Data collection efforts provide aquatic invasive species (AIS) information for Big Blake Lake

Although Polk County lakes are still ice covered, the Land and Water Resources Department is gearing up for another year of aquatic invasive species monitoring. 2014 marks the fourth year of an aquatic invasive species monitoring program which is being implemented across the entire state of Wisconsin. In total, approximately 600 lakes have been monitored statewide with nineteen of the lakes being located in Polk County. Big Blake Lake was randomly chosen for monitoring in both 2012 and 2013.

The two surveys completed on Big Blake Lake documented a total of three aquatic invasive species in Big Blake Lake: curly leaf pondweed, Chinese mystery snail, and banded mystery snail. All three invasive species had been previously documented in Big Blake Lake. Curly leaf pondweed and Chinese mystery snails are fairly well established in Polk County. Of the nineteen Polk County lakes monitored, curly leaf pondweed was found in 8 lakes and Chinese mystery snails were found in 14 lakes. Banded mystery snails are less common across Polk County, being found in only 4 of the lakes which were monitored. Other aquatic invasive species such as purple loosestrife, phragmites, and Eurasian water milfoil were detected in other Polk County lakes; however, they were not found in Big Blake Lake in 2012 or 2013.

If you’re interested in learning more about how to identify aquatic invasive species or learning how to monitor for aquatic invasive species on Big Blake Lake there are numerous ways to get involved! Please contact, Katelin Holm or Jeremy Williamson with the Land and Water Resources Department at 715-485-8699.