Contact one of the following local partners to learn more about getting involved in the Wisconsin Ephemeral Pond Project.

- **Friends of Cedarburg Bog**, Joanne Kline; info@bogfriends.org; (414) 263-8756
- **Mequon Nature Preserve**, Kristin Gies; kgies@owlt.org; (262) 242-8055
- **Milwaukee County Parks**, Brian Russart; brian.russart@milwcnty.com; (414) 257-6521
- **Milwaukee County Zoo**, Craig Berg; craig.berg@milwcnty.com; (414) 771-3040 Ext. 456
- **Ozaukee Washington Land Trust**, Maggie Tarasewicz; maggiet@owlt.org; (262) 623-1786
- **Pringle Nature Center**, Valerie Mann, naturalist@pringlenc.org; (262) 857-8008
- **Riveredge Nature Center**, Marc White; mwhite@riveredge.us; (800) 287-8098
- **Schlitz Audubon Nature Center**, Jim Hyatt, jhyatt@sanc.org; (414) 352-2880
- **Sheboygan River Basin Partnership**, Stacy Hron, shron@startwithmiller.com; (920) 458-6164
- **Urban Ecology Center**, Joey Zocher; jzocher@urbaneologycenter.org; (414) 344-5460
- **Wehr Nature Center**, Mark Verhagen; Mark.verhagen@ces.uwex.edu;

For more information visit the WEPP website:
http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level3/WEPP/ (March 2010)
Visiting a PEP can be a lot of fun!
After attending a training session you will be asked to monitor several sites. Visiting the site at least once per month from snowmelt until fall you will gather simple but critical data, such as water depth, temperature and other physical data that will be used to determine whether the PEP can be considered a “Verified Ephemeral Pond.”

How do I get involved?

1) Choose one of the organizations on the next page as your local Partner and contact them to learn more about how to receive training; or

2) Find a volunteer team (through your local partner) that has received the training and learn by doing!

3) If you aren’t sure which Partner is best suited for you, contact Mary Holleback at 800-287-8098 or email her at: maryh@riveredge.us.

What is WEPP?
The Wisconsin Ephemeral Pond Project (WEPP) was initiated in 2006 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). WEPP’s main objectives are to improve methods for mapping ephemeral ponds and to inventory mapped ephemeral ponds in Wisconsin to increase understanding of their ecological importance and to support their conservation.

Long-term goals of WEPP are the protection and conservation of ephemeral ponds.

What is an Ephemeral Pond?
Ephemeral ponds are so named because they don’t hold water year-round. They are intermittent, appearing in spring as the snow melts, and typically drying up by late summer or early fall. The cycle repeats the next year. Because of this wet-dry cycle, they ordinarily do not support fish populations but are excellent habitat for amphibians. Without fish predation, eggs laid by frogs, salamanders and other amphibians are more likely to hatch and young are more likely to survive to adulthood. As a result ephemeral ponds surrounded by natural habitat are very important to amphibian conservation.

What is involved in citizen monitoring?
Mapping experts interpret aerial photographs, soils and topographic maps to identify potential ephemeral ponds (PEPs). The PEPs are then adopted by citizens to monitor during the spring, summer and fall. The goal of monitoring is to determine whether or not the PEP is ephemeral or even a pond at all. Data are submitted to the WDNR. The results provide valuable feedback that can help improve methods to verify existence and location of ephemeral ponds. The data can also provide a baseline to which future monitoring results can be compared to learn about trends in these important ecosystems.

Ephemeral or not?

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Ephemeral or not?

Ephemeral Pond in Autumn

Citizen Monitor, Cherie Hagen, finds fairy shrimp—an ephemeral pond indicator.