

Invasive Species Update Spring 2016

With the spring thaw comes renewed activity from your Association's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) abatement program. Last year, we surveyed Clearwater lake, treated and hand-pulled Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on Thousand Island lake, and pulled EWM on Morley and the connective channel.

By the time you read this, you should have received our annual AIS fund raising mailing. If not, please be on the lookout for it in your mailbox. This is a critically important part of our fight against EWM- without your support we don't have the financial resources to keep this plant from spreading unchecked throughout our chain of lakes. Please support this program with your tax-deductible donation!

This year we will again survey Clearwater Lake in the final year of our 3 year whole-lake treatment protocol. Any plants that are detected will be removed or treated. We also expect to survey and pull EWM on Thousand Island lake. Our treatment on the north end of the lake was successful enough that we hope we won't need to treat here again in 2016. We will also return to our treatment area on Morley and decide if more work is required here.

We continue to have difficulties in obtaining Wisconsin DNR permission in Big Lake for a chemical treatment on the south end. Our biologists have been working throughout the winter with the WDNR to satisfy their requirements for treatment. We had hoped to get the permit this year but it appears that not to be the case. At present, we will continue to map and mark the EWM on the south end while attempting to hand-pull EWM plants on the east and west ends of the lake to limit its spread. Your Board shares your frustration with the lack of progress on Big lake but we will not give up.

As in years past- please remain clear of our orange EWM marker buoys. They are placed in the lakes by our biologists not only to aid in rapid relocation of the plants when it's time for treatment or removal, but also as a reminder for lake users to keep away from the EWM plants as they can be spread by fragmenting the plant with a prop or lure and having the fragments drift and re-root in a new location.

As always, feel free to call or email me with questions you may have. It is my honor to serve such active and informed members!

See you on the lake!

Bob McGuffin
Vice President- CCROA
Member- Invasive Species Task Force