



Lakes Belong to Everyone, Don't They?

By Eric Olson, Director and Lakes Specialist, Extension Lakes

The Wisconsin Constitution provides that Wisconsin's lakes and rivers belong to the public, but not everybody in the state enjoys access to our waters. A population disconnected from lakes might well wonder about their value and could discount efforts to restore and protect them. How can we build bridges that foster more equitable enjoyment of these wonderful waters, and can we draw on the healing powers of lakes and nature to bring about a better Wisconsin?

Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine

After European settlement, but before Wisconsin was a state, it was part of the "Northwest Territory," a region beyond the newly established United States, west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Mississippi River. In 1787, Congress created the Northwest Ordinance to provide for the settlement of immigrants in the region and the future admission of new states into the Union. To facilitate trade and migration, the ordinance included the following clause: "The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty therefor." When the Wisconsin State Constitution was passed in 1848, it drew from the Northwest Ordinance to incorporate the navigable waters language as Article IX. Since that time, the waters of

(Continued on page 2)



Historical photo

More About the Public Trust Doctrine

The Wisconsin DNR has an easy-to-follow overview of the Public Trust Doctrine including an informative video that highlights major developments over the last 150 years. Go to dnr.wi.gov and type “Public Trust Doctrine” in the search bar.

During this year’s Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, Michael Cain, a scientist with Wisconsin Green Fire, walked us through a little history of The Wisconsin Public Trust Doctrine and what it means to us today. You can view the recording of his presentation titled, “Whose Waters? Our Waters!” on Extension Lakes’ YouTube channel at <http://youtube.com/uwexlakes>
Direct link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/-4zIMezjeDk>

The Legislative Reference Bureau has released a number of documents that help in “Reading the Constitution.” Just this month, “The Public Trust Doctrine” by Zachary Wyatt (Volume 5, Number 4) has been made available. https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/reading_the_constitution

Wisconsin have been held as public goods, to be managed by the state for the benefit of its people.

The body of laws and court cases concerning Article IX and its implications are collectively referred to as the Public Trust Doctrine. The Doctrine has evolved along with our society to delineate rights and responsibilities regarding water. A core tenet of these laws and court cases is that the lakes and rivers belong to everyone in the state; they cannot be privatized without satisfying a public interest and the state has a duty to protect and advance their value.

The people impacted the hardest by the coronavirus in Wisconsin (Black and Latinx residents of southeast Wisconsin) are the least likely to have access to lake and river recreation.

Historical photo



A Balancing Act

For much of Wisconsin’s early statehood, the legislature and private interests focused on developing water resources to advance commercial and industrial development. Dams could be constructed on rivers provided that there was a public benefit, and waterfront improvements were promoted to encourage industrial revolution factories and shipping. As early as 1898, the Wisconsin Supreme Court was concluding that waters were more than common highways; a case from western Wisconsin that year noted that the fish in those waters were also public trust and so angling in rivers and streams was a public right. In 1930, the court found, “As population increases, these waters are used by the people for sailing, rowing, canoeing, bathing, fishing, hunting, skating, and other public purposes.” The state was obligated to balance these activities with the predominant industrial uses. The ensuing decades saw numerous laws and programs to protect and restore water quality. Because of this work, the young people of Wisconsin stand to inherit a priceless collection of lakes and rivers that, overall, are healthier than they have been for decades.

A paradox has emerged from this success in protecting and restoring lakes and rivers. As the magnetic powers of lakes grow, their relatively fixed supply has driven up prices. Real estate around lakes becomes more expensive, inducing a stronger urge among owners to protect those values. Public access to the lakes is given a more skeptical eye: outsiders can bring invasive species and other threats that could undermine the health, beauty, and tranquility of the lakes. Divides emerge between those who have access to lakes and those who do not.

Privilege

Bigger societal cleavages became painfully clear these last few months. The killing of George Floyd in Minnesota against the backdrop of a global pandemic has generated unprecedented conversations around race and privilege at the national, state, and local level. While lakes seem to have little to do with the strife and divisions characterizing Wisconsin in the summer of 2020, many of us who care



Thanks to financial support from Bader Philanthropies, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, Camps for Kids, The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and the Camp Nebagamon Scholarship Fund, COA is able to provide financial assistance to make sure no child is denied the life-changing opportunities offered by Camp Helen Brachman.

deeply about lakes do so from a privileged position. We can take for granted that the State Constitution has supported our own interests in lakes, without needing to consider what first had to happen for the early United States to claim dominion over lands and waters occupied by people for thousands of years. We might assume that anyone can get themselves to a lakeside park or public beach, maybe without considering that one in five residents of the state’s largest city do not have a car. Finally, we might rightly relish in our good fortune if we can spend time during this pandemic on, in, or around the water, but that fortune is not widely shared. The people impacted the hardest by the coronavirus in Wisconsin (Black and Latinx residents of southeast Wisconsin) are the least likely to have access to lake and river recreation.

