

Town of Barnes Curlyleaf Pondweed EDRR Douglas County Surface Waters Program (2024-2025)

Introduction

The Douglas County Surface Waters Program is proud to partner with and support the Town of Barnes on their Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) grant focusing on Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) in and around Lower Eau Claire Lake. The partnership was formed in 2023, and Douglas County program staff (Natural Resources Specialist) conducted three main activities between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2025 per the grant award: early detection surveys of nearby waters, assistance with early planning, and education events.

Early Detection Surveys

Early Detection Surveys focusing on CLP in surrounding areas were conducted with a special focus on the sensitive lotic environments of the Eau Claire river which outflows from the affected area of Lower Eau Claire Lake, eventually entering the St. Croix Flowage. Surveys were conducted in April 2024, leading to the discovery and verification of two small patches of invasive Curlyleaf Pondweed located in the Eau Claire River (WBIC 2740700) which were previously not documented in the WI DNR SWIMS database. Rake throws/visual inspections were performed at 72 locations along the riparian corridor beginning immediately downstream of Mooney Dam where Lower Eau Claire lake feeds into the Eau Claire River and finishing at South Lidberg Road approximately 9 miles downstream. Locations of each rake throw/visual inspection were recorded using a Garmin E-trex handheld GPS unit, and mapped using ESRI ArcPro (see map below). At each location macrophytes were either directly observed from a boat or sampled using a rake toss. Field identifications of any observed non-native species were recorded at each of the 72 survey locations. Out of the 72 survey locations, invasive Curlyleaf Pondweed was present at two, located directly below the Mooney Dam, which drains the Eau Claire chain of lakes, which are known to be infested with Curlyleaf Pondweed. Irises were also noted at several of the rake toss locations, although species could not be determined as plants were at a very early growth stage during CLP monitoring. After ID characteristics such as flower color, seed pods, and/or mature leaf morphology emerge ID can be determined and Irises will be recorded as either native Blue Iris or invasive Yellow Flag Iris. Data including latitude/longitude was uploaded to the WI DNR SWIMS database 5/22/24.

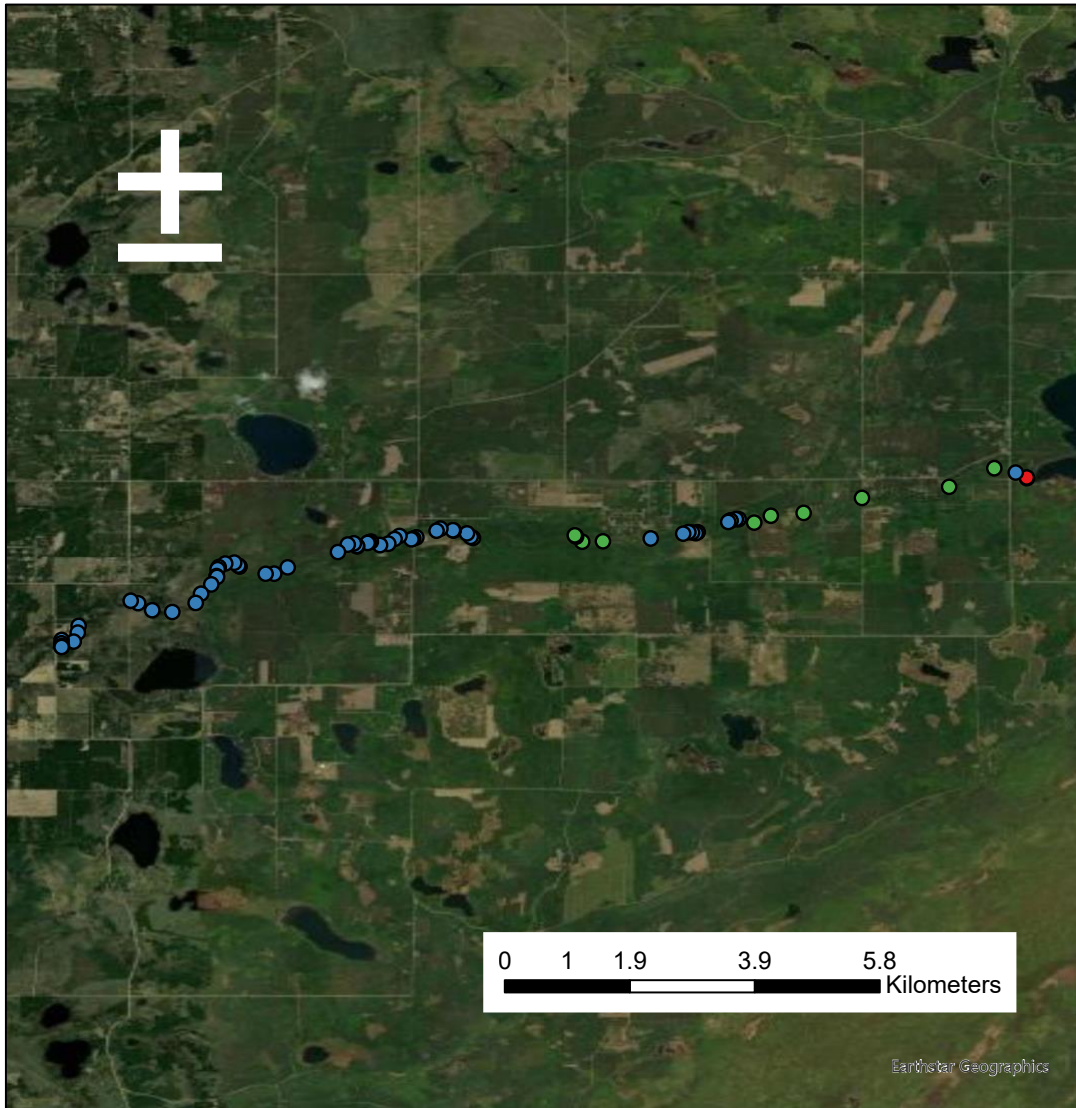
On 4/14/25 Town of Barnes AIS committee identified the priority and requested to repeat EDRR survey of the Eau Claire River outflow immediately below Lower Eau Claire Lake with the specific goal of checking for further spread of the Curlyleaf Pondweed in the Eau Claire and verify the identity of irises noted along the banks which were too early in the season to determine ID during the previous survey. The 2025 survey confirmed the presence of CLP at the same location in the Eau Claire River just below Lower Eau Claire Lake at Mooney Dam County Park, and did not document any further spread of the CLP downstream. The second survey was

conducted later in the growing season and was able to identify the irises at Mooney Dam County Park, McCumber Road crossing, and County Y crossing as native Blue Iris.



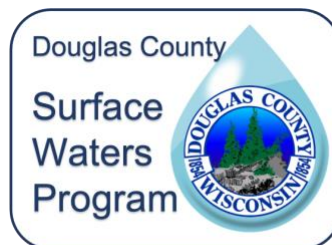
Invasive Curlyleaf Pondweed documented in Early Detection Rapid Response survey in the Eau Claire River immediately below the dam at Mooney Dam County Park (see map).

Eau Claire River CLP Survey 2024



Legend

- Curlyleaf Pondweed
- Iris unknown
- Rake toss negative



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Native Blue Iris identified at McCumber Road access.

Planning assistance / support

The use of a non-motorized watercraft was donated on April 18, 2024 for targeted CLP EDRR surveys. Donation can be leveraged as matching funds by the Town of Barnes as needed.

The Natural Resources Specialist attended the Barnes AIS Committee meeting on August 12, 2024 to offer an educational presentation sharing new data from EDRR surveys of waters surrounding Eau Claire Chain of Lakes. The specialist discussed findings from the Eau Claire River, provided AIS education resources and participated in planning of additional educational events for 2025.

The Douglas Co Natural Resources Specialist assisted planning for CLP in 2024 and 2025, coordinating with committee leaders and volunteer coordinators from Town of Barnes and FOECLA to organize training opportunities and winter webinars.

Also, unfortunately, in the winter of 2024/2025 a 4'x4' aluminum AIS Cleaning Station sign was stolen or removed without permission from the public water access at Mooney Dam County Park and Campground. Members of FOECLA reached out to the Douglas Co Natural Resources Specialist in December 2024 to report the loss and worked together to investigate whether the AIS prevention signage may have been removed by officials or the township for maintenance reasons. Finding no explanation by April of 2025, the AIS Cleaning Station is presumed stolen,

and the Douglas Co Specialist planned and coordinated with FOECLA members to provide a digital design file and support efforts to replace with a new sign.

The Douglas Co Specialist attended the 4/14/25 Town of Barnes AIS Committee to provide a project update and assist in early planning for CLP in 2025. Recreational use as a vector for CLP spread on the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes and downstream in the Eau Claire River was discussed, and the committee provided comments and local knowledge indicating regular recreational use by kayakers, canoeists, tubers, swimmers, and some anglers, especially between Mooney Dam County Park and McCumber Road public water access. The committee requested that the Early Detection Rapid Response mapping of the Eau Claire River conducted during 2024 be repeated in 2025 to check for any potential downstream spread of the CLP and verify identification of the Irises documented in 2024.

