

# Currents

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## **FWWA Hosts 'Women Caring for the Land' Event in September**

Nearly half of the farmland in Wisconsin is currently owned or co-owned by women. Surveys show women are more likely to value land conservation even though they are often marginalized in decision-making processes about land use. This program, facilitated by the Women, Land and Agriculture Network, aims to build networks of women landowners.

At the workshop the women discussed their agriculture history, participated in soil testing demonstrations, and visited a farm that is currently owned and operated by women. While at the farm the women measured soil compaction and learned strategies that keep the soil healthy year-round, such as cover-crops and no-till tactics. With an all-female atmosphere the women felt more comfortable sharing their own story and land legacies. Everyone who attended the workshop left with a better

*"It makes me feel stronger to know that there are other strong women out there"*

—Brenda Fritsch, Event Attendee



**Brenda Fritsch uses a soil penetrometer during the field trip.**

PHOTO: RORY LINNANE  
APPLETON-POST CRESCENT

understanding of soil health and conservation.



# Who We Are

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Program Coordinator

*Working together  
to restore and sustain  
the water resources  
in Wisconsin's  
Fox-Wolf River Basin*

# Greetings!

Welcome to the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance—a leader building partnerships and inspiring people to take action to restore and protect the lands, rivers and streams of the Fox-Wolf River Basin. We are in schools and at local events empowering residents of all ages to make their choices count. We are promoting cost effective solutions and providing opportunities for decision makers and practitioners to learn from each other and experts in the field. We are bringing resources into the region, working with partners and making changes on the landscape that improve our waters. Everyone has an important role in restoring our waters. The success of our important work depends on the generous support of our members and donors. We hope you will support us and our mission. How?

**Join us!** If you have not signed up online to become a member, sign up now to ensure you continue to receive our newsletters by mail or email. Visit [www.fwwa.org](http://www.fwwa.org).

**Donate!** The funds we raise from private donations go right back into the work we are doing in communities across the watershed.

**Volunteer!** There are lots of ways to get involved - check out our website for current volunteer opportunities.

Northeast Wisconsin has been truly blessed by abundant water resources. Why is clean water important to you? Maybe swimming and paddling in the river or the Bay, fishing with your children or grandchildren, walking along an urban Riverwalk or following a stream in a forest, breathing in the fresh air. The work of the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance is focused on bringing about the quality of life that is dependent upon clean water and a healthy watershed. We still have much to do to protect and restore our Fox-Wolf watershed for the enjoyment of generations to come. I hope you can help.

Together, we will get the job done!



Jessica Schultz, Executive Director

# Highlights of 2015

## School Presentations

We provided discussion & hands-on activities teaching more than 1,000 students in grades K-12 about runoff and their impact on water quality! Free presentations are offered to all NEWSC community schools throughout northeastern Wisconsin.



## Annual Watershed Cleanup

The 2015 cleanup featured 34 cleanup locations and more than 450 volunteers. The event is held every year in April and works to collaborate with other groups and cleanup efforts.



## Watershed Recovery

Working with partners in the watershed to develop and begin implementation of a watershed based strategy for improving water quality. In 2015, we secured over \$4 million in grant funding for conservation and research in the Plum and Kankapot watersheds. Photo credit: Steve Seilo

## Annual Watershed Conference

This year's conference brought together 166 practitioners and leaders in the field to learn about watershed management, innovative stormwater practices, and current regulations.



## Rain Barrel Workshops

Working with area municipalities and other non-profits, FWWA conducted three build-your-own rain barrel workshops throughout the watershed. Participants were enthusiastic about reducing stormwater runoff on their properties



## Exhibiting

Partnering with NEWSC, we exhibited at festivals, markets, and local events across NE Wisconsin empowering residents to Renew Our Waters with simple changes they can make at home.



## Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium

A subsidiary of FWWA, NEWSC has witnessed growth this year in memberships and in educational activities. We also offered several trainings for professionals aimed at protecting our waters on the job.



# The Fox - Wolf River Basin



basin (bā·sin)  
noun

1. a topographic region in which all water drains to a common area. In the map below, all rainfall or snowmelt that falls within the purple boundary drains to either the Wolf River or Fox River and then to the Bay of Green Bay. This region is called the Fox - Wolf River Basin.
2. a wide, round open container, especially one used for holding liquid.



