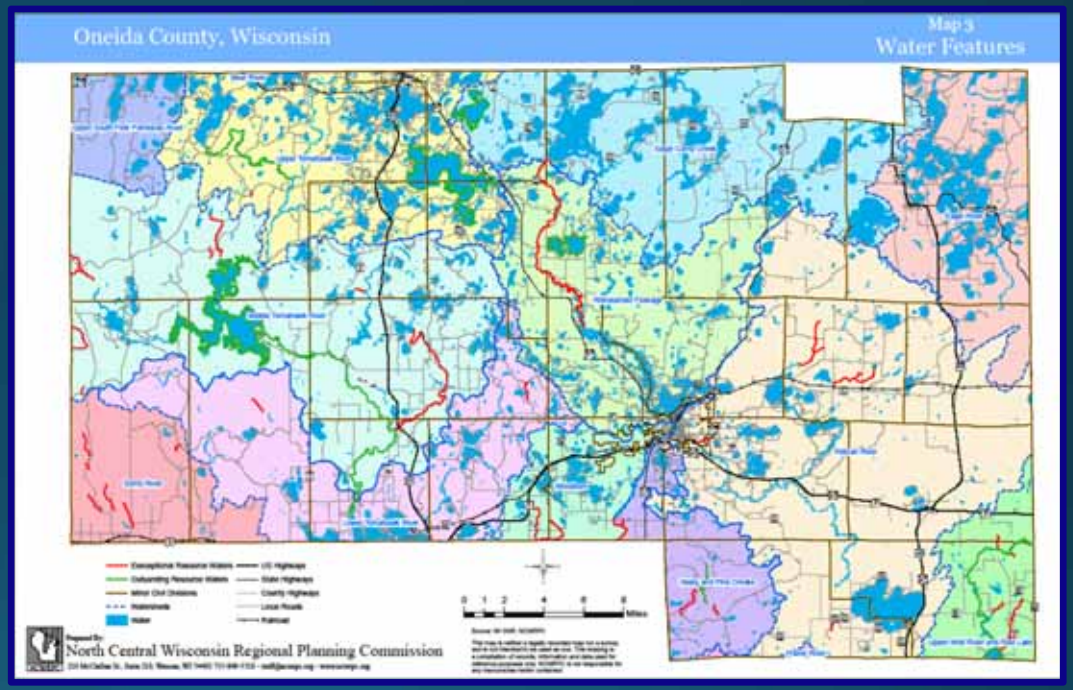
Considerations for Success, Challenges and Sharing our Experience:

Discovery, Rapid Response and Hand-pulling Eurasian Water-Milfoil

Stephanie Boismenue, Aquatic Invasive Species Lead Program Assistant,
Oneida County Land & Water Conservation

Oneida County is part of a region that has the fifth largest concentration of freshwater lakes in the world.

- 1,129 lakes covering 68,447 acres.
- 830 miles of rivers and streams
- 192 miles are classified trout streams.
- 1,300 acres of cranberry bogs.
- Surface water covers 10% of the county.
- Classified wetlands covers 27% of the county.
- Magnet for industries, tourism and recreation

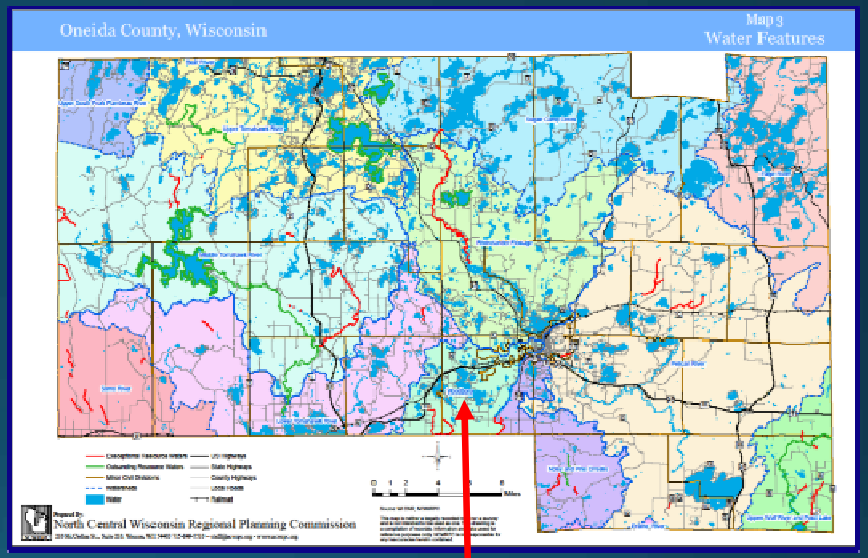


Oneida County Land & Water Conservation's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

