Conservation & UWEX Education Committee
Land & Water Conservation Department

Oneida County Courthouse
1 S Oneida Street
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501
Phone (715) 365-2750
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March 13, 2014

NEWS RELEASE

TO: Local Area Media

FROM: Michele Sadauskas
Oneida County AIS Coordinator
715-365-2750

3rd Annual AIS Poster/Photo Contest

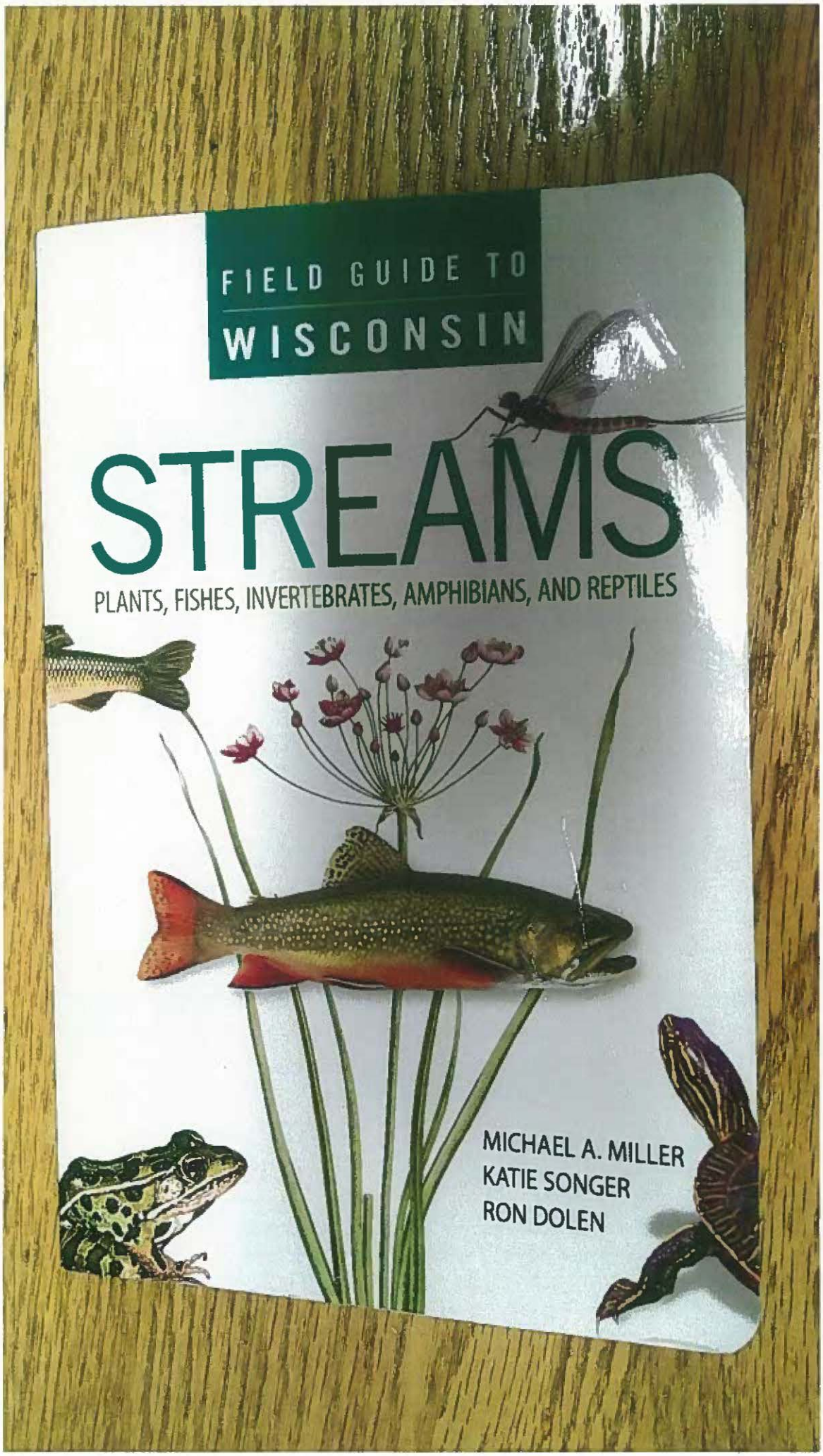
The Oneida County Land & Water Dept. and Lumberjack Resource Conservation Development Council in collaboration with; the Langlade County Land Conservation Dept., and the Ashland, Iron, and Vilas County Land & Water Depts., wish to invite students to participate in the *3rd Annual Northwoods Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Poster Contest*. Area students in fourth through eighth grades are eligible to participate and a total of three divisions will have prizes available.

New for this year, we have expanded the contest to include the entire Northwoods area! Yes, this means all the way from Florence County to Ashland County and beyond! AIS doesn't recognize county lines, so we decided this poster contest shouldn't either!

Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, and honorable mention certificates will also be presented. Each 1st place winner's class and school will become winners too! Additionally, winning entries will become part of a traveling art exhibit and an AIS poster calendar will be designed for distribution throughout the northwoods.

All entries **must be** received by **4:00 PM, May 2, 2014** and can be dropped off at the following locations: Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department (second floor, Oneida County Courthouse), Rhinelander District Library, Minocqua Public Library, Demmer Memorial Library in Three Lakes, Antigo Public Library, Langlade County Land Conservation Dept. in Antigo, and at the Mellen School District.

For more information please visit www.oneidacountyais.com, or contact Michele Sadauskas, msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us, 715-365-2750, or John Preuss, johnpreuss@frontier.com, 715-369-9886.


FIELD GUIDE TO
WISCONSIN
STREAMS
PLANTS, FISHES, INVERTEBRATES, AMPHIBIANS, AND REPTILES
MICHAEL A. MILLER
KATIE SONGER
RON DOLEN

4A. Monitoring for invasive species ($1975.00)

Each year, the Oneida County AIS team has increased monitoring efforts to not only include landings and launches, but also on-water and wetland monitoring of AIS. LWCD follows GLRI Early Detection Monitoring protocols, with the exception of Spiny water flea and Zebra mussel sampling tows. In 2014, LWCD monitored 12 lakes with GLRI protocols; Long, Sunday, Hasbrook, Windpudding, Sweeney, McNaughton, Buffalo, Swamsauger, Burrows, Haskell, Hodstradt, and Hemlock. LWCD also monitored AIS at 8 lake landings; Indian, Crescent, Thompson, Squirrel, Buckskin, Mildred, Two Sisters, and Muskellunge. Additionally, LWCD receive calls to check on possible AIS findings, and helps the WDNR to monitor select lakes for GLRI Early Detection Monitoring. Samples reports are included.

With increased databases and monitoring, it is hoped that the Oneida County LWCD can better analyze movement of AIS, evaluate management actions, and better combat AIS.

Expenses:

Supplies	$ 52.30
	$ 16.99
	$ 9.29
	$ 86.18
	$ 38.00
ZM supplies	$ 16.78
Supplies/anchor	$ 34.99
Field supplies	$ 61.50
Total	**$316.03**

2014 Oneida County Lakes to be Monitored

To be monitored by DNR:

Diamond Lake
Clear Lake
Thunder Lake
Katherine Lake
Whitefish Lake
South Two Lakes
Little Bearskin Lake
Bass Lake T37n R09e S30
Bass Lake
Zottle Lake
Pickerel Lake
Lower Ninemile Lake

--The above lakes will include snorkel monitoring, zebra mussel and spiny water flea monitoring, and a visual meander vegetation survey. The Oneida County AIS team will be assisting on many of these lakes.

