

Crescent Lake Association

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Help Protect Our Rivers from Invasive Species!

#### Classroom and Field Training Offered August 9th in Oneida County

The River Alliance of Wisconsin, Oneida County, and Northern Paddle and Trails will host a classroom training and paddle to teach citizens how to monitor for invasive species in rivers. Paddlers, fisherman, water quality monitors, shoreline owners, and river enthusiasts are encouraged to attend.

The River Alliance of Wisconsin's Project RED (riverine early detectors) is a monitoring program that trains citizens to identify and report 16 invasive species within river corridors statewide. During the free training, the River Alliance will teach you to monitor your river by canoe, kayak, or on foot for 16 species of concern. They will help you choose locations and a monitoring schedule that are convenient to you and your volunteers. The River Alliance will also provide you with online data management tools available from the Wisconsin DNR that help you report your findings. The protocols are easy and fun. In addition, you can 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. Many of which have been found encroaching on our waters in the northwoods.

Sponsored by Oneida County the Project RED training is scheduled for August 9th from 9:00 am to 11:30 pm at the Rhinelander DNR office at 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501. A light lunch will be provided. An optional paddle on the Tomahawk River will be held from 12:30 to approximately 5:00 pm. Paddlers must bring all necessary paddling equipment (ie canoe/kayak, lifejacket, paddles, drinking water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, etc.). During the paddle we will observe at least three species of concern and demonstrate the protocols discussed during the classroom.

Registration is required prior to Friday, August 5th. Interested individuals may register or learn more by contacting the Oneida County UW Extension office at (715) 365-2750 or by emailing Michele at [msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us) before Friday, August 5th. To learn more about invasive species in our river corridors and how you can help in the fight against invasives, please visit the River Alliance's website: <http://wisconsinrivers.org>.

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