- Oneida County's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program was developed in 2007 to protect our waterways from the threat of AIS.
- Our AIS team is an integral part of the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department and consists of an AIS Coordinator (Michele Sadauskas) and three part-time project assistants.
- Focuses on educational outreach, technical assistance, and AIS management
- Assist the county's citizens and natural resource agencies with managing and protecting the land and water resources throughout Oneida County.

Crescent Lake Facts

- Crescent Lake is a 616 acre lake
- Maximum depth: 32 feet
- Mean depth: 17 feet
- Bottom 30% sand, 25% gravel, 25% rock, 20% muck
- Hydrologic : Spring
- One public boat landing
- Fish include Musky, Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye
- The lake's water is moderately clear
- AIS : Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Rusty Crayfish, Yellow Iris



Crescent Lake, Oneida County, Wisconsin

Crescent Lake

Crescent Lake Association
Strong Proactive Approach to AIS

1979 to present Monitoring Secchi, chemistry, temperature and dissolved oxygen

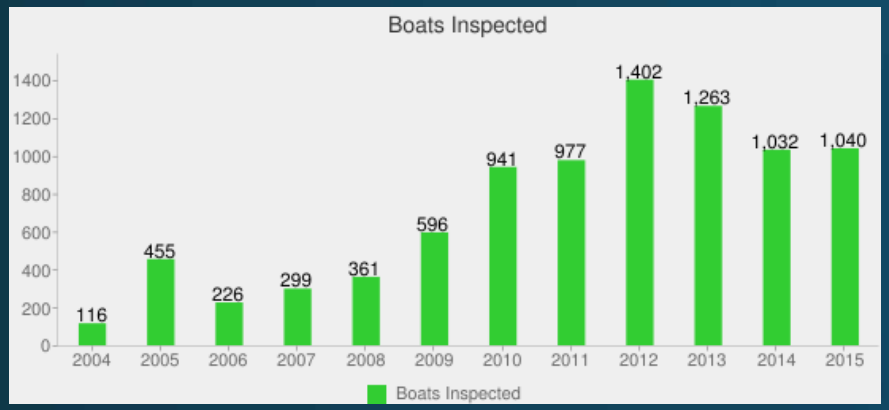
Grants Awarded:

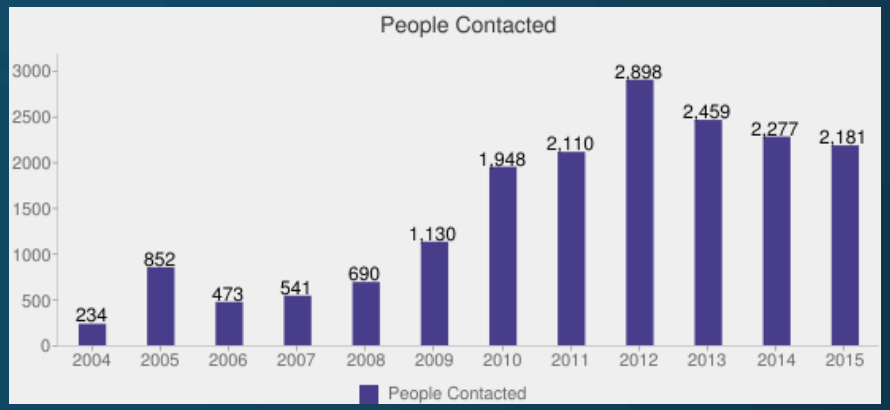
- 2005 Crescent Lake Management Plan
- 2008 Crescent Lake AIS Education & Protection Project
- 2010 Town of Crescent Three Lakes (Crescent Lake, Squash Lake, Lake Julia) AIS Education & Planning Project
- 2012 Crescent Lake 2013 Education, Prevention, & Planning Project
- 2013 Crescent Lake 2014 Education, Prevention & Planning Project
- 2015 Crescent Lake 2015 Clean Boats Clean Waters Project

