Aquatic Invasive Species in Spring, Deer, Lucerne Lakes, Waushara Co.

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Golden Sands RC&D
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Waushara County AIS surveys

All Waushara County public lakes surveyed in 2013.

Objectives:
Detect early populations of AIS
Map locations of these (GPS)
Involve interested lake residents
Work with residents to remove/control AIS
Create list of native plant species observed
AIS & Aquatic Plant List (AIS highlighted in red and marked with an asterisk*)
Floating-leaf pondweed
Muskgrass (One species found - Chara globularis)
Variable pondweed
Flat-stem pondweed
Watershield
Common bladderwort
Southern naiad
White-stem pondweed
Illinois pondweed
White water lily
Needle spikerush
Creeping bladderwort
Water smartweed
Soft rush
Bullhead pond lily
Blue-flag Iris
Three-square bulrush
Slender naiad
Small pondweed
Whorled watermilfoil
Small duckweed (Lemna minor)
Cursed buttercup
Broad-leaf cattail
*Eurasian watermilfoil
Water bulrush

Notes:
Most EWM points recorded with GPS coordinates represent single plants. A few represent clumps of 2-5 plants. All EWM plants were observed in less than 6ft of water. Hand-removal of these plants is recommended as an easy and inexpensive method.
Common bladderwort (Utricularia macrorhiza [previously called U. vulgaris]) was abundant in the northwest bay, mostly along the bottom of the lake. This bay is ideal habitat for common bladderwort, and it is thriving along with watershield (Brasenia schreberi).
Whorled watermilfoil (Myriophyllum verticillatum) is scattered throughout the northwest bay, mostly along the N/NW shores. This species is uncommon in our area and rarely becomes a nuisance like its Eurasian cousin.
Deer Lake has an impressive aquatic plant diversity for such a small lake.
Known Spring Lake AIS

• Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) (2004-WDNR)
• Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) (1994-WDNR)
• Banded mystery snail (*Viviparus georgianus*) (2012-RC&D)
Known Deer Lake AIS

- Banded mystery snail (*Viviparus georgianus*) (2008-RC&D)
- Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) (2008-WDNR)
Known Lake Lucerne AIS

• Banded mystery snail (*Viviparus georganus*) (2009-RC&D)
• Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) (2009-RC&D)
• ***Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) (2009-RC&D)***
• Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) (2013-RC&D)
Spring

Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) & Curly-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) Distribution in Spring Lake, Waushara County; July 10th, 2013

Shallow EWM/CLP plants removed by hand during survey. Deeper plants remained.

Removed by hand during survey

- Eurasian watermilfoil location, density = 1
- Curly-leaf pondweed location, density = 1
Deer
Curly-leaf Pondweed
*Potamogeton crispus*

- Accidentally introduced as aquarium plant (1880s)
- Fairly widespread – known in 538 water bodies (April 2014)
- Active from October-June in most lakes
- Can form dense mats, interfering with recreation and native plants
Eurasian Watermilfoil
*Myriophyllum spicatum*

- First found in WI in 1960s
- Currently known in 674 WI waters (April 2014)
- Forms dense mats - interferes with water recreation
- Can spread from small fragments
Banded Mystery Snail
*Viviparus georgianus*

- Introduced via aquarium dumping
- Brown horizontal bands on shell
- Up to 1.5” tall
Phragmites, Common Reed

*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*

- European ornamental grass
- Uncommon in central Wisconsin. Abundant near Lakes Michigan and Winnebago
- Forms dense colonies
- Roots exude chemicals harmful to other plants and fish
Japanese Knotweed
*Fallopia japonica*

- Imported from Japan as an ornamental plant
- Resembles bamboo, but unrelated
- Can grow upland. Most problematic in wetlands
Zebra Mussels
*Dreissena polymorpha*

- Ballast water introduction to the Great Lakes in 1980s
- Known from 163 WI inland waters (April 2014)
- Attach to any hard surface - may reach tens of thousands per square meter!
- Female can produce 1 million eggs/season
- Filter feeders
What we can do

• Distribute maps and native plant lists from lake surveys
• Confirm suspected AIS and process voucher specimens
• AIS Monitoring / on-the-water Plant ID Training
• AIS removal training and assistance
• Host Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshops
• Provide educational materials on AIS
• Assist with grant application and permit development
• Coordinate purple loosestrife biological control projects
AIS Monitoring / Plant ID Training

Learn how to:

Identify AIS

Distinguish similar native species

Monitor for AIS in your lake
  - where to look
  - when to look
  - how to look

FREE
AIS Removal Training and Assistance

Species covered:

- Eurasian watermilfoil (manual removal)
- Curly-leaf pondweed (manual removal)
- Flowering rush (manual removal)
- Japanese knotweed (chemical removal)
- Phragmites (chemical removal)

Goal of self-sufficiency for future monitoring and removal
AIS Removal Training and Assistance

Japanese knotweed
AIS Removal Training and Assistance

Eurasian watermilfoil

FREE
Purple loosestrife biocontrol

We provide:
- free supplies
- rootstocks for pick-up
- beetles for pick-up
- coordination and instruction
Purple loosestrife biocontrol

Volunteers set up pools, pots (add soil), and nets; monitor water levels; and add/release beetles.
Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshops

We can:
• Provide training to volunteers / paid inspectors (we can hire)
• LTE assistance at landings
• Can enter inspection data
Monitoring is essential to prevention

- Get trained on identification of AIS and look-alike native species
- Keep an eye out for AIS while fishing, boating, snorkeling, etc.
- Know who to contact with questions or suspected AIS specimens
- Finding invasives early is crucial for inexpensive, easy management (eradication?)
Questions?

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Portage, Wood, Waupaca, Waushara, Marathon Counties

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (RC&D)

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