Oneida County AIS team will monitor:

<u>Entire lake</u>
Long #1001300
Sunday
Hasbrook
Windpudding
Sweeney
McNaughton
Buffalo
Swamsauger
Burrows
Haskell
Hodstradt
Hemlock
Alva

<u>Landings only</u>
Indian
Crescent
Thompson
Squirrel
Buckskin
Mildred
Two Sisters
Muskellunge

See more information on page 2.....

--Those lakes listed as a 'landings only' lake will have snorkel monitoring and shoreline monitoring performed **only** at the boat landing (s). Those lakes listed as 'entire lake' will include a visual meander vegetation survey of the lake and snorkel monitoring at designated points. We will be following DNR monitoring protocols **except** we will not perform Zebra Mussel and Spiny Water Flea monitoring water tows.

Additional Notes:

-DNR lakes have been chosen randomly.
-Oneida County AIS team lakes have been chosen due to a number of different variables including, but not limited to; proximity to AIS infestations, size, history of monitoring, traffic patterns, sensitivity, etc.
-Due to unforeseen variables throughout the summer, lakes on the Oneida County AIS team list may change.

Kathan Lake Yellow Flag Iris (Iris pseudacorus) Monitoring Report

By Stephanie Boismenue, AIS Project Assistant, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department

Location:	Oneida County, WI
Waterbody ID:	1598300
Invasive Species:	Chinese Mystery Snail, Eurasian Water-Milfoil
Monitoring Date:	June 26, 2014
Kathan Lake Contacts:	Myrna and Larry Wright, 8524 Peninsula Road, Eagle River, WI 54521, 715-479-6908

On Wednesday June 25th, Oneida County AIS Coordinator Michele Sadauskas received an email from Kathan Lake residents Myrna and Larry Wright stating they had just read Michele's publication about Yellow Flag Iris and wanted to report seeing this invasive on Kathan Lake. Michele made arrangements with the Wrights to have me monitor the iris the next day. Additionally, since there is not a public boat landing on Kathan Lake, Michele set-up for me to enter Kathan Lake via the Wright's waterfront property.

On Thursday June 26th, I kayaked the entire shoreline of Kathan Lake searching for and mapping Yellow Flag Iris (MAP: 1). Prior to Kathan Lake visit, I obtained a copy of Kathan Lake's Comprehensive Management Plan from the WDNR's website. Interestingly, Yellow Flag Iris is not listed as an emergent aquatic plant species located in Kathan Lake during 2007-2009 surveys. (Source: Kathan Lake's Comprehensive Management Plan, Table 3:3-1, created by Tim Hoyman and Eddie Heath of Onterra, LLC.).

Upon arrival at Mr. and Mrs. Wrights residence on Kathan Lake, they showed me the iris locations on my map. They informed me that the biggest colony of iris was located on an island, which was originally part of the mainland that broke away during this springs ice-out. They stated that they had already cut the iris flowers from this particular location and placed them in the trash.

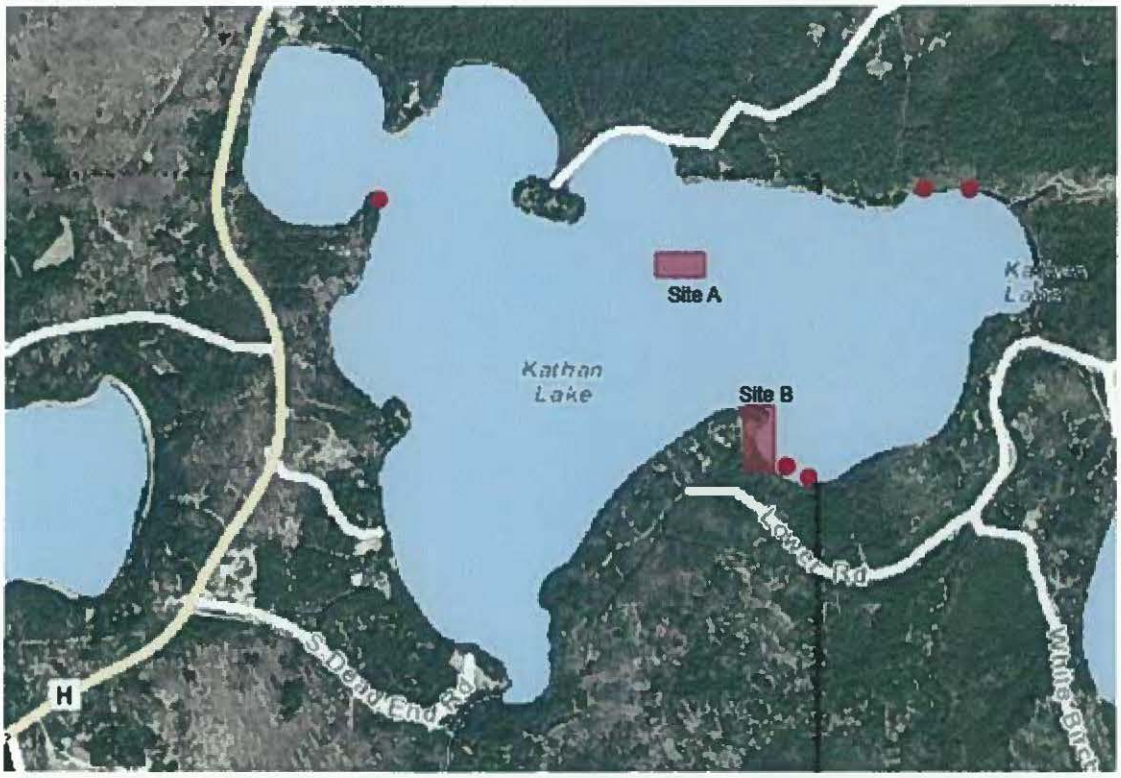
I kayaked the entire shoreline of Kathan Lake and found several locations of Yellow Flag Iris (MAP: 1). I created GPS waypoints of each location, made notes on my printed map and took several photos of the plants.

Site A on Map:1 was on the small island mentioned above. The island is less than 30 feet diameter and is not solid enough to walk on. I was able to see the plants that the Wrights had cut the flowers from, which made positive identification easy and not confuse with Cattails, which have similar looking plant structures. The iris plants were 4 -5 feet tall and scattered throughout the island.

Site B on Map:1 was located in a shallow wetland bay on the east side of the lake, making access to these plants impossible and visual observation was from a distance. Looking at the flowers, I could see what appeared to be a large colony (Site B) located towards the west end of this bay. Heading towards the east of site B, there were a few clumps of plants scattered throughout. Unfortunately, I was having problems with the GPS unit and therefore, I am not sure if the waypoints I obtained were recorded.

The other 5 waypoints indicated on Map:1 are single clumps of plants and each contain less than 12 flowers. These locations are at the waters edge and accessible from a boat/canoe.

