MISSION: TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR COMMUNICATION THAT FOSTERS SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEER ACTION TO MAINTAIN ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY, GOOD WATER QUALITY, GOOD FISHING, AESTHETICALLY PLEASING RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN TEAL, LOST LAND AND GHOST LAKES.

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Quietlakes.org

GHOST LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS
LAKE INSPECTION REPORT
AUGUST 21, 2025

Aquatic invasive species

From sources across the web


Eurasian watermilfoil


Purple loosestrife


Curly-leaf pond Weed


Japanese knotweed


Zebra mussel


Viviparus georgianus


Faucet snail


Common reed


Rusty crayfish


Starry stonewort


Hydrocharis morsus-ranae


Brazilian waterweed


Najas minor


Buckthorn


Reed canary grass


Round goby


Yellow iris

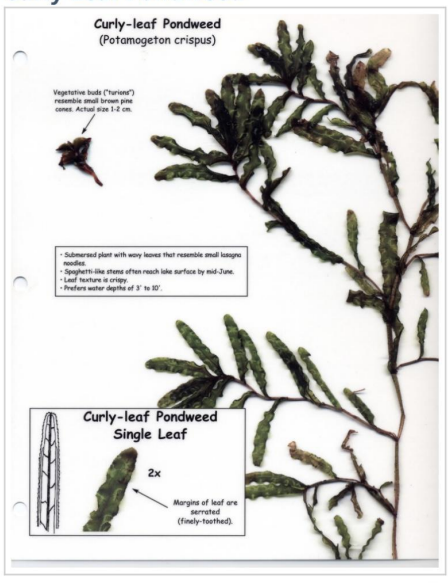
(Potamogeton crispus)

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Curly-leaf pondweed has become established in Lake Winnebago and in Becker Lake in Calumet County. The leaves are reddish-green, oblong, and about 3 inches long, with distinct finely toothed wavy edges. The stem of the plant is flat, reddish-brown and grows from 1 to 3 feet long. The plant usually drops to the lake bottom by early July.

Curly-leaf pondweed spreads through burr-like winter buds called turions. The plants also reproduce by seed, but this plays a small role compared to the vegetative reproduction through turions. New plants form under the ice in winter, making curly-leaf pondweed one of the first nuisance aquatic plants to emerge in the spring.

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

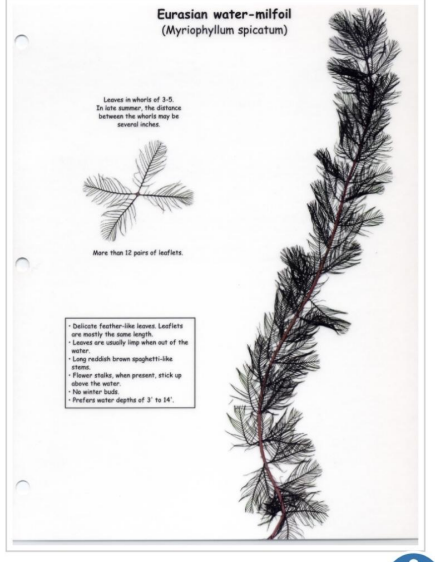


Eurasian Water Milfoil

In 2009, Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) was found and confirmed in Becker Lake. The residents of Long Lake in Manitowoc County have been battling this plant for years. Now it's in Becker Lake, too. It has been a problem on Lake Winnebago for many years.

EWM is the only non-native milfoil in Wisconsin. It has slender stems whorled by feathery leaves and tiny flowers produced above the water surface. The leaves are threadlike, typically uniform in diameter. Eurasian water milfoil has 9 to 21 pairs of leaflets per leaf, while the native Northern milfoil typically has 7 to 11 pairs of leaflets.

