



2019

ArchibaldLake.com

In This Issue:

Welcome to the 2019 Archibald Lake Newsletter	1
Important Upcoming Dates	2
Eurasian Watermilfoil Update	2
Survey	7
Volunteer Corner	7
Historic Archibald Lake Fun Facts	9
2019 Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day	11
Snapshot Day 2018	11

Welcome to the 2019 Archibald Lake Newsletter

by Kevin Springob

I hope that all of you had an enjoyable winter and are now ready for warmer weather. We are facing some new challenges in our fight against Eurasian watermilfoil so the focus of this newsletter will primarily be on Eurasian watermilfoil and some of our management challenges and options. It is important to the Board that we provide as much information as possible to the membership and solicit input as to how we, as an Association, will proceed. We will be devoting time at our annual meeting to present and discuss options. The information in this newsletter is presented with the hopes of giving everyone a better understanding of where we've been and our options moving forward. At the end of the Eurasian Watermilfoil article you will find a link to an online survey so everyone will have a chance to weigh in on the situation and help guide our decisions and the discussion at our annual meeting. The board will discuss the results of the survey at our May board meeting.

Important Upcoming Dates

The focus of our annual meeting this year will be on aquatic invasive species and more specifically our ongoing management of Eurasian watermilfoil. This will be a great opportunity to have your voice heard and to catch up with neighbors and friends. In 2018 our brat fry events resulted in over \$1,500 that goes directly into funding our lake ecology efforts. Please consider attending the brat fry events and supporting a great cause.

