

Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



October 2022

Amanda Schmitz:

Email: amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov or aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov

Washington County Website

Waukesha County Website

Lake Group Meetings

Do you have a lake meeting you'd like us to attend?

Please email Amanda with the date:

amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov or aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov

Invasive Species Alert: Starry Stonewort



Starry stonewort

Photo by Scott Brown



Starry stonewort

Photo by Paul Skawinski

Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), an invasive macroalgae, has been

detected in **3 new lakes** in Washington & Waukesha Counties.

Lower Phantom Lake - Waukesha County
Lake Denoon - Waukesha/Racine County
Lucas Lake - Washington County

The associated lake groups are working with DNR on next steps regarding the new Starry Stonewort populations.

Starry Stonewort spreads via bulbils (pictured above right), which are small, seed-like reproductive structures that this species produces below the sediment. Fragments of Starry Stonewort containing these bulbils can be easily pulled from the sediment and transported on boat motors and equipment.

Please remember these steps to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

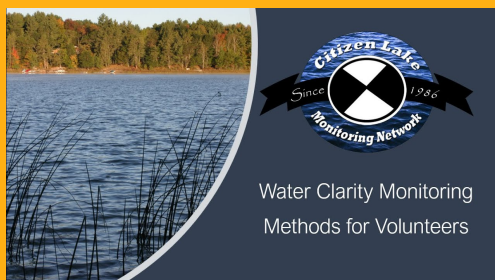
- **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment
- **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals
- **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment
- **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody

Get Involved with Citizen Lake Monitoring!

Protect your lakes by becoming a volunteer Citizen Lake Monitor! The **Citizen Lake Monitoring Network** unites over 1,000 citizen volunteers statewide with the DNR to collect high quality data, educate and empower volunteers, and share this data and knowledge.

Volunteers are provided training and equipment to monitor water quality by measuring water clarity using the Secchi Disk method every 10-14 days throughout the open water season. Volunteers may also collect chemistry, temperature, and dissolved oxygen data, and monitor for aquatic invasive species. This data is reported to national and state-wide databases and used to inform legislation, management and restoration efforts, long-term trends, and grant funding.

We're looking for new volunteers for the upcoming 2023 season. Contact [Amanda Schmitz](#) for more details.

