Dave Blumer
Lake Educator/Scientist

Over 20 years of experience in lake and invasive species education, management planning, and implementation through County Government, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc., and Lake Education and Planning Services, LLC.

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education – University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Master of Science in Water Resource Sciences – University of Minnesota-St. Paul

"Watershed Game" Facilitator – Northland-NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials)

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network - Aquatic Invasive Species and Water Quality Trainer
WDNR/UW Extension

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Trainer
WDNR/UW Extension

Certified Shoreland Best Management Practices Coordinator – UW-Extension Lakes Program

Certified International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Facilitator

Lake Education and Planning Services, LLC (LEAPS)
221B 2nd Street
Chetek, WI 54728

For More Information or to Discuss a Project

Call or Email:
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Areas of Interest

Water Quality, Aquatic Invasive Species, Lake Ecology, Watershed Management, Nearshore Management, Native Aquatic Plants and Algae, Best Management Practices (nearshore, shoreline, and agricultural), Shoreland Improvement Planning and Implementation, Fishsticks, Aquatic Plant Management (harvesting, herbicides, physical removal, biological control), Watercraft Inspection (Clean Boats, Clean Waters), AIS Monitoring, Education, Information, and Training

LEAPS
Lake Education and Planning Services

Dave Blumer, Owner

LEAPS works with lake organizations and others providing services in the following areas:

Aquatic Plant & Invasive Species Management Planning & Implementation

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Biological Control Programs

Comprehensive Lake Management Planning & Implementation

Aquatic Invasive Species & Native Aquatic Plant Identification & AIS Surveying

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Surface Water & Other Grant Preparation

Lake, Watershed, & Invasive Species Education for Lake Organizations, Camps, Schools, Community Groups, Universities, and Others

Aquatic Plant & Invasive Species Management Planning & Implementation

Non-native aquatic invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), purple loosestrife, and others can negatively impact a lake and/or its shoreline. Native aquatic vegetation is generally desirable in a lake, but too much can cause its own set of issues. LEAPS works with lake organizations to determine when there are issues with aquatic plants, either native or non-native. If it is determined that management is needed, LEAPS will help with planning and implementation following current and approved methods supported by the WDNR. LEAPS develops lake-specific Aquatic Plant Management Plans, assists in navigating the permits and regulations required to manage aquatic plants, and helps guide implementation. Whether a "stand alone" plan, or developed as a part of a larger lake management plan, LEAPS can do it.

Aquatic Invasive Species & Native Aquatic Plant Identification & AIS Surveying

Much emphasis is put on lake property owners and lake users being able to monitor the lakes they use for aquatic invasive species. To do this requires the confidence and ability to distinguish the good plants from the bad. Whether the lake in question already has an AIS that needs to be monitored, or if it is a lake without AIS, LEAPS will provide "on-the-water" and/or "in-the-classroom" training to identify non-native, invasive aquatic plants and their native look-a-likes. Aquatic plants are vital to a healthy lake. Let LEAPS help you identify them, or hire LEAPS to survey for you.

AIS Biological Control Programs

Biological control is a simple concept - use live critters to control something that is not wanted. While simple in concept, it is not simple in implementation. Currently there are biological controls for purple loosestrife and EWM, both using insects proven not to cause their own undesirable issues. LEAPS can guide your group in setting up rearing programs that will help add another tool for control to the toolbox.

The goal of LEAPS is to facilitate all aspects of lake and aquatic plant management including identifying/defining the problem; providing education, information, and planning to come up with actions that address the problem; and implementing those actions in an efficient and cost-effective way to solve the problem. To accomplish this goal, a *rainbow* of services is provided. It is difficult to list all LEAPS does, so call and ask if you don't see what you need.

WDNR Surface Water Grant Preparation

LEAPS specializes in writing WDNR Surface Water Grants. Dave has been preparing grants since 2008, and during that time, has written more than 100 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Lake Management Planning (LPL), and Lake Protection (LPT) grants. His success ratio, at over 85%, has resulted in more than $2,200,000 in grants awarded to clients. Grant cycles for the WDNR are currently December and February.

Comprehensive Lake Management Planning & Implementation

Beauty, Serenity, Fishing, Swimming, Boating…this is what Wisconsin lakes are famous for. However changing land use, increasing recreational use, and growing populations near and along waterways may cause lakes to suffer cumulative impacts that should not be ignored. Comprehensive lake management planning can help protect, maintain, and/or improve the water quality of a lake and the fish, vegetation, and wildlife therein. LEAPS works with lakeshore owners and others to identify concerns that people feel need to be addressed; to set realistic goals, objectives and actions for management; and to make implementation happen. LEAPS has experience working with municipalities, town and county governments, agricultural resources, and many different natural resource professionals and will help guide the process of protecting your lake from start to finish.

Lake, Watershed, & Invasive Species Education

Education is a specialty of Dave's. Learning about lakes and what makes them function is important to understanding management. He connects on many levels with the individuals (young or old) and groups he works with giving them a unique perspective on how what is done impacts a lake. Complicated issues become easy to understand and confusing jargon is translated into layman terms. He is knowledgeable in a wide variety of water, watershed, and AIS topics, and willing to share that knowledge with others in small and large group settings, and with individual and group hands-on activities. He is enthusiastic and fun to listen too!