

Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



June 2021

erik.hanson@washcowisconsin.gov ehanson@waukeshacounty.gov
[Washington County Website](#) [Waukesha County Website](#)



Fingernail Clam



Asian Clam

Invasive Species of the Month: Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)

Fun fact: the Asian clam, as its common name suggests, is native to eastern Asia, with its range as far north as Russia and as far south as the Philippines. It is often farmed for use as food there.

While invasive freshwater mussels receive significant attention in Wisconsin, we do have a

few native and one invasive clam species. Most of our native clams are in the family of Sphaeriidae, commonly known as pea clams or fingernail clams due to their small round shape. Unfortunately, we also have an invasive clam, *Corbicula fluminea*, commonly referred to as the Asian clam. The Asian clam is also called the “golden”, “lucky”, or “prosperity clam”, in reference to its color and its use as food (part of how this clam spread so much was through cultivation). This invasive, much like the zebra and quagga mussels, is a filter feeder with a prodigious spawning rate, damaging plankton populations and clogging water pipes in the areas it invades. These clams are often mistaken for one another as they are all small and similarly shaped.

Size

Both pea clams and Asian clams are small compared to many native mussels, but pea clams tend to be smaller. Adult Asian clams can grow to about 5 cm, while pea clams tend to top out at around .6 cm to 1.4 cm.

Where are they in our Counties?

Asian clams have not been found in Washington County. The following lakes and rivers in Waukesha County have been found to contain Asian clams.

- Fox River
- Eagle Spring Lake
- Lac Labelle
- Little Muskego Lake
- Lower Phantom Lake
- Mukwonago River

How Asian Clams Spread

People can introduce Asian clams to new water bodies through bait buckets, live wells, bilge and ballast water, as well as by moving adult clams.

What is the risk?

Since Asian clams can reproduce at such an incredible rate and actively filter feed on plankton in the water column, they often deprive young fish and native mussels of their food source.

Since they thrive in the outflow pipes of power plants, they can end up clogging these pipes with alive and dead clams, costing power plants 1 billion dollars a year to remove them.

Due to their mass die offs once the temperature drops, the bacteria breaking down the decaying clams may also contribute to a drop in dissolved oxygen in the water, which can negatively affect other animals in the same aquatic ecosystem.

Volunteer Opportunities

AIS Snapshot Day August 21st 9 am to 12 pm

Water-lovers from across the state join force to search for aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin's rivers, streams and lakes. Volunteers are provided training in the morning, the supplies needed to search for aquatic invasive species and the list of sites they will monitor.

For more information contact: ehanson@waukeshacounty.gov.

Starry Stonewort Control!

Help control Starry Stonewort in Little Cedar Lake and limit the risk of it spreading to other lakes in Washington and Waukesha Counties. The Little Cedar Lake Protection and

Rehab District (PRD) needs your help.

What-Invasive Species Pull

- Divers pull weeds
- Kayakers haul pulled weeds to shore
- Shore helpers load wheel barrels and dump weeds

