

Wisconsin DNR News Release

July 23 training to help paddlers detect aquatic invaders on rivers; Workshop set for Riverview Town Hall in Oconto County

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Paddlers, anglers, water quality monitors, and others can learn how to monitor their favorite rivers for invasive species during a free workshop July 23 at the Riverview Town Hall in Oconto County.

The session runs from 10 a.m. to noon at the town hall, 15408 Highway 32, in Mountain.

The Department of Natural Resources and the River Alliance of Wisconsin are sponsoring the workshop. Participants will learn how to monitor their river by canoe, kayak, or on foot for 16 species of concern, following procedures developed by the river alliance as part of their Project RED (Riverine Early Detectors).

Participants also will learn how to choose locations and a monitoring schedule that are convenient for participants and their volunteers, and how to use online tools to report findings of invasives, according to Brenda Nordin, the DNR aquatic invasive species specialist who will teach the workshop.

"The protocols are easy and fun," Nordin says. "You can also use this activity to become more familiar with your river or stream and to engage your friends and neighbors!"

The 16 species of concern are purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hops, phragmites, flowering rush, hydrilla, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, yellow floating heart, Brazilian waterweed, didymo, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, New Zealand mudsnail, faucet snails, and Louisiana red swamp crayfish.