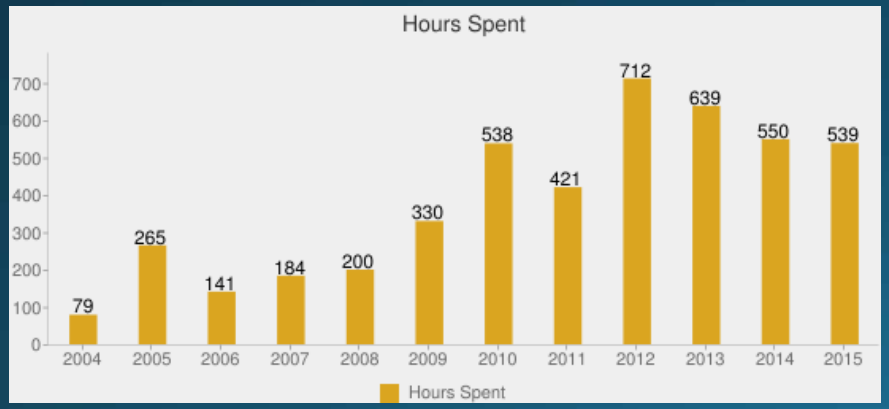
2010 Developed and implemented AIS First Response Committee and First Response Procedures.

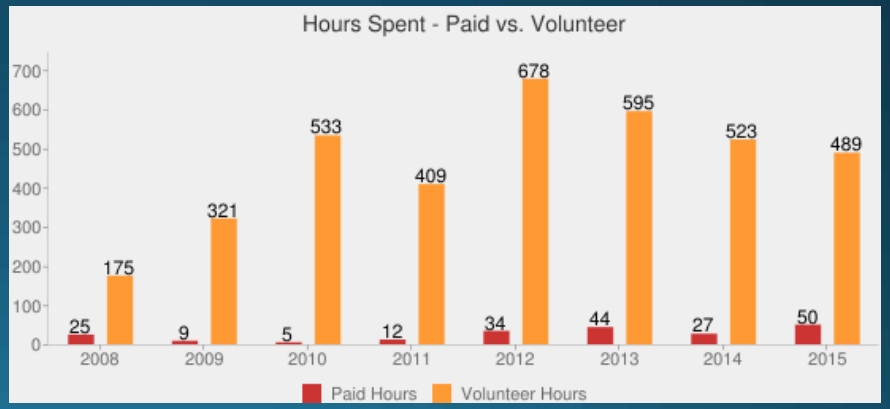
Crescent Lake Association has a strong CBCW program – setting a precedent for the rest of the county.

