

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Waukesha County



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A Brush with Invasive Species!

AIS Cleaning Stations Are Almost Ready to be Ordered!

This year we are switching it up. The AIS team will order boat cleaning stations that can be sold to Lake Groups. There has been such a fantastic amount of feed back from people around the county after signs were placed at each of the county owned launches. The signs are available on a "first come, first serve" basis. They are 4' by 4' full color on an aluminum composite material. They will look similar to this sign, but our staff has been working with the DNR to complete an updated sign that can be introduced State-wide. Quotes are being generated.



If you have any questions about this program, call Brad Steckart at 262-335-4806 or email [the AIS Team](#). Stay updated with our AIS E-News by subscribing [HERE!](#)

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Training

Clean Boats Clean Waters Training Dates are here!

Clean Boats, Clean Waters certified boat inspectors perform boat and trailer checks, disseminate informational brochures and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. To become certified, attend a two-hour training.

If you are interested in volunteering at a boat launch this summer, or are hired through a Lake Association, Lake District, or municipality please feel free to attend one of these trainings.



Washington County:

May 6: Germantown Library, Germantown

9-11am

May 20: West Bend Police Dept Training Rm 9-11am
May 21: Big Cedar Lake PRD Building (Gonring Dr.) 12-2pm

Waukesha County:

May 6: Idle Isle Launch, Little Muskego Lake 2-4pm
May 13: Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha 9-11am
May 20: Idle Isle Launch, Little Muskego Lake 2-4pm



Information about more trainings can be found at the [UW-Extension Lakes Website!](#)

Highlights from the Past Month. . .

Teaming up for a Cause:

On April 23rd the AIS team was accompanied by a class from Carroll University. With the students' help, over 50 purple loosestrife plants were uprooted and transferred to The Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center that is a new addition to Carroll! These plants will be used to grow biocontrol beetles that eat purple loosestrife and have been proven to reduce plant populations. These beetles will then be released into large patches of purple loosestrife around Waukesha County in effort to suppress the growth and spread of this invasive throughout the county.



After the group collected purple loosestrife, they headed out to Little Muskego to collect starry stonewort bulbils. The group strapped on their waders and were equipped with throw-able rakes and buckets to wrangle up very small and elusive bulbils. Bulbils are the reproductive, seed-like structures that can spread and start growing elsewhere. The collected bulbils can be studied in laboratories to suppress the growth and spread of this species. Starry stonewort is a new invasive to Wisconsin and is only found in a few lakes in SE Wisconsin.

Thank you to the awesome students of Dr. Levine's class at Carroll University and the Prairie Springs Environmental Center staff!

If you are interested in teaming up with us this summer, please [click here](#) to inquire for more information!

Partnerships:

Since the beginning of the year our team has been working with SEWRPC to develop a strategic plan. One of the beginning stages of the project included going to all the boat launches and known fishing piers in the county and documenting where they are, how many parking spaces and invasive species were present at the launch. We took pictures of what signs were posted at each launch and the launch condition. With this data, SEWRPC can develop crucial information to add to the strategic plan. The pictures will be used to make a future story map that will be posted later this year! Stay tuned for more information.



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