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## Happy New Year Long Lake Members!

We wish everyone good health and prosperity in 2023. As we soon say good-bye to 2022, here's a brief look back at lake association activities for this past year:

- We received a Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) grant of \$1,800 for boat inspections at the boat landing
- We had a successful boat parade and ice cream social
- Fourteen members conducted a total of 160 hours paid and a total of 70 hours unpaid inspections at the boat landing
- Ten members used the association pontoon trailer at least once
- We placed our three loon platforms and five loon chicks survived
- Donated to Webb Lake Fire & Rescue and Area First Responders

### Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant

The State of Wisconsin DNR approved our final grant payment request for \$1,350 on December 20. The association has again submitted a grant application of \$1,800 for 2023.

### Snapshot Day 2022: Volunteers Assist in Monitoring AIS Across Wisconsin

On August 20, 2022, water lovers of all ages gathered for a one-day statewide aquatic invasive species (AIS) scavenger hunt as a part of the 9th annual AIS Snapshot Day. This event is coordinated by the University of Wisconsin- Madison Division of Extension in partnership with

Volunteers met at local rendezvous sites across the state to learn how to identify AIS such as Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife and New Zealand mudsnails, and then searched for them in the field at pre-selected locations. Initially focused on rivers and streams, Snapshot Day has expanded to include lakes and wetlands. Findings from Snapshot Day are uploaded to the statewide water quality database where they can be used to track the spread of invasive species and develop management plans.

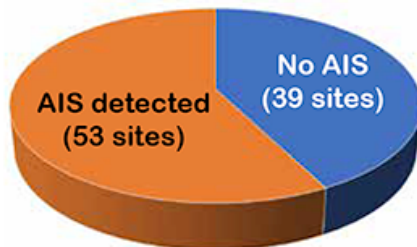
Snapshot Day's community-based science approach maximizes the number of sites being checked across the state, and the free event allows volunteers to learn about their local waters and how to keep them healthy.

Every year, Snapshot Day provides a vast amount of AIS data to the WDNR to assist in management decisions, and this year was no exception! To view all these data in an easy-to-read story map, go to <https://bit.ly/3xKkxzb>.

Interested in participating in the 10th annual Snapshot Day next year? Save the date for August 19, 2023!

109 participants

92 waterbodies  
(sites) monitored



*Of the 53 sites where AIS was detected, 14 different AIS species were identified, including purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, Asian clams, and faucet snails.*

## Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Rule Improvement Withdrawn

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) withdrew proposed revisions to the aquatic plant management rule, Board Order WY-29-19 from the August Natural Resources Board meeting due to concerns expressed by some stakeholders leading up to the meeting. The proposed rule was intended to create a more effective, transparent management program for the control of aquatic invasive species and problematic aquatic plants. The proposed rule was consistent with the Environmental Protection Act and aquatic plant management industry's best management practices and included a fee increase that would have been used to improve customer service and support the program.

To ensure sufficient time to comprehensively engage all those who have an interest in aquatic plant management, WDNR plans to reach out to stakeholders to better understand concerns and reassess whether there is an opportunity to restart the process for a modified rulemaking proposal. WDNR maintains their commitment to best practices and healthy lake management. They will continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure robust, responsible aquatic plant management for the water resources of the state according to the current rules.

To receive email updates regarding the Department's aquatic plant management program, please sign up at [govdelivery.com](http://govdelivery.com) and choose "Aquatic Plants" as the topic when prompted.

Historically, Wisconsin was blessed with a patchwork of more than 75 types of natural communities ranging from prairies and oak savannas in the south to towering pine forests and bogs in the north. In addition, Wisconsin's early vegetation was shaped by climate influences and early Native American land use. The result was a mosaic of natural communities.

Human habitation started to change this landscape and early conservationists noticed. In the 1930s and '40s, they worried that these unique natural communities and native landscapes were in danger of disappearing and began the work to preserve Wisconsin's natural heritage.

Their efforts convinced the Wisconsin legislature to establish the first statewide nature preserve system in the nation in 1951.

Today, the last remaining vestiges of Wisconsin's native landscape that have escaped extensive alteration, or that have substantially recovered from disturbance over time, are called "natural areas." **Wisconsin has the oldest State Natural Area program in the U.S.**

There are nearly 700 sites owned and managed by the Wisconsin DNR and over 60 other partners. According to the State Natural Area Strategy, July 2021, "Collectively, these lands account for about 1% of Wisconsin's 34.7 million acres, yet 90% of Wisconsin's rare plant species and 75% of rare wildlife species can be located here." To read more about Wisconsin's State Natural Areas and find one near you, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "natural areas."

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## Making Natural Shorelines the Norm

Seeing is believing! Help your neighbors see what their waterfront property can look like with beautiful shoreline plantings, rain gardens, and more! Some folks may think planting native gardens will look like a bunch of weeds and make their property look unkempt but sharing publications like the Shoreline Living magazine is one step we can take to easily present images and stories of how folks are taking action to make their waterfront properties more eye-appealing and a benefit to the lake and all its inhabitants.

You're sure to find an article that "hits home" for most waterfront property owners, as each issue highlights six stories with beautiful photographs and key takeaways. These magazines were produced by a collaborative group of managers and outreach professionals from across the Upper Midwest.

Get your Shoreline Living magazines today from the Extension Lakes bookstore at [uwsp.edu/uwexplakes](http://uwsp.edu/uwexplakes).

