

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Volunteer Interviews 2015

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Ken Fiske, Adelaide Lake, Vilas County

Ken has been a volunteer since 1984.

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

I have been lucky on this body of water and have not seen much of a change since I have started monitoring.

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

A few more home have sprung up on the lake shore but surprisingly it has stayed very much the same.

How do you use the data that you collect?

I put together an annual report for swims, and now share the findings with the newly developed lake association.

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

The continued nesting of loons year after year, along with the development of a lake association.

What are some of the disappointments that you have seen in the last 20 years?

The lack of interest in the water quality from those that live on the lake and those that enjoy it every summer.

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

The simple fact that I have made it to 90 years of age and have people that help me out when needed.

Jim Merkowitz, High Lake, Vilas County

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

I have seen a change in the amount of aquatic vegetation in recent years with the introduction of invasive species.

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

A heavy increase of vegetation both submerged and floating. There has also been an increase in the amount of boat traffic on the lake.

How do you use the data that you collect?

I like to keep my own personal records as well as review the annual finding with the lake association. I also generate an annual report that is entered into the swims data base.

Why did you decide to monitor water clarity?

I have a natural interest in water quality and was, at the time monitoring in the southern part of the state, so it just seem natural to do it up here as well.

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

The formation of a lake association and the increase of a more in depth concern for the lake and the quality of the water by the people that enjoy the resource.

What are some of the disappointments you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

There has been a large increase of boating traffic on the water along with the lack of respect of the resource.

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

I just have an interest in the water. It is not very difficult to do the sampling and what it to be continued.

Dave Opsteen, Rose Lake, Langlade County

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

I have seen many changes in both the quality of the water and the increase and decrease of vegetation during my time as a volunteer.

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

When the rusty crayfish first appeared in the lake there was a lot of vegetation. Then in a couple of years there was almost nothing in the way of vegetation but the small mouth bass populations went through the roof. Now in the last couple of years there is once again starting to be more vegetation in the lake.

How do you use the data that you collect?

I share the data I collect with the lake association as well and an annual report that is created for swims.

Why did you decide to monitor water clarity?

Well, to be honest, 25 years ago they needed someone to do it and that someone turned out to be me.

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

Rose Lake is a no wake lake, it is very quiet and the preservation of the surrounding area has been great. The fact that the area hasn't change all that much and the preservation of the area is a wonderful highlight.

What are some of the disappointments you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

The invasive species that have entered the system. To have almost all the vegetation in a lake disappears due to a little crayfish.

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

It is in my nature to help out; it doesn't take much time and is not all that difficult. I feel that it is also a very important thing to do.

Patrick Perkins, Bass Lake, Washburn County

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

We are very fortunate that the lake has remained very much the same as it was in 1962.

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

I have seen very few changes on the lake during the last 20 years. We have some water level fluxes but aside from that not much for change.

How do you use the data that you collect?

I generate a report that is entered into the swims database and I also just enjoy collecting the data for my own curiosity.

Why did you decide to monitor water clarity?

My career with the WDNR was with water sampling and I guess that my curiosity just keeps me doing it.

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

One of the biggest highlights to me is that through all this time, things haven't changed much at all. Vegetation and water quality have been really consistent.

What are some of the disappointments you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

The development of the lake is disappointing, through the years more and more places were built taking away from the natural shoreline.

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

The interest in the water, my family and I are vested in the area, so it is very important to take care of it.