Disparate access to and enjoyment of waters are set to grow. The population of shoreland property owners is already dramatically older, whiter, and wealthier than the state population as a whole. Lakeshore real estate prices continue to escalate; the average shoreland property in Wisconsin is now roughly \$300,000! The fastest growing demographics in the state are much more diverse and younger in comparison to shoreland owners. If future decision makers have fewer significant life experiences connecting them to lakes and rivers, why would they place the same level of importance on pro-water policies and programs that we do today?

Increasing Access

One example of how people can work together to increase access to lakes both highlights what’s possible and calls out how delicate such systems might be. COA Youth & Family Centers was formed by Milwaukee residents in 1906 as the Children’s Outing Association to “improve the physical well-being of economically disadvantaged Jewish children through outdoor recreational activities.” Forty years later, the Association was running several programs and serving all children of Milwaukee, regardless of race, religion, or economic background. Their summer camps evolved over time from locations in Whitewater, to Upper Nemadbin Lake, to Camp Flambeau in Vilas County, and in 1991 at Camp Helen Brachman, located on 200+ acres adjacent to Pickerel Lake in Portage County.

In a typical summer, hundreds of children from some of Milwaukee’s most under-resourced neighborhoods get to spend a week or two at Camp Helen Brachman: learning to swim, making friends, and just being themselves. Camp staff found that 43% of campers move up a level in their swimming after one season at Pickerel Lake. COA reports that 98% of their camp participants attend on scholarships. Their main source of funding is grants and gifts, either directly or through the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County.

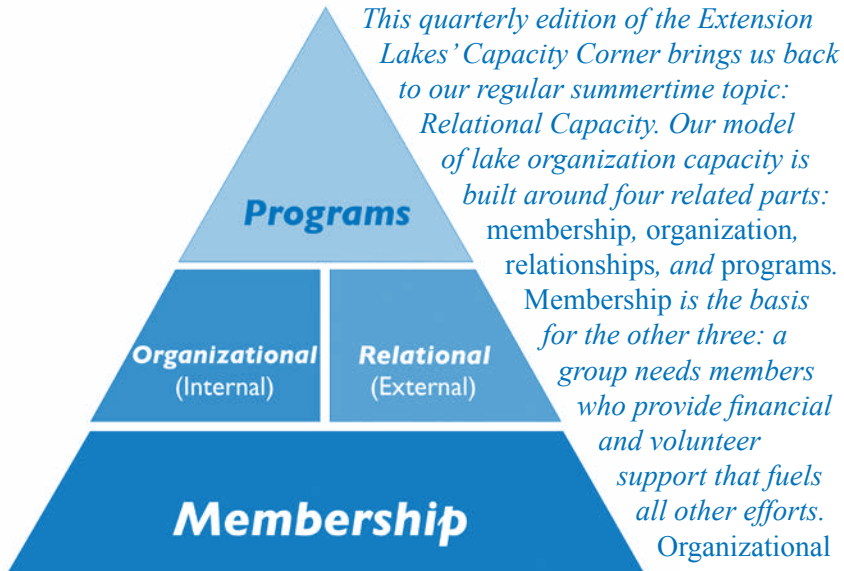
Learn more about Camp Helen Brachman and support their camp scholarship program at the Children’s Outing Association website: <https://www.coa-yfc.org/>

If future decision makers have fewer significant life experiences connecting them to lakes and rivers, why would they place the same level of importance on pro-water policies and programs that we do today?

Capacity Corner August 2020

Building Allies

By Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist, Extension Lakes



Organizational capacity is mostly about how a lake association or lake district conducts its internal affairs, and organizations develop relational capacity by collaborating and networking with external people and groups. Lake groups leverage these first three types of capacity to increase their ability to get things done: programmatic capacity.

Our concept of effective lake groups comes from work done across the nation to build community coalitions that can solve major problems. It presupposes that the challenges we face are larger than any one group can tackle on its own. Whether it's dealing with invasive species, addressing polluted runoff harming water quality, or protecting intact landscapes surrounding a healthy lake, we believe that lake groups will develop more durable solutions when they do so through partnerships.