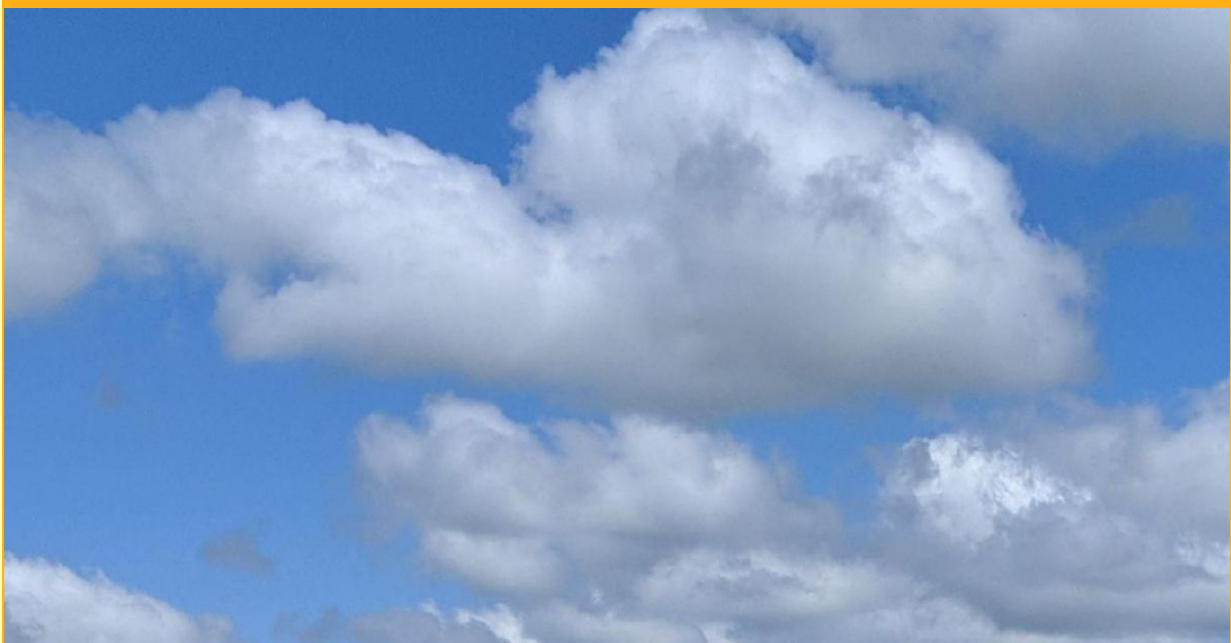


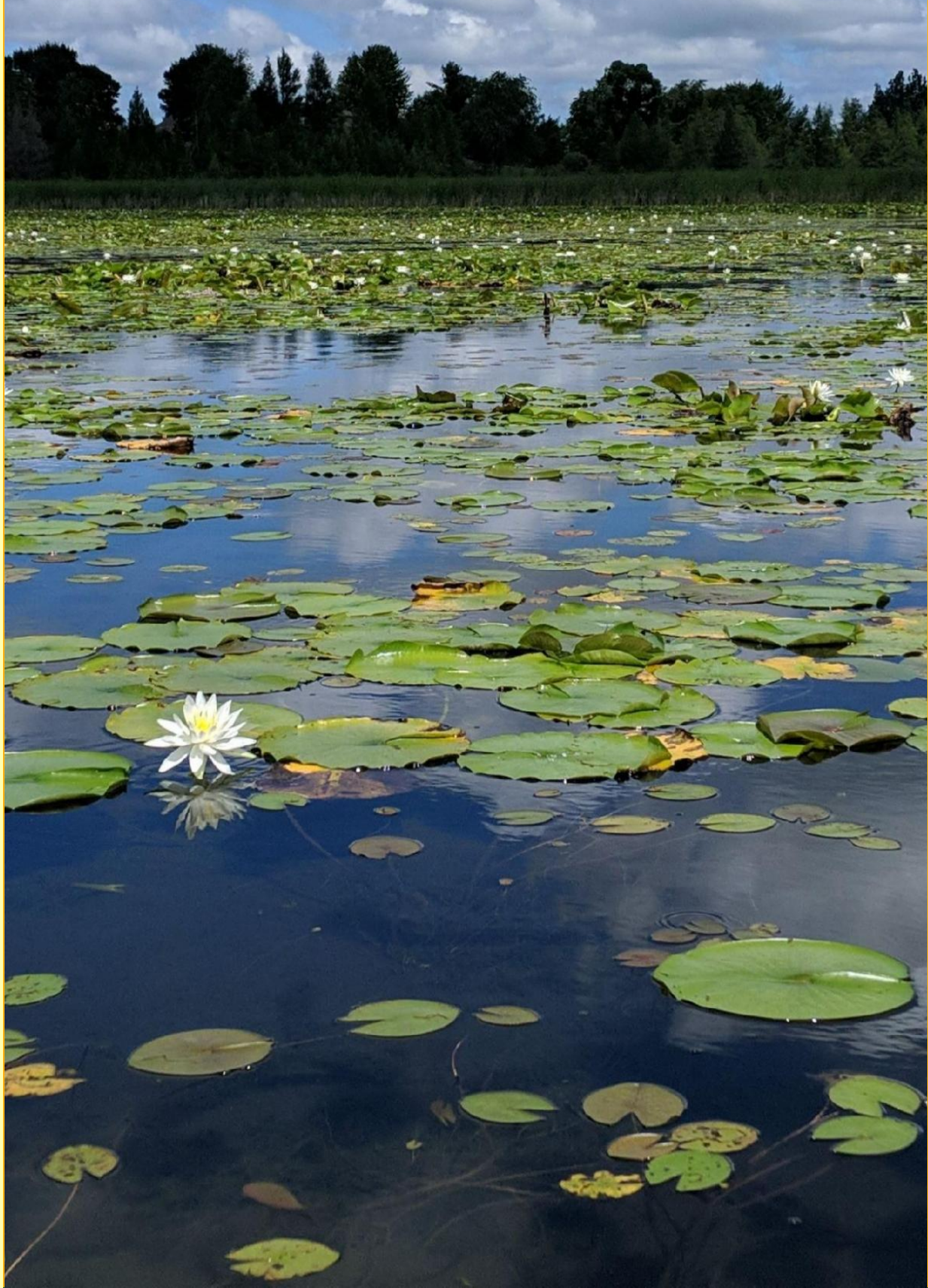
Phragmites - Beautiful, but Invasive!



Phragmites or 'Common Reed', an invasive plant species, invades moist habitats including lake shores, riverbanks, and roadways and causes problems for native species. The root system of Phragmites can be very extensive, allowing the species to withstand management methods such as burning, cutting, or grazing. Phragmites can also spread via wind-blown seeds and cut stem fragments.

Recently, a Tik-Tok trend has seen people interested in collecting the "beautiful grasses" from the side of the road as home or wedding decor. Not only is it illegal to possess and transport Phragmites in the state of Wisconsin, but collecting and moving this species can lead to new populations spreading within and outside of the state.





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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!*

For more information:

Email: amanda.schmitz@washcowisconsin.gov
aschmitz@waukesha.wisconsin.gov

Washington County
262-335-4806
www.washcowisconsin.gov

Waukesha County
262-548-7818
www.waukesha.wisconsin.gov/ais