



## USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

### Great Lakes Regional Water Program

The Great Lakes Regional Water Program is a six-year partnership between the CSREES National Water Program and the University of Illinois, Purdue University, Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota, the Ohio State University, and the University of Wisconsin. The Program strives to increase the impact of water research, campus-based education, and outreach programs initiated by the land grant universities and our federal, state, and local partners. In pursuit of this goal, we 1) provide regional coordination and prioritization of water research, education, and extension efforts across the six-state region, 2) build continuing education and professional development programs that address water issues, and 3) serve as an entry point for federal and state agencies, tribal communities, commodity organizations, and other non-government organizations to access land grant university expertise and resources for to solve water quality and quantity problems. Highlighted Impacts: View From the Lake - Through the University of Wisconsin and Minnesota Extensions and Wisconsin and Minnesota Sea Grants and other partners, nearly 1000 individuals (~ 16% local officials) received training on the causes and effects of nonpoint source pollution on Lake Superior and its tributaries over a two-year period. Over 90% of the elected officials said the information would help them make changes in their communities, and 43% of the 75 return participants reported that they had taken some kind of action in their communities. Can You Build A Bridge Out of Rice? We think so – and so did over 100 other people who attended the “Manoomin Niikaanisag Wild Rice Coalition Building and Conference”. This Environmental Restoration Theme topic brought together researchers, resources managers, extension educators and tribal communities and land grant institutions to share knowledge and build networks to address wild rice, and important water-dependent resource. Over 80% of participants learned a significant to a great amount on the cultural values of wild rice, wild rice ecology and management, wild rice harvesting and processing, and sources for information on wild rice. The conference steering committee gathered information on the types information attendees would like to learn more about and the formats through which they would like to receive that information. This project had many partners including federal and state agencies, universities, and tribal communities in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

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