Last fall, we convened two meetings to explore how lake groups might better build ties with two specific types of partners: land trusts and producer/farmer-led watershed groups. Land trusts are similar to lake associations, though their mission is to permanently protect specific lands in perpetuity. The tax benefits received by people donating land (and/or conservation easements on land) to a land trust provides a steady stream of protection opportunities for these groups. Producer/farmer-led

Photo from Green Lake Association



Fri, Aug 14 | 3:00 PM | GreenLakeAssociation.org

LAND & LAKE FAMILY FIELD DAY

This year's Land & Lake Family Field Day is being presented virtually as a video series called, "Fridays on the Farm." Starting Friday, August 14, we'll feature one local farmer each week and showcase their conservation practices that help protect the land and the lake.

Farmers in Green Lake are working together with the Green Lake Association to keep nutrients and soil in place on their fields and out of Big Green Lake. Tune in to this year's video series to learn more about these conservation practices.



watershed groups have been developing across Wisconsin, often with funding support from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). These collaboratives seek to develop locally-appropriate farming practices that can sustain yields of crops and animals while also improving water quality.

A common thread through the two meetings was that relationships were going to be built, first, on personal interactions and on trust developed among key people. Any member of a lake group can begin this process by reaching out and learning more about land trusts and producer/farmer-led watershed councils. You can find directories of land trusts at the Gathering Waters website (<https://gatheringwaters.org/find-land-trust-near-you>), and DATCP is maintaining a list of producer-led watershed groups (https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjectSummaries.aspx). Even during the current period of social distancing, you can initiate communications through a phone call or email.

No doubt there will be additional developments, challenges, and proven strategies for how lake groups can navigate the

Farmer/Producer-Led Watershed Groups

If you want to learn more about farmer/producer-led watershed groups, check out these recordings of presentations from recent lake conferences:

- Farmer-Led Watershed Councils: Where Land and Water Meet <https://youtu.be/kAq6KXLpoY4>
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Conservation Farming (But Were Too Afraid to Ask) <https://youtu.be/0-wWvBcFNtA>
- Farmers for the Upper Sugar River: Beginning and Growing a Farmer-Led Coalition <https://youtu.be/aBUz6bqFRFQ>

coronavirus pandemic. We want to hear your stories and questions, too. Please share your questions and experiences with us by sending them to Eric Olson (eolson@uwsp.edu) and Sara Windjue (swindjue@uwsp.edu).

DATCP is currently soliciting grant applications for the 2021 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Program. Applicants can receive up to \$40,000 for group efforts to develop and share local agricultural practices that improve water quality. Proposals are due on September 21, 2020. Instructions and guidance can be found online: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjects.aspx 🌊

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Q&A Lake Districts

We often get phone calls and emails from Lake Tides readers with a variety of questions about lake districts. Do you have a question about lake districts that you would like to see answered in Lake Tides? Send it to uwexlakes@uwsp.edu so we can include it in a future issue.

Q: Is there a process for handling a recount during a close lake district election?

A. Until recently, the answer to this question was no. However, 2019's Act 99, published this past February, added a new section to the lake district statutes (33.30 (5)) that impacts the annual election process and outlines how recounts are to be handled. The legislature created this law in response to a controversial lake district meeting earlier in 2019. We advise lake districts holding their annual meetings this summer to understand and follow the new details. Our partners at Wisconsin Lakes have compiled a nice summary of the change on their website; we encourage you to read it (<https://wisconsinlakes.org/lake-districts-must-meet-new-commissioner-vote-requirements-in-2020/>). The language of Chapter 33.30 (5) is available in the online version of Wisconsin statutes (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/33/IV/30/5>). An updated version of *People of the Lakes* will be developed this fall to reflect the change.

For more information on lake districts, see *People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations*, at <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/guide.aspx>.



Defending the Public's Right to Enjoy and Use Lakes

By Wisconsin Lakes' Board of Directors



WISCONSIN LAKES

More people caring for our lakes, people of all ethnic backgrounds and color of skin, will mean good things for the health of our waters.

Our lake spaces are places of solace and escape and places of community and rejuvenation. And here in this tumultuous, chaotic year of 2020, we need those spaces for renewal and regeneration more than ever.

