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**Conservation & UWEX Education Committee**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

DATE: February 7, 2018

TO: Northwoods Area News Media

FROM: Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County Conservationist

RE: **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest hopes to reach a milestone!**

The *7<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest* originated from humble beginnings. In 2012, only 82 posters were received from two counties. Student posters shared how Eurasian water milfoil affected lakes and rivers, why Purple Loosestrife isn't so beautiful, and gave us an idea of just how small, invisible, and destructive Zebra mussels could be. First, Second and Third place winners received medals, and each 1<sup>st</sup> place winner's class received an awards ceremony, delivered right to their classroom.

Those humble beginnings are now in the rear view mirror as the Oneida County Land & Water Department prepares to receive, catalog, and display over **500** student posters in the next three months. While there still may be posters focusing on "old friends" like Purple loosestrife and Zebra mussels, it is now not unusual for the office to receive posters highlighting invasive feral pigs, Bloody shrimp, and Rock snot! Posters will line the hallways of the Oneida County Courthouse; and libraries throughout 18 counties, will display winning posters during June's Invasive Species Month.

In this annual contest, students in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade compete for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place divisional trophies, honorable mention ribbons, best slogan awards, and the coveted Classroom Award Ceremony, which involves treats for the entire class! Entries are due **May 1, 2018 by 4:00 p.m.** Posters can be mailed (flat) to Oneida County LWCD, Attention: Invasive Species Poster Contest, Courthouse, 1 South Oneida Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501 or are accepted at official 'Drop-off Locations', of which there are fourteen scattered throughout Northern Wisconsin. To find out more about this contest please visit [www.oclw.org](http://www.oclw.org), email [msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us), or call 715-369-7835.

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