

# Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Washington & Waukesha Counties



February 2020

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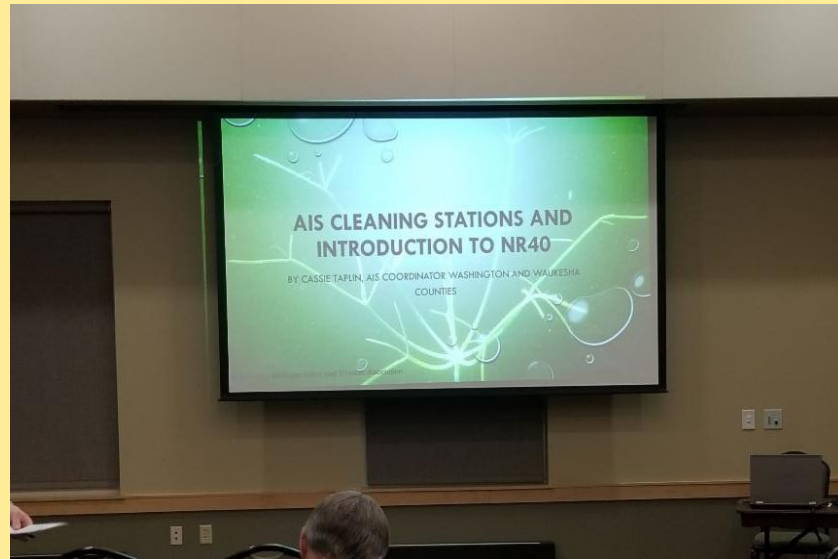
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## Grant Status

On December 10th, 2019, both Washington and Waukesha County submitted a three year grant request to the DNR for the AIS Education, Planning, and Prevention program. Like most grants, this program is extremely competitive; in the end Washington County was awarded partial funding, and Waukesha County was not awarded the grant. However, the DNR values the importance of this program and partnerships between the two counties and has offered Waukesha County funding through other sources. The good news is that each County has funding available to continue the program as it is until 2021. Special thanks goes to many lake groups that support this program through direct cash sponsorships, donations of equipment and time, or letters of support.

## Lake County Clean Waters Forum

On January 16th, the AIS Coordinator presented at a public forum hosted by Lake Country Clean Waters at the Oconomowoc Community Center. The theme of the meeting was enforcement, so her presentation provided an introduction to Chapter NR40 (the Invasive Species Rule) of the Wisconsin Administrative code, in addition to discussing the AIS cleaning stations installed throughout the Counties. Also in attendance was a local conservation warden, Andrew Starch, and Bob Wakeman (Statewide AIS Coordinator for the DNR) to answer specific questions regarding the enforcement of AIS regulations. Approximately 40 people attended the first LCCW meeting of the year, a great turnout!



## Milwaukee Boat Show

The AIS Coordinator worked with the Wisconsin Sea Grant to host the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" booth at this year's Milwaukee Boat Show at the Wisconsin State Park Exposition Center from January 17th-26th. This was an excellent opportunity to reach a large audience and spread awareness about AIS. The AIS Coordinator had many discussions with local lake

residents from both Washington and Waukesha Counties, in addition to hundreds of other attendees from throughout the State.



Molly Bodde (Wisconsin Sea Grant) staffing the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" booth

## Outreach to Lake Groups

A key role of the AIS Coordinator's position is conducting outreach and giving presentations to lake groups on various topics such as Clean Boats, Clean Waters, survey work completed on a lake, or a specific species such as starry stonewort. So far in February, the AIS Coordinator has given presentations to the Pike Lake Sportsman Club and the Bark Lake Advancement Association in Washington County. The Pike Lake Sportsman Club will be having an ice fishing tournament on February 15th; the AIS Coordinator wanted to remind them that even in the winter time AIS can be moved around, and that they should continue taking preventative measures such as cleaning and drying all equipment and following bait laws. The Bark Lake Advancement Association received their first Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant this year and will be entering an intergovernmental agreement with the County to hire a part-time intern to conduct boat inspections this summer. Congratulations on receiving your first Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant Bark Lake!