As Eric Olson's article on access and the Public Trust Doctrine points out, however, not everyone in the state is able to take advantage of that access and all that it brings. As an organization who includes the Public Trust Doctrine as one of its core values, the Board of Directors of Wisconsin Lakes believes that we must all work together to uphold what the doctrine means, including working to remove systemic barriers of access to the water. This must be done in order to ensure that all Wisconsinites, regardless of ethnic background or the color of their skin, are afforded those same opportunities for solace and escape, for renewal and reflection.

So, what might this work look like for Wisconsin Lakes and its members?

First, we recognize that we don't have all the answers. We know there is much we don't know. To get to those answers, we need to initiate conversations with communities of color and other constituencies that currently sit on the outside looking in at our lakes community. For example, in the same way talking with the community of farmers leads to collaborative solutions to reduce polluted runoff, listening to the communities that are not fully benefiting from our lakes is necessary to solving problems of access and diversity.

Second, as we come to an understanding of what the obstacles are, we need to commit to taking the steps to overcome them by working together in the partnerships we've forged. We need to be willing to take on this challenge, the same as we've taken on issues like aquatic invasive species, polluted runoff, and all the other myriad problems our lake community faces. Our belief in the Public Trust Doctrine and our commitment to "defend the public's right to enjoy and use lakes" demands it of us.

When we are successful, it will benefit the communities of color who had not previously enjoyed our public waters, which will, in turn, both enhance the lake community and the lakes themselves. Because when you experience the intrinsic value of our lakes, rivers, and streams, you are moved to act for their care. More people caring for our lakes, people of all ethnic backgrounds and color of skin, will mean good things for the health of our waters. We know, in these tumultuous times, that our lakes need all the help they can get.

Let's work together to uphold the Public Trust Doctrine for the good of our waters and the good of all Wisconsinites. May we all find the peace, solace, community, and regeneration our waters provide. 💧



Tiffany Lyden

Wisconsin Water Week

The Five Big Ws

The first rules for promoting an event are to cover the “Five Ws”: Who, What, Where, Why, and When. Each year for decades now, this late summer issue of *Lake Tides* would be giving you the “Five Ws” for the following year’s Lakes and Rivers Convention. This year is extraordinary, though, so we are working to do something extraordinary with our annual convention. We can give you some of the Ws, but not all of them - you will have to stay tuned to learn more as we reveal more details when we nail them down.

Who should be involved?

You, of course. But also your friends and neighbors who care about lakes, rivers, and watersheds.

Why hold this event?

Our annual learning event engages people’s passion for waters and provides them with timely insights, generates new ideas, connects them to fellow lake advocates and resource managers, and leads to more and better actions that protect and restore lakes.

Where will this take place?

In your home, in your office, and through the Internet. That’s correct, the 2021 event will be online. We looked at the math of carrying out an in-person meeting in Stevens Point and found that keeping everyone safe would mean reducing our numbers dramatically.

Going online, we hope to do the opposite; we are planning an event that we intend to attract thousands of lake and river stakeholders.

What will the event look like?

When exactly is it taking place?

Well, those questions are bigger than they sound. There’s a growing team of organizers and planners working on the structure of this event. It has already evolved into “Wisconsin Water Week”- a smorgasbord of programs, events, and opportunities that anyone can plug in to for as little or as much as they desire. We plan to highlight a theme that many of you can relate to: *Navigating in Turbulent Times*. The week of programs will encompass the traditional Lakes and Rivers Convention, but also offer additional events highlighting regional and local projects. We are also developing ways to engage newcomers so that they can easily connect with local groups and make concrete plans to protect and restore waters in the coming summer. This reimagined event will be in March 2021, though we’re not sure of the exact dates and times right now. Without the requisite expenses (travel, space, and meals) we know that we can make this event far more accessible than an in-person gathering, and we will be seeking sponsors

We are planning an event that we intend to attract thousands of lake and river stakeholders.



and helpers to keep costs extremely low. We will have MUCH more information for you in the next edition of *Lake Tides*, and we will be sharing information on our Facebook page and website as well. If you have ideas or suggestions for making our online learning event as successful as possible, we invite you to share them with us! Send us an email at uwexplakes@uwsp.edu, the sooner the better. 💧



The Low-Down on Lotus

By Emma Schmidt, UW-Stevens Point Graduate

Paul Skawinski



Wildlife aren't the only critters who benefit from the American lotus – humans can also eat this beautiful plant. Native American tribes, such as the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Dakota tribes, used the American lotus for a large portion of their diet. The scientific name for the lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) reflects how important the plant has been to humans for centuries. *Nelumbo* originated in Sri Lanka and translates to “sacred bean.” This is likely in reference to the seeds, which contain a high amount of protein. When green, they can be boiled and eaten much like peas, and mature seeds can either be ground into flour or eaten like nuts. Additionally, the leaves and shoots can be eaten as a salad or used to wrap other foods. However, the roots are what have the most nutrition. For centuries, the roots were added to soups and stews, or baked, with the resulting flavor described as similar to sweet potatoes. These roots provided much of the carbohydrates in Native American diets.