Annual Meeting

Date: June 22, 2019

Time: 9:00 social 9:30 meeting

Location: Townsend Town Hall

Brat Fry Events

Dates and times: Friday May 3rd 10-2 and Thursday August 8th 1-6

Location: Lakewood SuperValu

Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday August 10th

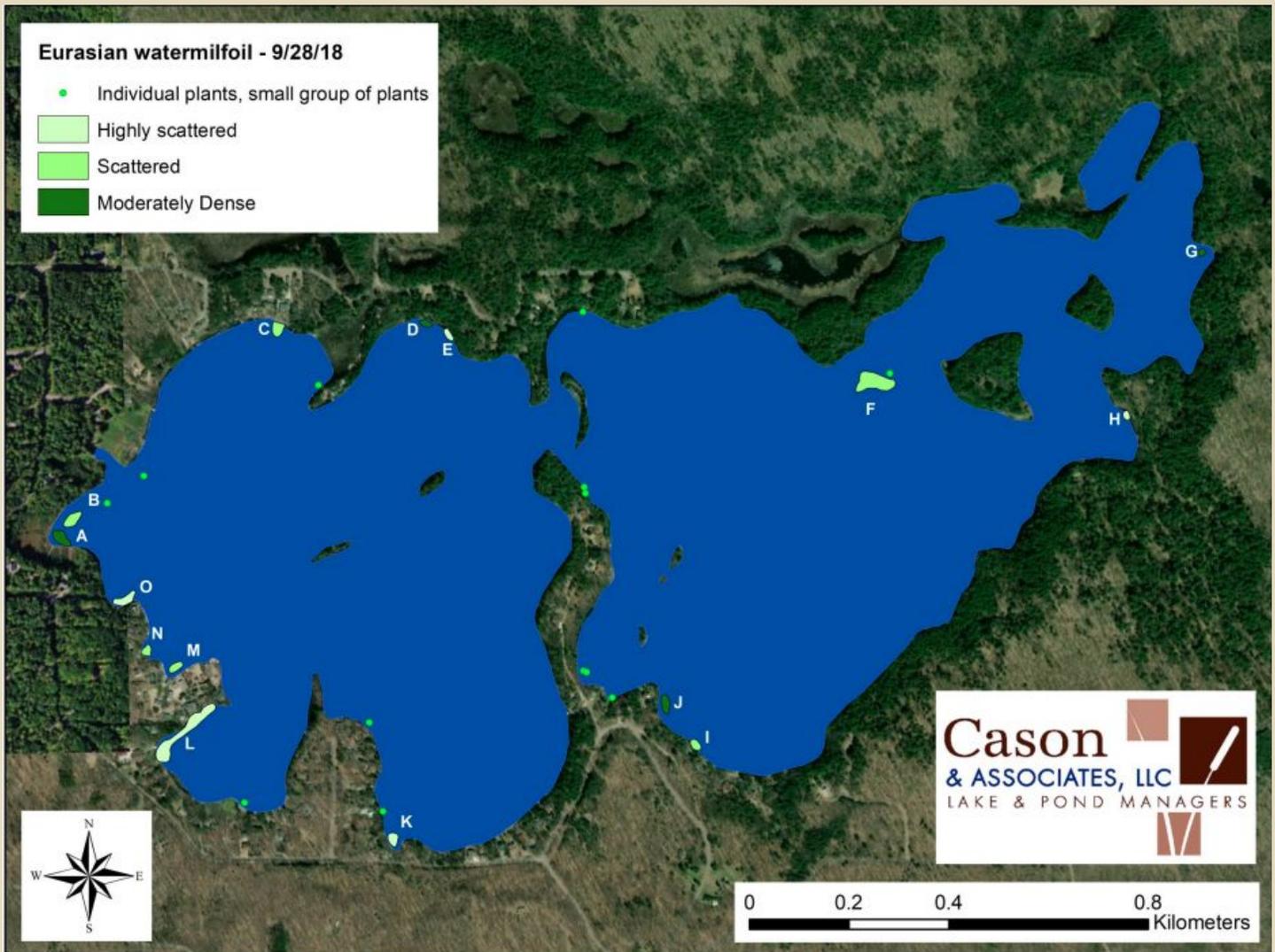
Location: Vosters and Peters

Eurasian Watermilfoil Update

by Kevin Springob

Background

Eurasian watermilfoil was first identified in Archibald Lake during a June 2009 aquatic plant survey. From 2009 to 2014 a combination of volunteer manual removal and herbicide treatments were the primary management methods. In 2016 we hired a manual removal company to remove locations identified by the June survey. By 2017 only one plant was identified on the survey performed by Onterra. There were undoubtedly other locations that were not identified on the survey and by 2018 Eurasian watermilfoil was on the move again with the discovery of several small patches. Below is the most recent survey that was performed by Cason and Associates from last fall. According to the DNR, the current level of infestation remains relatively low. In 2018 we hired a manual removal company to target locations identified by the spring survey. The area near Holt island (see map below) ended up being larger and more dense than the spring survey indicated resulting in the manual removal effort taking more time and requiring another visit in August to hit some of the spots again. In September of 2018 the survey indicated that the area near Holt island remained fairly large.



DNR Grants

In 2009 we received a rapid response grant from the DNR to address the newly discovered infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil. Herbicide treatments and manual removal efforts kept Eurasian watermilfoil in check for many years. If you'd like to see a more complete history of the distribution of Eurasian watermilfoil please check out the maps on the main page of our website (www.archibaldlake.com). When the original rapid response grant expired we applied for and received a DNR grant titled rapid response phase two. We have been fortunate to have grant funding from the DNR to take us through the first decade of our management efforts. The grant money has paid for aquatic plant surveys, herbicide treatments and manual removal. Both phases of the rapid response grant are cost share with the DNR covering 75% of the cost and the Association being on the hook for the remaining 25%. Due to the incredible dedication of our volunteers, our 25% cost for the grants was covered by in-kind volunteer labor. The remaining funds for our rapid response grant phase 2 will be exhausted by this summer, leaving us responsible for some of the 2019 cost of management and 100% responsible for the cost beyond 2019. I have spoken with our DNR grant representative and based on that conversation, we cannot expect to qualify for additional DNR funding to support our management efforts.

We are fast approaching a point where we need to explore our options and make the appropriate management decisions to protect the ecology of our lake and balance that with the financial burden of the various management options.