Eurasian Water Milfoil



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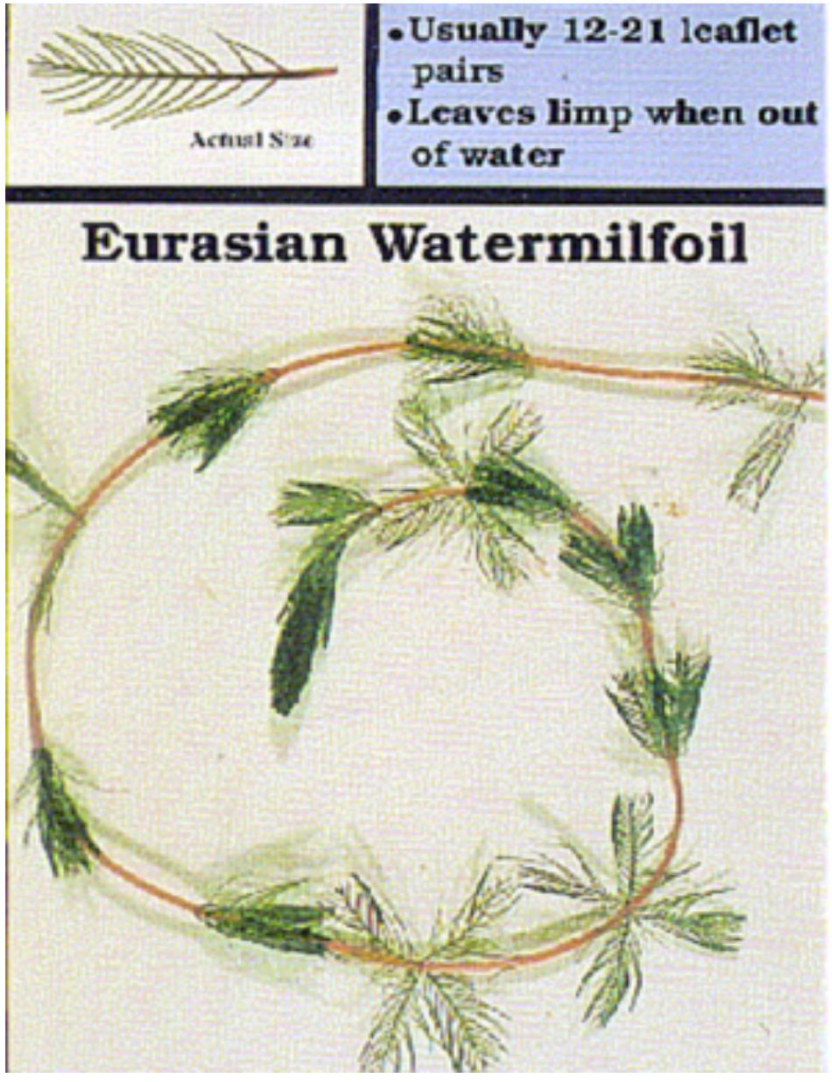
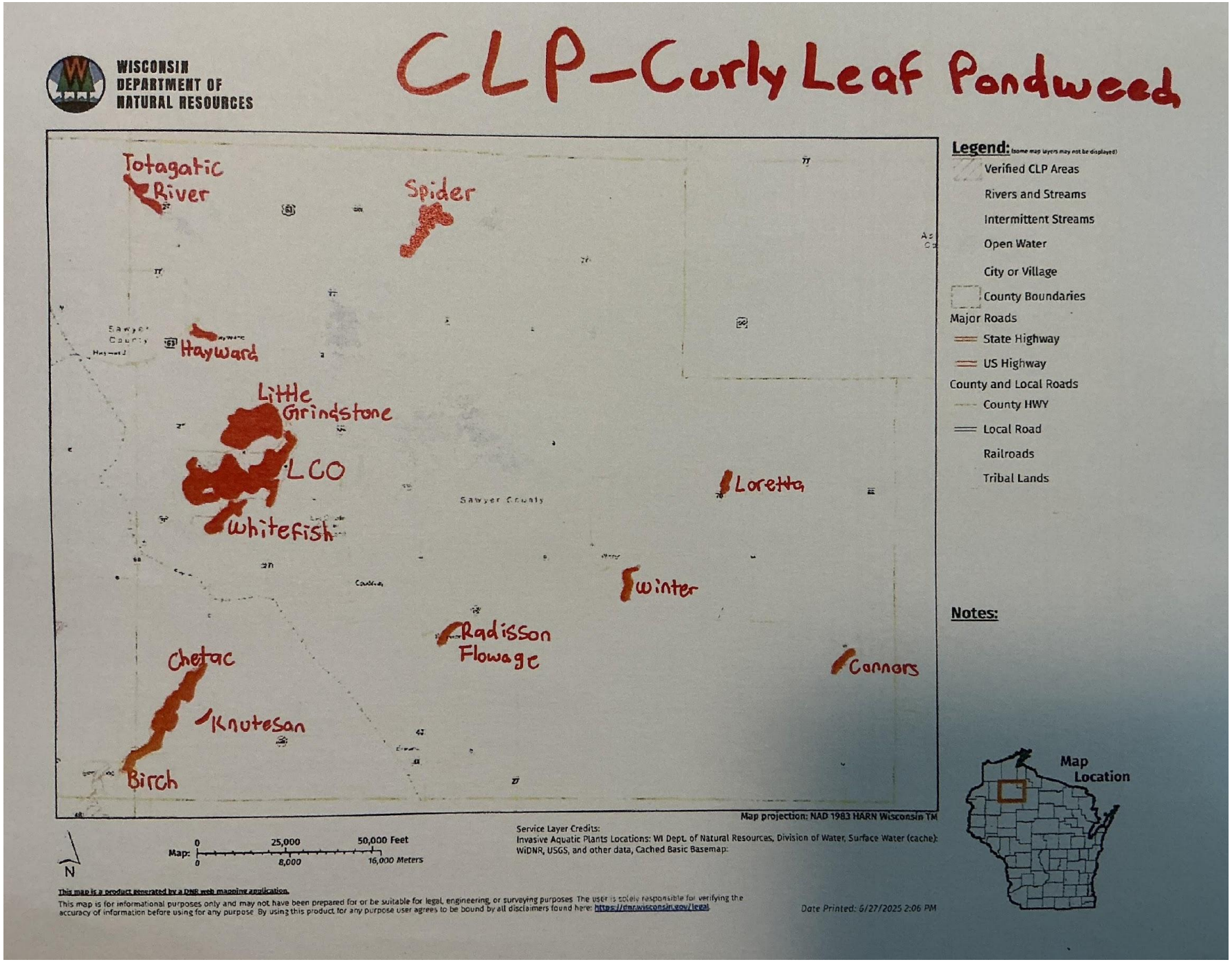
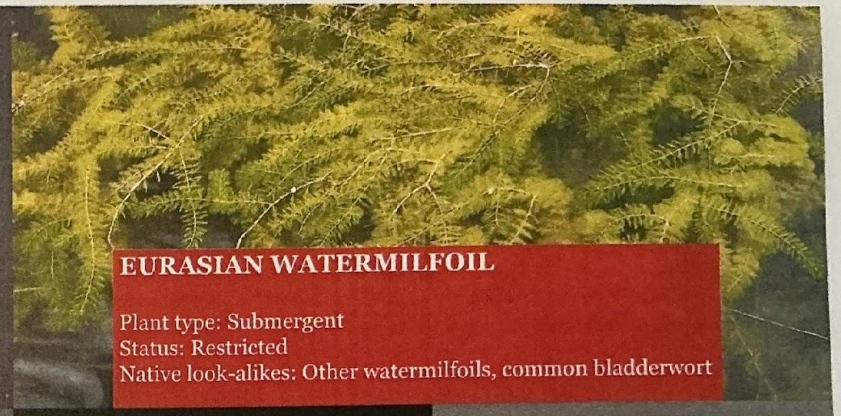