If you've ever come across the American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), you will probably remember its unique yellow flower and seed head that looks much like a shower head. The

American lotus is native to Eastern North America, including Wisconsin. This emergent aquatic plant loves sunny areas in quiet floodplains, backwaters of major rivers and even lakes. It grows best in shallow water (1 to 4 ft) with mucky or sandy soil bottoms. Notable populations have been found in the Lake Winnebago and Mississippi River systems, as well as in scattered populations in central and southern Wisconsin. When full-grown, this unique plant can get to be as tall as six feet, and its leaves can be as wide as four

American lotus provides food for ducks who eat the seeds, bees who pollinate the flowers, and beavers and muskrats who eat the roots.

feet. The American lotus provides food for ducks who eat the seeds, bees who pollinate the flowers, and beavers and muskrats who eat the roots.

Although there is not enough evidence to support its efficacy, the American lotus has also been used for health benefits in addition to food uses. The stamens have been used to treat many blood-related conditions, while the seeds have been known to aid in digestion. Many parts of the plant have also been used as painkillers.

The American lotus has done more than help humans sustain themselves throughout the years; it has also inspired fashion! The leaves of American lotus are covered in microscopic pores that trap tiny pockets of air. These tiny air bubbles prevent water from adhering to the leaf material. This natural phenomenon has been applied to the clothing industry and is referred to as the “lotus effect.” The Gore-Tex brand has been very successful in replicating the lotus effect in their waterproof, breathable fabrics.

The American lotus is a beautiful plant with an equally beautiful history. So, the next time you are out enjoying the water, keep an eye out for the American lotus. You may even find your next favorite snack! 💧



Did you know killing mosquitoes with pesticides can kill other beneficial insects?

DYK

This summer, several waterfront property owners in northern Wisconsin complained that the *Galerucella* beetles, that were providing bio-control of the invasive purple loosestrife plant in their lake, died off after a neighbor had their yard treated with pesticides to kill mosquitoes.

Wisconsin Extension staff did some sleuthing and spoke with Bernd Blossey, an associate professor of natural resources at Cornell University in New York state. Bernd said, “We have seen dramatic die-offs of the *Galerucella* (purple loosestrife beetles) in two areas sprayed for mosquitoes. In both places, thriving populations disappeared and it took many years for them to recover. There is nothing published that I know of, but this includes aerial spraying, not larvicides.”

Having your yard sprayed for mosquitoes can also harm other insects that many people value. Karen Oberhauser, who has studied monarch butterflies for 30 years, published a study in 2006 finding that monarch caterpillars and adults are likely to be killed if exposed to a pesticide used for mosquito control. She found that many monarch caterpillars died even if the leaves they ate were sprayed up to 21 days earlier.

Used with permission from Northcentral Wisconsin Pollinator Partnership



Protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquito-borne illnesses by:

- ◆ Cleaning buckets, tires, or other mosquito “breeding ponds” on your property.
- ◆ Creating habitat that invites mosquito predators like bats, purple martins, and dragonflies.
- ◆ Wearing appropriate outdoor clothing and repellent.
- ◆ Avoiding outside activities at dawn and dusk when most mosquitoes feed.
- ◆ Helping your community create an effective mosquito management plan.

Are “organic” sprays safe?

Some companies that spray for mosquitoes offer an “organic” spray that contains chrysanthemum oil, claiming it isn’t harmful to other insects. Chrysanthemum oil contains pyrethrins, which are highly toxic to honeybees and fish. There are no definitions for the term “organic” related to lawn and garden products, so any service can make this claim. To know if a spray or treatment is safe, you need to get a full list of ingredients and look them up.

References:

Oberhauser, K.S. et al. 2005. Growth and survival of monarch butterflies (*Lepidoptera: Danaidae*) after exposure to permethrin barrier treatments. *Environmental Entomology*, 35(6):1626-1634.