Management Options

Management Option One - Manual Removal

The larger area near Holt Island that we focused on in 2018 resulted in mixed results. The process of manual removal creates murky water really quickly due to the removal of the whole plant and the subsequent disturbance of the sediment. When Eurasian watermilfoil populations are larger, it is more difficult to remove them due to the disturbance of sediment. It doesn't take long before the clarity of the water is so bad that divers can no longer see underwater. *Manual removal is much more effective on smaller populations.*

Our current plan for 2019 is to target the smaller patches with the hopes of slowing the spread. In the past volunteers were able to manually remove some patches in shallower water but now that the lake level has risen and our population of Eurasian watermilfoil is now being found at deeper depths, volunteer manual removal has become more problematic. Hiring a manual removal company is not cheap. Fortunately for us Steve Fleming researched lots of manual removal companies and we settled on an affordable and reliable company that we felt would do a good job. Their daily rate for removal was within the range of other options and they utilize advanced suction equipment that minimizes the spread of fragments to other locations. The going rate for a day of manual removal is \$2,000. We won't know the full efficacy of this form of management until we have another year or two of data to know the extent of control we can expect. The plan for 2019 is to manually remove all of the areas on the above map with the exception of area F, which is near Holt Island. The estimated time for removing all of the smaller areas is four to five days at a cost of \$2,000 per day that leaves us with a 2019 manual removal cost of between \$8,000 and \$10,000. The quote to remove area F near Holt Island was an additional \$10,000. With no certainty about the results of removing that large of an area and how long the results would last, we made the decision to not spend the additional \$10,000 and focus on the smaller locations.

In a recent conversation with DNR representative Brenda Nordin, I discussed the results of our fall survey and her opinion about manually removing the area near Holt Island was that she would not recommend it based on the size but instead she recommended we wait until the area reaches the threshold treatment size established by the DNR and chemically treat it. The remaining funds from our grant will cover approximately \$5,900 of the anticipated \$8,000 to \$10,000 cost so our ultimate out of pocket cost for manual removal in 2019 would be between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Last fall the board received an email from a concerned Association member suggesting that we buy our own equipment and manually remove the Eurasian watermilfoil ourselves. There are a lot of issues with this approach including initial cost of investment of equipment, location to store the equipment, liability and practicality. The member's suggestion was based on the idea that we could have our own team of scuba divers removing plants on a weekly/regular basis. Last fall Steve Fleming wrote about this option in the newsletter and asked for people who would be interested to contact him. Steve did not receive a single response from our membership indicating an interest in participating in this option. The lack of

response and other financial and logistical issues makes this option less likely but it is still something that would be on the table for consideration.

Management Option Two - Herbicide Treatments

We've had many successful herbicide treatments and it would be fair to attribute much of our management success in the early years to these treatments. We have a history of success with small-scale herbicide treatments. Unfortunately the perspective and policy of the DNR has changed in the past decade. The DNR has shifted away from small-scale treatments and now the agency is changing the size of treatment areas that they will issue a permit for herbicide treatment. This past fall when we received the results of our survey, I contacted Brenda Nordin to discuss treatment options. She indicated that the DNR would not issue a permit for treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil populations for areas less than three acres in size. The news was devastating because nothing on Archibald comes close to three acres and we've personally had success with smaller-scale treatments. The shift in protocol is based on past treatments at a statewide level. The only way for us to receive a permit from the DNR to chemically treat Eurasian watermilfoil is if given areas of infestation are 3 acres or more. Herbicide treatments of that scale get expensive very quickly and more specifics about cost per acre for treatment will be explored prior to the annual meeting.

Management Option Three - Do Nothing

The do nothing and see what happens approach may not be the popular option but it needs to at least be addressed in this discussion. There is some evidence that Eurasian watermilfoil can eventually equilibrate with native aquatic vegetation but that process could take decades and there are no guarantees that it won't overtake the lake and reduce the overall diversity of our aquatic vegetation and diminish the important values that our native vegetation provides. A part of the survey that was sent out in preparation for our Lake Management Plan attempted to gauge the perceptions of our Association with respect to aquatic plant management. 75% of the respondents were opposed to doing nothing.

Financial Considerations

Management options one and two require a financial commitment. The Board of Directors presents an annual budget to the membership for approval at our annual meeting and there are many day-to-day financial decisions that are made as a result of our board meetings. Considering the magnitude of the potential financial commitments of managing Eurasian watermilfoil, it is important to bring this issue to all of you for consideration and input. The choices we make will potentially have a significant impact on the finances of our organization. The following options are presented to you as possibilities to fund the management options we decide to pursue. The options are not meant as stand alone solutions but are meant to be components of a larger view approach.

