



Eagle River

(1/4 mile upstream from Burnt Rollways Dam)

Oneida County, Wisconsin

Page 1: **June 27, 2022** Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring





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Eagle River AIS Monitoring Report

Field Date: June 27, 2022
WBIC: 1599500
Previous AIS Findings: Eurasian Watermilfoil
New AIS Findings: Chinese Mystery Snails
Field Crew: Aubrey Nycz, AIS Lead Program Assistant, and Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department
Report By: Madeline Hetland

Purpose: Water is Wisconsin's most precious resource. It provides an essential lifeline between wildlife, recreation, public trust resources, agriculture, industry, health and safety, and environmental, urban and rural interests throughout the state. With a growing population and a treasured supply of fresh water, the protection of water for designated and beneficial uses is of paramount importance.

Each year, the Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program staff conducts AIS early detection monitoring in Oneida County waterbodies. In addition, staff conducts AIS monitoring at boat landings, rivers, streams, wetlands, roadsides, culverts, and Organisms in Trade. Monitoring takes place from June through September of each year.

AIS early detection monitoring is the most effective approach to locating pioneer populations of WI Chapter NR 40 regulated AIS, species not widely established, and newly introduced species to Wisconsin. Early detection of AIS is crucial for rapid response, containment, management, preventing their spread, and reducing management costs. Implementation of rapid response activities is vital in maintaining the stability of a waterbodies ecosystem services, habitats, fisheries, recreational opportunities, property values, economy, and human health.

Our monitoring program is in collaboration with the DNR, UW Extension's Citizens Lake Monitoring Network Program, and Great Lakes Indian Fish Wildlife Commission. All AIS staff are trained in the in the DNR's AIS monitoring, identification, collection, verification, reporting, and decontamination protocols.

Data Collected: AIS identification, live specimens, photos, population densities, distribution, locations and GPS coordinates. Other observations may include species size, characteristics, and impact to native habitat.

Areas Observed: Perimeter of lake's littoral zone, inlets and outlets, around culverts, under and around docks and piers, and other areas identified as most vulnerable to the introduction of AIS.

Methodology: Searching for AIS in the water and along the shoreline is achieved by slowly canoeing around the entire lake's littoral zone, meandering between shallow and maximum rooting depth or 100' from shore (whichever comes first). Additionally, targeted sites considered high risk of invasive species introductions, such as boat landings, access points, parks, beaches, and inlets receive comprehensive AIS monitoring. Several methods and tools are utilized to achieve the survey: survey from the canoe, walking along the shoreline and shallows, using aqua view scopes, snorkeling to examine underwater solid surfaces, sifting through vegetation, and analyzing plant rake samples, veliger tows, and D-net sediment samples.

Targeted Chapter NR40 Invasive Species Include: Asian clams, banded mystery snails, Chinese mystery snails, Faucet Snails, New Zealand mudsnail, quagga mussels, zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, spiny waterfleas, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, flowering rush, non-native phragmites, purple loosestrife, yellow iris, and variegated reed manna grass (*Glyceria Maxima* 'Variegated').

Other priority species include: red swamp crayfish, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hops, European frog-bit, yellow floating heart, water chestnut, Brazilian waterweed, Hydrilla, fanwort, parrot feather, water hyacinth, water lettuce, and rock snot.

Field Notes (weather): The weather while conducting research on Eagle River was partly cloudy and slightly windy. The water was calm in the section we monitored. The air temperature was 71 degrees Fahrenheit. The wind was blowing at 11 miles per hour.

Field Notes (AIS monitoring): Last year, Eurasian Watermilfoil was discovered in Long Lake, which flows into the section of the Eagle River we monitored. We wanted to search to see if the EWM had spread up the river. Also, a zebra mussel infested boat was found at the Burnt Rollways Dam. We completed a visual meander survey around the section of the river's perimeter, searching both sides of the canoe, and moving in and out between various water depths. Polarized sunglasses were used to aide in looking at the bottom substrate. Throughout our monitoring, we made note of the plants and animals we observed in the process (see table 1). We did not find any EWM or zebra mussels during our monitor.

Figure 1. Map of Oneida County, WI with the section of the Eagle River monitored circled in red



Figure 2. Map of Burnt Rollways Dam and section monitored in red

Table 1. Common plants found in Eagle River while monitoring.

<p>Coontail (<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>) Description: Submerged aquatic plant heavily branched and light green to brown in color. Leaves are whorled, branching only once or twice. The tip of the plant is often very bushy. It lacks roots and is often found to be unattached to the substrate, though the stem may occasionally be anchored in the substrate by the stem and lower (modified) leaves. Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: illinoiswildflowers.info</i></p>	
<p>White Water Lily (<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>) Description: Perennial aquatic plants with showy, white or pinkish flowers, 2-8" wide. Nearly round leaves have long petioles that extend down to rhizomes buried in the substrate. Flowers from early summer to fall. Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: UW- Stevens Point Department of Biology</i></p>	
<p>Whorled Watermilfoil (<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>) Description: An aquatic plant with a greenish-brown stem and feathery leaves. Most leaves have no leaf stalk and are arranged in whorls of 4-6. 8-17 pairs of leaflets per leaf. Distance between whorls is often very short. Flower spike is emergent. Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: Donald Cameron</i></p>	
<p>Common Bladderwort (<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>) Description: Stems very leafy, floating just under the surface or occasionally upright from the sediment. Leaves are finely divided. Bladders are usually abundant on the leaflets, ranging from light green to black. Forms yellow-green winter buds at the tip of the plant in the fall. Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: Donald Cameron</i></p>	
<p>Bullhead Pond Lily (<i>Nuphar variegata</i>) Description: Heart shaped leaves up to 40cm long, floating on surface. Has a cup-shaped yellow flower, often with dark patches at the base of each petal. Leaves originate from a thick, spongy rhizome, which can be uprooted. Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: discoverlife.org</i></p>	

Water Shield (*Brasenia schreberi*)

Description: An aquatic plant with stems up to 2 meters long. This plant has small floating leaves and reddish purple flowers that have 6-8 petals. Stems and underside of leaf usually covered in a clear, slimy coating. Veins radiating outward from center of the leaf.

Status: Native

Photo Credit: Shannon Sharp



Resources: Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest by Paul Skawinski