



Conservation, Planning,
& Zoning Department



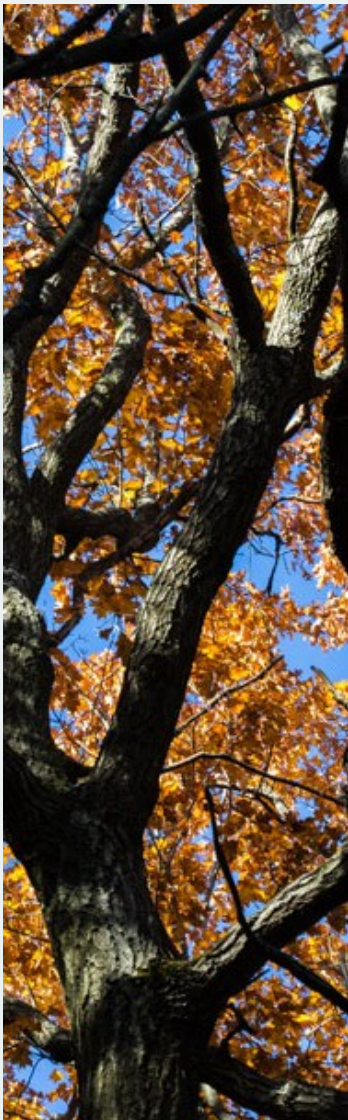
Eastern Lakes Times

Photo by Roger Zimmermann

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Don't get 'Trapped' by Invasives

Chris Hamerla ~ Regional AIS Coordinator



Think about your hunting and trapping habits for a moment. How many different areas do you visit? How often do you clean your boots and equipment? Many people are aware of invasive species but don't think about it while enjoying these fall activities.

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals, algae, bacteria, and viruses capable of outcompeting native species because they lack predators or controls and can live in a wider range of conditions. Invasive species disrupt food chains. They can change healthy, diverse habitat into degraded, limited use areas and in some cases pose health risks to wildlife.

Purple loosestrife, exotic phragmites, and flowering rush are invasives capable of degrading wetland habitat. Honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard can degrade forest and forest openings. These invasive plants crowd out valuable native plants, leaving minimal diversity which

doesn't supply quality food or habitat for animals and birds.

Faucet snails are a small invasive that can pose serious health risks to waterfowl. Faucet snails reproduce quickly and are host to a parasitic trematode. When faucet snails are eaten by waterfowl the trematode completes its life cycle in the birds. Mass die offs of coots and scaup (bluebills) have occurred due to this process. So, how does this relate to

hunting and trapping? How can folks prevent spreading invasive species to areas we enjoy and depend on?

Spring through fall, we are constantly reminded to remove all aquatic plants from boats and trailers and to drain all water from live-wells, bilges, and other equipment before leaving the landing. For hunters and trappers, clothing and mud should be major concerns. Seeds stick to clothing. Small animals and seeds of (continued on next page)



A muskrat hut surrounded by purple loosestrife shoots. No loosestrife was used by the muskrat to create the hut.



Keep up to date with events, articles, and other lake news at our new revamped Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/EasternMarathonLakes/>



Don't get 'Trapped' by Invasives (continued)

Chris Hamerla ~ Regional AIS Coordinator

invasive plants are easily transported in mud stuck on footwear, equipment and ATVs. Cleaning footwear and gear is very important to stop the spread of invasives. Many people visit numerous properties and waterways throughout the season. Before leaving an area, using a simple brush (like those used for cleaning horse hooves) is a quick, cheap way to clean debris from boot and wader treads. They also work well for removing mud from gear and ATV treads. Clothing should be cleaned of seeds that are attached. These quick actions greatly reduce

the chance of moving invasives.

While hunting and trapping we get to see and interact with animals that many people never or rarely see. We frequent places most others will never go. Preserving the animals and areas we enjoy depends on our responsible actions. It is crucial that we prevent spreading invasive species by cleaning our gear. Prevention is important but so are our observations. Finding invasive populations early makes control easier. If you find a suspect plant/animal collect

a specimen and record the location. This information can be given to the DNR or local Invasive Species Coordinator.

To learn more visit:

[http://
www.goldensandsrccd.org/
our-work/land](http://www.goldensandsrccd.org/our-work/land)



Muskrats are one of the most sought-after and valuable furbearers in Wisconsin.

Eastern Lakes Film

Tyler Betry ~ Shoreland Protection Technician

A new project Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department (CPZ) has been working on and will continue to work on throughout the next year is a short video about the Eastern Lakes. The intent of the video will be promotional and educational, highlighting the uniqueness of the eleven lakes and what sets them apart from others across the state. This video will also promote better health practices to ensure that our lakes are protected and not exploited. Most importantly the purpose of the video is

to celebrate the efforts that have gone into protecting these waters and the local citizens, lake districts, lake associations, and sportsman's clubs who have been making a difference. CPZ believes that it is important to inform shoreland owners, fisherman, and other stakeholders about these efforts.