Financial Option One - Raise Dues

Our dues have been fairly low and an increase in dues could help to offset the cost of aquatic invasive species management. In order to be a qualified lake association, we cannot charge more than \$50 for an annual membership. As a part of considering the raising of dues we need to account for some members dropping out due to the increase.

Best-case scenario, we could increase our revenue by an estimated \$3,100. To put this into perspective, that would cover less than two days of manual removal. Raising dues by \$10 or \$20 may help to offset some of the costs but it would by no means solve this issue. A \$10 or \$20 increase in dues may be better viewed as part of a multi-tiered approach that can help alleviate some financial burden without the expectation of resolving all of our financial concerns.

Financial Option Two - Donations

We have been very fortunate to receive many donations towards lake ecology, thank you. We cannot underestimate the power of personal donations and the members who step up to help out with our various causes. Back when the tree drop project was proposed, we had so many members step up and donate significant funds towards that project. It is likely that if we asked, that many members would donate to our fight against Eurasian watermilfoil. We are also fortunate to have a donation box at our boat landing that brings in a few hundred dollars each year.

Financial Option Three - Fundraising Events

Fundraising events can have a significant influence on our financial situation. We've raised a lot of money for lake ecology through raffles, apparel sales, calendar sales and brat fry events. Fundraising events are an important part of maintaining financial stability. We are always open to new ideas for fundraising possibilities. This is your chance to suggest new ways to raise money. The survey link at the end of this article will specifically address this important area of revenue. Please help us brainstorm as to some new ideas for fundraising. We are all in this together and this is a group problem so it requires a group solution.

Financial Option Four - Form a Lake District

Yeah, we've been down this road before and have had some resistance to this possibility. Much like the presentation of management option three of doing nothing, forming a lake district needs to be kept on the table. Instead of trying to paraphrase the [U.W. Extension Lakes description of lake districts](#), the following is the official U.W. Extension Lakes description of what a lake district is:

Lake districts are special purpose units of government, and include; public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, sanitary districts, special districts, and commissions formed by local governments. The purpose of a district is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the lake environment.

Lake districts are established by town, county or village boards, or city councils, and usually based on a formal petition of lake area owners. Lake district formation and operations must comply with Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The boundaries of a lake district usually include the property of all riparian owners and can include off-lake property that benefits from the lake or affects the lake's watershed. The district may include all or part of a lake or more than one lake. A city or village must give its approval to be included in a district.

Lake districts are governmental bodies with elected or appointed leaders and annual budgets funded from tax levies or special assessments. Districts also have some capabilities to regulate lake use, such as local boating ordinances and

sewage management. Within a lake district, all property owners share in the cost of management activities undertaken by the district. Residents who live in the district and are eligible voters and all property owners have a vote in the affairs of the district. This is accomplished at an annual meeting which must be held between May 22 and September 8 each year.

Conclusion

All of this information and options have been presented to you for your consideration and your input. We have been fortunate to benefit from ten years of financial support from the DNR. As we move forward, we have some challenges and difficult decisions to make. I've been fortunate to be a part of this community since we first discovered Eurasian watermilfoil in 2009. The information provided in this newsletter and the feedback from our membership will guide our decisions in the years to come. There are no guarantees in this fight against aquatic invasive species but I do believe that there is a lot of value in knowledge and membership input.

Survey

Please make your voice heard in this important topic. The brief survey is anonymous and invaluable for us to take your thoughts and perspective into consideration as we come together not only as a board of managers, but as a community of dedicated lake members. Thank you in advance for your feedback and continued dedication to Archibald Lake.

The survey will be available on the main page of our website and below is a direct link. The deadline for participating in the survey is May 10th, 2019.

[Archibald Lake Aquatic Plant Management Survey](#)

Volunteer Corner

by Karla DeWitt Doyle (Volunteer Coordinator)

Annual Picnic – Vosters & Peters

I would like to give a huge thanks to the Vosters and Peters Families for volunteering to host the 2019 Annual Picnic on Saturday, August 10th!! They have hosted in the past and it is a great venue for this event. More details to come as we get closer.