Crescent Lake CBCW Data





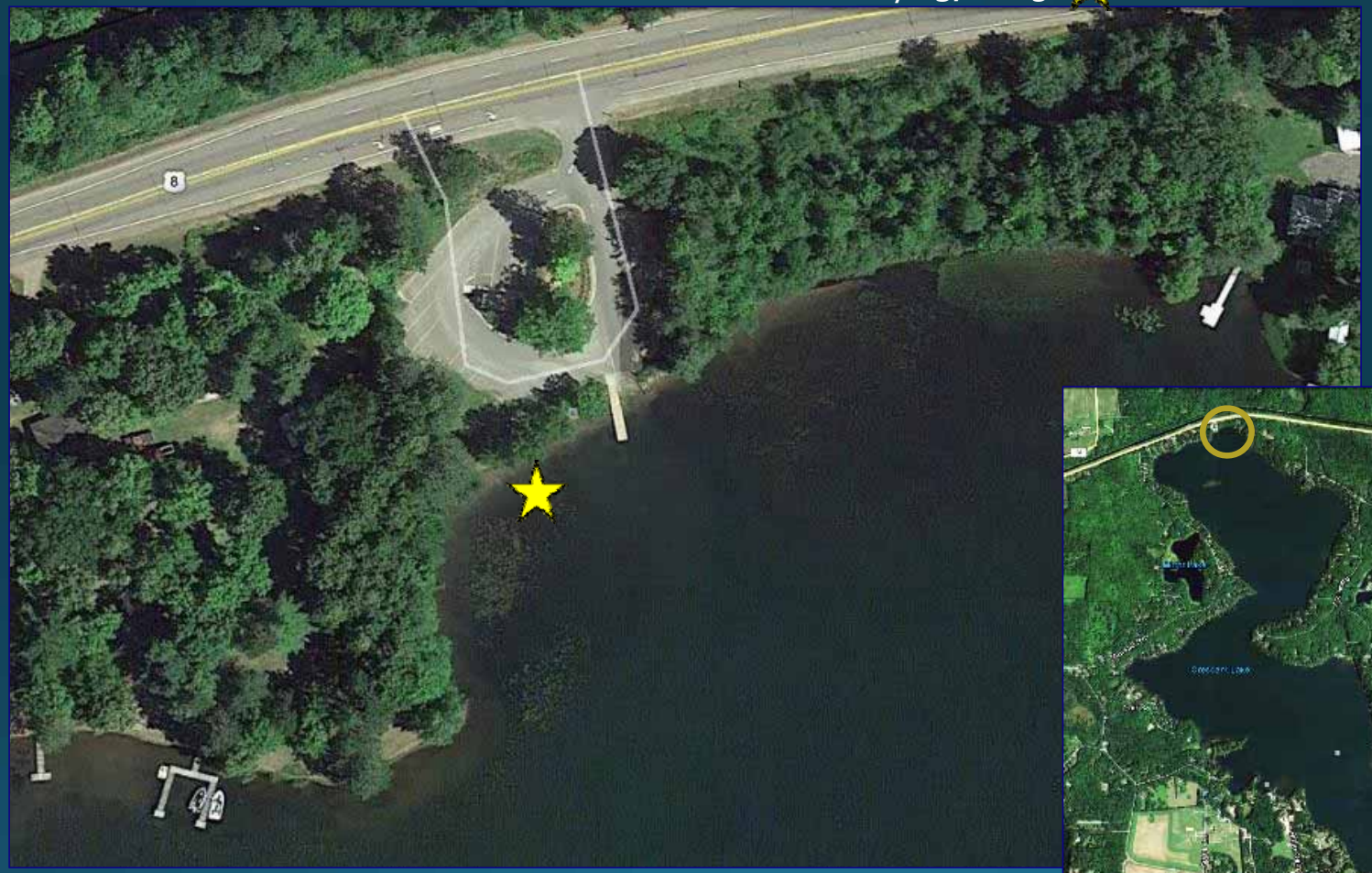




Eurasian Water-milfoil Discovered in Crescent Lake

On July 13, 2015, one single Eurasian Water-milfoil (EWM) plant was discovered at Crescent Lakes boat landing. It was found on the west side of the boat ramp, in front of the picnic table, in about 2 1/2 feet of water, along the edge of a pond weed bed. The person who discovered the plant removed the entire plant by the roots. The plant was then reported to and given to Steph Boismenue, Oneida County AIS Lead Program Assistant.

Location of EWM discovered on July 13, 2015



"One item on the May Crescent Lake Association meeting agenda was "AIS Crisis": Little did we know that, what was referred to as a crisis, would become a tsunami by July 13."

– Jim Gehrke , AIS chairperson, Crescent Lake Association.

- Tuesday June 23 - eight members of the Crescent Lake Association completed a yearly spring lake-wide plant ID and AIS monitoring via rake toss (200-300 tosses) and did not find EWM.
- Monday July 13 – 3:45pm I received a call from John Heusinkveld, Assistant Director at Treehaven, that while teaching aquatic ecosystems on Crescent Lake, one of his students identified and harvested one single EWM plant from the beach/picnic area in Crescent Lake.
- Monday July 13 – 4:00pm. I arrived at the Crescent Lake boat landing to collect the plant, but the class had already headed back to Treehaven. I searched the area for additional EWM plants and called Michele to inform of the situation. I did not find EWM but did observe healthy colonies of native milfoil.
- Monday July 13 – 4:30pm. I arrived at Treehaven, collected the EWM plant from the student and had him show me on the map, exactly where he found it.
- Tuesday July 14 – I delivered the EWM plant and AIS Plant Incident Report to the DNR office for verification. A positive confirmation was made.
- Wednesday July 15 - After work, my coworker, Sam, and I went to Crescent Lake and searched for additional EWM. I found and removed **two** EWM plants .
- Thursday July 16 – The Oneida Co. AIS Team, consisting of Michele, Sam, Sara, myself, and three Crescent Lake Association volunteers met at the landing to search for additional EWM. Michele and I spent 1 3/4 hours snorkeling while the others searched with Aqua Scopes and walked the shoreline. Before we left, a volunteer took Michele and I out in the boat for an overview of the area. During those two hours:
    1) It was confirmed that all of what the CLA volunteers suspected was EWM was northern milfoil and
    2) Michele and I found and removed **two** EWM plants.
- Saturday July 18 – I performed CBCW watercraft inspections at the Crescent landing. While there, I searched the area for EWM and found 2 fragments along the shore.
- Monday July 20 to July 25– The DNR completed a PI survey . They discovered EWM on one out of 900 rake tosses. Located in a new area.
- Thursday August 6 – Michele and I snorkeled and harvested the new EWM area
- September 2 – Onterra completed EWM survey

