

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Waukesha County



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BOATBUSTERS!

If there's somethin' strange in your lake or stream, who ya gonna call?

[BOATBUSTERS!](#)



[Click the photo to see the full BOATBUSTERS video made by the AIS Team](#)

Every year the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council hosts a video contest. This year, we plan to enter with our video: BOATBUSTERS! Also, we'd like to promote this video throughout the county via social media through the county Facebook pages, UW- Extension and WDNR. This educational video will help the AIS team further our outreach efforts throughout the county and state.

Released before Labor Day Weekend, the video heavily promotes the NR 40 law to **INSPECT, REMOVE, DRAIN**, and **NEVER MOVE** aquatic plants or animals away from a waterbody.

The video was a fantastic learning opportunity and we hope to use our newly acquired video editing skills to make more educational videos.

We appreciate your views and shares of our video! Enjoy!

Starry Stonewort Workshop

On September 7th and 8th, 2017 the Army Corps of Engineers hosted a starry stonewort workshop at the Oconomowoc Community Center on beautiful Lac La Belle.



Click on the picture above to view live videos of the Starry Stonewort Workshop held in Oconomowoc in September 2017

The collaborative effort between our AIS Team and the Army Corps began last March when a member of the Army Corps met with our AIS Coordinator to collect starry stonewort bulbils. They started a conversation about bringing leaders together who are on the forefront of starry stonewort research and management. This workshop was the pinnacle of those efforts! We want to thank the over 50 attendees for visiting our thriving County to discuss such an important topic affecting our local waters!

Researchers and managers from Missouri, New York, Canada, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois came together to discuss existing population data and research, management techniques, and control efforts. To view the talks and discussions, visit the Washington County Parks Facebook page to watch the live presentations and breakout review sessions!



Photo: Brad Steckart 2017

Starry stonewort bulbils range in diameter from 1 millimeter to just over a centimeter.

Washington County Land and Water Tour

The AIS Coordinator recently had a chance to attend the Southeast Area Land & Water Conservation Tour and help the Regional DNR Lake Biologist tell the story

of the red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*).

The red swamp crayfish was found in 2011 in a small pond in Germantown, WI. The large crayfish is a delicacy in southern U.S. "crawdads boils" and a common specimen found in science classrooms. These are the suspect sources for the released population of the crayfish in Germantown.



Photo: Bradley Steckart

A picture highlighting the tubercles (bumps) on the claws of the red swamp crayfish.

Red swamp crayfishes native habitat is in the southern U.S. and it can survive in fresh or brackish waters. It usually does not prefer cold winters, so it digs down to 8 feet below the shoreline where it creates a complex network of muddy burrows. In the Germantown pond, there were thousands of red swamp crayfish by 2012. The DNR drained most of the pond, and treated the water that was left with chemicals. They laid down road tarp, so any crayfish burrowing over the winter could not resurface. The shoreline of the pond was completely changed from a muddy forested shoreline to a rock-lined shore.



The shore of the pond was replaced with #2 rock.

After they refilled the pond, they stocked it with bass and other fish that like to eat crayfish. The pond has seen a significant decrease in red swamp crayfish since this initial infestation. The DNR has been monitoring the traps since this restoration took place and have found under 10 crayfish per summer for the past 3 years.



[Click above to be directed to the DNR red swamp crayfish page.](#)