National Pesticide Information Center. 2014. Pyrethrins General Fact Sheet. <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/pyrethrins.html>

Oneida County Land and Water Conservation website. <https://www.oclw.org/insect-decline.html>

Early Detection of AIS

Community Members Lead the Way

By Maureen Ferry, AIS Monitoring Lead, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

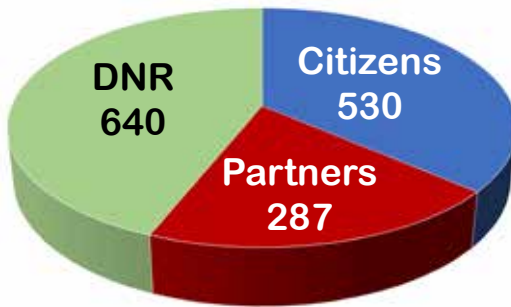
In 2019, community members, partners, and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employees monitored more than 1,000 locations for aquatic invasive species (AIS) to find more than 150 new populations. Fortunately, most of those were common species like Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, Phragmites, and purple loosestrife. These species are classified as “restricted” under the DNR’s invasive species rule; they are known to be harmful, but are widespread in the state.

Here are a few highlights from last year’s monitoring efforts:

Red Swamp Crayfish

Red swamp crayfish are native to the Florida panhandle but sometimes imported live to Wisconsin for crayfish boils and for study in biology classrooms. They do not have natural predators here to regulate their populations and could cause significant harm to Wisconsin waters. Last summer, community members noticed some red swamp crayfish at a Wisconsin River boat landing parking lot near the Sauk City Wastewater Treatment Plant. They immediately reported the sighting. DNR law enforcement and fisheries responded quickly to set traps, dig trenches, and remove as many as possible to block them from entering the Wisconsin River. After a month of sampling, no more of these invasive crayfish were observed. Regional DNR AIS coordinator, Shelby Adler, will continue work with law enforcement and volunteers from the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association to monitor for crayfish. If you are out in the area, know that the native white river crayfish is easily mistaken for the red swamp crayfish due to their brilliant red color. The key identifying

Number of AIS Monitoring Fieldwork Events in 2019



Yet again, we see that early detection supported by a strong volunteer effort has helped bolster our collaborative response to new AIS populations.

While most of the new detections were of familiar species, 18 of them were those known as prohibited species, which have been recorded in very few locations statewide. These species have the highest priority for prevention and control. Early detection is critical for planning effective intervention that targets prohibited species. Yet again, we see that early detection supported by a strong volunteer effort has helped bolster our collaborative response to new AIS populations.

Photos by Nathan Nye



Trenches were dug to contain the red swamp crayfish before they could make their way into the Wisconsin River.



characteristic is that red swamp crayfish have a gap between the curved lines on their back. For more specifics, download a PDF of the Wisconsin Crayfish Identification Guide here: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/swims/downloadDocument.do?id=145709811>

Starry Stonewort

Starry stonewort is native to Eurasia and was first documented in the St. Lawrence River in 1978. It has thin “leaves” and clear “roots” that look like fishing line. A key identifying characteristic is the star-shaped bulbils that are easily transported by boats and equipment. This large algae species has limited management options other than prevention, so early detection is important to contain the species and prevent its spread. Last year, the species was discovered in four additional waterbodies – three in Waukesha County and one in Marquette County. AIS Snapshot volunteer Ed Cohen discovered two of the populations in Waukesha. This is another testament to the success of AIS Snapshot Day (read more on page 13). Find out more about starry stonewort here: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/StarryStonewort.html>

Future AIS Monitoring

This year, DNR is testing innovative monitoring approaches. We are working to improve eDNA detection methods for New Zealand mudsnails, zebra mussels, and Asian clam. We recently concluded a pilot project, working with the DNR



Photo by Warden Sean Neumann

This cluster of red swamp crayfish was captured near the Sauk City Wastewater Treatment Plant. (Check out the online version of our newsletter to view color photos.)

Forestry Aeronautics team, to use drones to monitor for invasive species in 2019, and will expand upon this effort in the future. You might also be hearing about how dogs can be more than your best friend – they can also sniff out invasive species! We are looking forward to utilizing these strategies and sharing results with you as we learn more, so stay tuned.

As you can see, volunteers are extremely important for AIS prevention! This fall, be on the lookout for red swamp crayfish and starry stonewort, as well as other invasive species that may be illegally released from water gardens, like yellow floating heart, water hyacinth, and water lettuce. Don't forget about common invasives like purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed. More information on these species is available at dnr.wi.gov or in the Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detector Handbook available through the Extension Lakes and River Alliance online bookstore (uwsp.edu/uwexplakes).