AREA LAKES THAT ARE ALREADY FIGHTING CURLEY LEAF PONDWEED. WE ARE SURROUNDED.

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

Plant type: Submergent
Status: Restricted
Native look-alike: Clasping-leaf pondweed



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Plant type: Submergent
Status: Restricted
Native look-alikes: Other watermilfoils, common bladderwort

INVASIVE

Curly-leaf pondweed
(*Potamogeton crispus*)

- Leaves are usually very wavy
- Finely toothed leaf edges
- Leaf tips are blunt
- Leaf base not wrapped around stem

NATIVE

Clasping-leaf pondweed
(*Potamogeton richardsonii*)

- Leaves are gently wavy
- Leaf edges smooth, no teeth
- Leaf tips are pointed
- Leaf base wraps around stem

INVASIVE

Eurasian watermilfoil
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

- 12+ pairs of leaflets per leaf
- Stems usually weak and limp, reddish-brown to pink
- Leaves at tip of branches often red

NATIVE

Northern watermilfoil
(*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)

- 5-10 pairs of leaflets per leaf
- Stems tan to green, usually stiff, holding shape out of water
- Leaves at tips of branches usually green

Zebra mussel

The zebra mussel is a small freshwater mussel, an aquatic bivalve mollusk in the family Dreissenidae. The species originates from the lakes of southern Russia and Ukraine, but has been accidentally introduced to numerous other areas and has become an invasive species in many countries worldwide. Wikipedia

Zebra Mussels

There are zebra mussels in Lake Winnebago, but testing of Becker and Round Lakes in 2009 showed no zebra mussels in those waters- yet! Let's keep it that way.

