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March 30 Turville Bay Research Public Meeting

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Turville Bay Research Project Public Informational Meeting
7 - 9 p.m. Wednesday March 30th

(Madison, WI) People living near Turville Bay in Lake Monona, and others interested in the restoration of native aquatic plant communities in the Yahara Lakes, can discuss third-year results and plans for 2011 with researchers from 7 – 9 p.m., Wednesday March 30, 2011 at the Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture and Conservation Center in Conference Room 121A, 1 Fen Oak Court in Madison.

Last year was the third year of a five-year study to determine if either or both of the evaluated management approaches (early season application of the selective granular herbicide 2,4-D, treatment and early season deep mechanical harvesting) are viable methods to control nuisance exotic plants, especially Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), and aid in restoration of native plant communities. For the first three years of the project, two five-acre sites in Turville Bay have received herbicide application; two five-acre sites have received mechanical harvesting, and three other five-acre sites have been untreated and used as controls. Early-season treatments target EWM early in its growth stage, before most native plants begin to grow.

EWM begins growing early in the year, and creates a dense growth canopy which shades out native plant species. Dane County waters have supported populations of this exotic invasive aquatic plant since at least the 1960's. EWM is found throughout the Yahara Chain of Lakes (Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa and Wingra), and the impacts of this plant have been far-reaching. EWM has been associated with a decrease in biodiversity in the Yahara system, decreased aesthetic value, impeded recreational use in shallow areas, and impacts to the Yahara fishery.

Research cooperators collected data on plant frequency, water quality and water clarity, before and after the chemical and physical treatments on Turville Bay in 2008, 2009, and 2010. To date, the research shows that repeated harvesting is effective at controlling nuisance levels of EWM while avoiding some of the negative impacts on beneficial native plants seen with chemical treatment.

The research is being supported by a Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species grant and by DNR staff time, with matching funds and labor provided by the Dane County Department of Land and Water Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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