MAP: 1



On Thursday July 24, 2014 Alyssa and I went to Kathan Lake to obtain two more Yellow Flag Iris GPS coordinates. Kathan Lake residents, Myrna and Larry Wright, assisted Alyssa and I by driving us in their fishing boat to the locations. I had hoped that going in a fishing boat rather than a kayak would get us higher off the water surface thus allowing better visual observation.

The first GPS location that I had questioned turned out to be cattails (note: this area was not GPS's). The second location (**site B**) is located in a shallow, wetland area in the bay on the east side of the lake and consists of a large colony (Site B) and a few scattered clumps of plants (waypoints to the east of site B). Unfortunately, the water level was much lower than it had been during my first visit, making it incredibly difficult to get the boat close enough to the area to obtain GPS coordinates. We did the best we could with the GPS waypoints and took photos of the area. On the way back to the Wrights, we stopped at the yellow iris colony located on the floating island (site A) and took some photos.

Facts about Yellow flag Iris (Iris pseudacorus).

Yellow Flag Iris grows in dense mats along shorelines, streams, ponds, wetlands, bogs, swamps, marshes, forest, dry uplands, water gardens, and ornamental gardens, is actually an incredibly aggressive invasive species!

- Other names for this plant include: Yellow iris, Water flag, European yellow iris, Pale-yellow iris.
- It is a showy perennial plant that is a native to Eurasia.
- Ecological threat: Yellow flag iris can produce many seeds that can float from the parent plant or, plants can spread vegetatively via rhizome fragments.
- Once established it forms dense clumps or floating mats that can alter wildlife habitat and species diversity.
- All parts of this plant are poisonous, which results in lowered wildlife food sources in areas where it dominates.
- This species has the ability to escape water gardens and ponds and grow in undisturbed and natural environments. It can grow in wetlands, forests, bogs, swamps, marshes, lakes, streams and ponds.
- Dense areas of this plant may alter hydrology by trapping sediment.

Identification:

- Leaves & stems: Broad, sword-shaped leaves grow upright, tall and stiff. They are green with a slight blue-grey tint and are very difficult to distinguish from other ornamental or native iris species. Flowers are produced on a stem that can grow 3-4 feet tall amongst leaves that are usually as tall or taller.
- Flowers: Showy and variable in color from almost white to a vibrant dark yellow. Flowers are between 3-4 inches wide and bloom from April to June. Three upright petals are less showy than the larger three downward pointing sepals, which may have brown to purple colored streaks.
- Fruits & seeds: Seeds are produced in fruits that are 6-angled capsules, 2-4 inches long. Each fruit may have over 100 seeds that start pale before turning dark brown. Each seed has a hard outer casing with a small air space underneath, which allows the seeds to float.
- Roots: Thick, fleshy pink-colored rhizomes spread extensively in good conditions, forming thick mats that can float on the surface of water.
- Similar species: When not flowering, yellow flag iris could be easily confused with the native blue flag iris (Iris versicolor) as well as other ornamental iris that is not invasive. Blue flag iris is usually smaller and does not tend to form as dense clumps or floating mats. When not flowering or showing fruiting bodies, yellow flag iris may be confused with other wetland plants such as cattails (Typha spp.) or sweet flag (Acorus spp.) species.

Control:

- Mechanical: Small populations may be successfully removed using physical methods. Care should be taken if hand-pulling plants as some people show skin sensitivity to plant sap and tissues. All parts of the plant should be dug out – particularly rhizomes and disposed of in landfill or by burning. Cutting the seed heads may help decrease the plant spreading.

- Chemical: Aquatic formulas of herbicides may be used to control yellow flag iris, however, permits may be needed. Foliar spray, cut stem/leaf and application and hand swiping of herbicide have all shown effectiveness.

Resources: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/YellowFlagIris.html

Site A

Site Recommendations for Management of Yellow Flag Iris, Kathan Lake

--michele sadauskas, Oneida County AIS Coordinator, Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department

Site A and multiple single waypoints. After reviewing field collection data and notes on Kathan Lake it is recommended that Yellow Iris on Site A (see Map 1) and single clumps of plants (5 waypoints, Map 1) be hand-pulled. Of particular concern is the floating island colony (Site A). Due to the mobility of this habitat, Yellow Iris could conceivably be transported to various locations throughout the lake. Additionally, hand-removal might be difficult on this island due to its lack of solidity.

Site B. If possible obtain a polygon denoting size and extent of this colony. At this time Site B should be managed by hand-pulling outlying plants from main colony of Yellow Iris to contain spread.

Notes:

Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department is willing to assist Kathan Lake volunteers in hand-pulling targeted areas and plants, as well as mapping the full extent of Site B.

Continued monitoring of Yellow Iris colonies is recommended for 2015 and beyond. Monitoring should occur in June to take advantage of blooming specimens. New plants or locations should be quickly hand-pulled to keep spread to a minimum.

For those areas that are not conducive to hand-removal it is recommended that seed pods are removed from adult plants.

ONEIDA COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Long Lake

Page 1: AIS Monitoring and Water Clarity Report of June 18, 2014

Land & Water Conservation Department

Jean Hansen, County Conservationist
Michele Sadauskas, AIS Coordinator
Jonna Stephens Jewell, Program Assistant

Oneida County Courthouse
P O Box 400, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501
Phone (715) 369-7835 Fax (715) 369-6268

Long Lake AIS Monitoring and Water Clarity Report

WBIC:	1001300
Previous AIS Findings:	None
New AIS Findings:	None
Field Date:	June 18, 2014
Field Crew:	Stephanie Boismenue and Alyssa Nycz, AIS Project Assistants, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department
Report by:	Alyssa Nycz

Stephanie and I monitored Long Lake (#1001300) on Wednesday, June 18th. We used our canoe to navigate the lake (Figure 1). Our goals were to take Secchi disk and dissolved oxygen readings in the deepest parts of the lake, as well as perform a visual survey along the public boat landing and two other shoreline locations.

Site A marks the first deep hole that we collected data from. Our Secchi disk reading was eighteen feet. Additionally, we measured dissolved oxygen levels one foot below the water's surface, and at three foot intervals below that. We were not able to obtain accurate readings below a thirteen foot depth. Table 1 presents dissolved oxygen levels and temperature at various depths. We repeated the same process at Site B, which had a Secchi disk reading of twenty feet. Our notes are listed in Table 2.

After collecting data at our deep hole sites, we beached the canoe along the shoreline of the southern end of the lake. We walked knee-deep about one hundred feet from our canoe in either direction along the shoreline. The property owner happens to be the president of the lake association, and he said that while there appears to be a private launch on his waterfront, this is currently not in use. We did not find any suspicious plant or animal matter along the shoreline at this location.

We continued our visual survey in the loon nesting bay located at the southeast end of the lake. We also inspected a portion of the southwestern shoreline. On our way back to the boat landing at the northern end of the lake, we inspected a portion of shoreline along the northeast shoreline. Finally, we canoed about one hundred feet on either side of the boat landing. In each of the locations we inspected, we found nothing of concern. Much of the lake's shoreline consisted of healthy, native vegetation, and all snails that we observed were also native.

Figure 1. A map of Long Lake #1001300 including the deep hole sites A and B.

Table 1. Dissolved oxygen levels and temperature readings at deep hole site A.