Board Member Vacancy

We currently have 1 Board of Directors vacancy we would like to fill ASAP. If you are interested in being more involved in decisions made around the health of our lake and the surrounding shoreline please join us.

Below are some of the experiences and leanings I have encountered since joining the board:

- Got to know many more families around the lake which is super fun!



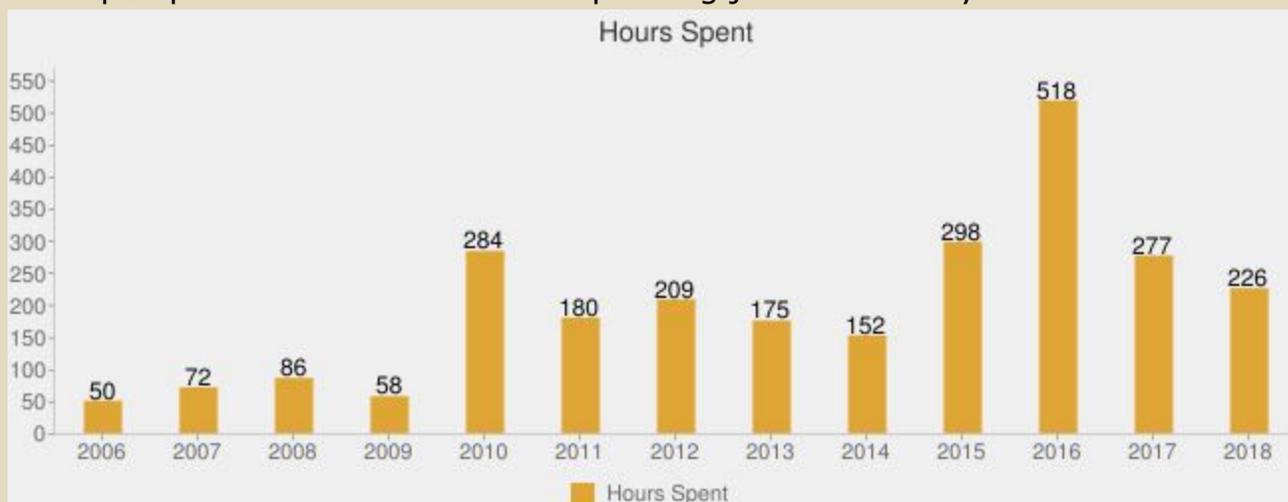
- Better understanding of the grants, funding, donations and volunteer hours that go into keeping our lake clean.
- What invasive species threaten our lake and how to identify them and best way to remove them (manual or hired)
- The boat landing is not just a piece of cement leading into the lake that is nice to have. It is so important to have volunteers monitoring and educating the importance of Clean Boats means Clean waters. Don't bring junk from another lake and put it in ours.
- How prioritization is done between funds in our treasury and needs for the lake.

....and this is just to name a few

You can contact me with any further questions you many have :)

Clean Boats/Clean Waters Volunteers needed at the boat landing!!

Clean Boats/Clean Waters volunteer hours were down last year to the lowest since 2014. This program is so vital to our lake both from a health standpoint and also a source of grant money from the DNR. Below is a few frequently asked questions I got from the DNR website that I thought would put the task of volunteering at the boat landing in some perspective. Please consider spending just 1 hour of your time this summer.



What is it?

Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) is an aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention subprogram through which volunteers conduct boat and trailer inspections and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of AIS at boat landings. CBCW grants provide funding to eligible sponsors to help with the cost of running a CBCW program that helps prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin's surface waters or limits the spread of aquatic invasive species that may already be present.

Why is it important to have volunteer hours?

As an association we are eligible for grant money if we log at least 200 volunteer hours. This can be done by individuals or families during weekends, holidays, fishing tournaments and other special events between May 1 and October 30.

There is no minimum time you have to dedicate beyond and hour. If every member or family that belongs to the Association dedicated 1 hour of volunteer time a summer we would be very close to the 200 hours.

How do I know what to do?

Norm Faulstich and Tom Wilke are our CBCW leaders. They are always willing to walk volunteers through what you need to know and look for. They also have some good suggestions on how to approach boaters at the landing to make it a fun interaction. Feel free to bring kids, grandkids, friends..... and spend an hour supporting this critical cause.

