Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Washington & Waukesha Counties

September 2018

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Washington County Website
Waukesha County Website

Waterfowl Weekend

Saturday, September 29th marks opening weekend for duck and many other waterfowl hunting. Maintaining healthy wetlands and waters support strong waterfowl populations, but are threatened by the presence of aquatic invasive species.

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AIS can destroy native vegetation and other ecological conditions that birds need to survive. Some AIS can transmit bacteria and parasites that kill waterfowl.

If you are planning to hunt this season, please take these precautions to preserve Wisconsin's waterfowl populations and hunting traditions for generations to come.

1. **Inspect** your boat, trailer, and hunting equipment. This includes your boots, blinds, push poles, and even your pup!
2. **Remove** all plants, animals, and mud from your equipment
3. **Drain** all water from decoys, boat, motor, live well, and other hunting equipment
4. **Never move** plants or live fish away from a waterbody

- A special consideration for hunters is to avoid using non-native plants, like phragmites, for your duck blind. This can lead to the accidental spread of the species.

An inspector checks ducks, decoys, and dogs during opening weekend. Photo: Brad Steckart.

Green Lake Starry Stonewort Update

An invasive species of algae called starry stonewort was discovered in Green Lake in Washington County during the summer of 2015. Since then, the Green Lake Property Owners Association has worked very hard to find a solution to combat this new invasive.

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The Wisconsin DNR was awarded federal funding to address the starry stonewort issue. Some of these funds were used to conduct experimental treatments in Washington County on Green Lake and Silver Lake.

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In Green Lake, the treatment included using an algaecide made of copper and endothall to kill the invasive algae, while keeping the chemical contained using vertical curtains. The goal was to keep the algaecide contained in high enough concentrations to eliminate as much of the starry stonewort population as possible.

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Curtains were placed in the lake on September 17th, treatment occurred the following day, and the curtains were removed September 27th.

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Following the treatment, chemical concentrations were monitored for nine days. We will continue monitoring the lake for starry stonewort populations throughout fall and next year to determine the success of the treatment.

Chemicals are applied inside barrier on Green Lake. Photo: Amy Kretlow.

Lake Five Collaborates with NASA, DNR, and University of North Carolina

The AIS team met with Dr. Tamlin Pavelski earlier this summer. His team from the University of North Carolina, the WI DNR, and citizen scientists around the world are conducting research for NASA using satellites to read lake levels. By monitoring lake levels using satellites, the Pavelski's team hopes to look at fluctuating water levels and water storage capacity on a large scale. find out more about their project "Citizen Scientists and Satellites" here.

Ken and Lori Hebbe on Lake Five in Colgate, WI have been monitoring the lake levels using a water gauge at the end of their dock for the past three years. Their citizen monitoring will determine a baseline to the fluctuating water levels and act as a reference point for future studies. Lake Five is one of the 24 monitored lakes in Wisconsin.

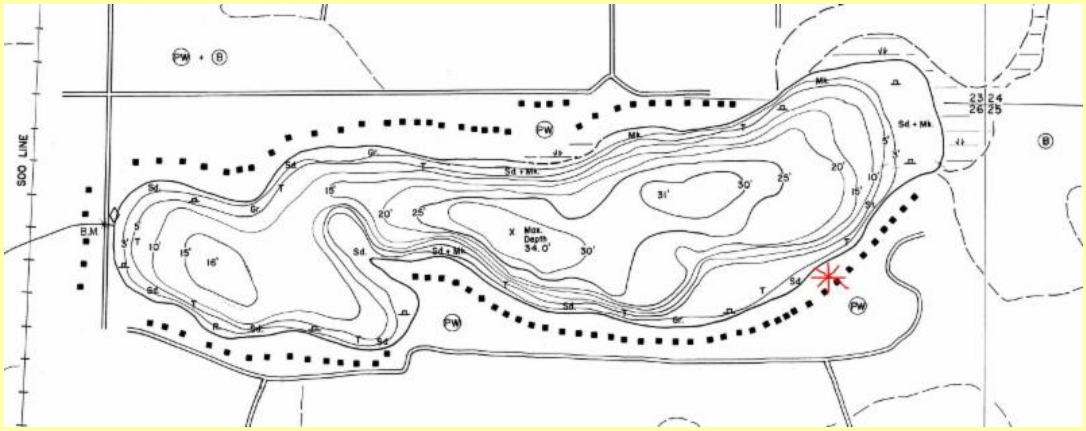
Beyond Wisconsin, the three-year project will include over 200 lakes in Minnesota, Washington, New England, Bangladesh, France, India, and Pakistan. This is a great example of the impact citizen science has on research and technology around the world!

Wisconsin DNR's Katie Hein discusses lake levels with Lake Five's Ken Hebbe and Dr. Pavelski. Photo: Sarah Yelton

Lake of the Month - Bark Lake

The September "Lake of the Month" is Bark Lake in Richfield, Wisconsin.
Bark Lake is a 65 acre lake located in Washington County. It has a maximum depth of 34 feet. Fish include Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye. The lake's water clarity is low due to high tannin content.

Bark Lake forms the headwaters of the Bark River in Washington County, which flows southwest through Waukesha County and ultimately joins the Rock River in Jefferson County. The lake's watershed is about 3,400 acres with about half of that being under urban land uses.



The Bark Lake boat launch is located at 819 E Shore Drive, Hubertus, WI, 53033

While serving as a popular recreational lake with fascinating native species like American lotus, the lake is home to a number of invasive species including curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water-milfoil, purple loosestrife, and spiny naiad.

American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) is a native historically significant plant that grows on Bark Lake. Photo: Brad Steckart

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