Providing Educational Events

The Douglas County Natural Resources Specialist organized and promoted an educational event focused on identification of CLP and other AIS in the area, as well as proper methods for completing physical removal, the value of aquatic plant communities, Surface Waters Program lake conservation activities, and the importance of protecting local water resources. The Specialist created an online presentation/webinar, which was delivered live Thursday, January 25th, 2024 from at 6:30 PM over the Google Meet platform. The opportunity was advertised to 300+ using the Douglas County Surface Waters Program email outreach list, as well as through Town of Barnes and FOECLA social media and mailing lists, and the Town of Barnes website (see promotional flyer below). Stewart also created a recording of the live webinar for the Town of Barnes to post on their website or use to reach additional audiences.



Join Zach Stewart for a free webinar to learn about Aquatic Invasive Species and what the Surface Waters Program is doing to protect local lakes like the Eau Claire Chain. Cris Neff will speak about AIS and opportunities for you to get involved!

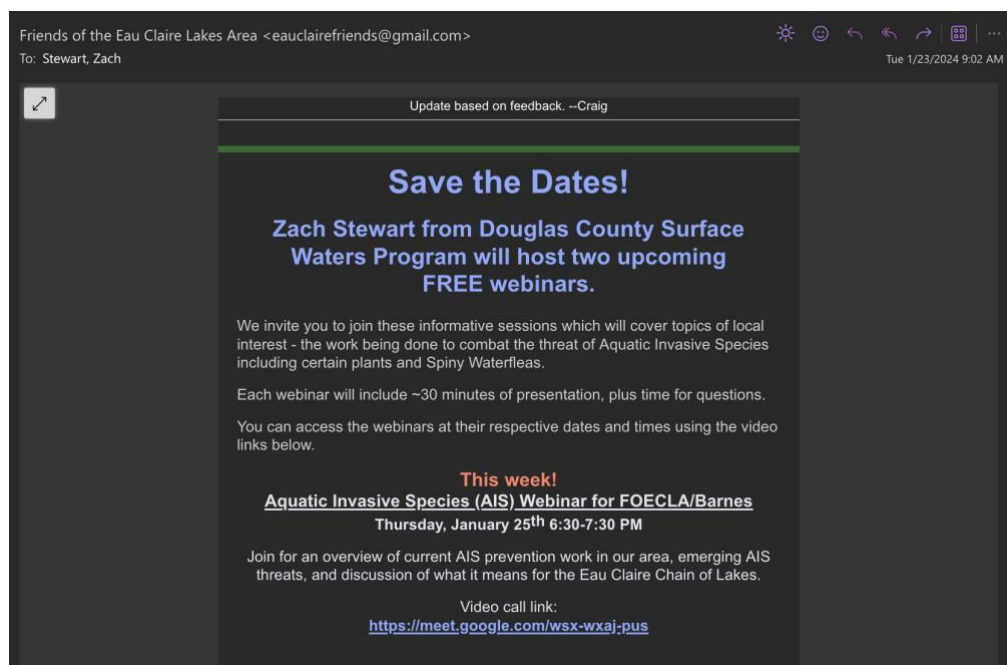
Thursday, Jan. 25 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Video call link for live virtual presentation with Q & A: <https://meet.google.com/wsx-wxaj-pus>

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Thursday, January 25th 6:30-7:30 PM. AIS webinar for FOECLA/Barnes! Join Zach Stewart and the Douglas County Surface Waters Program for an overview of current AIS prevention work in our area, emerging AIS threats, and discussion of what it means for the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes. Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/wsx-wxaj-pus>



In January 2025, the specialist reached out to offer to provide additional educational events during spring 2025 for the Town of Barnes, Friends of the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes (FOECLA), and Eau Claire Chain area residents. During March and April plans for the educational opportunity were coordinated with Town of Barnes and FOECLA leaders, and the specialist provided text and photographs/clip-art for the event advertisement. The event was advertised through Douglas County Surface Waters Program Newsletter, the FOECLA AIS update Email, Town of Barnes Website, and social media posts. This education event was held April 29th, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Co-presenters Cris Neff and Chris Webb made invaluable contributions in 2025, speaking directly to Early Detection Rapid Response efforts on the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes and working with the specialist to solicit and encourage additional volunteer involvement in the project. Major thanks to Town of Barnes, FOECLA, and all our presenters!