If you are interested, join our early AIS detection team through Extension Lakes and River Alliance of Wisconsin programs like AIS Snapshot Day, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, and Water Action Volunteers. 💧

Remember to check the lists (<https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/BySpecies.aspx>) and maps (<https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/viewer/>) on the DNR website to see if the invasive species you find have ever been reported. Let us know if you find something new (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/report.html>)!

You can find free downloadable factsheets of many AIS species on the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network website. Visit uwsp.edu/uwexplakes, click the CLMN logo, then click the Aquatic Invasive Species button and go to Resources.



Photo by Ed Cohen

Notice the tiny, white star-shaped bulbils peeking out from this rake full of starry stonewort.



Fall Water Garden Cleanup

Keeping Our Lakes and Waterways Healthy

By Melinda Myers, Horticulturist and Gardening Expert

As summer winds down, it is not too soon to start planning for fall garden chores. Just like any gardening endeavor, fall cleanup is the first step to a healthy and beautiful water garden next year. How you manage the cleanup debris is critical to the health and quality of our lakes and waterways as well as your water garden.

Pro Gardening Tip

Bury or compost this debris away from the water's edge to create a wonderful soil amendment for your other gardens.

When the time comes, remove any dead leaves and decaying debris as well as any non-hardy plants from your water gardens. Cut back the leaves on hardy non-invasive plants overwintering in your pond. Move any hardy potted plants to a deeper shelf to protect them from freezing.

This next step in fall clean up is where well-intentioned gardeners often cause harm to lakes and waterways. Gardeners releasing

Pro Gardening Tip

Reduce time spent scooping fall leaves out of your water garden or pond. Cover it with bird netting to scoop up the leaves. Use the netting to drag leaves to an area where they can be shredded with a mower and used as mulch around perennials or added to your compost pile!

invasive plants into the “wild” at the end of the season have introduced invasive species into Wisconsin’s lakes and waterways. Avoid making this mistake by not only removing, but destroying any aggressive, invasive, or restricted plants. Do the same with any tropical water plants you are not planning to overwinter indoors. Just place them in a bag, mark as invasive and throw them in the trash. Do not compost them! Most compost piles don’t reach

Melinda Myers



high enough temperatures to kill all problem plants. If in doubt, go to dnr.wi.gov and search “Invasive Species” for a list of invasive plants.

You may notice several tropical plants on the invasive species list. Although these plants can’t survive our winters, their seeds can. Water hyacinths, water lettuce, and parrot feather, also known as Brazilian watermilfoil, have been found in Wisconsin waterways. These aggressive plants outcompete native water plants that wildlife depend on for shelter and nesting. They form dense mats that block sunlight from reaching submerged plants, decrease the oxygen needed by underwater animals, and negatively impact recreational use of our waters.

our video on fall water garden clean up (<https://youtu.be/kbrzM1sKCTo>). Together we can make a difference in keeping Wisconsin lakes and waterways healthy. 💧



As you clean up your water gardens and ponds this fall, resist the temptation to share plants with friends and family. Your gift may actually cause them problems by inadvertently passing along unseen invasive species or issues they’ll need to manage. Instead, pass along this link to

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous gardening books. She hosts the “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. www.MelindaMyers.com

2020 AIS Snapshot Day

If you were near the water on August 15, you may have seen some water enthusiasts with binoculars and rakes searching meticulously. They were volunteer monitors for the annual 2020 Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day! This year’s event focused on invasive species that may have escaped or been released from an aquarium or water garden. Many of these plants can choke our rivers and lakes if gone undetected (as you read in the previous article). More information is located on the River Alliance website at <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/snapshot-day/>. This year’s event implemented additional safety measures such as social distancing and face coverings to keep volunteers and their communities safe.



Introducing “Introduced”

Sea Grant’s Newest Podcast



Sea Grant’s Yael Gen designed the cover art for the new podcast.

By Jennifer Smith, Science Communicator, UW-Madison

Once niche, podcasts have gone mainstream. According to figures cited in Forbes, 62 million Americans now listen to podcasts each week.

While Wisconsin Sea Grant and the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute have been involved in podcasting for years—from the current series Wisconsin Water News to older programs like Earthwatch Radio—there’s a new kid on the block: a podcast called “Introduced” that will be devoted to aquatic invasive species (AIS). Its tagline is “aquatic invaders and stories from our changing waters.”