Historic Archibald Lake Fun Facts

by Karla DeWitt Doyle



I must give credit to my brother Don DeWitt who has spent many years researching our Holt family and the logging operations in the late 1800's/early 1900's.

I thought it would be fun to put together a few fun facts specific to how Archibald Lake came to be. I hope you take away a few pieces of information you didn't already know and a chuckle at some of the perspective of WA Holt.

Around 1879 Holt and Balcom lumber company (later Holt Lumber Company) along with Oconto Company and Anson Eldred company bought large tracts of timber in northern

Oconto County that were tributary to the Oconto river. The objective was to harvest timber and float it down the Oconto river and its tributaries to the mills at Oconto. Lakewood and Townsend areas are tributary to the McCauslin brook and the north branch of the Oconto river which are both tributary to the Oconto river. The Holt family conducted logging operations in and around the Lakewood/Townsend area from 1879 through 1936. Many lumber camps, skidding roads and later railroads were built throughout the area. Many dams were also built on the McCauslin brook and Oconto river to aid in the driving of logs. The Holt companies owned all of the land surrounding Archibald Lake. Although logging operations took place throughout the area, Holt never allowed cutting within 500' of the Archibald shoreline.

W.A. Holt states in his autobiography "A Lumberman Looks Backward" that the first lumber camp he stayed in was on the northwest end of Archibald Lake. It was the winter of 1882 and the camp foreman was James Archibald, for whom the lake was named after. There were approximately 30 men in the camp and W.A. Holt states that "in the evenings when the wood stove was roaring, men's clothing was hung to dry and tobacco was being smoked the air was so thick that from time to time I had to step outside to catch a breath of fresh air or else become sick from the stench".

The first Holt cottage was built on the small Island on the east end of the lake in 1896. It was a small cottage named the "Hermit", which is now owned by the Poethig family (Holt relatives) and has been expanded and renamed "Pine Knot". In 1898 W.A. Holt built the "Island Lodge" on the large island on the east end of the lake. The Chicago and Northwestern railway had been extended through the Lakewood/Townsend area the year before making the area accessible by passenger train. The Holt family took advantage of this and began to spend significant time on Archibald Lake each summer. The lodge would become a cherished family retreat holding special meaning for many generations of family members and remains in the family even today.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's the Holt family sold a few lots on Archibald lake to business associates or family members. In 1936 logging operations ceased and the Holt Lumber company began to divest its timber holdings. From that point until the early 1980's the Holt family slowly sold private lots on Archibald Lake. In 1992 the Holt family, in an effort to preserve the natural shore line sold a large chunk of acreage on the northeast end of the lake to the Nature Conservancy who then sold it to the National Forest Service. The shore land located on the southeast end of Archibald Lake is still owned and maintained by the Holt family who actively manage the land to maintain its uninterrupted natural beauty.

A few interesting facts about the Holt family and the Archibald Lake property. The small "pond" located on the northeast end of the lake referred to by many as "little lost lake" or "lovers lagoon" is referred to by the Holts as "Barn Pond" because on the back side of the pond is a field/clearing in which a small barn stood that housed a cow used to supply milk to the Island Lodge and horses used to travel to and from the train station in Lakewood. Most all lots in the Lakewood/Townsend area sold by the Holts carry a deed restriction put in place by W.A. Holt that bans the sale of alcohol. Many local businesses have had to work with the county to get an exception to this restriction. This same restriction has contributed to no commercial establishments on Archibald Lake.

The Holt family cherishes their relationship with Archibald Lake, takes pride in being good stewards and are committed to maintaining the natural beauty and ecosystems of the lake while being active members in the Association.

