

Citizen Science Association
Conference May, 2017
St. Paul MN

Island County Marine Resources Committee

Barbara Bennett

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CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE MAY 17-20 2017

TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA

In the heartland of America, along the twisting Mississippi,
we will gather for Citizen Science 2017. Join us May 17th - 20th, 2017 as we pour
together to navigate the rushing waters of citizen science.

We are a field cascading, tumbling, and turning toward a newer, more public
version of science. With great momentum and energy, the citizen science movement
has taken on a life all its own, independent of disciplines and resistant to
disciplining. As tributaries of related work join together they simultaneously
strengthen and muddy our disciplinary waters, and in their wake we are left to
determine when to paddle upstream and when to let the current propel us forward.

This citizen science conference is a confluence of our collective interests and struggles,
and together—welcoming the diverse group of researchers, practitioners, community
organizations, and participants—we invite you to join us at the St. Paul RiverCentre
alongside the Mighty Mississippi.

REGISTER
NOW!

Join the conversation:



#CitSci2017

Definition of CS used by CSA

The conference cast a broader net

The Oxford English Dictionary recently defined citizen science as:

“scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions.”

Spectrum of Activities

- ❖ Baseline data collection
- ❖ Collaboration with researchers
- ❖ Crowd sourcing to support research
- ❖ Tapping indigenous peoples as local observers
- ❖ Citizen led research
- ❖ Policy follow through on data
- ❖ Strategies for outreach
- ❖ Lay-person experimentation with scientific techniques



Keynote: Flint Water Quality

- ❖ CS partnered with scientific expertise was instrumental in raising the issue
- ❖ But... fake CS followed to profit from the situation



Keynote: Genspace a community biolab

- ❖ Non-scientists are designing their own genetic experiments
- ❖ This raises questions of:
 - ❖ Ethics
 - ❖ Boundaries
 - ❖ Controls
 - ❖ Safety



Telling our Story

What's unique about us:

- ❖ Our NWS model
- ❖ Our portfolio of projects

How we can improve:

- ❖ Explain projects' importance
- ❖ Explain how pieces fit together



Take Aways: CS is an emerging field

Opportunities

- Current research questions benefit from expanded capacity through CS
- New technologies multiply CS potential
- IC MRC and NWS are in sync with these opportunities

Challenges

- Think with aggressive imagination
- Constantly refine quality
- Be mindful of ethics and safety
- Identify citizen science boundaries (Distinguish CS from “fake CS”)
- IC MRC: Explain how projects build a whole story

Sources:

- [Bonney R, Shirk J, Phillips T, Wiggins A, Ballard H, Miller-Rushing A, Parrish J. Next Steps for Citizen Science. *Science* vol 343 \(Issue 6178\) pp.1436-1437. Retrieved from <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/343/6178/1436>](#)
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