Zebra mussels are a tiny (1/8-inch to 2-inch) bottom-dwelling clams with a yellowish or brownish D-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark- and light-colored stripes. They can be up to two inches long, but most are under an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals.

Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are the only freshwater mollusks that can firmly attach themselves to solid objects. They are generally found in shallow (6-30 feet deep), algae-rich water.

Zebra mussels usually reach reproductive maturity by the end of their first year. A fertilized egg results in a free-swimming larva called a 'veliger.' This veliger remains suspended in the water column for up to five weeks, and then begins to sink, eventually attaching to a stable surface (e.g., rocks, dock pilings, aquatic weeds, water intakes, boat hulls) on which to live, grow and reproduce. They attach to these surfaces with adhesive structures called byssal threads. Zebra mussels also attach to the shells of native mussels in great masses, smothering them.

Zebra mussels feed by drawing water into their bodies and filtering out most of the suspended microscopic plants, animals and debris. This process can lead to increased water clarity, but also to a depleted food supply for other aquatic organisms, including fish. The higher light penetration fosters growth of aquatic plants, and this thicker plant growth can interfere with boaters, anglers and swimmers. Zebra mussel infestations may also promote the growth of blue-green algae, since they consume other types of algae, but not the blue-green.

Financial impacts have been staggering for Wisconsin's water utilities and to power plants, where these animals congregate on and clog intake and distribution pipes. From 2001 through 2009, We-Energies estimated that their control measures for zebra and quagga mussels and cladophora reached $28,429,000!

Once zebra mussels are established in a water body, very little can be done to control them. Therefore it is critical to take all possible measures to prevent their introduction.

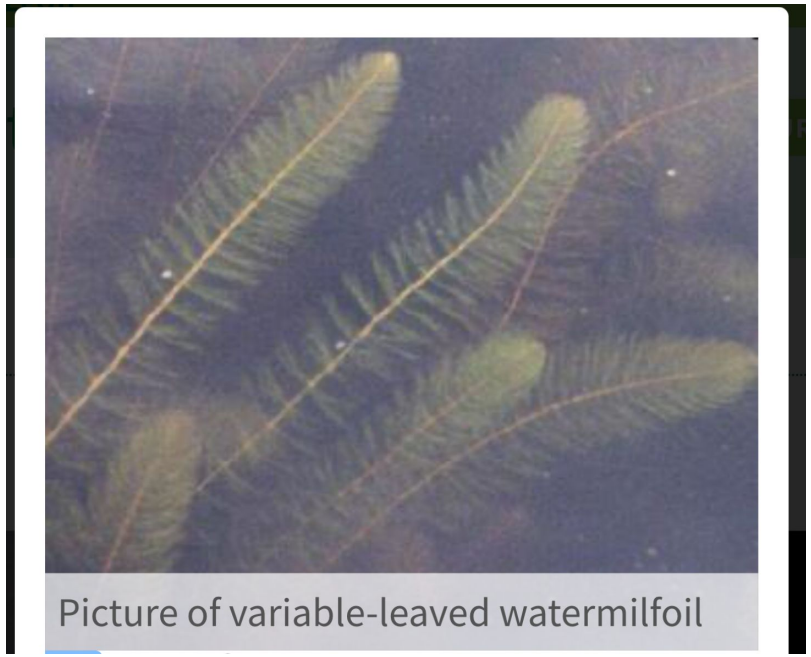
No selective method has been developed that succeeds in controlling zebra mussels in the wild without also harming other aquatic organisms. To a limited extent, ducks and fish will eat small zebra mussels, but not to the point of effectively controlling their populations. As of yet, no practical and effective controls are known for control, emphasizing the need for prevention.

That prevention is to always inspect your equipment, boats, trailers, landing nets, decoys, and anything else that has been in the water. Remove any attached aquatic plants. Microscopic veligers and tiny zebra mussels can be hiding in the aquatic plants. Drain all water from all equipment, including the boat, boat trailer, boating or fishing equipment, including water in any bilge, ballast tank, bait bucket, live well or other container before leaving the launch. **It's the law**.