CPZ is working with students from the Northern Technical College Film and Production Program to obtain footage on all of the lakes that will be used to create the short video. So far we have footage

highlighting the fall colors on Mayflower, Norrie, Mission, and Bass Lake.

Our hope is to obtain more footage in winter, spring, and summer and complete the video by Fall of 2017. The video will then be shared via the county's website. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the video please call give us a call at 715-261-6027.



A student of NTC filming a mallard on Mission Lake.

Aquatic Plant Surveys (Part 2)

Chris Hamerla ~ Regional AIS Coordinator

Three lakes in Marathon County had point intercept (PI) plant surveys completed this summer. PIs are surveys completed by using GPS points gridded onto a lake map. At each point the water depth, sediment type (sand, rock or muck) and aquatic plants are recorded. Since GPS points stay the same the survey stays consistent over time. This helps track plant communities, changes in species and is used in lake management plans.

Big Bass, Mission and Wadley Lake had PIs completed this summer. Big Bass was chosen

because it is a long term trends lake for the DNR. Wadley Lake was chosen to continue surveying for the presence or absences of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). Mission Lake was chosen to further assess the distribution of EWM. No invasive plants were observed in Big Bass Lake. There is a very dense bed of native pondweeds in the middle of the lake that makes navigation almost impossible. The bed is made mostly of small pondweed, fries' pondweed and stiff pondweed. Seventeen plant species were observed in Big Bass. Wadley Lake was treated for

EWM in 2013 and since that time none has been observed. Unfortunately, EWM was found during the PI completed on July 6th. Approximately twenty plants were observed along the northwestern shore adjacent to HWY Y. These plants were removed. During a follow up visit in September six additional plants were found and removed. Eleven plant species were observed in Wadley Lake.

Mission Lake has had EWM but it appears to be increasing. This prompted completing a PI in August. All observed EWM was

located in near shore areas between the boat landing and the summer camp on the east side of the lake. Mission Lake's abundance of native plants helps slow the spread of EWM but they also make hand removal very difficult. Monitoring will continue but management options need to be considered. Thirteen plant species were observed in Mission Lake. Curious what's in your lake? Contact Golden Sands RC&D to learn more about aquatic invasive species.

Shoreland Restorations Update

Tyler Betry ~ Shoreland Protection Technician

It has been a busy summer promoting the shoreland restoration program. So far over 40 shoreland evaluations on private shoreland lots were conducted. These 40 plus landowners were looking for advice to improve their shoreland lot or to enroll into our restoration program. As of now we have nine landowners who have signed up for the restoration program and we are hoping more will sign up!

In addition to the restoration on private lots, the Mission Lake shoreland restoration has been moving

along. Later in the summer a group of 20 plus campers from the Waypost Lutheran Camp helped plant over 200 groundcover plugs. They also received a quick lesson on aquatic invasive species from Ethan Robers of Golden Sands RC&D.

Next year more plants will be added, signage describing the project will be placed, a raingarden within the county park will be constructed, and a stairway so everyone has easier access to the restoration will be installed. Stay tuned to see what all unfolds Mission Lake and the Restoration Program.



Campers from Waypost participating in the invasive species demonstration and helping with the groundcover plantings.

EASTERN LAKES TIMES

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Do you have suggestions for articles or photos to share? Or would you like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter? Please contact:
Tyler Betry (715) 261-6027
tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us



Be on the lookout for the Marathon County's new logo for lake protection efforts. You may see this logo on publications, newsletters, signs, and posters throughout the county!

Lake Events

Here are a few events about to happen in or around the Eastern Lakes area. If you know of or would like to have any future lake events announced in the Eastern Lakes Times please contact Tyler Betry at 715-261-6027.

Shoreland Planting Mission Lake

CPZ is looking for volunteers to help with the shoreland restoration at Mission Lake. If you would like to participate please call (715) 261-6027.

Lake Video Participants

CPZ is looking for volunteers to help with the Eastern Lakes video. If you would like to participate in anyway please contact us at (715) 261-6027.

Wisconsin Deer Muzzleloader

Gun season has pasted, now Muzzleloader season begins! Muzzleloader begins November 28th and goes until December 7th, 2016.



Featured Plant

Low Bush Blueberry:

Vaccinium angustifolium

Some people think that blueberries can't grow along the waters edge in our neck of the woods, but in many situations the native Low Bush Blueberry is a well suited riparian plant. This native plant provides delicious fruit for landowners and wildlife while also having dense fibrous root systems that are great for holding the soil together. Low Bush Blueberry grows very well in sandy acidic soil in both sunny or shaded locations. Conifer woods are ideal for

these plants. These plants are slow growing and only grow to be a foot or two tall. They are perfect for pathways down to the water where you can grab a handful of berries before you head out on the water. Be weary though... critters such as deer and rabbits love to browse these plants!



Low Bush Blueberry
Vaccinium angustifolium