Depth	Dissolved Oxygen Level	Temperature Reading
1′	8.72mg/L	69.9°F
4′	8.74mg/L	69.4°F
7′	8.79mg/L	69.2°F
10′	8.89mg/L	68.6°F
13′	8.92mg/L	67.5°F

Table 2. Dissolved oxygen levels and temperature readings at deep hole site B.

Depth	Dissolved Oxygen Level	Temperature Reading
1′	8.73mg/L	70.3°F
4′	8.77mg/L	69.9°F
7′	8.79mg/L	69.7°F
10′	8.88mg/L	68.9°F
13′	9.12mg/L	67.1°F

4B. Assist WDNR with point-intercept survey (s) and GLRI early detection monitoring. ($160.00)

Field assistance from LWCD staff was available for 2014 point-intercept (PI) surveys and GLRI Early Detection Monitoring project surveys. WDNR did not require LWCD assistance for any scheduled PI surveys. GLRI monitoring events were performed after LWCD staff returned to school for the season and/or LWCD staff was not needed. Therefore no PI surveys or GLRI monitoring was performed by LWCD staff.

No expenses were incurred.

5A. Assist agencies and associations in restoration of ecosystems. ($240.00)

In 2012, Oneida County LWCD began working with partners to restore AIS-affected landscapes. Over 20 native plants were restored into a small wetland near Quality Inn, Rhinelander. The site continues to be a demonstration area for both students and adults.

In 2013, Theresa Werner's 4th grade classes and Shelley Lehman's work experience students brought the School District of Rhinelander into the world of restoration management. Students harvested, sorted, and sowed native wetland plant species. These plants would then be planted into AIS-affected landscapes starting in 2015/2016.

Hodag Park (City of Rhinelander) saw Yellow Iris removed in 2014, and was scheduled to have the site restored with Blue Flag Iris in Fall 2014. But, extra time was needed to receive permission on the project. Permission was granted Fall of 2014, and site restoration work began in May 2015. Theresa Werner's 5th grade class planted Blue Flag Iris, Swamp Milkweed, and Blue Vervain into the site. Additionally, the HY 8 Phragmite's site was chemically sprayed in Fall 2014. Phragmite biomass was removed from the site (Spring 2015) in preparation of restoration plantings in Fall 2016.

LWCD hopes to see an increase in restoration management partnerships with other management units, lake associations, and private citizens in the future.

Expenses:

Supplies--	$ 23.17 seed frame
	$ 12.98 seed frame
	$ 8.01 grit for sowing
	$ 17.92 soil mix for sowing
Total	**$ 62.08**

5B. Support educational outreach materials for restoration. ($50.00)

In 2013, LWCD developed and designed a brochure highlighting the restoration of Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife affected wetlands.

The brochure was designed as a two-sided 4.25" x 5.5" cardstock flier. One side of the brochure was devoted to Yellow Iris and plants that homeowners could "plant instead" of Yellow Iris. The flip side of the brochure was devoted to Purple Loosestrife and focused on 'purple' native species that landowners could use to help restore Purple Loosestrife affected landscapes. LWCD called the brochure "Plant This Instead"! No revision of the brochure was needed for 2014. The brochure was distributed at lake fairs, lake association meetings, and other water- related events in 2014. Additionally, LWCD continued to obtain and distribute restoration materials, including 'Protecting your Waterfront Investment'.

Expenses:

Printing/paper-- $30.52

5C. Compile information on restoration and rehabilitation efforts. ($50.00)

LWCD continues to assimilate and share restoration and rehabilitation efforts. The consulting firm Onterra, has provided numerous documents on lakes they are actively managing. LWCD also continues to receive species abundance, frequency of occurrence, and species richness data from the WDNR. With these types of resources, LWCD is able to follow how aquatic and wetland plant populations and communities respond to treatments, restoration activities, and other management techniques.

LWCD is committed to sharing restoration and rehabilitation research and practices on its FB page, website, and Land Information mapping page. To continue to offer individuals and groups this type of material (oftentimes files are large due to picture-heavy content), LWCD purchased a Weebly account in 2013 that allowed videos (ex. Purple Loosestrife restoration work) and large files to be uploaded, stored, and downloaded by visitors.

Minor printing and supply expenses were incurred (see Appendix G).

Oneida County AIS

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VISITOR POSTS

Sara Mills
July 7 at 10:14am

For being an invasive species, Crayfish Sara is pretty cute!

Like · Comment

Rosie Page
August 11, 2014 at 4:13pm

hey team! We've updated our facebook page for the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership II Come on over and take a look!

Unlike · Comment · 1

LIKED BY THIS PAGE

Oneida County UW-Extension

WJFW Newswatch 12

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Published by Kathere Skradiskas [illegible] July 30, 2014

Check this out! This is a first-time find for me. Always on the lookout for the invasive Purple Loosestrife, I was first disheartened to see this stalk of purple in the wetland near our house. But something just didn't feel right. I hopped out of the car and took a closer look. And took an even closer look! I did not know what I found. My guess was possibly an orchid because of its shiny, thick, parallel-veined leaves. After digging around a bit on the internet...it was INDEED an orchid! A Lesser Purple Fringed Orchid! How cool is that!! These are the type of species that I work so hard to protect. This is why we want to keep Purple Loosestrife out of our wetlands!!

47 people reached · Boost Post

Like · Comment · Share

Oneida County AIS, Rosie Page, Jean Hansen, Kim Swisher and 3 others like this.

Kim Swisher It's beautiful!!! Thanks for saving it
July 31, 2014 at 9:08am · Unlike · 1 · Message

eidacountyais/notifications/

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VISITOR POSTS

Sara Mills
July 7 at 10:14am

For being an invasive species, Crayfish Sara is pretty cute!

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Unlike · Comment · 1

LIKED BY THIS PAGE

Oneida County UW-Extension

WJFW Newswatch 12

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Write a comment...

Oneida County AIS added 5 new photos to the album: Mrs. Werner's class planting native seeds.
February 5, 2014

Mrs. Werner's fourth grade class from Central School, plant native seeds as part of a restoration project in hopes to replace invasive plants with native plants.

