

# Aquatic Invasive Species Update

## Waukesha County



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## Get Involved: 2017 Snapshot Day

Waukesha County AIS is hosting its third Snapshot Day event on August 5! We are looking for volunteers to join us at sites around the county to get a "snapshot" of the aquatic life in our rivers and streams. Snapshot Day includes partnerships with UW Extension's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, Wisconsin DNR, and River Alliance of Wisconsin, and 22 other organizations statewide. Come out and learn more about what lives in your local stream, and help the AIS team monitor invasive species. With more feet on the ground, and eyes behind binoculars, together we can contain the spread of invasive species.

If you choose to join us, the day will begin with a training session held at the Oconomowoc Community Center where the AIS team will go over safe practices for site monitoring. Then, volunteers will disperse to sites all over the county picked specially for this event. With rakes and scoops we will collect specimen and submit them for identification. Finally we will reconvene to go over what was hopefully an exciting and productive day!

To become a part of this event, [register to volunteer!](#)

2017 STATEWIDE  
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

# SNAPSHOT DAY



Register to be part of Waukesha County's AIS efforts to get a "snapshot" of aquatic life in our rivers and streams!

## Teaching the Teacher Tour

Earlier this month the AIS team was given the opportunity to educate teachers about invasive species on the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use Teacher Tour. Teachers from around the county signed up to travel to the Halquist Stone, Retzer Nature Center, Prairie Springs Field Station, and finally to Pewaukee Lake. Brad, Jenna, and Sara took the teachers on a pontoon boat ride to hunt for invasive species and had an interactive exhibit ready on shore. The Teacher Tour was a fantastic opportunity to spread awareness of AIS and communicate the message of Waukesha County AIS to educators around the county.



Brad teaches teachers all about Aquatic Invasive Species.

## Ongoing Projects

Here's what the AIS team has been working on not only in July, but throughout the summer:

### **Surveys Underway!**

The AIS staff has surveyed Pewaukee Lake, Phantom Lake, Oconomowoc Lake, and Upper Nemahbin Lake so far this summer. On these surveys, data is collected about the plants living in the lakes. The data collected is sent to the Wisconsin DNR and the plants are sent to the UW-Steven's Point Robert W. Freckmann herbarium. We are proud to share our surveys to partner with both WDNR and UWSP. Watch for us later this summer surveying Little Muskego Lake, Silver Lake, and Pine Lake, and feel free to contact us if you're interested in getting involved.



Jenna and Sara are enjoying the beautiful weather! There's nothing better than hanging out on different lakes throughout the county!

### **Purple Loosestrife**

If you've read our newsletters earlier this summer you're probably familiar with our Purple Loosestrife project with Carroll University. If not, here's a summary.

AIS partnered with Carroll University students to collect plants of purple loosestrife, a shoreline invasive species common in southeastern Wisconsin. In a netted structure we've been introducing purple loosestrife beetles to mature and reproduce, a form of biocontrol.

We plan on releasing the beetles, who have multiplied into thousands, to purple loosestrife patches growing around the county in hopes of reducing the population of this invasive plant.



These Beetles are living in Purple Loosestrife heaven as they live and thrive in our netting at Carroll University and are soon to be released! Let us know if you have some Loosestrife that needs beetles!

# Fireworks, Patriotism, and the Landing Blitz!

Over the Fourth of July weekend, Jenna and Sara did Clean Boats Clean Waters on 7 different lakes. From Friday to Tuesday 648 boaters were contacted! Sara and Jenna had fun handing out ice packs, towels, and informational brochures to interested boaters. Waukesha County AIS was one of many counties all around the state to have a special CBCW event for the holiday weekend.

The Landing Blitz was just the beginning of July's Clean Boats Clean Waters efforts. So far, this month Sara and Jenna have spent 128 hours at 10 lakes. In total, 876 boaters were contacted. We plan on continuing our efforts throughout summer to educate boaters at boat launches.



Boaters Enjoyed the extra benefit of being at the launch as the AIS team handed out packets during the Landing Blitz! Who doesn't love free stuff?!

## FUN FACT

Did you know that a single zebra mussel can have 1 million babies? Preventing the spread of even a single zebra mussel just became so much more important...



## AIS July Spotlight

Our coordinator Brad deserves recognition this month for a series of presentations he's given this summer. In late June, Brad explained AIS's mission to lake association members as well as lake property owners at the Healthy Lake Conference in Oconomowoc. He gave updates on CBCW efforts and presented future goals for Waukesha County AIS. Brad also sat on a panel in Muskego to answer questions about Starry Stonewort, an invasive algae found in Little Muskego Lake. At Little Muskego Lake Association's public hearing for their recently approved drawdown, Brad spoke about the consequences of different treatment approaches. Currently Brad is preparing to give a presentation to an advisory committee about Waukesha County AIS's strategic plan to prevent the spread of invasive species in Waukesha County waters. Brad is filled with AIS knowledge that he loves to share, if you'd like him to speak at an event, his contact information is listed below:

Email: [Bradley.Steckart@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:Bradley.Steckart@co.washington.wi.us)



Brad on the far left representing the County on a panel explaining the draw down plan on Little Muskego to the public.

## Attention! Signs for Sale!

Attention lake districts and associations! Waukesha County AIS has received and is selling aquatic invasive species cleaning station signs for \$112 each with installation costs not included. If you're interested in purchasing one for your boat launch don't hesitate to contact us!



Brad shows off the new and improved signs that are ready to be hung up at all the boat launches around the County! Get yours today!

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