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Aquatic Invasive Species Webinar on April 29

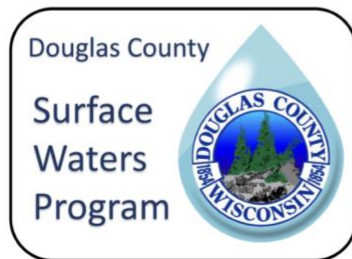
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 6:30-7:30 PM

Join Zach Stewart from Douglas Co and Cris Neff from Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area for a live online educational opportunity to learn about Aquatic Invasive Species and what the Douglas Co Surface Waters Program is doing to protect local lakes like the Eau Claire Chain.

Cris Neff and Chris Webb will speak about AIS and opportunities to get involved this summer!

Video call link for live virtual presentation with Q & A:
<https://meet.google.com/cwb-wjep-kgf>

Please join the call a few minutes early. The program will start promptly at 6:30 pm.



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📅 April 15, 2025

Screenshot

Appendix: EDRR Survey GPS points

name	lat	lon		name	lat	lon
CLP	46.258789	-91.569768		Iris unknown	46.24962	-91.65926
CLP	46.258905	-91.569787		Iris unknown	46.249421	-91.660431
Iris unknown	46.259591	-91.571339		Iris unknown	46.2499	-91.661704
Rake toss neg	46.260198	-91.574334		Iris unknown	46.249813	-91.661986
Rake toss neg	46.257592	-91.58067		Iris unknown	46.249727	-91.662169
Rake toss neg	46.256032	-91.592885		Iris unknown	46.249247	-91.66363
Rake toss neg	46.253928	-91.60106		Iris unknown	46.249311	-91.663685
Rake toss neg	46.253533	-91.605654		Iris unknown	46.249656	-91.664097
Rake toss neg	46.252571	-91.607991		Iris unknown	46.249489	-91.664957
Iris unknown	46.253051	-91.610179		Iris unknown	46.248453	-91.666327
Iris unknown	46.253057	-91.610566		Iris unknown	46.246293	-91.673371
Iris unknown	46.25286	-91.611359		Iris unknown	46.245408	-91.675265
Rake toss neg	46.252838	-91.611311		Iris unknown	46.245394	-91.67646
Iris unknown	46.252666	-91.611621		Iris unknown	46.246413	-91.680104
Iris unknown	46.251233	-91.615901		Iris unknown	46.246557	-91.680302
Iris unknown	46.251094	-91.616188		Iris unknown	46.246954	-91.680854
Iris unknown	46.251188	-91.616692		Iris unknown	46.246831	-91.682121
Iris unknown	46.251233	-91.617218		Iris unknown	46.246334	-91.683029
Iris unknown	46.251024	-91.617945		Iris unknown	46.246047	-91.683192
Iris unknown	46.250349	-91.622492		Iris unknown	46.245064	-91.683347
Rake toss neg	46.24995	-91.629183		Iris unknown	46.244955	-91.683269
Rake toss neg	46.249899	-91.632098		Iris unknown	46.243904	-91.684079
Rake toss neg	46.250601	-91.63294		Iris unknown	46.242606	-91.685505
Rake toss neg	46.250789	-91.633129		Iris unknown	46.24131	-91.686259
Rake toss neg	46.250417	-91.647393		Iris unknown	46.240038	-91.689547
Iris unknown	46.250578	-91.647724		Iris unknown	46.240293	-91.692354
Iris unknown	46.251071	-91.64824		Iris unknown	46.241274	-91.694322
Rake toss neg	46.251459	-91.650092		Iris unknown	46.241614	-91.695367
Iris unknown	46.251505	-91.650218		Iris unknown	46.238085	-91.702668
Iris unknown	46.25172	-91.651965		Iris unknown	46.237151	-91.702786
Iris unknown	46.251427	-91.652502		Iris unknown	46.235885	-91.703363
Iris unknown	46.250507	-91.655347		Iris unknown	46.236115	-91.705056
Rake toss neg	46.250338	-91.655772		Iris unknown	46.235639	-91.70508
Iris unknown	46.250222	-91.656024		Iris unknown	46.235274	-91.705014
Iris unknown	46.250707	-91.657708		Iris unknown	46.23516	-91.705045
Iris unknown	46.250277	-91.658378		Iris unknown	46.235143	-91.705054