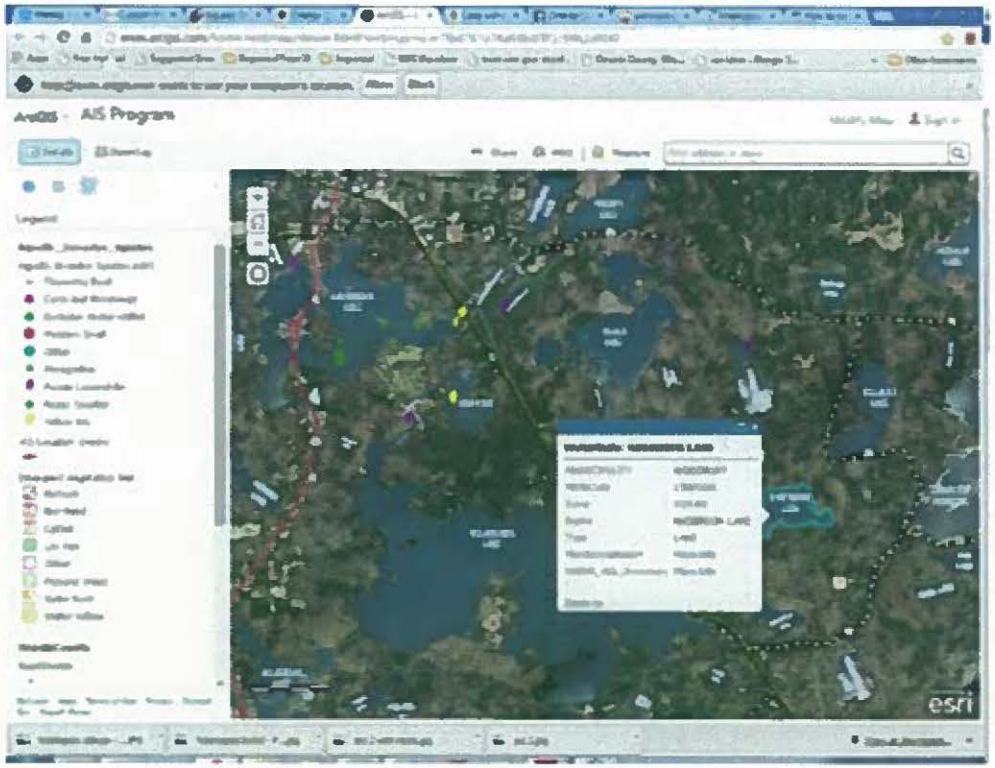
Boost Unavailable

Like · Comment · Share

Click "Download File" below, to save or print the September AIS update!

ais_update_sept._18_2015.pdf
Download File

Interactive Oneida County AIS Map. We debuted our new AIS mapping program in July and have made a number of improvements since that time! Take a quick look at this screen shot:



By clicking on any named waterbody in Oneida County (notice the turquoise line around Hasbrook Lake), a pop-up box will appear for that lake. From this pop-up box, you can quickly navigate to find out if the lake has any monitoring reports/maps associated with it and what AIS are in the waterbody. This is a really neat, simple mapping program! Coming soon (next week), we will have a quick link that will show secchi disk readings for the lake of your choice 😊 Go here to check it out:

5D. Extra activities and/or purchases. ($239.99)

In 2015, Oneida County LWCD was approved to purchase a small tabletop display. After years of service, LWCD's old display board was retired to backstage usage. The newly purchased display board now highlights our AIS program at educational outreach events.


HAZELHURST
UNIFIED
LAKES
GROUP
PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
INVASIVE SPECIES
STOP AQUATI
HITCHHIKERS
SE YOUR HEAD
P THE SPREAD!"

CONCLUSION:

In 2014/2015, the Oneida County Land and Water Department continued the fight against AIS. With help from the WDNR and AIS Control Grant AEPP-408-14, LWCD hosted nine workshops (131 participants), worked with over 500 schoolchildren, and hired three limited-term employees who performed over 600 hours of CBCW inspections. The educational outreach did not end there. Oneida County LWCD was also able to distribute stickers, brochures, pens, koozies, and wristbands. The AIS Control Grant award also enabled Oneida County to continue to monitor, manage, and map AIS. By mapping and monitoring existing populations we can move forward with management practices that will protect and/or preserve our invaluable water resources.

Without financial support from the WDNR grant program, Oneida County's AIS program would be severely limited, if not completely dismantled. The current AIS program has been successful on many fronts and has been a huge success in educating and controlling the spread of AIS. The program has raised public awareness on AIS, increased partnerships, and most importantly, has worked tirelessly in protecting Oneida County's water resources. In 2014, Oneida County can say with certainty, that it has partnered with multiple organizations in effectively helping slow the spread of AIS!

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

STUDENT OUTREACH

Photos taken
June 5, 2014
During AIS Day for
4th Graders from
Central School.
Theresa Werner's Class

STUDENT OUTREACH

Worm Watch - Early June, 2014

Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lake Protection Association's Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser held August 30, 2014

MONITORING

AIS Lake Monitoring

Lake George Association Monitoring/Training

EWM Virgin Lake Training/Monitoring

MONITORING

Hwy 8 Phragmities

October 7, 2014

AWARDS BANQUET—2014

EVENTS

Poster Contest Awards Ceremony

Mrs. Werner's 4th Grade Class

Central School

Poster Contest 2014

OUTREACH

Clean Boats Clean Waters

Lake Thompson Field Training

Clean Boats Clean Waters

Lake Thompson Field Training

Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lake Protection Association's Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser held August 30, 2014

MANAGEMENT

Yellow Iris Management

Purple Loosestrife Management

APPENDIX B

3-15-14

Entries for the Aquatic Invasive Species poster contest are now open

By Kayla Breese
RIVER NEWS FEATURE WRITER

The Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC &D) are looking for entries for the third annual Northwoods Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) poster contest.

The contest is open to fourth through eighth-grade students who are in public, private or home schooled in the Northwoods.

The elementary division is for fourth and fifth graders, the junior division is for sixth and seventh graders and the middle division is for eighth graders.

Some of the classes that have participated in the contest in the past ranged from those who knew about AIS to those who hadn't been introduced to the topic and wanted to learn.

LWCD and RC &D's goal is to educate students about aquatic invasive species and to help stop the spread of AIS.

"We didn't even put a theme on it this year because the students come up with such catchy titles, it's just amazing," said Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County AIS Coordinator.

The artwork must be the students' own original work, each entry must have the entry form securely attached to the back of the artwork, posters can be no larger than 11 by 17 inches, can be on any colored unlined paper, and photos, crayons, chalk, stamps, stickers and watercolors cannot be used.

Students should have a brief, catchy message on their poster, should use colors to capture attention and shouldn't have too many ideas in the artwork. Simple and direct is better.

The judging criteria for the posters includes a clear and effective message, understanding of the topic, universal appeal, originality and adherence to contest rules.

"It's just amazing, the phrases and the catchy slogans that [the students] come up with and their artwork is just fantastic too," Sadauskas said.

They have been so impressed with some of the slogans that they use them on boards at the docks and other things and attribute it to the student.

Deadline for the posters is May 2, judging will take place May 5 and 6 and the winners will be notified May 9.

The judges, who have backgrounds in the arts and sciences and public sector, will determine the winners.

Medals will be awarded to first, second and third-place winners. Honorable mention ribbons will also be handed out.

Each first place winner's class and school will get prizes. Each class will get an award ceremony and treats and each school will receive a donated lake ecology book.

The winning posters will become LWCD and Lumberjack RC &D's property and will be part of the traveling art exhibit that will be seen throughout the Northwoods this summer.

Non-winning entries may be picked up at Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department office after May 12.

Locations for poster drop offs are the Rhinelander District Library, Minocqua Public Library, Demmer Memorial Library, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department, Langlade County Land Conservation Department and Mellen School District. If drop off sites are not nearby, contact Sadauskas or John Preuss, Tri-County AIS Coordinator.

For more information contact Sadauskas, at msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us, Preuss at johnpreuss@frontier.com or visit www.oneidacountyais.com or www.lumberjackrcd.org.

Kayla Breese may be reached at kayla@rivernewsonline.com.

Aquatic invasive species poster contest open

The Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and Lumberjack Resource Conservation Development Council in partnership with Ashland, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, and Vilas County Conservation Departments, wish to invite students to participate in the third annual Northwoods Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Poster Contest.