Thursday July 16 EWM Search

The Oneida Co. AIS Team (Michele, Sam, Sara, myself) and three Crescent Lake Association volunteers met at the landing to search for EWM. Michele and I spent 1 3/4 hours snorkeling while the others searched with Aqua Scopes and walked the shoreline. Before we left, a volunteer took Michele and I out in his boat for an overview of the area. During those two hours:

- It was confirmed that all of what the CLA volunteers suspected was EWM was northern milfoil and
- Michele and I found and removed **two** EWM plants.

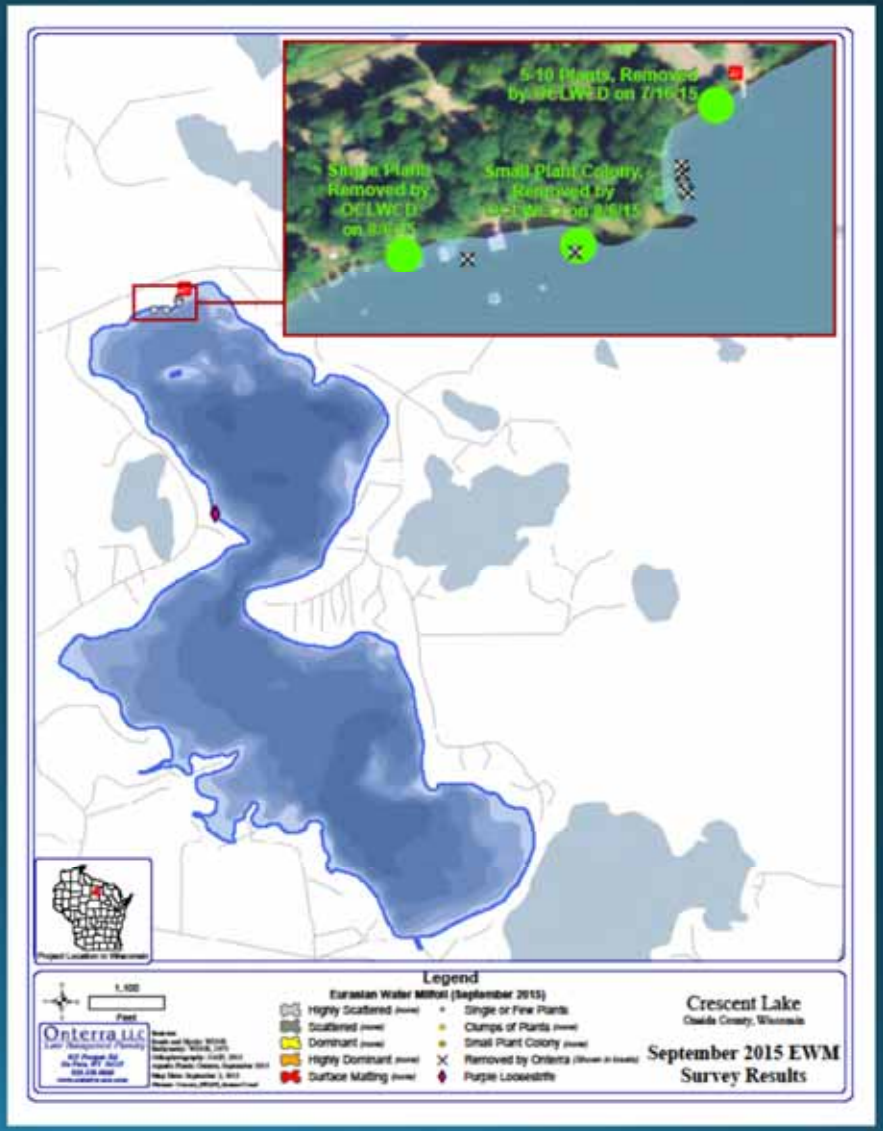
7-13-15 Initial EWM site.
7-14-15 Steph hand-pulled two plants.
7-16-15 OCLWCD hand-pulled 2 plants.