NORTHERN WATERMILFOIL

VARIOUS-LEAVED OR VARIABLE LEAVED

PONDWEED



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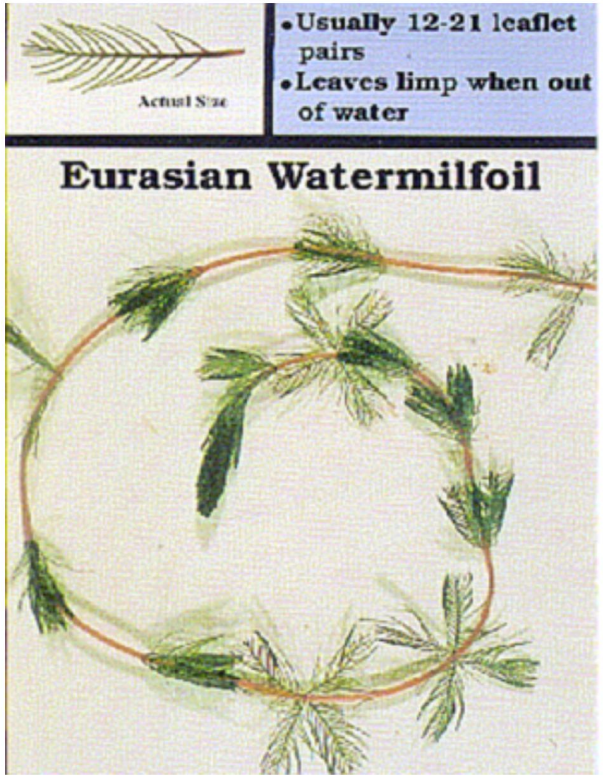
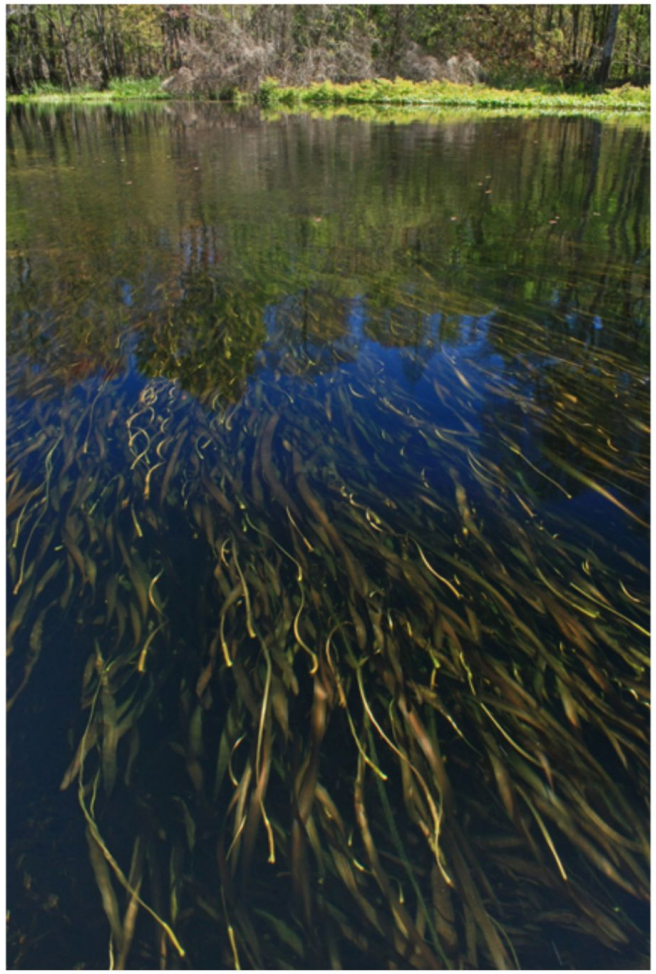


WILD CELERY



As it grows, wild celery can help trap sediment that is suspended in the water column and uptake excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous. Eutrophication, too many nutrients in the water, can cause harmful algal blooms and “dead zones” which can kill wildlife, including many species that are important to humans.

