

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Washington & Waukesha Counties



June 2018

Email: Bradley.Steckart@co.washington.wi.us
[Washington County Website](#)
[Waukesha County Website](#)

[Home](#)

[Subscribe Now](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Invader Crusader

During the summer of 2017, the Waukesha County AIS team recognized a need for creative outreach material that inspired Wisconsin residents to take action to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. After brainstorming, the team agreed that the combination of music and education in the format of a music video could adequately engage lake users of all ages. The product was the "Boatbusters" music video, modeled after Ray Parker Jr.'s 1984 song "Ghostbusters".

While "Boatbusters" was created as a fun way to reach out to local lake users, it was submitted to the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council's annual video contest and picked as the category winner in May of 2018. This month, the team traveled to the Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison to be recognized for their Invader Crusader video award and received an engraved buckthorn plaque.



The 2017 AIS team stands with their buckthorn plaque after recognition.

Click [this link](http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness-month/video-contest/) to open up the Invader Crusader video awards page in your web browser and scroll to find the "Boatbusters" video:

<http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness-month/video-contest/>

Starry Stonewort Update

Various efforts have been taken around Washington and Waukesha counties to control and prevent the spread of starry stonewort. Starry stonewort is an invasive macroalgae named for its starchy star-shaped reproductive structure. Waukesha County and Washington County are currently two of four counties in the state affected by starry stonewort. Here's an update on what's being done to control and prevent the spread of starry stonewort:

- **Waukesha County:**
- Little Muskego lake executed a 7 foot drawdown in the fall of 2017. The success of the drawdown to freeze out aquatic invasive species will be analyzed in August of 2018.
- Big Muskego lake will undergo a survey in July of 2018 conducted by the Wisconsin DNR and the Waukesha County AIS team to assess the current presence of starry stonewort.
- **Racine County**
- Wind Lake has engaged in chemical treatment and residual testing in

June of 2018, progress will be analyzed throughout the summer of 2018.

- **Washington County**
- Green Lake is conducting a one acre chemical treatment with curtain
- Silver Lake is conducting a hydraulic dredging project with benthic barriers after the treatment
- Washington County recently partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to deploy cameras in Pike Lake to monitor SSW growth.

Many other lakes in Washington and Waukesha Counties have received Clean Boats Clean Waters grants for watercraft inspection programs at boat landings. Watercraft inspection is a proven method to prevent the spread of all invasive species from entering and leaving waterbodies, including starry stonewort.



Starry stonewort was discovered in Wind Lake in 2016.

Field Work

Purple Loosestrife is an invasive wetland plant found in every county in Wisconsin. Although pleasing to the eye, this species, originally from Europe, is a fierce competitor that can diminish wildlife habitat and the recreational value of wetlands. In order to control Purple Loosestrife, *Galerucella* beetles were introduced in 1994 as a biological control agent. Since then, the beetles have been successfully eating their way through the purple loosestrife infested wetlands.

The Waukesha County AIS team alongside the Washington County 4H Wildlife WHEP program, Carroll University, and local volunteers have been raising their own *Galerucella* beetles. The beetles are currently housed at the Carroll University field station in a netted structure filled with potted purple loosestrife. Come mid-July, just before purple loosestrife is ready to bloom, the beetles will be released all around the county, indulging in purple loosestrife and aiding in its control.



Interns Sara and Graceanne standing next to the beetle enclosure they've constructed.



The beetle enclosure is filled with potted purple loosestrife.

Drain Campaign Success

AIS Interns participated in the annual Drain Campaign from June 1-3. The

Drain Campaign is an event hosted by the WDNR but carried out by Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff that encourages anglers to drain their livewells upon exit of a waterbody in order to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The Washington and Waukesha County AIS team spent time at boat landings handing out ice packs to encourage anglers to ice their catch.

Moving water away from the waterbody it comes from can contribute to the spread of AIS like zebra mussel veligers, or microscopic zebra mussel eggs. Using ice is a safe and legal way to keep fish fresh during transport. Some anglers even claim it makes their fish taste better!

In total, during the drain campaign the Washington and Waukesha County AIS Team talked to and educated over 150 boaters at 6 different boat launches.

If you missed the Drain Campaign but still want to get involved in other Clean Boats Clean Waters promotional efforts, join us for the Landing Blitz June 29 - July 4. The team will be educating boaters about AIS prevention steps at boat landings all over the county.

Feel free to contact us if you need materials, want to find out more about promotional events, or are interested in volunteering with us.



The AIS team handed out ice packs at boat launches to encourage anglers to ice their catch.

Lakes of the Month - Hunters Lake & Pretty Lake

This month features two "Lakes of the Month," Hunters Lake and Pretty Lake, both located in the town of Ottawa.

Hunters Lake is a 54 acre lake of Waukesha County with a maximum depth of 54 feet. There is a public launch to access Hunters Lake located off of Manor House Road.

Pretty Lake is a 65 acre lake in Waukesha County with a maximum depth of 31 feet. A public access launch is located off of Pretty Lake Road.

On both lakes, anglers might find Panfish, Largemouth Bass, and Northern Pike.

Members of both Hunters and Pretty lakes, as well as the Ottawa Town Board have recently demonstrated fantastic Lake stewardship by assembling a team of volunteers to be trained in watercraft inspection and conduct Clean Boat, Clean Waters at their launches.

Both the Lake Groups and Town Board thoroughly researched the CBCW program to determine that it might be successful in the Town of Ottawa. So here is a big thanks to both the Town and the relentless volunteer organizers of their volunteer Clean Boats, Clean Waters program!



Pretty Lake is located in the Town of Ottawa in Waukesha County.

To subscribe to this *Aquatic Invasive Species Update Newsletter* by clicking the image below or [here!](#)

Please Click Here to
SUBSCRIBE
to our Newsletter

For more information:

Email: bradley.steckart@co.washington.wi.us

Washington County
262-335-4800

www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd

Waukesha County
262-896-8300

www.waukeshacounty.gov/ais