Area students in fourth through eighth grades are eligible to participate and a total of three divisions will have prizes available.

New for this year the contest is expanded to include the entire Northwoods area. This means all the way from Florence County to Ashland County and beyond. AIS don't recognize county lines, so this poster contest doesn't either, organizers noted.

Medallions will be awarded for first, second, and third places, and honorable mention certificates will also be given. Each first-place winner's class and school will become winners, too. A class celebration with awards and treats will be held in winning classrooms. Additionally, winning entries will become part of a traveling art exhibit and an AIS poster calendar will be designed for distribution throughout the Northwoods.

All entries must be received by 4 p.m. May 2 and can be dropped off at the following locations: Oneida County LWCD (second floor, Oneida County Courthouse, Rhinelander), Rhinelander District Library, Minocqua Public Library, Demmer Memorial Library (Three Lakes), Antigo Public Library, Langlade County Land Conservation Department (Antigo), Price County Conservation Department (Phillips), Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department (Hurley), Florence County Land Conservation Department (Florence), and the Mellen School District.

For more information, visit www.oneidacountyais.com, or contact Michele Sadauskas or John Preuss.

Sadauskas may be reached via email at msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us or by calling (715) 369-7836.

Preuss may be reached via email at johnpreuss@frontier.com or by calling (715) 369-9886.

River News 3-22-14

BUYERS' guide

Questionable?

Last year there was an AIS survey given to ice anglers. Will an AIS survey be given to ice anglers this year?

Gary, Rhinelander

We asked Michele Sadauskas, AIS coordinator for Oneida County, this question. She responded:

"Yes. In 2013, the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department attended six area ice fishing tournaments and visited with anglers on many additional lakes. There were 345 surveys completed and over 1000 ice anglers were contacted. The survey results showed that even though many anglers had heard about aquatic invasive species, just as many were not familiar with AIS bait laws, Clean Boats Clean Water volunteers, or if AIS are dormant or inactive in winter. With help from a DNR AIS Control Grant, Oneida County will once again be on the ice in 2014. We will be attending ice fishing tournaments on Lake Nokomis, Lake Minoc-

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STAR JOURNAL

Leaving no stone unturned in the search for invasives

By Beckie Joki, Special to the Star Journal

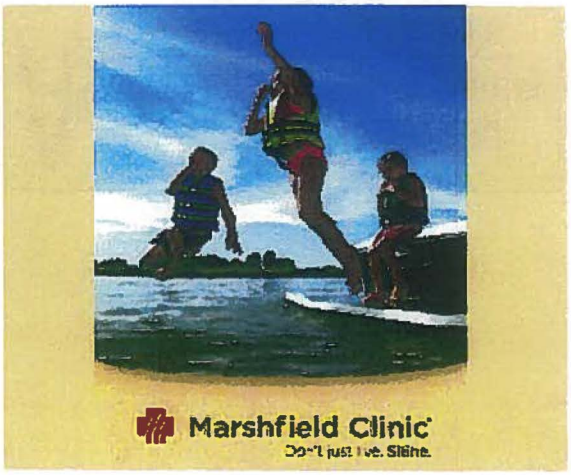
Friday, September 19, 2014 4:00 PM

Volunteers Dan and Marj Mehring sift through weeds and water on the Pelican River under a bridge on Hwy 8 E near Rhinelander.

A cool, crisp morning greeted volunteers for the Bridge Snapshot project Saturday, Sept. 13. The Bridge Snapshot was a cooperative effort by Oneida County Land and Conservation, The River Alliance and the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership. Michelle Sadauskus, AIS Coordinator for Oneida County Land and Conservation stated the River Alliance was spearheading the project with the help of a grant from the DNR and asked for assistance of other groups.

"When the River Alliance asked for assistance with the Bridge Snapshot, we were more than happy to jump on board," Sadauskus said. "We were really interested to see what might be taking place in the thoroughfares between the lakes, in the areas where invasives might be easily introduced."

In essence, the goal of the Bridge Snapshot was to determine what, if any, invasives were present in the waters and on the shorelines directly under and near highway bridges. According to Sadauskus, while lake organizations and others do a good job in monitoring



the lakes, functions between the lakes had not been looked at as closely. In areas near around bridges there is an opportunity for invasives to be spread in a variety of ways. They can be introduced by people walking or wading into the water, by launching boats there, or even from vehicles driving over on highway bridges.

The biggest problem with invasive species is they are often quite prolific growers. They can be likened to dandelions growing in a lawn. While the homeowner may want a rich, lush lawn, the dandelions oftentimes can take over if left unchecked. The same can be said for invasive plant species. The two sets of species the Bridge Snapshot looked at were aquatic and terrestrial. While plant species can grow and spread quickly and change the fragile ecosystem of a river or lake, many invasive animal species have no known predators. This means their numbers, too, can grow quite quickly. Not only can the lack of predators be a problem, but these species are then competing for the same food sources of other, native, aquatic animals. This is a big cause of concern for many residents and other stakeholders of area waters.

Three teams of volunteers headed out to inspect the areas around various bridges in Oneida County. Rosie Page from the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership met Rhinelander volunteers at the Rhinelander District Library Saturday morning to explain the protocols to be used and to divide up the bridges to be studied. Page explained the wet and dry protocols to the volunteers and how to go about collecting samples of suspicious terrestrial and aquatic plants. She also asked volunteers to take pictures of any invertebrates they suspected to be targeted invasives. One concern voiced by a few volunteers was that some of the growing seasons for some of these plants were coming to a close. That concern was validated to some degree in the field, but even then enough evidence of the invasive plant species remained for volunteers to make a positive identification.

The volunteers followed a very specific protocol when they arrived at their bridge sites. In those areas where it was not too dangerous, volunteers waded into the water of the Wisconsin and Pelican Rivers near the highway bridges. In other areas they did their research from shore. They first looked over the area and took pictures, noting any possible invasives. If any suspect terrestrials were present, a sample was placed into a sample bag. The volunteer then recorded as much information as possible about the area the invasive covered and any other details. Then volunteers raked the bottom of the rivers to pull up plant matter and any woody substances. Those were then inspected for invasive species. Where possible, the volunteers also used their hands or a scoop to collect substrate and sift through it for any invertebrates that could be found. If any were found, they would carefully take pictures of them rather than try to bring them back to the check point at noon. Dan and Marj Mehring were a couple of the volunteers. They live Squash Lake west of Rhinelander, where Invasive Eurasian Milfoil has recently been found.

"That's the reason we're here," Dan Mehring said. "Eurasian Milfoil was found in Squash Lake, where we live. So, this is just a subject that's very near and dear to our hearts. That is why we wanted to be a part of this project."

Going in, Sadauskus, Page, and other team members were hoping to see no new invasives in the bridge areas throughout the county. They were already aware of what the volunteers might find at these locations, but were eagerly awaiting the results by lunchtime on Saturday. They expected Purple Loosestrife, some invasive thistle, and a few of the other more common invasive species. It is difficult enough to control the known invasives and if the volunteers were to find new issues, that would only expand that problem.

