

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Washington & Waukesha Counties



July 2018

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Fifth Annual Snapshot Day

Interested in citizen science & protecting Wisconsin's waters? We need your help to monitor aquatic invasive species in the streams and rivers of Waukesha and Washington County!

You won't want to miss the 5th annual Statewide AIS Snapshot Day hosted by River Alliance of Wisconsin in partnership with UW Extension's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.

On Saturday, August 18th join 200+ water enthusiasts around Wisconsin and venture to streams or lakes near you on a search for invasive plants and animals that can choke out our waterways and harm vital habitat. Whether you want to wade in or stay dry, there is a site for you.

Volunteers will begin their day with light food/coffee and training at either the Waukesha County Public Library or the Washington County Administration Building. Following training, volunteers will disperse to sites predetermined by the AIS Team. At these sites, volunteers and team members will collect and report aquatic species by using CLMN monitoring methods.

Learn more & register today on the [eventbrite webpage!](#)



For more information about Snapshot Day, contact Brad Steckart or check out the [eventbrite webpage](#).

Purple Loosestrife Beetle Release

The AIS Team has been raising thousands of *Galerucella* beetles in an enclosure at Carroll University's Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center. The beetles have been happily eating, maturing, and reproducing for almost two months. These beetles, also known as purple loosestrife beetles, are ready for release throughout the county! Past release data has indicated successful reductions in Purple Loosestrife at release sites and the surrounding area due to the beetles' tendency to feed solely and ravenously on Purple Loosestrife.

Throughout the summer, AIS staff have been on the look out for locations in Waukesha and Washington County that are heavily populated with Purple Loosestrife. The team expects that this year's release will be as effective as past releases and help to restore equilibrium to our wetlands.



Galerucella beetles feed solely and ravenously on Purple Loosestrife plants.

AIS Outreach

Waukesha County AIS Interns joined the festivities of Pewaukee's Clean Water Festival. Graceanne and Sara spent the afternoon talking to kids of all ages about aquatic invasive species such as Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil, and Zebra Mussels in the education tent. The festival's favorite species was the invasive Freshwater Jelly Fish: originally from China, our specimen was preserved from Pewaukee Lake just a couple of years ago.



AIS Interns educate families in the education tent of Clean Water Festival in Pewaukee.

AIS interns also hosted three Clean Boat Clean Water Training sessions this month, training 14 new volunteers in total including some current Waukesha County Parks staff. Look out for these new inspectors at the Bleaker St. Launch on Lake Nagawicka and throughout Nagawaukee Park.

Landing Blitz Success

From June 29th to July 4th watercraft inspectors all over the state of Wisconsin participated in the 2018 Landing Blitz. The purpose of the Landing Blitz is to encourage lake users over the holiday weekend that they have the power to protect lakes from the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.

At boat landings, the AIS team spread the message to **Inspect, Remove, Drain, and Never Move** water or aquatic organisms between waterbodies. The team also handed out over 400 towels to encourage boaters to clean their watercraft vehicles.

In total, during the Landing Blitz the Washington and Waukesha County AIS Team educated over 580 boaters at 12 different boat launches.

Landing Blitz data for the entire state can be found on the [WDNR website](#). There, you'll find a drop down menu where you can compare Waukesha and Washington County Clean Boats Clean Waters efforts to that of the entire state.

The AIS team will continue inspecting watercraft throughout the summer. If you see us at a launch, feel free to say hello or approach us with questions you have about AIS or volunteer opportunities.



The AIS team handed out over 300 towels to boaters during the Landing Blitz

Lake of the Month - Erler Lake

This month's update features Erler Lake of Farmington, Wisconsin in

Washington County as its "Lake of the Month."

Erler Lake is a 35 acre lake in Washington County with a maximum depth of 34 feet. There is a public beach and carry in launch located in Leonard J Yahr County Park.

On Erler Lake, anglers might find Panfish and Largemouth Bass off the large fishing pier. Between the fishing pier and swimming beach is a good example of a restored native pollinator habitat. You'll find joe pye weed, purple coneflower, and milkweed actively supporting pollinators like butterflies and beetles along the shore!

Check out the awesome swimming, snorkeling, beach, and fishing opportunities at Leonard J Yahr County Park!



Erler Lake has a carry in launch and public beach at Leonard J Yahr County Park.

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