



The Monitor

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The newsletter of Wisconsin's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

AIS Snapshot Day Samples 150+ Sites

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Snapshot Day is a free, one-day, coordinated event that helps detect early populations of AIS. By finding AIS before they get well-established, concerned citizens and resource managers can address these populations with less effort, lower expense, and less ecological damage.

About 100 volunteers visited over 150 sites across the state to search for aquatic and wetland invasive species on August 5th. Minnesota joined in on the fun and held a similar event called "Starry Trek", focused on detecting populations of starry stonewort, a relatively new aquatic invader to both of our states. This was the first time Minnesota held this type of event, and it was also the first time that lakes were included in Wisconsin's Snapshot Day event. Previously, AIS Snapshot Day was limited to sampling streams.

Many undocumented populations of AIS were discovered during these events, but thankfully, no starry stonewort was discovered in either state. Findings in Wisconsin included Asian clams and faucet snails, with the remainder being more common species like Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, and mystery snails.

Next year, Wisconsin and Minnesota will once again team up to host a Snapshot Day in each state on August 18th, 2018. All training and equipment is provided to participants at a local training site.

If you are interested in participating in the 2018 AIS Snapshot Day, contact your county Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator or Paul Skawinski, Statewide Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator (contact info at bottom of this newsletter). Local training sites are held around the state and we can set one up near you!



Volunteer Barb Schmidt discovers a stand of purple loosestrife during the 2017 AIS Snapshot Day

Announcements

Please Chill Water Samples Before Mailing

The State Lab of Hygiene reports that many samples are received each year without any ice remaining in the shipping box. In order to obtain the most accurate testing results, there must be enough ice in the shipping box to keep the samples cool until they are received at the lab. We recommend three trays of ice cubes (about 50 cubes), and chilling your phosphorus sample before packing it up in the container will allow your ice to last much longer. Just an hour or two in the refrigerator can make a big difference.

Submit Water Quality and AIS Monitoring Data by November 1st

Please remember to submit your monitoring data into the SWIMS database by November 1st each year. We accept data at any time of the year, but in order for us to see a complete picture of this year's monitoring results and to generate lists of award winners, we need to have as much data entered as possible.

You May Be Able to Avoid The Post Office

Did you know that your postal carrier may be able to pick up your water sample shipping container right from your home, saving you the trip to the post office? Since we provide a postage-paid Merchandise Return Label with the State Lab's address, you can schedule a package pickup on the U.S. Postal Service website and they will pick up your box right at your front door or mailbox. Make sure you put the container in a shady location so it doesn't get too warm, and add a little extra ice to the box. You can check availability of free package pickup for your address at the U.S. Postal Service website or by clicking this link: <https://tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action>

Thank You For Your Hard Work!

The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network staff and the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership would like to thank you for all of your efforts this monitoring season. We wish you a happy winter season and we hope that you are able to continue monitoring your lake in 2018.

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