Once all of the volunteers brought in their findings, the results were studied, as were the plant specimens that were brought in by the volunteers. Rosie Page stated that she was very excited to see that no new invasive species were found. The Rhinelander volunteer group had a good laugh about Bob Martini's most invasive of all species that he found near the Highway 17 Bridge on the Wisconsin River. He found a rubber duck that escaped from Potato Fest two weeks prior. While they joked about the little yellow duck, it did help to illustrate how something someone does in one part of a waterway can have effects in a much larger area.

In Rhinelander, the bridges studied were the Highway 17 Bridge on the Wisconsin River and two bridges on Highway 8 over the Pelican River. The bridge over the Wolf River on Highway B was also studied by the Rhinelander group. The team confirmed the presence of Purple Loosestrife at the Wisconsin River site. The two areas near the Pelican River were found to have invasive thistle as well as Spotted Knapweed, which Grace stated is very common in the area. Only Spotted Knapweed was found near the Highway B Bridge over the Wolf.

Grace and Sadauskus were both relieved to see no new species and only those which they suspected to be at those entry points to area rivers. Grace mentioned that next year, when the Bridge Snapshot is performed again, they will have baseline data with which to compare next year's findings. Everyone involved was excited to see so much interest from area residents. When it comes to a problem such as invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial, the more people who are involved and how help to educate others about the problem, the more successful eradicating invasives can be.

Living on the Lake®

Wisconsin's Northwoods Lifestyle Magazine

April 2014

FREE!

Building healthier Northwoods lakes with "Fish Sticks"

A walk on the dock: *No boundaries for invasive species*

Helping wildlife through a tough winter

A Walk on the Dock...

Back in the Day: A tale of highways, byways and no boundaries

I grew up in Conover and remember distinctly how far away many of my classmates lived. One of my closest friends lived alongside the Nicolet National Forest east of Eagle River. We rarely saw each other outside of school and called one another infrequently. Why, you may ask? Because it was many, many miles to each other's houses and the phone calls to each other were billed as long distance! OK, maybe not a long-distance call to another area code, but the call did cost more than a local call. Fast forward 30+ years. Nowadays, I drive 85 miles to work, one way. Talk about a change in mobility!

Many of you have heard the phrase "back in the day," and truly this phrase can apply to how very differently Americans get around in the world today. Unfortunately, Americans getting around easier also means we tend to bring things with us, knowingly and unknowingly. Take for example, firewood. Back in the day, many of us hauled, sawed, split and used firewood to heat our homes. As kids, Mom and Dad took us out in "The Old Army Truck" to collect firewood from logging jobs. I remember that truck doing a whooping 45 mph on the highway, running over stumps as high as my knees (my knees were not short), and making it logging trails that no Ford, Chevy or Toyota truck could do today!

By Michele Sadauskas

Submitted photos

Back then, our firewood came from within our township. Today, firewood may easily travel in from the next county, the next region or even the next state! Why worry about traveling firewood? Well, it's those things that unknowingly come with our firewood that we worry about. Invasives such as emerald ash-borer, gypsy moths and the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum* (oak wilt) can wreak havoc on our forests, woodlands and lakeshore properties.

One of the latest outbreaks of oak wilt is located in the Lake Nokomis region of northern Wisconsin. It has most likely infiltrated the region by hitching a ride on firewood that originated in lower Wisconsin. The oak wilt fungus lies hidden just underneath the bark of an oak, and can easily go unnoticed. A vacationer who brings up firewood or a lakeshore property owner that moves firewood from their full-time residence to their vacation home may have unknowingly brought this invasive north. To help stop the spread of this invasive (and many others), DON'T move firewood...get firewood where you use it and DON'T prune or wound oak trees from April through July (wounds will attract beetles that can spread the fungus). Please visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/oakwilt.html for more information.

Invasive species certainly do not recognize town lines, county lines or even state lines. Take, for example, the latest threat to Wisconsin's waters, the New Zealand mudsnail. They are about the size of a grain of sand, can be found in densities of up to 500,000 per square meter and can live out of water for 26 days! Genetic testing confirmed that the snails discovered in Black Earth Creek belonged to a "Clone 1" population previously only found in western states. No one is sure exactly how the invasive snail made it to Wisconsin, but many think that stream

Didymosphenia geminata, commonly known as rock snot or didymo, is a microscopic alga. It can form mats several inches thick and ruin rivers and creeks. It's found on rocks in moving water. Didymo has been confirmed in other parts of the country and can spread easily by hitching a ride on fishing equipment, waders, boats, etc.
Photo by Tim Daley, PA Department of Environmental Protection

anglers may have inadvertently allowed the snails to hitch a ride on their waders, hip boots or field gear.

As a county resource manager, my job revolves around protecting and managing resources within my county. I can spend hours and hours at local boat landings, in schools and on the lake. Time well spent. But the days of spending time and monies only within my county are long gone. Not only do I have to protect the resources inside my county, I must look beyond boundaries; I must "think globally, act locally."

For instance, three years ago my program created an aquatic invasive species poster contest for Oneida County youth. This spring it was rolled out as a regional contest, enveloping nine different counties and open to thousands of students in 4th through 8th grades. Or how about this: Instead of volunteering to inspect boats on a lake without invasive species, should I be down the road volunteering at an infested lake with a busy landing? It may not be the lake I live on, but by thinking globally, I may do more good for my lake!

The time for drawing lines in the sand is over. What was once a southern Wisconsin invasive problem is now a short drive away. What was once an invasive species issue in Minnesota has become an invasive species dilemma for a region. The next new invasive in Wisconsin might be rock snot (Didymo), giant hogweed or Brazilian waterweed, but one thing is for sure: The battle to fight it will have to be fought at both the local and regional levels!

Michele Sadauskas is the Oneida County AIS Coordinator and can be reached at (715) 365-2750 or msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us. Please contact her to arrange AIS presentations and/or workshops, report any suspicious plant behavior, or find out more about any of the above mentioned projects. She welcomes all questions.

Living on the Lake®

Wisconsin's Northwoods Lifestyle Magazine

June 2014

FREE!

A view from the Northwoods

Vilas County photographer's images touch viewers around the world

Edible plants along northern Wisconsin lakes

Raccoons unmasked

A Walk on the Dock...

Raising AIS awareness in Wisconsin waterways

Note: Each year, organizations across the state hire part-time staff to help battle aquatic invasive species (AIS). These individuals are critical in helping monitor for AIS. They inspect boats and trailers at landings, perform outreach to thousands [illegible]n thousands of water recreationists and dabble in a multitude of other tasks. Recently, Alyssa Nycz and Sara Mills were hired to help protect Oneida County waters from AIS. The article that follows is the first small step in their journey.

–Michele Sadauskas

By Alyssa Nycz and Sara Mills

The summer months are here and we can finally see open water in our Northwoods lakes. With the warmer weather now upon us, many people look forward to getting their boats on the water to enjoy a variety of activities such as fishing, boating and swimming. As residents of the area and new members of the Oneida County AIS team, we want to educate the public about how to keep our lakes clean so we can all enjoy recreational activities out on the water.

There are over 15,000 documented lakes in Wisconsin. While the majority of them do not contain AIS, the invasive species in affected lakes can be spread to others. Additionally, AIS found in one lake may differ from a neighboring lake, therefore increasing the risk of spreading invasives from one water body to another. As outdoor enthusiasts who choose to enjoy our Wisconsin lakes, we all need to make the decision to keep these bodies of water clean, too.