Wild celery provides cover to juvenile fish and invertebrates, acting like a nursery for them to grow and mature in. The aquarium trade actually propagates this native plant for this use in home tanks! It is also a crucial source of food for the overwintering waterfowl that call the James River Watershed home for part of the year. Tundra swans, canvasbacks, and Atlantic brant all greatly depend on the calories and nutrients afforded by wild celery.

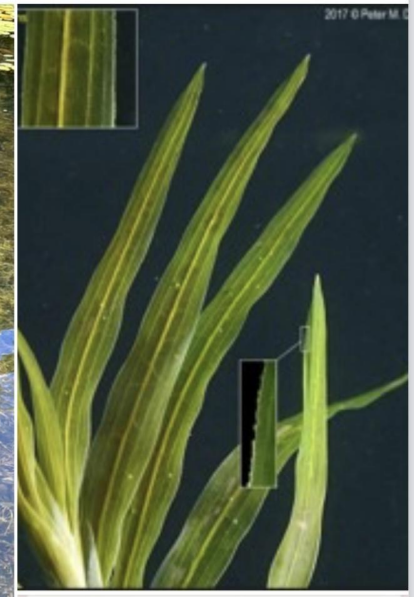
Want to see this remarkable plant for yourself? It’s as simple as going for a paddle on the James River! Be sure to check out our “Connect with the James” guided paddles and join JRA staff for a fun and educational exploration of the river we all call home.

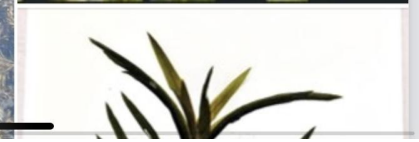
FERN-LEAF PONDWEED

Fri Sep 19

facebook.com

Fern-leaf pondweed (Potamogeton robbinsii). As its name suggests, the arrangement of leaves along the stem give this plant a fern-like appearance. Fern-leaf pondweed typically develops large colonies over soft sediments which grow close to the lake bottom, and it is one of the deepest-growing vascular plants in Wisconsin. Large beds of fern-leaf pondweed provide excellent structural habitat for aquatic wildlife and help to prevent the suspension of the soft bottom sediments in which they grow. Fern-leaf pondweed is important to many ecosystems as it often provides evergreen-like vegetation even in the winter months.





BUR-REED

BULRUSHES

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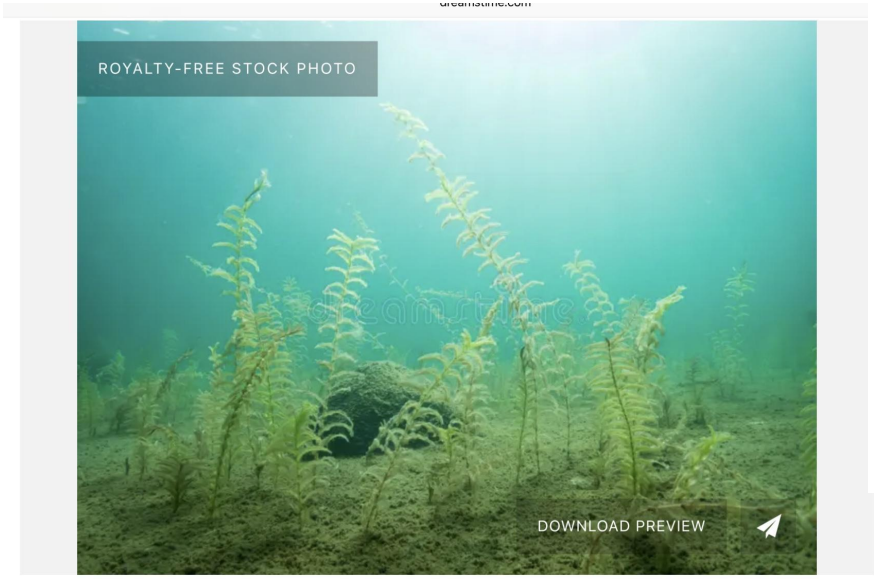

CLASPINGLEAF PONDWEED

Claspingleaf pondweed water plants in clear-watered lake. Underwater landscape with claspingleaf pondweed Potamogeton perfoliatus water plants in clear-watered lake.

Large Leaf Pondweed

“CABBAGE”

Ecological Importance

Large leaf pondweed provides excellent habitat for pan fish, largemouth bass, muskellunge, and northern pike; and other small animals found on the leaves; walleyes use these pondweeds for cover.

