

# uwsp news release

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## **UWSP's Extension's Turyk honored for statewide stream monitoring effort**

Nancy Turyk, a water resource scientist at the Center for Watershed Science and Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), has recently been honored with the University of Wisconsin Extension's 2006 Wisconsin Volunteer Stream Monitoring Award in the employee category. Turyk will receive her plaque and certificate of appreciation at the River Alliance of Wisconsin's spring confluence on Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day), at the Overture Center in Madison.

Turyk has long believed in local oversight and monitoring of Wisconsin's precious water resources. "All of us who work at the center lend our water quality and monitoring expertise to many watershed or lake association groups throughout Wisconsin," says Turyk. "Stream monitoring by local citizens is even more critical today as state resources and personnel continue to decline at Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources. Local citizens taking stock of their own backyard river and working toward greater watershed management consensus and protections will in the long run be critical to protecting water quality."

One example of Turyk's work is her assistance to the Friends of the Branch River in Brown and Manitowoc Counties. Volunteers from this group were initially trained in using the state's Water Action Volunteers monitoring program. While working together on a larger study of the watershed, the volunteers were trained in more advanced water quality monitoring. The advanced monitoring data on this and other watersheds will help to assess the current water quality conditions of our rivers, help identify any areas that may exhibit poor water quality, and over time can provide a long-term picture of water quality during a variety of climatic conditions.