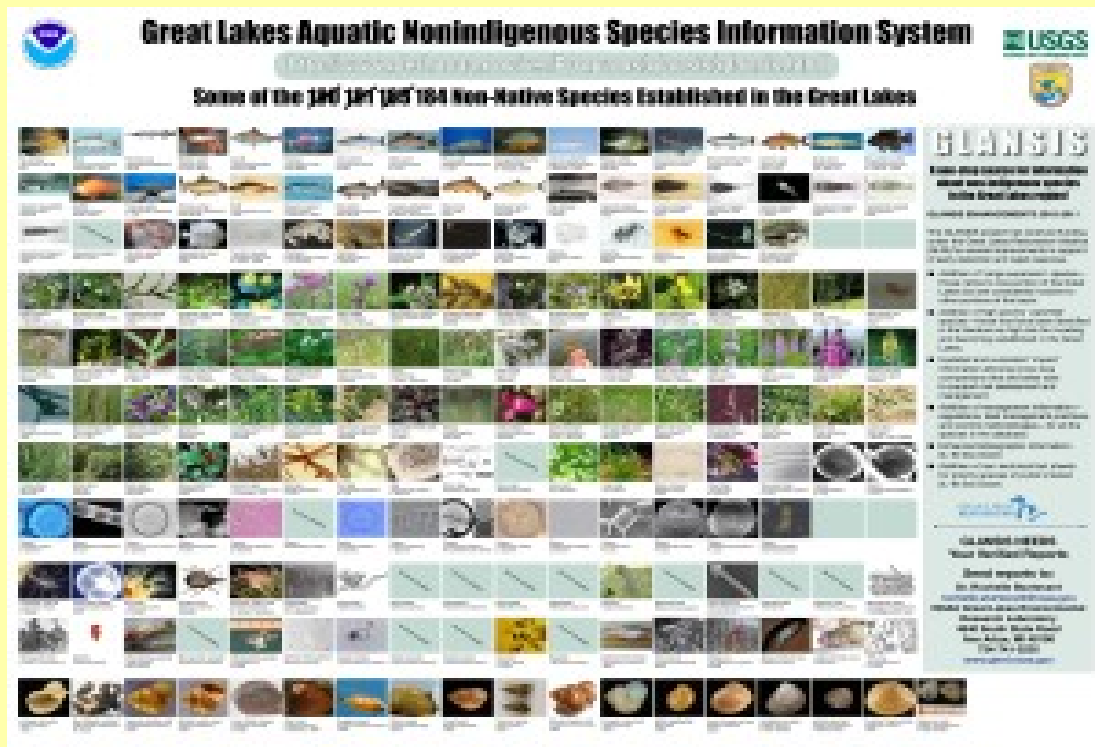
FUN FACT

The great lakes system has identified over 180 non-native (or non-indigenous) species! How many can you name?

Remember that there is a difference between non-native and invasive. When invasive species are introduced to a new area, they take over and disturb the economy, ecology, and recreation opportunities of an area.

When non-native species that are not invasive are introduced to a new area, they may have no impact on ecosystem or economic health.

When a non-native species is found, it may not be known if it will become a threat to the ecosystem until it is too late to stop it. Others such as the Chinook and Coho Salmon have been planted by the State since the 1960's after some native salmon species became extinct in the late 1800's.



Check out these AIS!

AIS July Spotlight

This month we'd like to recognize our AIS intern Sara Fox for her hard work this past summer! This was Sara's first summer working for Waukesha County.

Sara was eager to begin right off the bat and we knew she was a go-getter. Never hesitating to get her hands dirty and jump right into projects, we were happy to have Sara representing Waukesha County throughout the summer.

Sara spent the majority of her summer internship getting experience talking to boaters during Clean Boats, Clean Waters surveys in the "Lake Country" portion of the county. She was able to discuss the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species, and has plenty of funny stories to share from the launches!

Her interest in policy led her to attend and eventually present at a few Lake District meetings and training sessions. You may have also seen her booth at different Pewaukee and Muskego Water Festivals. She did a fantastic job!

Her final project was to take the "BOATBUSTERS" video idea off the back burner and coordinate the people, places, and equipment to get it done. She proved to be very efficient and organized. We look forward to having her at the County next summer!

On her day off, you may encounter her camping, cliff jumping, listening to music, or hanging out on the Pewaukee beach. If you ever see her, feel free to ask her questions you may have about invasive species or just say hello.

Thanks again for your hard work, Sara. You inspire us all with your dedication to protect our local waters! Good luck this year at UW-Madison!



Sara Fox collects *Galericella* beetles at Prairie Springs Environmental Station

Lake of the Month

September's lake of the month is Little Muskego Lake in Muskego. Little Muskego Lake is a 506-acre flow-through lake with extensive shallow margins and a single

deep basin. The bottom substrate predominantly consists of silt or muck. Because of the impounding effects of the outlet dam, originally constructed in 1838, the lake level is approximately 8-feet higher and the surface area has more than doubled compared to the original natural lake basin. SEWRPC published an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Little Muskego Lake in 2009. An updated publication will be released soon.

Residents and visitors to Little Muskego Lake enjoy a variety of lake-related recreational activities including boating, skiing, sailing, and fishing. The Muskego Recreation Program holds water-related classes and recreational activities on the lake. Anglers seek game fish species including largemouth bass, northern pike, and walleyes as well as several panfish species. (Information taken from Muskego web page).



Little Muskego Lake Information _from Muskego webpage.

This winter, Little Muskego is addressing an invasive species called starry stonewort by using the dam to draw the water down 7 feet! Hopefully the reproductive bulbils of the starry stonewort will freeze and not be able to grow next spring. There is little empirical research addressing starry stonewort treatment, and the potential success of this project is being closely monitored by algae researchers around the world.

As of this date (09/27/2017) the water temperature is 70 degrees F, and the water is 42" drawn down. The draw down will continue until October 6th.

If you're looking to participate on your lake in a way that's greater than the average resident feel free to contact the AIS team about getting involved.

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