

Molly J. Wick

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<https://z.umn.edu/mollyjwick>

Biography

Molly J. Wick, PhD (she/her) is a creative nonfiction writer and interdisciplinary social-ecological scientist from Duluth, Minnesota. She writes about the intersection of humans and nature and what it means to be a healthy human on this planet. Her writing has been published in the 1842 Review, Perfect Duluth Day, Boulder Weekly, Northerly Magazine, and more. She is a regular in online classes at the Loft Literary Center, and a member of Duluth-based sock puppet troupe, Good Puppet Bad Puppet. Molly holds a PhD in water resource science from the University of Minnesota and has published over a dozen peer-reviewed journal articles and reports on topics ranging from water quality to environmental justice.

Employment (current position only)

Lake Superior Basin Project Manager, July 2025 – present. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Superior, Wisconsin.

Grants and Awards (arts only)

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Small Grant - Individual Artist Grant, August 2023. \$2000.00.

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Small Grant - Educational Opportunity, September 2023. \$750.00.

Hal Prize 3rd Place for Nonfiction. [A Frayed Thread](#), 1842 Review. December, 2022.

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Small Grant - Educational Opportunity, June 2022. \$331.00.

Courses

Renegade Improv Comedy Classes, levels 1 (Summer 2024) and level 2 (Fall 2024 and Winter 2025), Zeitgeist Arts.

Five Things I've Learned about Writing Illness with Sarah Fay. Five Things I've Learned. October, 2024.

The Topography of Memory in Creative Nonfiction Two-Day Intensive with Blaise Allysen Kearsley. Loft Literary Center. December 2023.

How to Write a Tragicomic Memoir with Elissa Bassist. Lighthouse Writers Workshop. November 2023.

Trust Your Writing: How to Listen to What Your Draft is Telling You with Kate St. Vincent Vogl. Loft Literary Center. September-December 2023.

Funny Personal Essays with Elissa Bassist. Pandemic University School of Writing. May, 2023.

Creative Maps for Creative Writing with Heidi Newbauer. Loft Literary Center. July, 2022.

Finding Your Story, Telling Your Truth with Carolyn Holbrook. Loft Literary Center. July - Aug 2022.

Think Bigger: Adding Dimensions to Creative Nonfiction with Tamara Dean. Loft Literary Center, Mar - April 2022.

Building Vivid Worlds in Your Creative Nonfiction with Leah Christianson. Loft Literary Center, April 2022.

Writing Your Life: How to Plan, Write, and Develop Your Memoir with Mary Carroll Moore. Loft Literary Center, July 2021.

Gymnastics for Memoir Writers, with Felicia Schneiderman. Lake Superior Writers, October, 2020.

Find the Meaning in your Memoir, with Glenda Reed. Loft Literary Center, June - Aug 2020.

Creative nonfiction publications

This is Not Normal. Substack Newsletter. March 2024- present. <https://mollyjwick.substack.com/>

The Evolving Shapes of Chronic Illness Stories. *Brevity Blog*. April 25, 2025.

<https://brevity.wordpress.com/2025/04/24/evolving-shapes-of-illness-stories/>

Friendly, Happy, Loyal Therapist Wanted! *Little Old Lady Comedy*. April 2025.

<https://www.littleoldladycomedy.com/all-works/friendly-happy-loyal-therapist-wanted>

A Frayed Thread. 1842 Review. December, 2022.

Facing the Jitters: Six Helpful Mantras. *YOU@UMN*, Video essay. December, 2022.

<https://you.umn.edu/thrive/article/15756/>

Even Good Dogs are Still Dogs. *Perfect Duluth Day Saturday Essay*. 2020.

<https://www.perfectduluthday.com/2020/04/04/even-good-dogs-are-still-dogs/>

Sandbagging drags us all down. *Boulder Weekly*, Jan. 23, 2019.

<https://boulderweekly.com/adventure/sandbagging-drags-us-all-down/>

Universal Therapy. *Northerly Magazine*, 5. 2019

<https://www.northerlymag.co/stories-x/2019/10/21/universal-therapy>

How Wild Is Wild: A walk in the wilderness next door. *Northerly Magazine*, 4. 2019.

<https://www.northerlymag.co/stories-x/2019/2/28/how-wild-is-wild>

Portaging In: A Trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. *She Explores*. 2018.

<https://she-explores.com/experiences/portaging-boundary-waters-canoe-area-wilderness/>

Experience

Puppeteer, Puppet Builder, and Set Designer for Good Puppet Bad Puppet, Duluth, Minnesota.

([instagram.com/goodpuppetbadpuppet/](https://www.instagram.com/goodpuppetbadpuppet/))

Literary organizations

Lake Superior Writers, member and Memoir & Creative Nonfiction Genre Group Leader

Loft Literary Center, member

Education

Ph.D., Water Resource Science (July 2024) - University of Minnesota - Duluth

M.S., Water Resource Science (June 2013) - University of Minnesota - Duluth

M.S., Earth Science (July 2010) - University of New Mexico

B.S., Geology (Aug. 2008) University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Recent peer reviewed science publications (since 2019, first author only)

Wick M.J., Erickson, D.E. Hoffman, J., Johnson, L. B., Angradi, T., 2024. Navigating university openness in research policy inconsistent with Indigenous data sovereignty: A case study. *Ethics & Human Research* 46, pp. 2-15.

Wick, M. J., Angradi, T.R., Pawlowski, M.B., Bolgrien, D., Debbout, R., Launspach, J. and Nord, M., 2020. Deep Lake Explorer: A web application for crowdsourcing the classification of benthic underwater video from the Laurentian Great Lakes. *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, 46(5), pp.1469-1478.

Wick, M. J., Cotter, A., Hollenhorst, T., McKinney, P., Opseth, A., Pawlowski, M., Trebitz, A. 2020. Lake Huron 2017 CSMI Ship & Glider Water Quality Summary. Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative Lake Huron 2017 Report.

Wick, M. J., Angradi T., Pawlowski M., Bolgrien D., Launspach J., Kiddon, J., Nord M., 2019. An Assessment of water quality in two Great Lakes connecting channels. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 45, 901-911.

Science communication (selected)

Waterway Benefits Study. Designed website and developed all content including research fact sheets. 2021-2024. z.umn.edu/waterwaybenefits.

Pickle Pond is Getting Cleaned Up. Developed all content for a USEPA website for an environmental clean-up research project. 2021. <https://pickle-pond-epa.hub.arcgis.com/>

Deep Lake Explorer. Developed all content for a web-based citizen science application for analysis of benthic video. 2019. www.zooniverse.org/projects/usepa/deep-lake-explorer