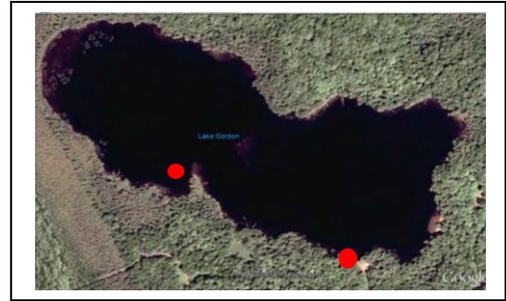


Gordon Lake, Forest County: Yellow Floating Heart Removal

On **August 14, 2013** John Preuss, Jennifer Steltenpohl, and Ryan Motiff completed an AIS early detection survey on Gordon Lake, Forest County. Yellow floating heart was discovered and photographed at two locations on the lake. Pictures were initially sent to Paul Skawinski (and others?) for verification.



August 17, 2013 John Preuss and Chris Hamerla pulled YFH at Gordon Lake. Two locations; one directly to the west of the boat landing, approximately 20' by 15', another along the south shoreline on the west side of the prominent point approx. 1/3 mile west of the landing.



We tackled the landing first. This patch was dense and completely covered the surface. Near shore was mixed with arrowheads. Some YFH was growing on the land in the damp sediment. Numerous flowers were in bloom and seed pods were formed though it didn't appear any seeds had dispersed. The sediment was sandy mixed with muck the deeper and further from the landing you got. Small rocks and woody debris/logs were mixed in. Water depth was land to 2' deep. This section took from 9:55 AM till 2 PM to remove (4 hours).

Spot number two was on a wind-swept point with sand and rock bottom and had a distinct walking trail going to it. This location was roughly 6' by 8' and only took about twenty minutes to pull. It was very thin and consisted of about 3 or 4 plants that were stung out and slightly intertwined. No flowers or seed pods were observed. Water depth was 6" to 1'. This section took from 2:25 PM till 2:45 PM (20 minutes).



REMOVAL TECHNIQUE:



Individual plants that were easily singled out (not interwoven with others) were removed by uprooting all the anchor points till the entire plant was free of the sediment. The roots were spaced roughly 8 - 12 inches apart and had tap roots similar to dandelions though not as robust and deep. Unlike other aquatic plants, the roots tended to grow deeper.

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Densely populated areas (where plants were interwoven) were removed by starting at the perimeter, getting our hands into the sediment under the roots, and continually working the plants out of the sediment – rolling the entangled plants up like you would if removing an area of sod. This worked well in the habitat we had and was quicker than trying to remove plants root by root.

FOLLOW UP:

After the initial removal we allowed the water to clear and removed any observable missed plant sections. Below is a timeline of critical follow up monitoring. This consistent follow up made for simple, inexpensive control (eradication?).



9-11 days later Preuss, Herman, Kreitlow, (others?) went back to observe. At the boat landing, approx. 12 plants had begun to come back from missed rhizomes in the muck. Some substantial growth had occurred. They were removed.

At the point location only one plant was observed and removed.



September 9th Preuss monitored the landing again and found that a bunch of YFH had been “dumped” at the landing. Preuss stated it appeared as if they were just dumped there, roots were sticking up. Flowers were present. Preuss took photos and removed it. A few missed roots from the original population were growing and those were removed. He also walked to the point, no YFH was observed. Hamerla and Skawinski will sweep the lake by kayak on Friday, Sept. 13th to see if any other YFH exists.

September 13, 2013 Hamerla, Paul and Allie Skawinski stopped by Gordon Lake to monitor for any YFH. No re-introductions were found. The lake was not entirely monitored. Hamerla did find a few roots that were trying to re-establish at the boat landing. They were removed.

June 2, 2014 Preuss monitored the landing and found one plant beginning to grow. The plant was removed. None were observed at the point.

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June 26th Preuss monitored both spots and no YFH was observed.

October 1, 2014 Preuss monitored both spots and found a young plant growing amongst the arrowheads by the boat landing. The plant was removed. It seemed strange that no plants were observed all summer (except in early June) and now, in fall, a young plant was found beginning to grow. No other dumpings occurred.

Below: 1st row - flowers, seed pods 2nd row - seeds, and root structures.



Underwater view:

