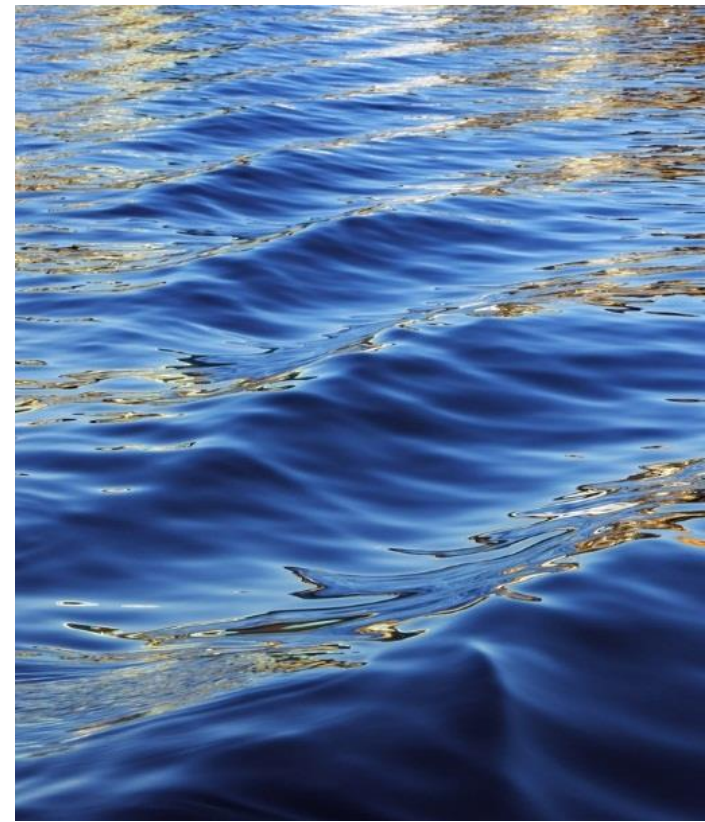


# Where in the Winnebago Waterways is Water Hyacinth?

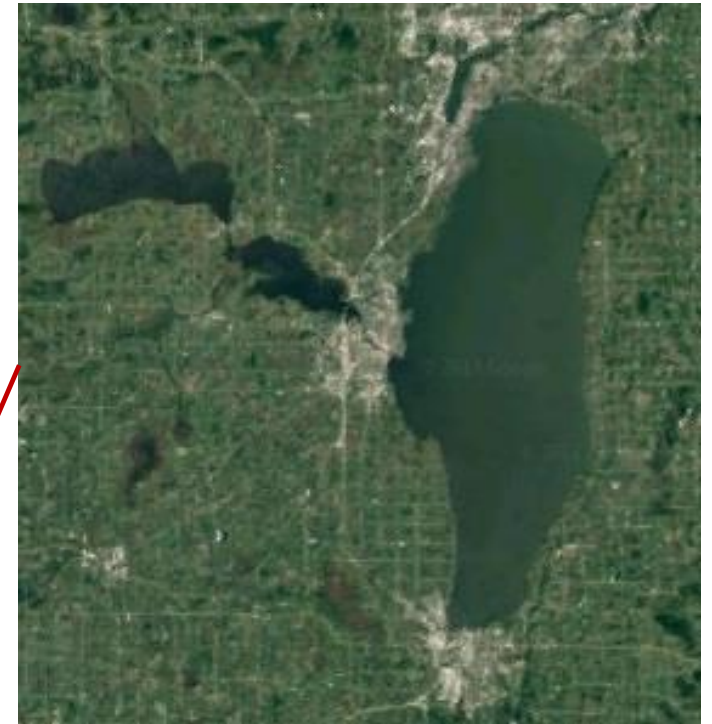
Ongoing Monitoring, Removal, and  
Outreach Efforts of a Reoccurring  
Aquatic Invasive Species

Chris Acy



# Who am I?

- Chris Acy – Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
- Calumet, Winnebago, and Fond du Lac Counties
  - Focus on Winnebago Waterways
    - Lakes Winnebago, Butte Des Morts, Winneconne, Poygan



# Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

- Thick, waxy leaves
- Purple flowers with yellow spot
- Free floating
- Inflated part on stem
  - Allows for plant to float

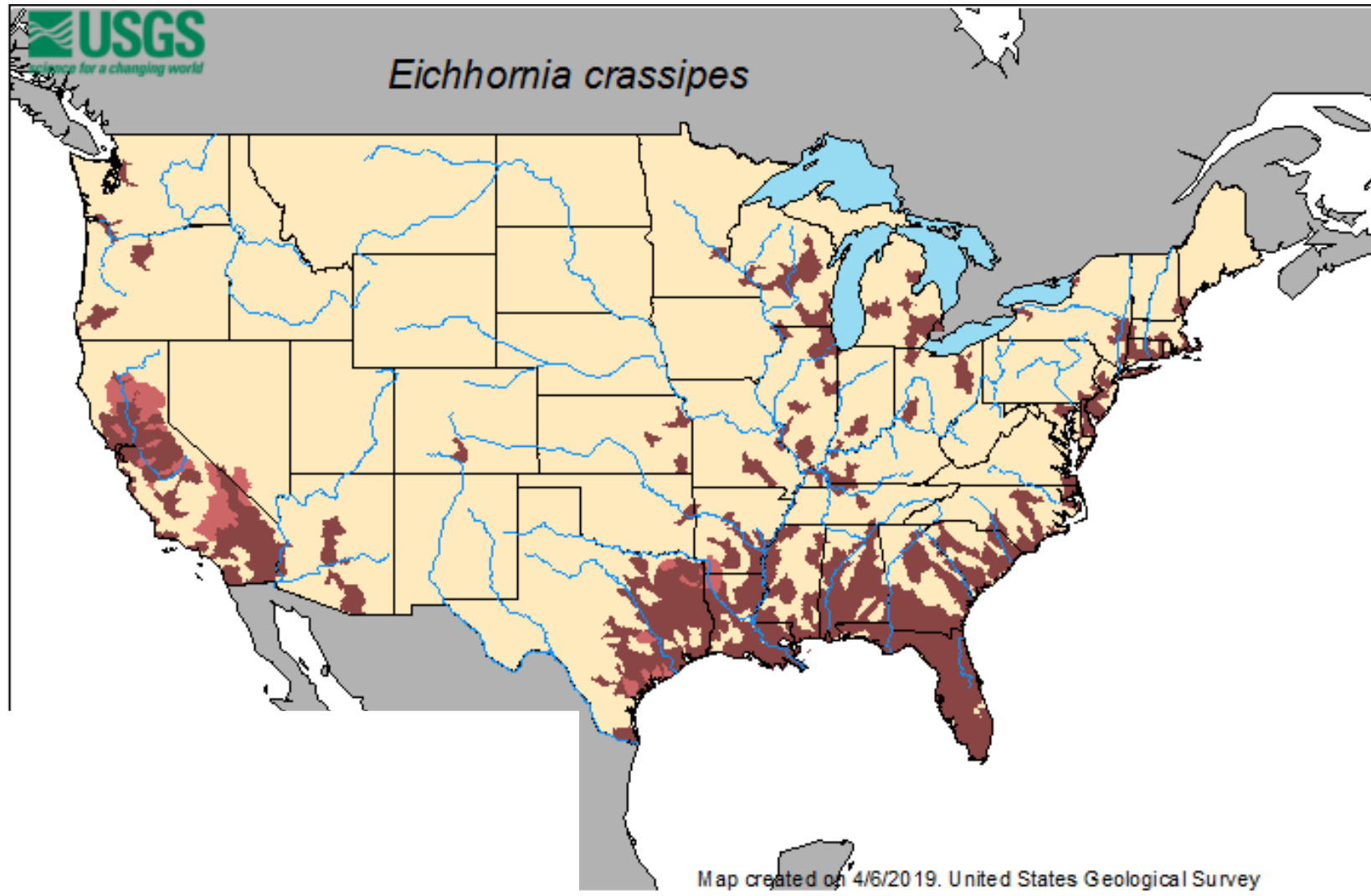


# Water Hyacinth

- Degrades water quality
- Grows quickly, reproduces quickly
- Forms dense mats
- Blocks sunlight, prevents growth of submerged plants



# Distribution Across US



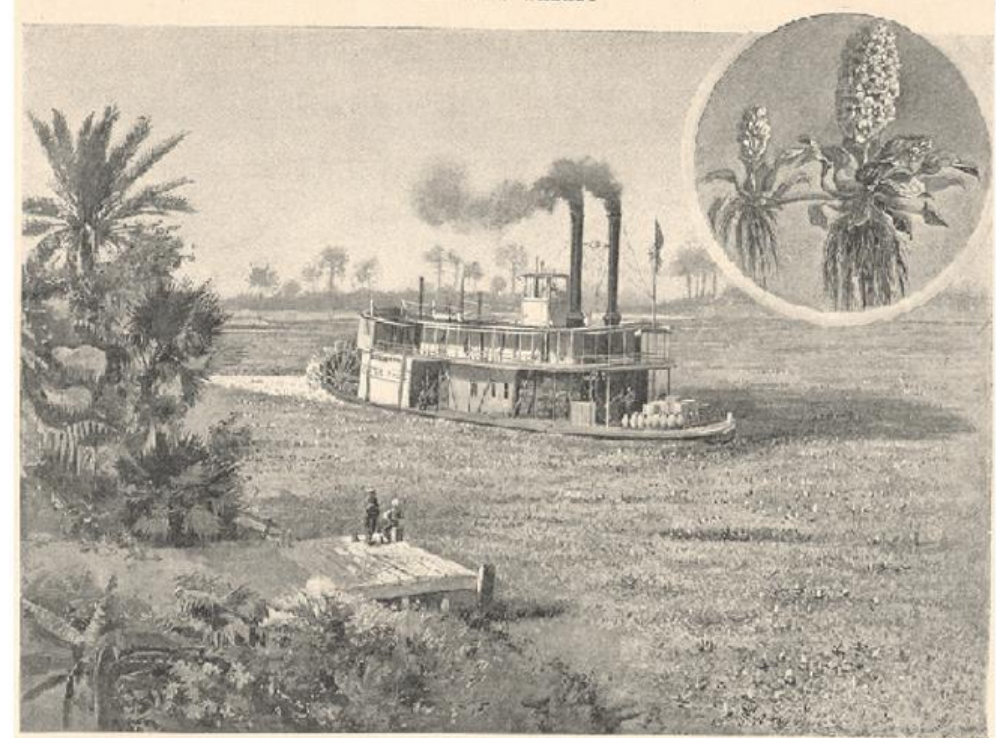
# NR40 Listing

- Chapter NR40 – Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule
- Water Hyacinth listed in 2015
  - Cannot be transported, possessed, transferred, or introduced without a permit issued by DNR
  - **Prohibited** in all counties
    - Not yet in state/established in pioneer populations only



# Introduction to the US

- 1884 World's Fair in New Orleans
  - Hyacinth given away to visitors
- Released into Wild
  - Florida fish pond
    - Owner removed some plants, released them into St. John's River
- 1897, St. John's River - "A field of it completely covers the water, and no steamboat can penetrate it beyond a short distance."
- 1910 – choking major waterways, eradication efforts not working
  - US War Department and oil



# H.R. 23621 (American Hippo Bill)

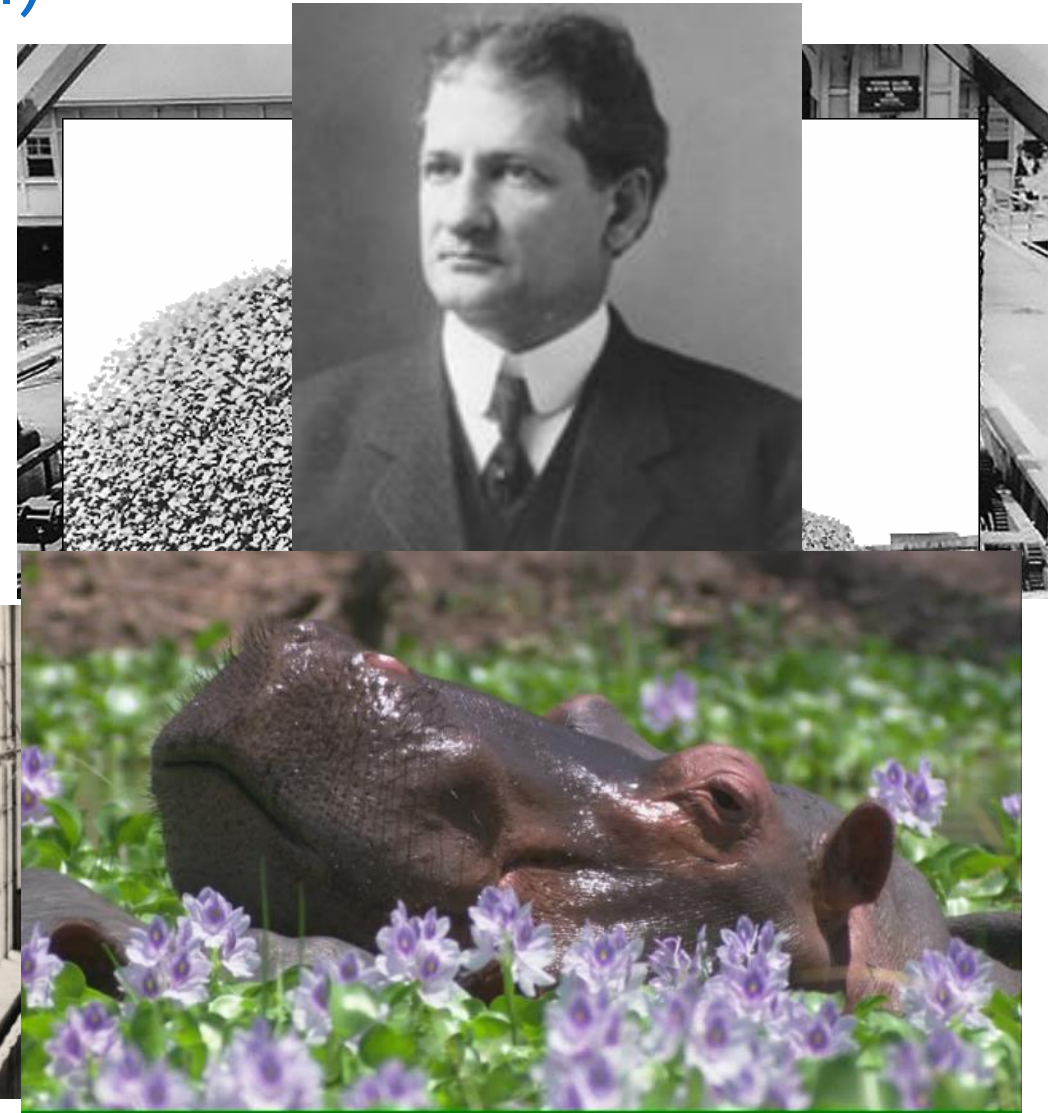
- American meat shortage – Early 1900
  - Growing populations, overgrazed rangelands
  - New Foods Society proposed importing hippos
  - Hippos could graze where cattle could not (lakes, swamps, bayous)

- Louisiana Congressman Robert Broussard

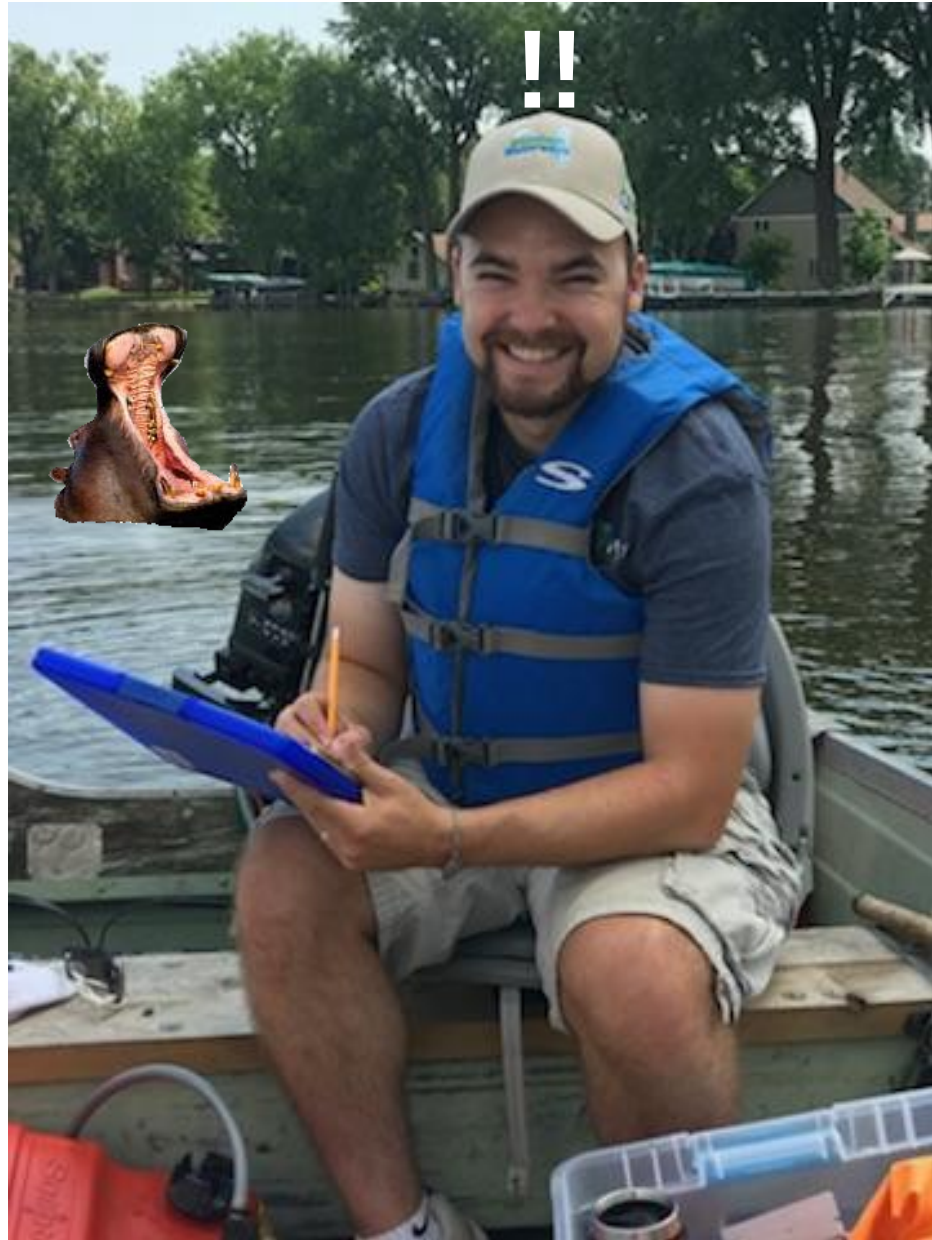
- Opened Louisiana waters

- 1910 American Hippo Bill

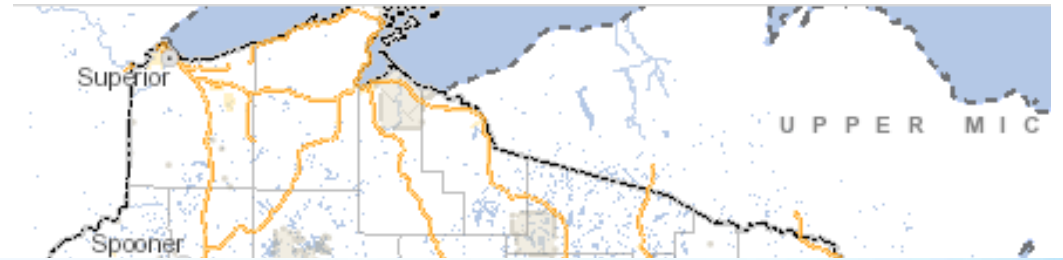
- \$2,223,000 in
- De





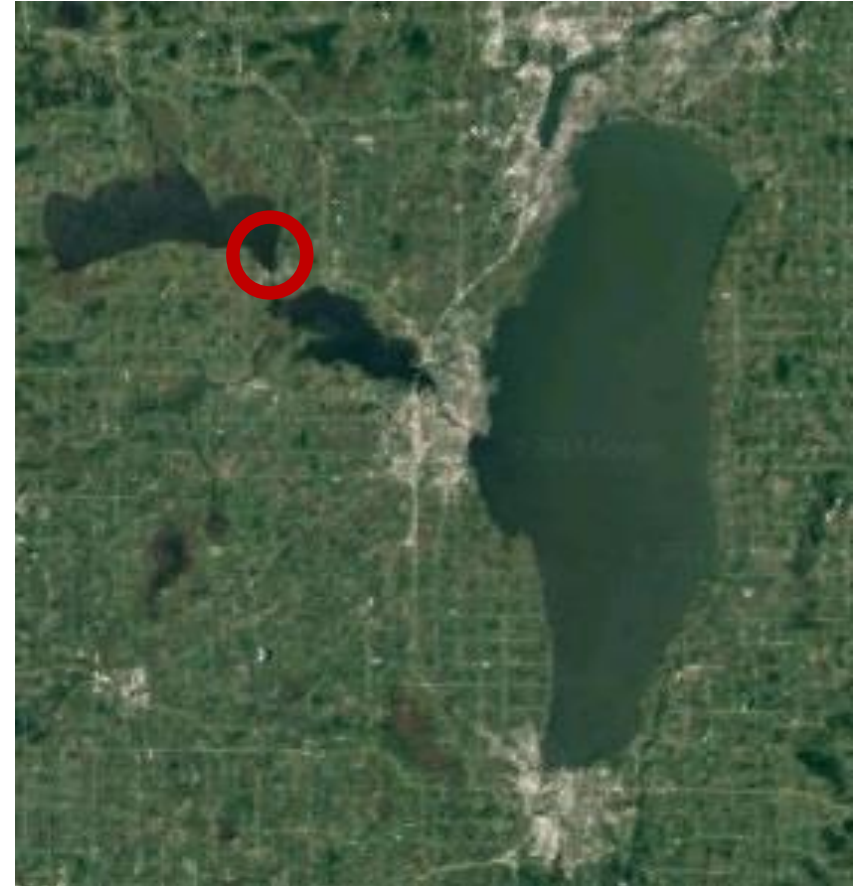


# Searching for Invasive Species



# Initial Finding

- Found in Lake Winneconne by CLMN volunteer Valerie Stabenow
  - 2015



# WI Distribution

- Water Hyacinth Previously Found in WI
  - 11 counties
  - 17 lakes and rivers



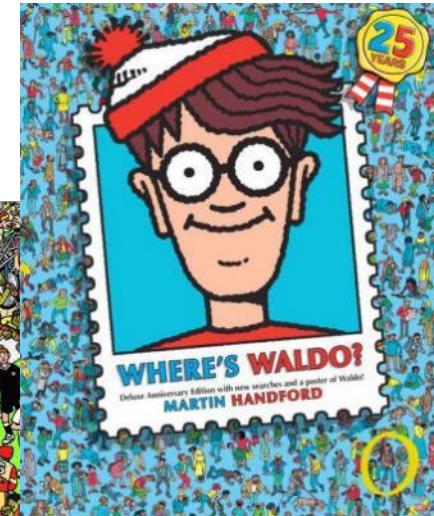