“Introduced” is the brainchild of Sea Grant Video Producer Bonnie Willison and student employee Sydney Widell, a UW-Madison geography and geosciences major from Shorewood, Wisconsin.

The series includes seven episodes; one was released each week beginning May 27. Listeners can find it on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, and on Sea Grant’s website (<https://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/audio/>).

While the simple name for the series conveys a bit of mystery, it also makes perfect sense. Said Willison, “As Sydney

and I started learning more about invasive species, we noticed that there is a tendency for people to villainize these species. But we also noticed that humans are the ones introducing all these species to new environments. The title for our series puts the agency on people, which is something that we focus on in the podcast.”

Guests interviewed in the series include representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey, UW-Madison, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and a rescue organization focusing on exotic animals. Several Sea Grant staff also make appearances.

Topics are wide-ranging, from Asian carp to the trade in invasive species on the Internet. Because the AIS field is so rich, Willison anticipates doing a second season of the “Introduced” podcast. Stay tuned! 🌊

Bonnie Willison and Sydney Widell, adjusted



Bonnie Willison and Sydney Widell, creators of the new podcast, on a visit to an electric fish barrier in Illinois in February. The barrier helps keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.



Wisconsin Water News

Another Great Sea Grant Podcast

With a state shaped by water, it’s no wonder one of the statewide programs that conducts research, education, and outreach focused on water has a podcast called “Wisconsin Water News.”

This is another great podcast series offered by the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute that may interest you!



(Lakes Belong to Everyone, continued)

In early June this year, the staff at COA made the difficult decision to cancel summer camps due to the coronavirus pandemic. Camp staff are instead taking time this summer to spruce up the facilities at Helen Brachman with hopes of offering family camp experiences in the fall. Time at Camp Helen Brachman can be a respite from the stressors of daily life and a chance for families to connect. For COA families, a trip to camp is often their only family vacation.

You Can Help

It's not a coincidence that nearly every youth camp in Wisconsin is located on a lake. The recreation opportunities alone (sailing, rowing, canoeing, swimming, fishing...) make waterfront properties ideal. The natural beauty, wildlife, and calming effects of the water have left an indelible mark on hundreds of thousands

of youth over the years. These camps are gateways to lifelong love affairs with water. It would be nice to think that these camps will be around for another 50-100 years, but they are all in need of continual support. Lake organizations can (and often do!) connect with camps on their lake or in the area to learn of their needs and develop personal ways to assist them. Now is the perfect time to double-down on such efforts. Families can consider sending their kids to camp in 2021 (there's always a need for more campers). Anyone can make a donation to a camp, supporting scholarships for families that can't afford camp, or filling a critical need for a facility requiring TLC. Perhaps with enough support and collaboration we can all build a new, more diverse generation of water advocates who sustain our legacy of lakes into the future. 💧

Perhaps with enough support and collaboration we can all build a new, more diverse generation of water advocates who sustain our legacy of lakes into the future.

C A L E N D A R

August 20, 2020 – Understanding Habitat: Seeing, Feeling, Hearing, Thinking Like a Wild Trout

This free, online workshop on science for trout stream restoration is being hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/wilakespartnership/> (see Events)

September 11 (and 25), 2020 – Wisconsin Wetlands Association Coffee Breaks

This special virtual programming is being offered to help keep the community of wetland lovers connected and learning about wetlands during this time of social distancing. You can even watch past presentations on your own time.

For more information: <https://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/wetland-coffee-break/>

September 16-18, 2020 – Michigan Inland Lakes Convention

The theme of this year's Michigan Inland Lakes Convention is "Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment." Normally, it might be cost-prohibitive for you to attend and learn from our neighbors "across the pond," but since this year's convention is online, you can attend any and all sessions for only \$30!

For more information: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/convention/>

Stay up-to-date with lake-related happenings by checking the Lake Event Calendar on our website. Just go to uwsp.edu/uwexplakes and look under the *Events* section!



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Lake Tides -- PRJ85HZ

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PERMIT NO. 530

Volume 45, No. 3
Summer/Fall 2020



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Extension Lakes
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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A quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

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Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink.

Reflections

“The lake is the one true microcosm, for nowhere else is the life of the great world, in all of its intricacies, so clearly disclosed to us as in the tiny model offered by the inland lake.”

— E. A. Birge
1936
A House Half Built

