

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL GRANT

Sponsor: Silver Lake Association

Project Number: AEPP-346-12

Project Title: Silver Lake AIS Education Project

Period Covered: April 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013

Name of Program: Aquatic Invasive Species

Summary of Accomplishments

Both the land owners around the lake and visitors to the lake now have a heightened level of awareness regarding the quality of Silver Lake and the desire of all interested parties to protect this valuable resource.

To begin this project a base line survey of all plants in Silver Lake was done. Endangered Resource Services, LLC was contracted to conduct and document a Point/Intercept Aquatic Plant Survey of the lake. This was done in early July, 2012 and the results were available and presented to the Silver Lake Association during a meeting on September 1, 2012. His efforts and report appeared to be very comprehensive and educational. It showed that the lake was free of aquatic invasive species and provided the members of the Association with the information needed to monitor the lake in the future.

In addition to the base line survey and the information it provided, a member of the Association was designated as the Rapid Response Monitor and he attended an AIS training session held by the Environment Education in Wisconsin – 2012 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in June, 2012. He presented a summary of the information gained to the Association at the same 9-1-12 meeting.

During the period covered under this grant a Silver Lake Boat Inspector was present at the single public boat landing at Grant Park during peak times of launching activities. He was given an official looking vest to wear which identified him as the “SILVER LAKE BOAT INSPECTOR”. Obviously, we were not able to be present 24/7 at the landing, so judgment was used to maximize the resources available. We were able to find a young man who lives on the lake during the summer who is attending the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire for his biology degree. He was employed from Memorial Day to Labor Day and inspected hundreds of boats wanting to launch at the landing. Several times he stopped boats from entering the lake with suspicious weeds clinging to the boat, the boat trailer and in the live wells. The most frequent

problem he found was water and plant debris in the live wells. Many boat operators seemed unaware that the live wells must be emptied and cleaned immediately after leaving a lake. A handful of boat operators became angry and confrontational so we armed the young man with contact information for David Moin, Barron County Sheriff and a copy of the laws regarding the transporting of AIS from one lake to another.

In addition, the Association shared the cost of high quality signage with Barron County to alert boaters to the concern of AIS prior to launching their boat.

Details of the monitoring activities were entered into the SWIMS database.

As evidence of the success of the heightened awareness, in the spring/early summer of 2014, a concerned resident of the lake reported Curly Leaf Pondweed in the Northwest bay of the lake. The report was quickly responded to with the help of Alex Smith and Mark Sundeen of the WI DNR. Luckily, the plants turned out to be Large Leaf Pondweed which is native to the lake.

In conclusion, the grant was put to good use and provided a basis for moving forward in the effort to protect the valuable public resource, Silver Lake of Barron County.

Robert J. Wenzel
President, Silver Lake Association
August 8, 2014