No Longer Observed



Verified



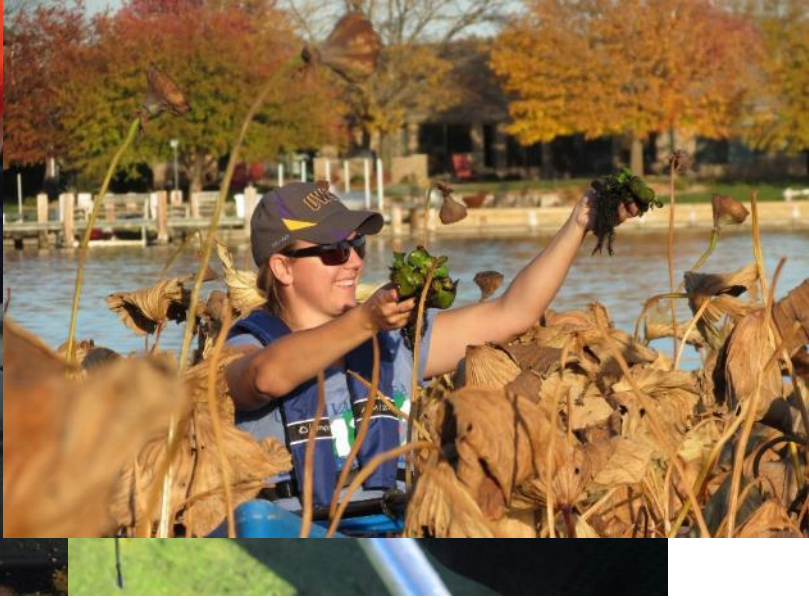
# Ongoing Monitoring: Where's Waldo



# Monitoring Efforts (2015 and 2016)



# Monitoring Efforts (2015 and 2016)



# Monitoring Efforts (2017 and 2018)





# Monitoring Efforts (2017 and 2018)





# Water Hyacinth Locations Fall 2015 - 2018




- Water Hyacinth Locations**
- 10/07/15
  - 10/11/15
  - 10/22/15
  - 11/05/15
  - ★ 9/17/16
  - ★ 9/26/16
  - ★ 10/05/16
  - ★ 10/10/16
  - ▲ 9/14/17
  - ✚ 10/12/18