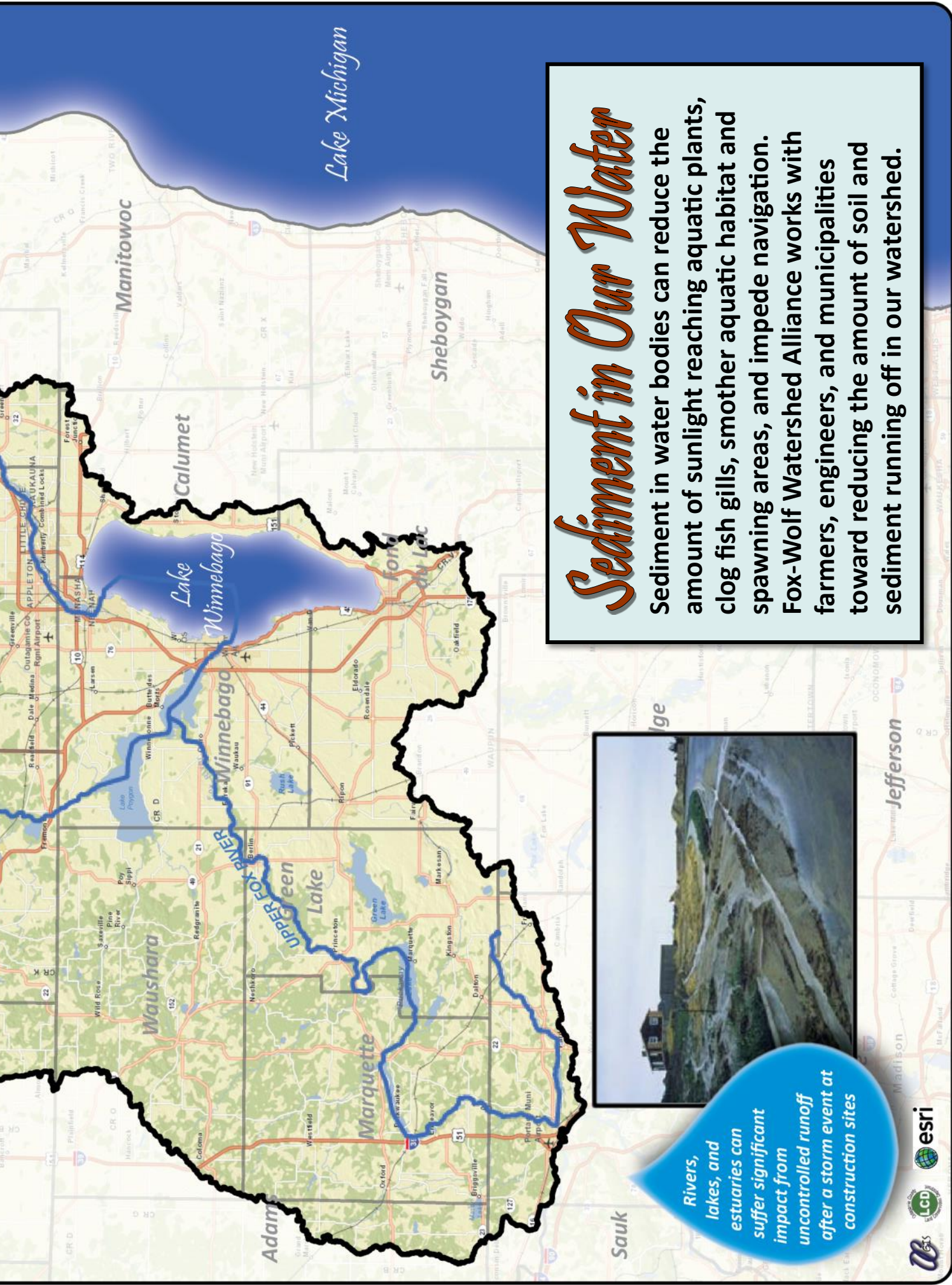
Wind, rainfall, or snowmelt on bare fields without residue or a cover crop causes both visible and non-visible erosion that results in tons of topsoil being lost per acre annually.



Photo Credit: Steve Sello

This photo shows where the Fox River flows into the Bay of Green Bay after a rain event. The Fox River is colored brown by soil that has eroded from farmland, stream banks, and construction sites.





