings will inform future directions of the project, with a primary focus of helping communities in the East River Watershed realize a more unified and coordinated strategy for resilience planning.

### **3. Involving Classrooms in Environmental Stewardship**

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**Partners:** NEW Water

**Geography:** Lower Fox River Watershed

**Timeframe:** 2003-present

**Funding Source(s):** Various

**Goal:** The goal of the Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program is to improve student, teacher, and community understanding of how land use impacts our watershed and take an active role in environmental stewardship.

We are a network of teachers and students from eight area high schools, and we've monitored seven environmentally impaired streams in the Fox River watershed for water quality and ecological health since 2003. Last year we piloted growing wild rice in the classroom to help restoration efforts along the Green Bay shoreline. This year we have expanded the number of school teams growing wild rice in the classroom to verify our procedure and involve more students in local watershed stewardship.

### **4. Brown Road Pike Spawning Marsh Habitat Creation**

David Wetenkamp, Brown County Land & Water Conservation Department  
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**Partners:** USFWS, Ducks Unlimited, WDNR, Don & Patricia Zeller & Brown County LWCD

**Geography:** Brown Road Ditch, Bay of Green Bay Tributary

**Timeframe:** 2018-2020

**Funding Source(s):** NRDA & Ducks Unlimited

**Goal:** Restoration, creation and enhancement of Northern Pike Spawning Habitat

Brown and Oconto Counties, along with associated landowners and other partners, have worked to seek out and restore, create, and enhance wetlands and stream corridors for Northern Pike spawning habitat. This talk will focus on habitat improvements completed at the intersection of Brown and Bayside Roads on the Brown- Oconto county line.

## 5. Cover Cropping with Indigenous Corn

Lea Zeise, Ohe.láku

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**Partners:** Oneida Nation, Outagamie County, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

**Geography:** Oneida Reservation

**Timeframe:** 3/2018 - 3/2022

**Funding Source(s):** Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

**Goal:** Regenerate soil health and Oneida agri-culture with cover crops.

Ohe.láku is a Oneida cooperative that grows ancestral varieties of corn, beans, and squash. Recently, we have started experimenting with cover crops to regenerate soil and enhance climate resiliency. Along the way we've learned that we may be re-envisioning ancestral approaches to soil health too.

## 6. Managing botulism outbreaks at the Cat Island Chain

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**Partners:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and others

**Geography:** Cat Island, lower Green Bay

**Timeframe:** 2021 and beyond

**Funding Source(s):** GLRI, Fox River/Green Bay NRDA, and others

**Goal:** The goal of this project is to prevent the mortality of at-risk avian species from botulism exposure.

In 2020, a botulism type C outbreak at Cat Island affected at least 300 birds across several species, including piping plovers. Botulism spores are now present in sediments, making future outbreaks likely. To manage outbreaks and reduce the mortality of at-risk species, the Service will develop a Botulism Risk Assessment and Management Plan that will evaluate overall threats from botulism, prescribe appropriate site management actions, and provide a method to measure or assess short and long-term success of management actions.

## 7. MacDonald Creek, Oconto County: How Partnerships are Reconnecting a Class 1 Trout Stream

Chris Collier, Trout Unlimited  
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**Partners:** US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin DNR, and the Town of Brazeau

**Geography:** Oconto County

**Timeframe:** 2019 - continuing

**Funding Source(s):** Private Foundations, National Fish Passage Program, Trout and Salmon Foundation, Wisconsin Trout Stamp Program, local road funding

**Goal:** To reconnect over 3 miles of class 1 trout stream by replacing a perched and undersized road-stream crossing.

The Wisconsin DNR identified a perched culvert that created an aquatic organism passage (AOP) barrier to the upper 3 miles of McDonald Creek in Oconto County, using the Great Lakes Road Stream Crossing Inventory Method. Trout Unlimited, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Town of Brazeau then partnered with the DNR to complete survey work, select a new crossing design, and are now working to implement that design by acquiring funding for construction. This presentation will explore how this complex project is being made possible through the combined resources brought together by our diverse local, state, federal, and non-profit partnership.

## 8. Using Remote Sensed Satellite Data to Examine Trends in Agricultural Land Management

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**Partners:** Brown County Land & Water Conservation, Outagamie County Land Conservation, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, WI Dept of Natural Resources

**Geography:** Lower Fox River Basin, other basins state-wide

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Funding Source(s):**

**Goal:** An efficient way to survey trends in agricultural cropland management on a watershed scale to monitor the influence of conservation and water quality programs.

We're using Normalized Difference Tillage Index (NDTI) derived from satellite data to efficiently survey large areas of cropland. NDTI can give us watershed-scale information about cropland management such as: tillage practices, cover cropping, and residue cover that can help conservation professionals measure the impacts of programs and help target future efforts.

## 9. Lower Fox River Water Quality Management Plan

Katie Woodrow, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

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**Leader:** Project led cooperatively by Jessica Schultz and Katie Woodrow at Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, Todd Brennan at Alliance for the Great Lakes, and Rebecca Fedak and Brie Kupsy at Wisconsin DNR – Office of Great Waters

**Partners:** Project is possible by work of all partners in the watershed including Outagamie, Calumet, and Brown County, Oneida Nation, WDNR, UWGB, USGS, UW-Extension, NEW Water, municipal MS4s, The Nature Conservancy, UW Sea Grant, and invested conservation individuals and non-profits.

**Geography:** Lower Fox River Watershed

**Timeframe:** Kickoff 11/2020; Plan finalized early 2022

**Funding Source(s):** WDNR, Fund for Lake Michigan, Alliance for the Great Lakes

**Goal:** Develop a cooperative, Basin-wide plan to address water quality goals with the entire watershed in mind, working together to maximize our current efforts and address shortfalls and challenges through future planning.

The LFR Water Quality Management Plan will build upon the great work already being done in the watershed by engaging all invested stakeholders to determine how to take us from what needs to be done to how we can make it happen. Under the direction of a steering committee, workgroups are working to standardize the monitoring and reporting program, document a comprehensive implementation plan, create a framework to track and communicate success and challenges, and address a funding strategy and policy recommendations. Each workgroup is comprised of conservation professionals actively engaged in the watershed, leveraging their knowledge for the improvement of the entire area.

## 10. Important Bird Area Assessment in Northeast Wisconsin

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**Partners:** Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership (WBCP) is a partnership of more than 175 organizations around the state.

**Geography:** Northeast Wisconsin

**Timeframe:** 1/2020-4/2021

**Funding Source(s):** Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership (WBCP)

**Goal:** To assess the potential for bird conservation in the 93 existing Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Wisconsin and provide guidance for delivering strategic targeted bird conservation to IBAs.

A decision support tool was constructed to evaluate and assess the 93 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of Wisconsin. Social, spatial, and species factors were analyzed for each IBA and the results of the decision support tool provide guidance for land managers, partnerships, and other stakeholders to consider when implementing bird conservation in or near IBAs. Although this was a statewide project, this presentation will focus on results applicable to northeast Wisconsin.