Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Updates

Andrew Teal

7/23-8/10/18

* Set up at Bayfield County Fair with Ramona Shackleford and coordinated coverage of the AIS booth with staff and volunteers for the weekend
* Spoke to interns (Kyra’s last day is August 20th), created boat landing schedule for August and assessed how many hours we have completed
* Checked monitoring sites for AIS Snapshot Day and have been working on recruiting people for the event. The materials shipped on 8/8/18.
* Served as one of the instructors for a knotweed workshop held in Duluth for regional participants to educate and expand our partnerships across the St. Louis River. Their CISMA (the Duluth Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) is only a year old, so they’re figuring out the best way to tackle this problem. Knotweed rhizomes (like roots, but are modified, underground stems) can spread laterally up to 60 feet in any direction and grow up to 6 feet deep, and the plants can also produce wind-blown seed. Northwoods CWMA has a decade of experience though, at least 5 years of which has been spent controlling knotweed, so we shared that knowledge. Including how Bayfield County has the highest number of giant knotweed sites in Wisconsin, and that Duluth supposedly has no giant knotweed sites. The kicker: giant and Japanese knotweeds can hybridize. Duluth has over 300 mapped knotweed sites, representing the highest presence/concentration of knotweed in the state. That many populations a mere bridge span away from Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area territory, and an hour from Bayfield County, represents an ongoing threat to us, even if we get all our populations under control. I think our mutual interests and partnership will yield positive results.
* Monitored for the Clean Boats Clean Waters Boater Behavior Study at Middle Eau Claire Lake in Barnes
* Co-recruited a speaker for our August Invasive Species ID Day event (the Duluth CISMA Coordinator, as it happens)
* Worked with Pam Toshner at the DNR to plan an AIS Survey at Pigeon Lake (got rescheduled for 8/14). This lake suffered more than most during the June storms, and the water is at a 30+ year high. So we may be getting some interesting data.