BRYOZOANS

Seen a jelly-like creature in your local lake? Let us introduce you to bryozoans! Also known as "moss animals", bryozoans are tiny, filter-feeding invertebrates that create massive colonies in these blob-like structures. Colonies reach their largest size in late summer and fall, which is when most people notice them. And they're not just jelly-shaped either! They can resemble antlers or mosses (bryophyte means “moss animal”), trace delicately like vines across rocks, or create furry-looking colonies. Like mussels and other filter feeders, bryozoans gradually cleanse the water as they feed. So, their questionable-looking presence usually indicates good water quality. 👍

📷 Walter Bicklein, MDC Resource Management Technician

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Marine on St Croix, Fan, Supporter & Booster Group · Join
Carl Wegener · August 22, 2021 ·

A colony of Bryozoans (Moss Animals) found in the St. Croix today.....

With the help of our neighbor Mark R. today he shared his discovery of a half dozen colonies of bryozoans this afternoon. I did not know such a thing existed. Thanks Mark!

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/.../2020/jul-aug/bryozoans.html

Refer to the letter in the handout from Sawyer County

County Name	Waterbody Name	Year	Species	Strain Stock	Age Class	Number Fish Stocked	Avg Fish Length In	Source Type
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2023	WALLEYE	CHIPPEWA/ST. CROIX	LARGE FINGERLING	3840	6.8	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2021	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	LARGE FINGERLING	3840	6.1	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2019	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	LARGE FINGERLING	3840	6.4	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2017	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	LARGE FINGERLING	3838	6.3	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2015	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	LARGE FINGERLING	3836	7.9	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2013	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	LARGE FINGERLING	3720	7	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2011	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	SMALL FINGERLING	13152	1.6	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2009	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	SMALL FINGERLING	13096	1.75	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2007	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	SMALL FINGERLING	13078	1.8	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2005	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	SMALL FINGERLING	37274	1.5	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2005	WALLEYE	UNSPECIFIED	SMALL FINGERLING	18639		PRIVATE HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2003	WALLEYE	MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS	SMALL FINGERLING	18595	1.6	DNR HATCHERY
Sawyer	GHOST LAKE	2001	WALLEYE	UNSPECIFIED	SMALL FINGERLING	34133	1.6	DNR HATCHERY

WDNR FISH SURVEY HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST WEEK! HERE IS THE LATEST INFORMATION WE HAVE TO SHARE.

First, stocking data. We've been putting walleye in Ghost every other year (odd years).

We do fall surveys to check on those stocked walleye and to keep tabs on musky reproduction. Here's what those fall surveys look like.

2025

	species	n	Mean_length	sd_length	Min_length	Max_length
1	largemouth_bass	21	9.88	3.9	3.1	16.5
2	muskellunge	10	24.2	3.65	20.2	30.7
3	walleye	20	13.6	3.82	7.2	20.6

Bass are doing much better than a few years ago. Mild winters have been good to them. That's a fairly high catch rate for musky, so that's all going well.

Let me know what else you might be looking for, but this is the broad overview.

Max Wolter
Phone: 715-492-1309
max.wolter@wisconsin.gov

BECOME A QUIET LAKES MEMBER

Membership Benefits

As a Quiet Lakes member, you'll join your neighbors in protecting and enhancing the long-term health of our lakes. Your support helps us fight invasive species, protect water quality, and strengthen our lake community.

Governance & Communication

- Voting privileges on Association matters
- Direct email updates and newsletters with timely lake information
- Regular lake management updates
- Property owner resources – guides on shoreline best practices, invasive species prevention, and rain garden design

Community & Events

- Opportunities for involvement in projects and decision-making
- Invitation to the annual QLIA Member Appreciation Picnic
- Participation in fundraising events
- Educational workshops and neighborhood programs

Lake Health & Protection

- Supporting efforts to improve overall lake health
- Fighting the spread of invasive milfoil
- Water quality testing and ongoing reports
- Fishery updates, stocking, and census reports
- Sharing responsibility with your neighbors to protect the lakes for the future

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT NO INVASIVE SPECIES EITHER PLANT OR ANIMAL WERE DISCOVERED

SPECIAL THANKS TO BOULDER LODGE AND GHOST LAKE LODGE FOR HELPING US

“SPREAD THE WORD…NOT THE WEEDS”