7-25-15 DNR identified a small EWM colony.
8-6-15 OCLWCD hand-pulled the entire colony.

8-6-15 One single rooted plant identified and hand-pulled by OCLWCD.

September 2015 EWM survey completed by Onterra, LLC

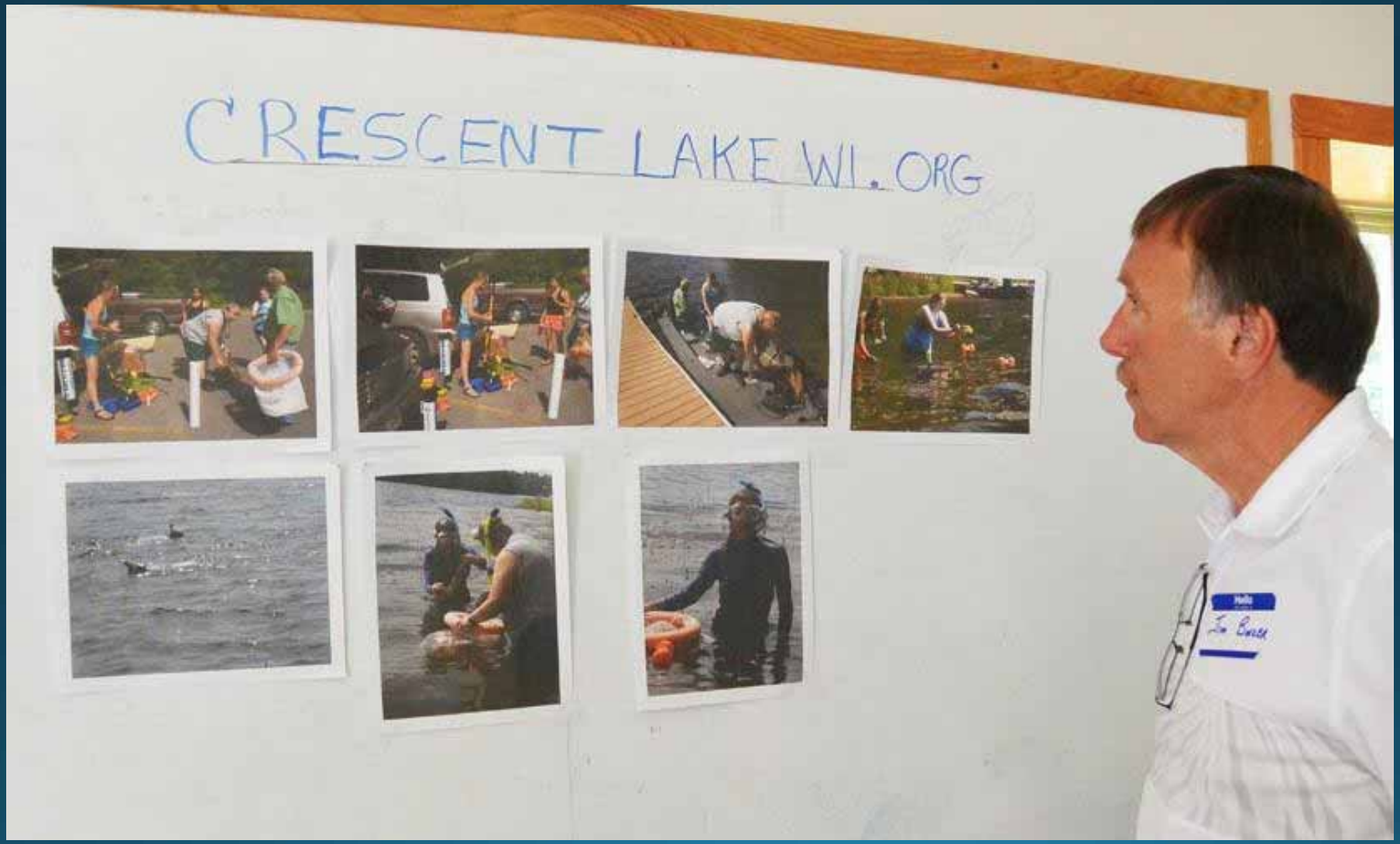
EWM plants harvested by Onterra – September 2015.
Photo and map courtesy of Onterra LLC




Michele, there's a plant about 1 foot ahead of your left foot
Got it


Note done yet.....I see a fatty directly under my aqua scope.
SERIOUSLY!!


