

ROBERT J. KIRSCHNER

EDUCATION

- University of Illinois; Bachelors of Sciences Degree with Honors, 1978
Liberal Arts and Sciences/Aquatic Biology with advanced course work toward graduate degree

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Chicago Botanic Garden; 1999 - present
Woman's Board Endowed Curator of Aquatic Plant & Urban Lake Studies and Director of Restoration Ecology
Responsible for managing the Chicago Botanic Garden's Aquatics Program which includes water quality and aquatic habitat enhancement for the Garden's 60 acres of lakes; shoreline restoration for nearly six miles of lakeshore; creation of a preeminent collection of aquatic plants; and establishment of research, instruction and demonstration programs relating to lake management and aquatic plants for both professional audiences and the general public. Also responsible for oversight of environmental restoration and research in the Garden's three other natural areas (oak woodland, prairie, and urban river corridor).
- Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission; 1978 - 1999
Principal Environmental Planner, Natural Resources Department
Responsible for planning and managing water resource restoration/protection projects, with a particular emphasis on lake management; specialized skills include water quality monitoring and data analysis, technical assistance relating to lake management approaches, watershed assessment, bathymetric surveying, preparation of public education documents, public participation facilitation, public policy deliberation, and meeting/conference coordination.

RECENT EXPERIENCE - WATER QUALITY AND AQUATIC HABITAT PROJECTS

- Chicago Botanic Garden: Spider Island, Evening Island, Water Gardens of the Great Basin, Illinois/U.S. EPA "Section 319," and Japanese Garden Lake Shoreline Restoration: Principal investigator responsible for aquatic planting/shoreline habitat design and implementation (\$11 million); 1999 - present
- Chicago Botanic Garden Lake Restoration/Protection Program: Principal Investigator; 1997 - present
- Indian Lake (Brookfield Zoo) Restoration/Protection Program: Principal Investigator and Technical Coordinator; 1995 - 1999
- Maple Lake (Forest Preserve District of Cook County) Restoration/Protection Program: Principal Investigator; 1997 - 1999
- McCullom Lake Restoration/Protection Program: Co-Principal Investigator and Technical Coordinator; 1990 - 1998
- Skokie Lagoons Lake Restoration/Protection Program: Principal Investigator and Technical Coordinator; 1980 - 1996
- Chicago Park District Lagoon Restoration/Protection Program: Co-Principal Investigator;

1987-1994

- Conference Coordinator: 22 national lake management conferences, and 36 other state/national water resource conferences; 1984 - 2008
- Author: *A Guide to Illinois Lake Management*; 1991
- Principal Author: *Illinois Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Training Manual*; 1997
- Contributing Author: *Lake Notes* fact sheet series; 1995 - 1999
- Proceedings Editor for 15 National Conferences on Water Quality; 1988 - 2005

SIGNIFICANT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- *Secchi Disk Award*; 1990, bestowed by the North American Lake Management Society as its highest honor to a single individual each year
- *Lake Guardian Award*; 1990, bestowed by the Illinois Lake Management Association as its highest honor to a single individual each year
- *Dedication and Vision Award*; 1997, bestowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- *Professional Leadership Award*; 2002, bestowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- *Environmental Stewardship Award*, 2004, bestowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- *Conservation and Native Landscaping Award*, 2005, bestowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness
- *Outstanding Service Award*, 2007, bestowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- North American Lake Management Society
- Illinois Lake Management Association
- American Fisheries Society
- Aquatic Plant Management Society