The risk of spreading AIS has great consequences to our waters. Eurasian water-milfoil, for example, will form large colonies from any small piece of itself. These thick mats of colonies inhibit boating and swimming. Zebra mussels may wash up onto beaches, which takes away from the comfort and beauty of our scenic waters. New Zealand mud snails affect the natural dynamics of the ecosystem's food chain. The viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus wipes out populations of fish, and that in turn affects our fishing on both recreational and industrial levels. If AIS continue to spread, the lakes that we currently enjoy for recreational purposes will become overpopulated with invasive plants, experience changes in fish dynamics and will potentially host parasites.

Many of us have likely witnessed firsthand either the presence or effects of AIS, whether we were aware of it or not.

I, Alyssa, have reeled in many strands of Eurasian water-milfoil on Lake Nokomis while musky fishing. Even though I was not formally involved with an AIS team at the time, I used to col-

lect these invasives in a container that my dad kept readily available in our boat so that we were not throwing the weed back into the water where it could reestablish itself.

I, Sara, recall fishing with my dad and catching so many rusty crayfish that it seemed as if populations of other species were greatly diminished. These invasives were eating all of the bait that we had hoped to catch panfish with. Additionally, we have both noticed a decline in the areas that are suitable for swimming due to invasive plant growth.

Many bodies of water, such as the Willow Flowage, have information to alert locals and vacationers about any aquatic threats.

Unfortunately, it is very easy to spread AIS. The most common ways that people contribute to the spread of AIS is through the use of our watercraft equipment. This includes the transport of AIS on trailers, propellers, anchors, as well as in bilge water, live wells and bait buckets. It is easy for us to notice AIS on the exteriors of our boats and trailers, but it is more difficult to see which AIS may be in our live wells and bait buckets.

AIS typically found on a boat's exterior include plant species such as Eurasian water-milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. Invertebrate species such as zebra mussels, New Zealand mud snails, Chinese mystery snails and banded mystery snails can be found in mud on watercraft equipment. Live wells and bait buckets may also transport all of these noted mussel and snail species, as well as a zooplankton species known as spiny water flea. Disease is also spread from lake to lake similarly to other invasive species. The VHS virus, for example, may pose a large

threat to many bodies of water in Wisconsin and can be spread via bait fish. While it may seem to be an inconvenience, it is important that bait fish taken from a particular body of water only be used in that water body and not taken to others where it may spread invasive diseases.

Many of us vacationing in the Northwoods cannot readily identify invasive species from native ones. Therefore, it is imperative that we take a few minutes to inspect our watercraft, remove all plants and animals, and drain all live wells and buckets when entering and exiting a body of water. Many lake organizations and volunteers are trained to provide education about AIS throughout the state. Often, these volunteers will be located at boat landings to offer assistance in identifying and removing AIS from watercrafts.

As members of the Oneida County AIS team we, too, will be at the landings and look forward to seeing you there this summer. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a few minutes out of their day to inspect the interior and exterior of their watercraft. Our individual measures will result in a team effort to keep our lakes clean, so that we may continue to enjoy them in the years to come.

Michele Sadauskas is the Oneida County AIS Coordinator and may be reached at (715) 365-2750 or msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us. Contact her to arrange AIS presentations and/or workshops, report any suspicious plant behavior, or find out more about any of the above mentioned projects. She welcomes all questions.

Summertime visitors

In early May, after sandhill cranes had returned here for the summer, Gary Garton of Rhinelander spotted some of these majestic birds feeding in the fields on what is locally known as the Crescent Flats, south of Crescent Lake. Photo by Gary Garton

Conservation & UWEX Education Committee
Land & Water Conservation Department

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NEWS RELEASE

TO: ALL LOCAL MEDIA

FROM: Michele Sadauskas
AIS Coordinator
Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department

SPINY WATER FLEAS THREATEN TO INVADE ONEIDA COUNTY WATERS

Oneida County Land & Water Urges Fall Anglers to Report Sightings

The discovery of the invasive Spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) in Trout Lake, Vilas County, has caught the attention of resource managers, anglers, and lake-front property owners. Just one year ago this invasive was limited to Stormy Lake (Vilas County), Giles Flowage (Iron County), and Lake Gogebic (U.P.) in the Northwoods, and the Madison Chain of Lakes in Dane County. Since that time, they have been discovered in Star Lake (Vilas County), Butternut Lake (Forest County), and most recently, Trout Lake (Vilas County).

Unlike Eurasian water-milfoil, which can easily be spotted and removed from boats, trailers, and motors, Spiny water fleas are less than ½ inch long, have translucent bodies with large spines, and often go unnoticed in bait buckets, livewells, and on fishing gear. When large numbers congregate, usually in autumn, they may appear as clear gelatinous globs on fishing lines, anchor ropes, and nets.

Spiny water fleas are invasive crustaceans that have the ability to disrupt entire lake ecosystems. One favorite food of the invasive flea is *Daphnia*, a small *native* water flea. Studies have shown large declines of native water fleas when Spiny water fleas move into a waterbody. Interestingly, most of our native fish populations also prefer *Daphnia*, and it has been shown that the introduction of the invasive water flea has led to declines in gamefish

populations in some lakes. Additionally, when *Daphnia* populations crash, lake-users often see an increase in algae and a decrease in water clarity in the invaded lake.

Although Spiny water fleas have not been confirmed in any Oneida County lake to date, the threat of anglers and boaters transporting the invasive into the county is very real. Adult Spiny water fleas could be unknowingly transported in bait buckets, livewells, and bilges. An even bigger concern is Spiny water flea eggs. Eggs can survive extreme environmental conditions, pass through digestive tracts of fish, and are easily transported in mud on anchors, fishing equipment, or gear.

"The latest Spiny water flea sightings were reported by local fishermen," said Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County AIS Coordinator. *"That shows citizen involvement is critical in detecting invasives and ultimately keeping them contained."* Currently there is no method to eliminate Spiny water fleas once they enter a lake. For this reason, it is extremely important to drain all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment, including live wells and buckets containing fish. Sadauskas adds, *"most of Oneida County's boaters and anglers are old pros at pulling plants off of their boats and trailers to stop the spread of AIS, but we really need everyone's help to make sure water isn't transported from lake to lake."*

Sadauskas urges anglers to report any possible sightings of Spiny water fleas, or any other suspicious plant or animal. She can be reached at msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us or 715-369-7835. For more information please visit www.oneidacountyais.com or http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives.

# # #

NEWS STORIES

Treatments help fight invasive phragmites in Oneida County

Submitted: 10/16/2014

Ben Meyer
Executive Producer
bmeyer@wjfw.com

RHINELANDER - Local invasive species workers hope most phragmites stay right where they are - near Lake Michigan.

Last fall, we showed you this patch of phragmites on Highway 8 west of Rhinelander. It was there again this fall, but Oneida County's AIS department is treating it aggressively. It used chemical treatments in September.

Now, workers will sow native wetland seeds on the area this fall. They will plant some larger shrubs in the spring.

Invasive phragmites grow dense and tall - often ten to fifteen feet. They block the sun and choke out most other plant life.