

Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



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[Washington County Website](#)
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WELCOME TO 2021!!

It is never too early to start recruiting volunteers for 2021!

Here are some volunteer opportunities that will be offered in Washington and Waukesha Counties this year.

Start looking at what interests you most and look for additional information and dates of trainings in the near future!

We will be looking for Volunteers for the following programs:

- Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)
- Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)
- Project RED (Riverine Early Detectors)
- Snapshot Day 2021
- Purple Loosestrife Bio Control Project

In depth descriptions of each project will be posted in the February edition of the Constant Contact! :)

Ice Fishing is in FULL swing!!

With the colder weather settling in, the ice has gotten thicker, and the ice fishing season has officially gotten underway!

While ice fishing there are still Aquatic Invasive Species concerns as vegetation can become tangled in equipment and invasive fish can sometimes be caught. It is important to follow these steps, no matter the season, to prevent the spread of AIS on your lake!

INSPECT: sleds, trailers, and equipment

REMOVE: all attached aquatic plants and animals

DRAIN: all water/ice from vehicles and equipment

NEVER MOVE: plants or live** fish from a waterbody

**Keep in mind that a fish is considered "dead" when it is out of water!

We can all do our part in slowing the spread of AIS where we fish!

~ENJOY THE SEASON~

Lake of the Month:

PIKE LAKE-WASHINGTON COUNTY

DNR Facts and Figures:

Name: Pike Lake

Waterbody ID (WBIC): 858300

Area: 461 ACRES

Maximum Depth: 45 feet

Bottom: 20% sand, 30% gravel, 0% rock, 50% muck

Hydrologic Lake Type: DRAINAGE

County: Washington

Latitude, Longitude: 43.31071090, -88.332641

Trophic Status: Eutrophic

Fish Present: Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye

AIS Present: **Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Hybrid Eurasian / Northern Water-Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, Zebra Mussel**



Here are a few words from Jerry Kabelowsky, commissioner on the Pike Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (PRD) board and CBCW Landing Supervisor for Pike Lake:

What Makes Pike Lake Unique?

- Pike Lake is known for its natural reproducing walleye population. The strain of walleyes that are in Pike Lake do not make a spawning run up a river but spawn in the Lake in the rocky shore off "Eagle Point" or along the shore on the eastern part of the Lake along the Park. Pike Lake also has a very good population of pan fish - bluegills, peach, etc. - population. We can always know we can catch fish off our pier. When the grandchildren were small, we would have a lot of fun fishing off the pier or getting up early to go out in the boat. I still see many families out fishing. The Lake is a popular destination for fishermen. According to the DNR fish biologists, the walleye population is as good as are found in a lot of lakes in northern Wisconsin.

- Pike Lake being a spring fed lake and generally stays fairly clear although we'll have an occasional algae bloom. Pike Lake has a gravel bottom for the most part being in the Kettle Moraine area.

- Pike Lake State Park borders about 1/3 of the eastern lake shore. A majority of the shore line is natural which helps with the "run off". Also, - living across the lake from the Park - we have a wonderful view of the wooded hills especially the view of "Powder Hill". We enjoy looking out - especially in the fall when the leaves are changing - and see the natural landscape of the trees. We get beautiful views of the sun rises or the full moon

rises especially on the clear days.



"Living on the Lake makes you feel closer to nature. We enjoy the changes of seasons especially in the spring when the ice goes off the lake and the loons start coming. They don't nest but stay for a week or two or until the ice goes off the lakes up north. There are a lot of other ducks and geese that come through too on their migrations. During the year there is a bald eagle or sometimes two that will sit in ours or the neighbor's tree that is on the shoreline. It is a great sight to see one fly low and catch a fish. That doesn't happen often and you have to be in a boat or kayak as they usually hunt in the shallow water on the north end of the lake. It's also nice to see when you are kayaking to see turtles coming out of the water to sun themselves on logs that are sticking out of the water in the sheltered bays on the south end of the lake. It is also neat to see a heron sitting on the pier looking for fish or wading along the shoreline fishing. Through the years we have seen flocks of white swans - I think they were arctic swans - and white pelicans. Pike Lake used to have Mute Swans. It was fun last summer to see a mallard mama bring her brood of about 10 ducklings along the shore to feed of the grasses that hang over the shore. She came for a month or more until the ducklings were pretty big."

We enjoy taking a boat ride around the lake in the early morning or evening on a nice day. We also like to go kayaking on a calm morning before the wind comes up and the speed boats and water skiers start. It is fun to go up the river through the cat tails and see the red wing black birds and nesting ducks."



AIS Monitoring and Prevention:

Starry Stonewort (SSW) was found in Pike Lake in 2015. Since then, they have been a “control” lake of sorts for the DNR, monitoring the spread of SSW through annual surveys, but taking no active control measures. To date, this is the most effective management practice for controlling SSW in Wisconsin!

The Pike Lake Protection District has been working with the County for the past 3 summer seasons with the DNR's CB/CW program. The County hires a summer intern to advise boaters that are launching and leaving the Lake to be aware of how invasive -AIS -species are transported from Lake to Lake.

The District also tries to educate the riparian owners of ways to help improve and protect the Lake by leaving their shorelines go natural.

There is also an active Sportsman's Club that has done projects on the lake like redoing the walleye spawning reefs and installing natural fish cribs. The Sportsmans Club has also send kids to Conservation Summer Camps and take various groups - like Big Brothers/Big sisters fishing.

Photos above provided by Jerry Kabelowsky

Photo below by Samantha Lammers



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The Aquatic Invasive Species Program is a cooperative effort between Washington & Waukesha Counties, supported by grant funds from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a number of generous local lake groups working to control the spread of AIS. Thank you for your support!

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