2019 Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day

If you're looking for an opportunity to get involved with aquatic invasive species without a long-term commitment, please consider participating in the 2019 Snapshot Day. The River Alliance of Wisconsin in partnership with UW Extension's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network have developed this statewide program to get volunteers involved with aquatic invasive species identification. Scout for invasive species at shorelines, rivers, and lakes throughout Wisconsin during this 1-day event. The collected data is used by DNR to protect our waters from non-native plants and animals. No previous experience required. Professional staff will be on hand to help with identification of species. Below is a narrative from Association member Laura Harvancik and her experience of participating in the 2018 Snapshot Day. Here's a link for more information on Snapshot Day: <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/statewide-snapshot-day/>

Snapshot Day 2018

by Laura Harvancik

On August 18th Carol and I participated in Snapshot Day – Aquatic Invasive Species Training meeting at the Riverview Town Hall. At this same time, 200 people in Minnesota and 170 people in Wisconsin were meeting for the same reasons.

Thank you to Kathy Wiggins and Matt Marty for the heads up and alert to us all regarding this opportunity. Sharing time like this with about 25-30 other concerned and active lake lovers really puts the community in perspective.

Paul Skawinski, UW Stevens Point Aquatic Botany and our Site Coordinator presented a "Snapshot" of our area lakes. He introduced any known suspicious acting characters already reported. Also present was Chris Kolasinski from the DNR Oshkosh location.

There were about 7 groups of 3. Carol and I were paired with Dave Bonham, an active Adopt a Shoreline member from Maiden Lake. We were tasked with visiting 3 lakes; Maiden, Archibald and Paya and bring back anything suspicious or interesting to be identified and shared with the group.

Our goal was, and is, to find early populations that can be tackled immediately. A hearty challenge to us all living on and enjoying the lake!

On a river near Maiden Lake and at the boat landing, we found yellow iris which wasn't blooming at this time, however, Dave recognized it from the class description. It is very striking when in bloom. This plant can apparently create very dense, monotropic stands which compete with other plants in the ecosystem. We also found EWM and Chinese

Mystery Snails. These snails were brought from Asia to California in 1892 as a food source in Chinese restaurants. They were later found in Massachusetts in 1915 likely due to an aquarium release. These snails are believed to compete with native snails for food and habitat. They are called Mystery Snails because in the Spring they give birth to young, fully developed snails that suddenly and mysteriously appear.

Interestingly enough, one of the lake lovers brought up an idea that had to do with taking a bite out of invasive species :). We can all do the math – so to speak, right? Something about fettuccine, garlic and butter!

We read somewhere that it is legal to rake Mystery Snails out of the lake. If unsure, verify with the DNR and please just bury them far from the waterfront.

In Archibald, we did not rake up any EWM at the landing, however, we did spot a medium size stand of Flowering Rush to the left of the landing. Chinese Mystery Snails were also found. While we did not see Phragmites on this particular day, this species has been documented on Archibald Lake.

The non-invasive, native plants we were happy to see were water celery, considered to be the best all-natural waterfowl foods and also found flat stemmed and clasping leaf pondweed.

No vegetation or invasives were found on Paya.

On a side note...even though our Clean Water/Clean Boats intervention and/or education was not required on this day, it was evident that our presence on the shore, merely holding a clipboard, made an impact. It brought interest to the people coming and going prompting questions and actual manual attention by the boat owners was paid to all watercrafts.

It is a great feeling to be a part of the solution and what personal testimony to the work our Clean Water/Clean Boats group does and must continue to do in that area! Thank you!

The next Snapshot Day is August 17, 2019 and additional information can be obtained through:

Natalie Dutack, Watershed Groups Manager
River Alliance of WI
608.257.2424 X111
ndutack@wisconsinrivers.org

Let's make our 2019 goal to not only seek out and remove Eurasian Watermilfoil but to also identify and appropriately tackle the invasion of Flowering Rush, Phragmites, Chinese Mystery Snails and Purple Loosestrife.

Did you know that purple loosestrife grows taller and faster than our native wetland plants shading everything else out?

Even with the addition of more invasives to watch out for, our GPS access, solid working knowledge and a team of people in place to accurately mark locations of suspected invasives we are well on our way to continued positive impact.

A sincere thank you to all Adopt a Shoreline Volunteers and property owners taking an initiative to keep Archibald healthy and beautiful.

The 2018 team gave 144 hours to Archibald. Way to go!!

All owners and families wanting additional information please contact Laura Harvancik at k.sera@wi.rr.com. The more people we have looking the more successful we will be.

See you on the lake!
Laura and Carol

