

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Waukesha County



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June 2017

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June Outreach & Education

Youth Education:

Carroll University hosted a Girls STEM camp for fifth and sixth grade girls and invited Sara and Jenna to present at the Prairie Springs Field Station. Sara and Jenna ran an invasive species station that educated girls about the AIS team's Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol project in collaboration with Carroll University. The station included a tour of the beetle home, which is currently filled with hundreds of beetles collected by the AIS team and lots of Purple Loosestrife. Not only was the STEM camp a fun way to educate participants about the negative effects of invasive species, but a great opportunity to encourage girls to develop interest in the science field. Thank you to Carroll University for inviting us to join!



Jenna hard at work teaching young girls about Purple Loosestrife and beetle biocontrol project that the team has been working on with Carroll University.

Waukesha County Parks:

The AIS team then spent an afternoon at Nagawaukee Park to hold a special Clean Boats Clean Waters training for Parks attendants. The Park staff were taught how they can help CBCW efforts at the launches when AIS Staff aren't there, and just what Jenna and Sara actually do every weekend. We appreciate Nagawaukee Park's collaboration and look forward to speaking with more boaters!

Pewaukee and Little Muskego Lake:

Sara spent Saturday the 24th on Pewaukee Lake and Little Muskego Lake for the Pewaukee Ski Club's and the Muskego Waterbugs' Clean Water Festivals! She talked to hundreds of lake users about AIS with her interactive table and display, and then enjoyed the festivals.



Sara representing the AIS team at one of the many

festivals that celebrate our abundance of lakes in the area.

Clean Boats Clean Waters:

The AIS team has started their Clean Boats Clean Waters efforts at boat launches around the county! The AIS Team has already logged almost 100 hours and combined have talked to about 1,000 people! If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer your time at a boat launch this summer or even just for a day please do not hesitate to email us! We would be more than happy to have you out and spreading the word of AIS prevention with us!

Surveys Underway!

If you don't spot the AIS team at the launches or in the office, check underwater! This summer, Brad, Jenna, and Sara will be surveying Pewaukee, Phantom, Oconomowoc, Little Muskego, Silver, Pine, and Upper Nemahbin Lakes. Look for us raking up vegetation from the side of a boat or diving in to collect specimen with our hands. We record every species present and note the presence of invasive species. The data are sent data to the DNR for further analysis.



Sara's first survey under her belt and its safe to say she's having a blast.

A Bit About Partnerships

Little Muskego has started a weed cutting project in Hill View Bay that is infested with starry stonewort (SSW). A path has been cut through the center as well as along the perimeter and between piers in order to reduce the possible spread of SSW. This should make it easier for the people who live on the bay to enter and exit with a little bit more peace of mind. When the cutter is used in this area, it is mandatory that the crew beaches it and cleans it off using a power washer. With the help of the DNR a checklist has been developed to ensure that all places on the cutter have been thoroughly cleaned to the best of their ability. After the cutting, the AIS team must inspect the harvester to ensure full cleanliness. After cleaning, the harvester must dry for at least a day before moving to another part of the lake. This great feat would not be possible without the great communication and cooperation of the **Lake Association, DNR, County and cutter crew!**

Rock River Snapshot Week

Waukesha County's Rock River Snapshot Initiative was held June 18-24. With the help of volunteers, we got a "snapshot" of the aquatic life in the Rock River Basin. Volunteers were given free reign of the Rock River sites across the county (paying attention to private property and personal safety, of course) to collect specimen and report their findings back to the AIS team. This project was a regional effort throughout Dane, Jefferson, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in collaboration with River Alliance. It's important to keep not only our lakes clean, but our rivers and streams as well. We'd like to give a special thank you to our volunteers, if you're interested in this event, the **Annual Snapshot Day** will be held on Saturday, August 5th. Feel free to contact the AIS team for information on how to get involved!



A Big Thank You to Contributing Organizations!

Many thanks to the Lake Groups and Conservation Organizations that donated to the Waukesha County AIS program for 2017!

City of Muskego (Big and Little Muskego Lake)
Friends of Beaver Lake
Hunters Lake Association
Lac La Belle Management District
Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District
Silver Lake Management District
Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission
Tall Pines Conservancy
Upper Nemahbin Lake Management District

Reminder to Lake Districts:

If you plan on donating next year, don't forget to include it in your budget before your Annual Meeting!

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