If you would like the AIS Coordinator to come and speak with your



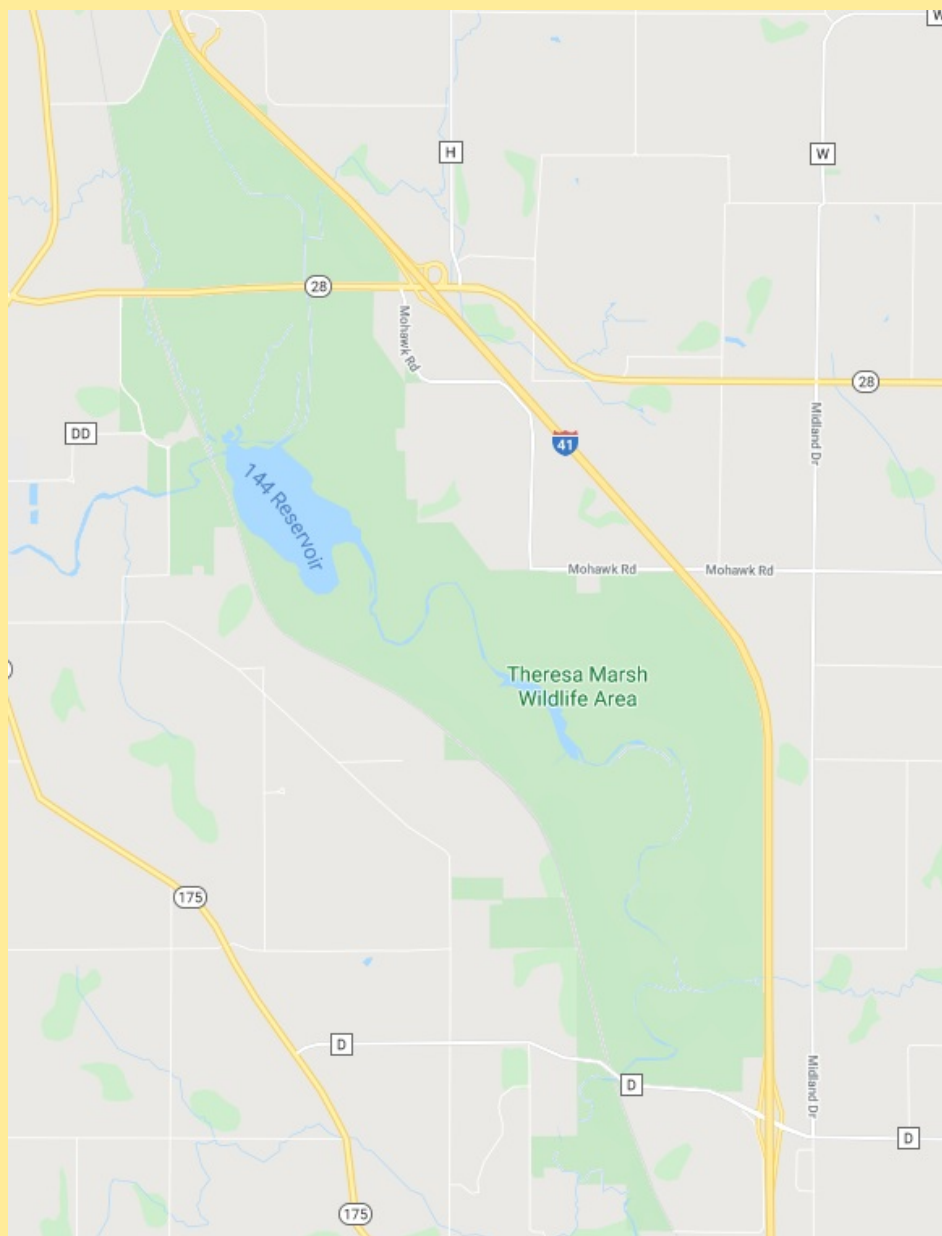
## River of the Month - East Branch of the Rock River

The East Branch of the Rock River can be accessed by both motorized boat and carry-in accesses within the Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area, a DNR-managed property in northwestern Washington County. The Theresa Marsh is 5,860-acres and includes sections of the Rock River, wetlands, ponds, and multiple recreation opportunities such as birding, fishing, hiking, and hunting (click [here](#) to view more information). The East Branch of the Rock River is a shallow river with low visibility, but motorized boats are allowed in some sections.

**AIS Present:** Chinese mystery snails, Eurasian/Hybrid Milfoil, Curly leaf pondweed



East Branch of the Rock River (Photo credit DNR)



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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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