



## **2023 Lake Ripley Island Lane Phragmites Management Annual Report**

On August 14, 2023, ERC Staff Ecologist Andrew Haberman conducted a site visit on the Gebhart Wetland Easement located at N4083 Island Lane, Cambridge, WI. Individual, isolated stems and small clones of Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) were observed within both lobes. These were significantly reduced in density from previous years. Unit 1 is the western lobe and is located adjacent to the boardwalk and pier. Unit 1 had small clones along its northern extent, and isolated stems throughout the unit. Photo 2 was taken in June of 2020; Photo 3 was taken in August of 2023. The photos demonstrate the significant reduction in the Phragmites population through management as well as the restoration of a robust native vegetative cover. Unit 2, east of Unit 1 and directly north of the house, was largely reduced to individual stems (Photo 4) with the largest concentration of Phragmites observed to be growing along the northeastern perimeter, within the shrub-carr.

On September 13, 2023, ERC and Lake Ripley Management District employees clipped seed heads of the Phragmites and properly disposed of them. Following the clipping, a commercial herbicide backpack was utilized to spray the densest pockets of Phragmites while the Glove-of-Death technique was utilized to treat the majority of the Phragmites as they were primarily individual stems. The Glove-of-Death technique utilizes a cotton glove worn over an impermeable PVC glove. The glove is dipped in the herbicide solution and the herbicide is manually applied to the stems and leaves of the target species. The Glove-of-Death technique was chosen to minimize the impact of herbicide on the surrounding robust native populations.

In the dormant seasons of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, ERC biologists and Lianna Spencer conducted dormant supplemental seedings over bare or sparsely vegetated areas. Native species observed in the seeding areas in September 2023 are listed in Table 1.



*Photo 1: Mature Phragmites plants in Unit 2. The phragmites clones are reduced to single stems, most were not mature enough to produce seed heads.*



*Photo 2: Dense phragmites clone near boardwalk in Unit 1. Photo was taken in June of 2020.*



*Photo 3: Individual Phragmites stems near boardwalk in August of 2023.*



*Photo 4: Individual Phragmites stems in September.*



*Photo 5: Collected Phragmites seed heads.*

<b>Table 1: Observed Native Species</b>	
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet Flag
<i>Apios americana</i>	American Groundnut
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly Sedge
<i>Carex hystericina</i>	Porcupine Sedge
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe Pye Weed
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed
<i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i>	Great St. John's Wort
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Rice Cut Grass
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Blue Lobelia
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Arrowhead
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	Dark-Green Bulrush
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Wool Grass
<i>Scirpus validus</i>	Great Bulrush
<i>Senna herbecarpa</i>	Wild Senna
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada Goldenrod
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cordgrass
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster