

# Aquatic Invasive Species Update

## Waukesha County



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## New Program Targets Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Welcome to the Waukesha County AIS E-News! You may have heard the County received a grant from the WI Dept. of Natural Resources in 2016 to help control aquatic invasive species, with a focus on the 80 lakes in the county. The AIS program is described in detail in the grant [application](#) and relies on an intergovernmental agreement executed with Washington County to implement.

The County will use this electronic newsletter (E-News) as the primary method to communicate AIS program updates and events to local lake organizations, communities and other interested county residents. Anyone interested in AIS is encouraged to [subscribe](#) for future editions (see above or below for "subscribe" button). Please forward this email to others who may be interested.

A local AIS web site ([www.waukeshacounty.gov/AIS](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/AIS)) is also under construction, which currently includes some links to statewide AIS distribution maps, a video on how you can help prevent the spread of

AIS, and a short summary of the county AIS program. For any AIS questions, please contact:

Brad Steckart, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator  
Washington and Waukesha Counties

[AIS@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:AIS@waukeshacounty.gov)

(262) 335-4806

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## Greetings from the New AIS Coordinator - Brad Steckart

Hello! I am happy to introduce myself as the new AIS Coordinator for Waukesha County. Since earning my Biology degree from UW-Stevens Point in 2012, I have been working on AIS issues as an instructor with a nonprofit organization and as AIS Coordinator for Washington County, a position I now share 50/50 with Waukesha County. I am excited and passionate about stopping aquatic hitchhikers, and know that working together, we can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species!

Since joining the Waukesha County team this spring, I have been impressed with the local level of interest and involvement in AIS issues! As you will see by this first edition of AIS E-News, much is already happening, and much more is in the works to help control the spread of AIS. Some examples include:

Fifty local volunteers were trained to assist with the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program; AIS cleaning stations will soon be installed at 5 boat launches (see article); partnerships have been started with a number of lake groups; AIS lake surveys have been conducted and data compilation and analysis has begun in cooperation with the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and I have been involved in numerous outreach events with schools, boy scouts, 4H, camps, scuba teams, teachers and citizen volunteers!

I am happy to be at your service and am excited to be working around the beautiful lakes in Waukesha County! If you see something unfamiliar in the water and think it may be invasive don't hesitate to contact me! Thank you for welcoming me into your County!



## Clean Boats, Clean Waters Activities Update

In the past month, Waukesha County AIS Summer Intern, Jenna Bales, has been busy talking to boaters at launches throughout the county, including Pewaukee, Nagawicka, Oconomowoc, Lac La Belle, Little Muskego, Big Muskego and Okauchee lakes. While implementing the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, Jenna completes boat inspections and informs boaters about the dangers of invasive species.

So far this summer, over 1,000 boaters and anglers have been contacted and become more aware of the best practices involved in preventing the spread of invasive species. If you see Jenna on your next lake visit, make sure to say hi! She will happily answer any questions that you have in terms of AIS or what we have been up to lately!



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## 8th Annual Landing Blitz Tackles AIS

Citizen volunteers and aquatic invasive species experts will be teaming up to educate boaters and conduct free boat checks during the weekend of July 4th at boat landings throughout Wisconsin so the boaters do not accidentally spread Eurasian water-milfoil, zebra mussels, and other aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Throughout the eighth annual Landing Blitz, inspectors stationed at many high use boat landings from June 30th-July 4th will help boaters understand Wisconsin's invasive species laws and what steps to follow to avoid spreading invasive species.

[Read more here.](#)

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## Watch for New Local AIS Signs & Tools

Signs will soon be installed at local boat launches to serve as aquatic invasive species cleaning stations, offering tools to help boaters easily remove plant and animal material from their boats. A long grabber, broom, and brush will each hang from the sign to help boaters reach

underneath boats and trailers to pick off the hitchhikers before traveling to the next lake.

These signs will initially be installed at the five boat launches owned by Waukesha County, including Ashippun, Nagawicka, Nemahbin, Pewaukee, and School Section lakes. The County is now building frames for the signs and then they will be erected shortly. If your local lake group is interested in this type of sign, please contact Brad Steckart, AIS Coordinator at 262-335-4806.

## BOAT and TRAILER CLEANING STATION

**SEARCH THESE AREAS FOR AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS**

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

\*Limited exceptions apply. Visit [WWW.DNR.WI.GOV](http://WWW.DNR.WI.GOV) and search for "BAIT LAWS"

**WHEN USING TOOLS**

- ▶ Remove plants & animals with brushes & grabber.
- ▶ Dispose of plants & animals.
- ▶ Know the Law! 

**TOOLS**

▶ **PLEASE RETURN TOOLS** to this station.  
We have confidence in the honor system.

**LOCAL INFORMATION**

12 1/2" HIGH x 20 1/2" WIDE  
BLANK AREA FOR TOOLS

12 1/2" HIGH x 20 1/2" WIDE  
BLANK AREA

*For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species:*  
[dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/boat.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/boat.html)  
Sign designed by Waukesha County, WI

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**County Asks Lake Groups to Support AIS Work**

Even though we are just "getting our feet wet" on AIS activities this summer, Waukesha County budgeting is already underway for 2017 and beyond. The County is planning to apply for a 3-year AIS grant from WDNR this fall in cooperation with Washington County to continue:

- AIS lake inventories
- County-wide AIS data compilation and analysis
- Clean Boats Clean Waters activities
- Improved AIS signage at boat launches
- Writing an AIS Strategic Plan for the county

However, staying under the state grant caps is proving to be a financial challenge, and the County is looking to lake groups to help out. [Read more here.](#)

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