

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Washington & Waukesha Counties



June 2019

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Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Training

On June 5th, a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Training was held at the Oconomowoc Community Center to teach volunteers how to monitor for aquatic invasive species! We were fortunate to have Paul Skawinski, a Statewide Coordinator for the program, assist with the training and provide his expertise and insight! There were 11 attendees with community members from Lower Nemahbin Lake, Fowler Lake, Hunter's Lake, the Yahara Chain of Lakes (Madison), and staff from Stillwater Diving (Delafield). Attendees learned how to identify AIS and how to use a sampling rake to survey for aquatic vegetation.



Paul Skawinski demonstrating aquatic plant identification along the shoreline of Lac La Belle.

A Look Under the Waves

If you take a boat out on Pike Lake (Washington County) or Big Muskego Lake (Waukesha County), you might notice some funky looking buoys. The AIS Coordinator and DNR staff were asked to assist the US Army Corp of Engineers with the deployment of underwater cameras to monitor the growth of the invasive macro-algae starry stonewort! 2 cameras were deployed in Pike Lake, and 5 were deployed in Big Muskego. The cameras are powered by solar panels, taking one photo every hour. Pike Lake serves as a control lake to monitor starry stonewort; it is the only lake where there has been no active management for starry stonewort using either mechanical methods or chemical application. On Big Muskego Lake, this summer will be spent monitoring an area approximately 1 acre in size, and next summer the plan is to return to the same location, apply chemical, and have visual documentation of how the starry stonewort responds to treatment (tests are still being conducted to determine which chemical will be used).



Solar panel that powers underwater cameras.



Submerged underwater camera.



Cameras out of water.

Purple Loosestrife Beetle Harvest

For those who picked up pots of purple loosestrife from the Washington County Fair Park in May, or for those who have requested beetles, beetle harvest is underway! Beetles will be distributed within the next couple weeks! The beetles will consume the leaves and stems of the purple loosestrife, exhausting the plant's resources and eventually killing it.



Waukesha County AIS Intern Kayla Weiss and Jeanne Scherer (WDNR) hunting for beetles in West Bend, Washington County.



Harvested purple loosestrife beetles in plastic bag.

Starry Stonewort Management Update

There are multiple management techniques being conducted in Washington County this summer to control starry stonewort. Here is a snapshot of the control efforts planned for this year:

Silver Lake: In September, mechanical dredging to remove bulbils (starry stonewort's reproductive structures) buried in sediment in front of the Henschke's Hillside boat launch in West Bend.

Green Lake: Copper/hydrothol chemical application within vertical limno-barriers. At high concentrations copper is toxic to algae and plants.

Little Cedar Lake: On June 15th, six SCUBA divers hand pulled starry stonewort at the boat launch in Ackerman's Grove County Park while volunteer kayakers shuttled the material to shore for disposal.

More updates to come throughout the summer!



Washington County AIS intern Damian Hardt assisting with a pre-dredging

vegetation survey on Silver Lake.



AIS Coordinator for Washington and Waukesha Counties, Cassie Taplin, geared up to conduct handpulling of starry stonewort at Ackerman's Grove on Little Cedar Lake.

Lake of the Month - Hasmer

Hasmer Lake is located in Jackson, Washington County. Hasmer Lake has a surface area of 13 acres and max depth of 34 feet. Fisherman can expect to catch pan fish, northern pike, and large mouth bass. Hasmer Lake has both a public carry-in access and fishing pier at the northwest side of the lake!

Aquatic Invasive Species: **Curly Leaf Pondweed**



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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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