Where-Little Cedar Lake Ackermann's Grove

When- 8 am to 1 pm

July 17th, Rain Date July 18th

August 7th Rain Date August 8th

For More Information Contact: Little Cedar Lake PRD <lclprd@gmail.com>

Lake of the Month



Silver Lake in Waukesha County

Waterbody ID (WBIC): 779800

Area: 217 acres

Maximum Depth: 40 feet

Bottom 50% sand, 5% gravel, 5% rock, 40% muck

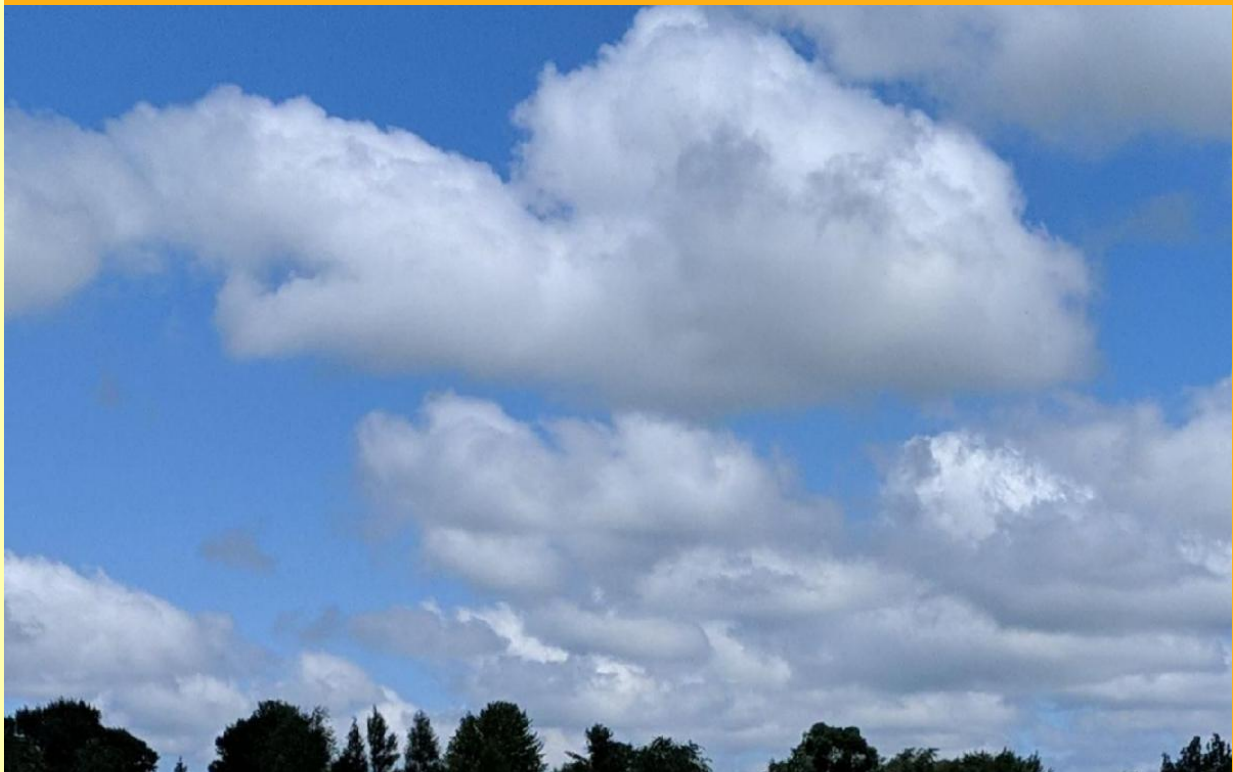
Hydrologic Lake Type: seepage

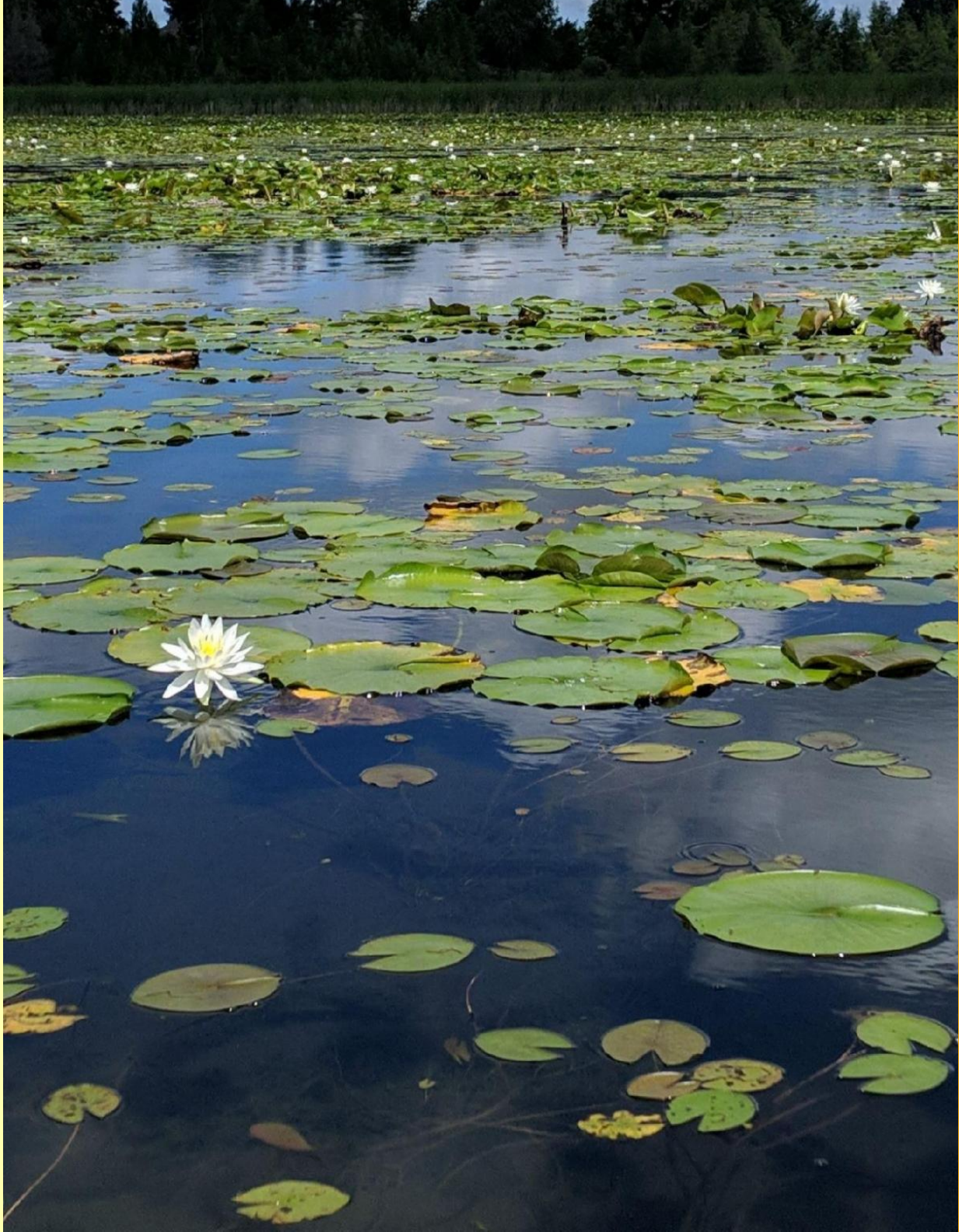
Latitude, Longitude: 43.07660610, -88.49291880

AIS: Banded Mystery Snail, Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Hybrid Eurasian / Northern Water-Milfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Spiny Naiad, Zebra Mussel

CBCW Efforts:

Silver Lake is VERY active in the Clean Boat Clean Water program with 1159 watercraft inspected in 2019, 850 in 2020 and anticipate that 1000 watercraft will be inspected this year!





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: erik.hanson@washcowisconsin.gov
ehanson@waukesha.wisconsin.gov

Washington County
262-335-4806

www.washcowisconsin.gov/departments/planning_and_parks/land_resources

Waukesha County
262-548-7818

www.waukesha.wisconsin.gov/ais

