

Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



July 2020 Email: samantha.lammers@co.washington.wi.us

[Washington County Website](#)

[Waukesha County Website](#)

Meet the Washington Team!

Washington County Intern:

Mackenzie Franz has joined Washington County as the AIS County Intern for the summer of 2020. Mackenzie has an associate degree in Arts & Sciences from University of Wisconsin - Waukesha and is going to be entering her last semester at University of Wisconsin - Whitewater where she is



studying Environmental Science. She hopes to continue to work with invasive species after graduation. Outside of work, Mackenzie spends time with her family and her three nephews. She also spends a majority of time with her reptiles, bird and dog. Mackenzie is very excited to learn more about invasive species and be able to expand her knowledge with Washington County.

Pike Lake Intern: Kylee Steinhagen is very excited to work at Pike Lake this summer as a AIS intern. Kylee is currently in college at UWM and haven't set a specific major but hopes to do something with conservation. Outside of working Kylee enjoys spending time with my friends and family, as well as spending time exploring the great outdoors. She very grateful for this opportunity to learn something new, and being able to explore new opportunities.

Bark Lake Intern: Kassidy Lange has joined Washington County as a summer AIS intern at Bark Lake.

Kassidy is entering her Senior year at UW Madison and is pursuing a degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences with a certificate in Sustainability and Physics.

Outside of work, Kassidy enjoys outdoor activities such as playing tennis and softball, playing her drum set, drawing, and reading.

WELCOME WASHINGTON COUNTY INTERNS!!!

Progress so far!!

All 2020 interns were up and running for their first weekend on June 5th-7th! We had a beautiful weather for the weekend and our entire team got a large # of high quality boat inspections completed. In total, for both Washington and Waukesha Counties our CBCW crew inspected 642 boats and spoke to 1123 individuals about the AIS message!

Since the start of our season on June 4, we have conducted 6 CBCW trainings and certified 2 individuals for CBCW boat inspections! *If you have a group of 3-10 interested in training, we will gladly come to your lake and do a personalized CBCW, complete with AIS Identification of species specific to YOUR lake!

Landing Blitz/Drain Campaign 2020

No global pandemic is going to keep the fish from biting or summer from coming our way. However, due to COVID-19, Wisconsin's annual summer campaign that reminds anglers and boaters to drain all lake and river water from their catch and equipment is undergoing a slight modification in 2020. The annual Drain Campaign, normally held in early June, is being merged with the 4th of July week Landing Blitz. Better yet, the combined campaigns run from June 28th to July 5th,

the same week as the Great Lakes Regional Landing Blitz that includes launches in every state and Canadian province in the Great Lakes Basin.

During the week, Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff and volunteers will be doing education and outreach to anglers, reminding them to drain all the water from watercraft before leaving the landing. Draining includes the water in fishing buckets as well as live wells. Any lake water added to your catch or water that comes in contact with the fish potentially carries disease or microscopic invasive animals, such as Zebra Mussel larvae. Draining your catch as well as your boat and all other gear that takes on water is important for keeping our waters healthy.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff will be available to answer any and all questions about aquatic invasive species and Wisconsin law regarding the transport of vegetation and water.

Wisconsin has approximately 300 launches participating. No matter where you launch, always remember before you leave the launch to:

- **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment for attached plants or animals
- **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants or animals
- **DRAIN** all water from boats, motors, livewells, and other equipment
- **NEVER MOVE** live fish away from a waterbody
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash
- **BUY** minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer

Following these steps also helps boaters comply with Wisconsin state law, which prohibits the transport of aquatic invasive species.

To learn more about invasive species and their impacts to Wisconsin's waters and economy, visit DNR.wi.gov and search "invasive species"

Invasive/Native Showdown: Curly-Leaf Pondweed vs. Clasping-Leaf Pondweed

Steven Schwartz

The genus of *Potamogeton*, the pondweeds, is infamous among those passionate about aquatic plants and ecosystems. Not only does it encompass dozens of species here in the Midwest alone, those species can be incredibly similar in their appearance to one or more other kinds of pondweed, making it sometimes difficult for even seasoned plant identifiers to know pondweed from pondweed. One of these pondweeds, curly-leaf pondweed, is incredibly invasive and is often mistaken for the native clasping-leaf pondweed. Thankfully, the two species we have for this month have some key differences to let you know which is which.

Leaves:

- The leaves of curly-leaf tend to be more rigid, giving their wavy leaves a more consistent lasagna noodle appearance as opposed to the looser clasping-leaf leaves.
- Curly-leaf pondweed generally has 3-5 veins running up its leaves, while clasping-leaf can have as many as 13-33 veins, though 3-5 will often be more prominent than the others.
- The edges of curly-leaf pondweed leaves have a serration pattern, giving the leaves a rough texture, even when the leaves are small and young.
 - As the name would suggest, the leaves of the clasping-leaf pondweed wrap around the stem at the base, giving them an overall heart shape, whereas the leaves of the curly-leaf pondweed do not clasp their stem in the same way

Stipules:

- The stipules (small leaf-like bits of tissue attached below the leaf of many types of plant) of curly-leaf, often partially attached to the leaf above them, are not only very small (only growing to 3-8 mm in length) but they often disintegrate early in the plant's growth.
- Curly-leaf pondweed stipules are much longer at 1-2 cm, and often present as fibers below the leaf later in the season.

Reproduction:

- Clasping-leaf pondweed will produce a spike of flowers and grow small nutlets like other pondweeds when conditions are stable, otherwise re-growing from rhizomes if it cannot provide enough support for its flowers.
- Curly-leaf pondweed, while it occasionally flowers and produce fruits like clasping-leaf pondweed, mostly spreads through the use of a structure called a turion, little vegetative buds that look like miniature curly-leaf pondweeds and pinecones, each of which can germinate into another curly-leaf pondweed. These turions are overwhelmingly preferred method of reproduction for curly-leaf and will often accumulate in the sediment below the mature plants, sometimes as many as 1600 per square meter.
 - If the fruits are available, the fruits of the curly-leaf pondweed possess a prominent beak, while the fruits of clasping-leaf are more evenly rounded.

Season:

While clasping-leaf pondweed begins to grow from rhizomes in the early spring, curly-leaf pondweed is an even earlier riser. Even under the frigid ice in the darkest Wisconsin winters, you can find curly leaf pondweed growing happily, bright green and healthy while most other plants are either dormant or dead. By the time summer rolls around, while other plants are thriving, curly-leaf pondweed is already brown and dying, often consuming large amounts of dissolved oxygen in the

Curly Leaf Pondweed



Notice the more pronounced waviness in the curly-leaf pondweed's leaves and the serrations on the margins of the leaves, as well as the leaves of the clasping-leaf nearly encircling the stem.



Note the much smaller and often absent stipules on the curly leaf as well as the fibrous appearance of the clasping-leaf stipules



Notice the pinecone-like appearance and the similarity to the adult plant, especially in the leaf-like structures

Clasping Leaf Pondweed



Please Click Here to
SUBSCRIBE
to our Newsletter

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!

For more information:

Email: samantha.lammers@co.washington.wi.us

Washington County
262-335-4800

www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd

Waukesha County

262-896-8300

www.waukeshacounty.gov/ais