YAY
Looks Good!!!


CRESCENT LAKE WI. ORG


CRESCENT LAKE WI.ORG
Hello
Jim
Gehrke

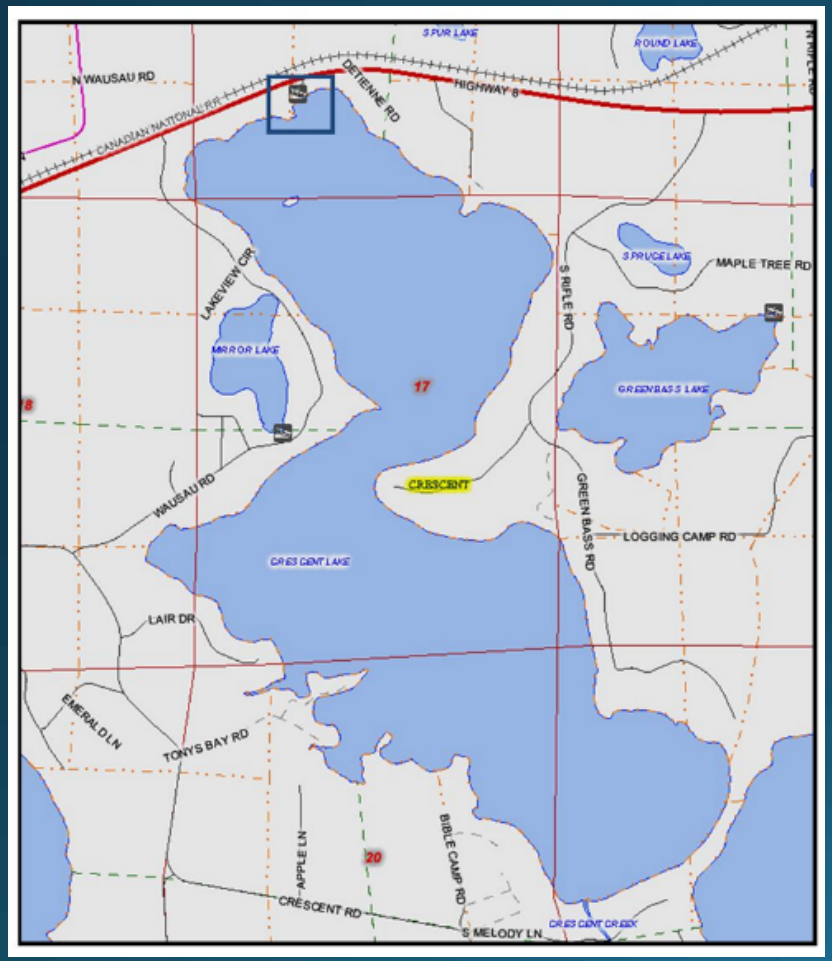
- Oneida County LWRM Plan NCWRPC Page 23 2012-2016 Surface Water Oneida County has 1,129 lakes covering 68,447 acres, and over 830 miles of streams, of which 192 miles are classified as trout streams. Overall, the general water quality is good, however, eutrophication is an issue. During the summer, shallow water areas have algae blooms. There are two point sources of water discharge on the Wisconsin River that may affect the water quality, but have not deteriorated the receiving waters because they are not on the 303(d) Impaired Waters list from the DNR. These point sources originate from Wausau Mosinee Paper Company, and Rhinelander Wastewater Treatment Plant.