# Outreach and Education

## Water Hyacinth


-What is it?  
-an upright floater and Why should we care?




Uncontrolled, it can completely choke off waterways



It is easy to gather, if floats + is not rooted!




It is a water way successful means using Water Hyacinth



Valerie Stabonow returning after a successful Water Hyacinth hunt in Winneconne

## Local Issue - Water Hyacinth



- Degrades water quality
- Grows quickly, forms dense mats

FOX-WOLF WATERSHED ALLIANCE 705



HabitatTitude PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

1. Inspect plant orders and remove seeds, other plant fragments, snails, and fish.

2. Give unwanted pets and study specimens to a school, aquarium, or zoo.

3. Dispose of aquatic plants in the trash.

FOX-WOLF WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Renew Our Waters  
Every choice counts.

# Media Outreach

## Officials investigating invasive plant releases near Lake Winneconne Park

OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 5

Wednesday, October 31st 2018

### Invasive water hyacinth found again near lake park

A team of people from the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Oshkosh, Department of Natural Resources and volunteers found a population of the invasive water hyacinth near Lake Winneconne Park on Oct. 12, the fourth consecutive year it has been detected there.

The species was a popular ornamental plant in water gardens and ponds before

being listed as a prohibited species under Wisconsin Code NR40. The DNR coordinated efforts in 2015 to remove all water hyacinth plants found. As a subtropical plant native to South America, there was hope the cold winter would eliminate any plants that were missed by removal efforts.

While current scientific information suggests it is unlikely that water hyacinth can survive winter in Wisconsin, there is still a potential risk of fragments and/or seeds surviving and germinating the next year. If the plant is not coming back on its own, it is believed to be repetitively released into the lake near the end of the growing season, which is a violation of state law.

Even within a single growing season, water hyacinth reproduces quickly and forms large, dense mats that can interfere with boating, swimming and other waterway uses. These mats can reduce the dissolved oxygen in the water, which affects underwater animals such as fish.

In addition to Lake Winneconne, water hyacinth has previously been found in eight other Wisconsin counties, including several pools of the Mississippi River.

### Winter Market goes to arena

The Oshkosh Farmers Market-Winter has a new location at the Menominee Nation Arena with opening day set from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday along with 14 other markets there through April.

The winter market has more than 30 vendors featuring locally grown fresh and organic produce along with local artisans and crafters. Live entertainment is also scheduled and the arena's Maple Pub will be open for food and beverages.

A special Farmers Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Outlet Shoppes at Oshkosh.

Details are at [www.osfmi.com](http://www.osfmi.com) or the Oshkosh Farmers Market on Facebook.



The Oshkosh Farmers Market-Winter edition has a new home at the Menominee Nation Arena.

### Parks Department open house slated

The public is invited to the Oshkosh Parks Department's open house and meet-and-greet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at its 805 Witzel Ave. offices. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet Parks Department staff and learn more about city parks and resources.

Besides parks and facilities, the Parks Department oversees urban forestry programs, Riverside Cemetery, Menominee

Park Zoo, Pollock Community Waterpark, Leach Amphitheater, Children's Amusement Center and Oshkosh Seniors Center. The department has 14 rentable shelters and six boat launch areas within city limits, and the park system consists of 415 acres of space.

Light refreshments will be provided at the open house and visitors can register to win door prizes.



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RE/MAX ON THE WATER  
 PROUDLY ANNOUNCES  
 OUTSTANDING AGENTS  
 OCTOBER 2018

### Fraud awareness promoted in week of seminars

# Partners



# Partners





An ounce of prevention  
is worth a pound of cure.

Benjamin Franklin





# Thank you! Questions?

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AIS COORDINATOR  
WINNEBAGO WATERWAYS

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