***Sediment in Our Water***

Sediment in water bodies can reduce the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants, clog fish gills, smother aquatic habitat and spawning areas, and impede navigation. Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance works with farmers, engineers, and municipalities toward reducing the amount of soil and sediment running off in our watershed.

**Rivers, lakes, and estuaries can suffer significant impact from uncontrolled runoff after a storm event at construction sites**



# Get Involved!

## Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup

The 2015 Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup was a huge success! Volunteers started their morning by going to one of four rally locations—in Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac—where they were given t-shirts, supplies, and instructions. Rally leaders also provided information about the Fox-Wolf Basin and things that we can do at home to help reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. In total, 302 bags of trash, 166 chunks of Styrofoam, six tires, one bicycle, one 5-gallon bucket, and a 55-gallon drum was removed from our watershed! Other strange items removed include a message in a bottle, a shopping cart, a couch, a 15-foot tarp, and

several televisions. Cleanup volunteers put in a lot of effort and really made a difference in the area to help clean up our waterways. This year we coordinated our efforts alongside other groups including the Neenah High School Fishing Team, Graymont employees, Friends of High Cliff, Annual Fondy Cleanup group, UW-Oshkosh Wildlife Conservation Club, the Butte des Morts Conservation Club, and more! Following the Cleanup, all volunteers were invited to FWWA headquarters along the Fox River for the River Celebration. The Celebration included music, games, educational exhibits, a photo booth, bounce house, free raffles and prizes, and a pizza lunch donated by Stevi B's Pizza. For 2016, we will be expanding further into the watershed along the

**Jakob Haar worked hard cleaning up the Wiouwash Trail in Oshkosh**

## 2015 River Guardians



**Time Warner Cable®**



Time Warner Cable sponsored the 2015 Cleanup as a River Guardian and also coordinated a Time Warner Cable team of approximately 50 volunteers who worked together to clean up Telulah Park

The City of Appleton is a strong supporter of many sustainability projects & works with FWWA on several initiatives every year



Wolf River and increasing the number of cleanup sites and volunteers. Please join us for our 4th annual event on Saturday, April 30, 2016!



AUDREY HAAR

## Make Smart Choices this Winter

### Shovel Often & Early

Shoveling often during and immediately following the storm removes the snow from walkways and driveways before it gets packed down by tires and feet. The most important part of deicing is removing as much snow as possible before applying salt or sand. It's also great exercise!



### Make the Most of the Salt you Use

It is not always necessary to see bare pavement to have a safe winter surface. Ask yourself if it is necessary that the snow or ice be removed. For salt to be effective, air temperature needs to be warmer than the surface temperature of the area you want to treat. A



**Renew Our Waters** Every Choice Counts

Make a  
**S**UPPORT  
**P**ROGRAMS  
**L**EARNING &  
**A**WARENESS OF  
**S**TREAM  
**H**EALTH

Your support allows us to strengthen our efforts through educational presentations, projects, and initiatives in our



Visit us online at [www.FWWA.org](http://www.FWWA.org)

Become a supporting member of Fox-Wolf Watershed



Spotlight on...



Genevieve Vander Velden

Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Program Coordinator

Q: When did you start working for Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and the Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium?

A: I was hired by FWWA and NEWSC in July of 2015.

Q: What were you doing before you started with FWWA & NEWSC?

A: I graduated from St. Norbert College with a Bachelor of Science in Geology in May. Upon graduation, I spent four weeks in Colorado and New Mexico mapping geologic features for a capstone class to complete my degree.

Q: What do you like the most about working for the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance?

A: The best part about working for Fox-Wolf is knowing that I am able to make a difference in the local water quality. Until I started, I didn't realize how passionate I was about stormwater. Changing the choices you make every day, even very small choices, can make a difference. In addition, I love working with and getting to know a variety of professionals—from industry to municipalities.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I really enjoy hiking with my dog, especially at High Cliff State Park, where I am able to enjoy the local water resources of the Fox-Wolf Basin. I spend a lot of my free time traveling and planning my next vacation.

Watershed Celebration

Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
 Oshkosh Convention Center



Hors d'oeuvres Reception/Silent Auction — 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Watershed Hero, Impact Award Presentations — 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Dinner — 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Photographic Journey of the Watershed, Presentation by Andrew Sabai  
 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us!

Register online: [www.fwwa.org](http://www.fwwa.org)

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Finding cost-effective  
measures to protect  
& restore our  
water resources