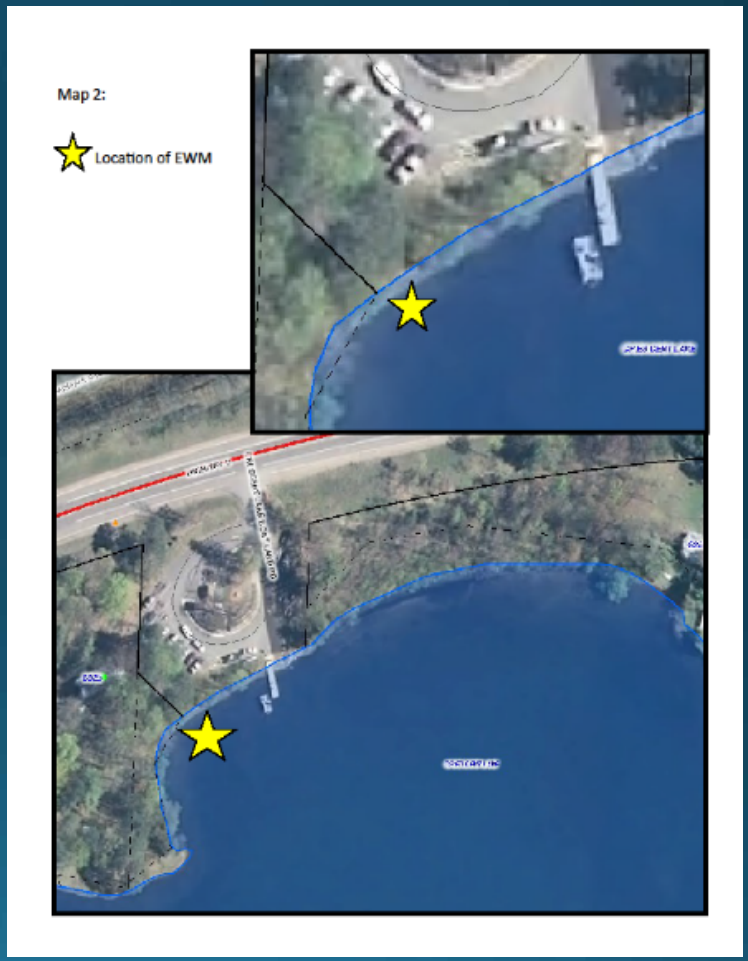
- The largest body of water is the Willow Flowage, an impoundment and a drainage lake, covering 6,306 acres. Most of the lakes are spring lakes or seepage lakes. Lake Tomahawk is the largest natural lake, which covers 3,627 acres. The deepest lake is Clear Lake, which is 100 feet deep. See Table 1.

- The Wisconsin River flows through the center of the county in the Towns of Crescent and Newbold, and the City of Rhinelander, which along with its tributaries drain most the county. The most prominent of these tributaries are the Pelican River in the eastern part of the county and the Tomahawk River in the west. Wolf River flows through the far southeast corner of the county, and the Flambeau River drains the far northwest corner.

- Surface water is an important resource to Oneida County, however it is threatened by both point and nonpoint source pollution.

- Basin & Watersheds: There are 14 watersheds contained completely or partially within Oneida County as shown in Table 3. The drainage pattern is irregular and poorly defined, as is typical in glaciated regions. Most of the county is drained by the Wisconsin River and its tributaries. The Wolf River and its tributaries drain a small acreage in the southwestern part of the county. Watersheds in the extreme northwest corner of the county drain through Squaw Creek and into the Flambeau-Chippewa River system. A watershed ranking process (Table 3) was developed by DNR to rank watersheds based on the extent of nonpoint source pollution, the effect on water quality and the ability to manage the pollution sources. In some cases the data was not sufficient to produce a ranking.


S PUR LAKE
ROUND LAKE
N WAUSAU RD
CANADIAN NATIONAL RR
GETIENNE RD
HIGHWAY 8
LAKEVIEW CIR
S RIFLE RD
S PRUCE LAKE
MAPLE TREE RD
MIRROR LAKE
17
GREENBASS LAKE
WAUSAU RD
CRESCENT
GREEN BASS RD
LOGGING CAMP RD
CRESCENT LAKE
LAIR DR
EMERALD LN
TONYS BAY RD
APPLE LN
BIBLE CAMP RD
20
CRESCENT RD
S MELODY LN
CRESCENT CREEK


Map 2:
Location of EWM

The Oneida County AIS Team would like to thank our lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands for all the gifts and blessings they have bestowed upon us. And, thank you to all who cherish and help protect them.