

Lake Monitoring & Protection Network
December 22 2025, Quarter 4 Regional Report



Lake Monitoring and Protection Network

Cooperative Agreement, 4th Quarter Report



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Citizen Science Center

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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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Happy Holidays from Beaver Creek Reserve

Season's greetings from Beaver Creek Reserve! As we reflect on this year, we're filled with gratitude for all that we've accomplished together. This past year brought many celebrations, but also some challenges, and a renewed sense of connection. This was all made possible by the incredible support of people like you! Looking back, there were many memorable moments from this past year from outreach events, to tabling, and sharing our field days with incredible volunteers!

Thank you for all of your support!



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Newsletter

12/30	AIS Newsletter Sent to 100+ Subscribers
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Lake Groups

During the 4th quarter, Beaver Creek Reserve assisted lake groups with surface water grant applications and paperwork, provided current AIS information for their waterbody, and started planning for 2026 monitoring and outreach events. This includes expanding the CLMN and CBCW volunteer network.

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

During the 4th quarter, Beaver Creek Reserve has been compiling CLMN reports, assisting in data entry, and communicating with volunteers for the 2026 season. This also includes setting up stations and inventory for the next year for water clarity, water quality, and AIS monitoring.

Waterfowl Hunter Outreach

9/28	Dunnville Boat Landing - 10019530
10/25	Whitman Wildlife Area - 10018108
10/26	Ella Access Point - 10018568

Outreach and Education

10/27	Presentation on Programs - CVLR
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Purple Loosestrife Biological Control

During the 4th quarter, Beaver Creek Reserve has been writing a Purple Loosestrife Activity report comparing known populations, beetle activity, and future needs for monitoring and biocontrol.

Organisms in Trade

12/5	Facebook Marketplace – Seller of AIS
12/3	Pet Store Monitoring – Pic-a-Pet Plus – Dunn County

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Meetings/Webinars

10/7	Monthly Lakes & Rivers Meeting
10/8	Volunteer Meeting
10/10	Lake Group Meeting – CBCW Expansion
10/13	CLMN Sampling/Shipping Meeting
10/20	Eau Claire County Land Conservation Meeting
10/21	Led Tour of BCR and Citizen Science Programs
10/28	Fall AIS Partnership Meeting
11/4	Monthly Lakes & Rivers Meeting
11/6	Itasca Water Wisdom Webinar-Banded Mystery Snail Effects on Lakes
11/10	Manoomin - Being in relationship with “the food that grows on water”
11/13-11/15	Wisconsin Association of Environmental Education Conference
11/15	Project Wild Educator Certificate Course
12/2	Monthly Lakes & Rivers Meeting
12/15	CLMN Lakes Monitoring Meeting
12/18	Winter Water Talks – Fishing on Frozen Habitats



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Beaver Creek Reserve
November 29 at 2:00 PM

As the temperatures begin to drop and freeze over our lakes, aquatic invasive species still survive under the ice. These resilient species include curly-leaf pondweed, a restricted invasive species in Wisconsin.

Even though it's cold out, some people still venture outside and around our waters. This is why following prevention measures is important year-round. Can't remember what the steps are? Review this list:

- **INSPECT** your boat, trailer, and equipment.
- **REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and transporting on a public highway).
- **DRAIN** all water from boats, motors, and all equipment.
- **NEVER MOVE** live fish away from a waterbody.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **BUY** minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions*



Social Media Posts

Beaver Creek Reserve
October 11

Hovering over to Wisconsin, the Spiny Water Flea (*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*) goes unnoticed unless they're in large groups. Its translucent appearance is marked with one black eyespot, and in clusters looks like a glob of goo on fishing line and downrigger cables.

This aquatic invasive species doubles in numbers through asexual reproduction and spooks juvenile fish by making their food sources (zooplankton) disappear.

Don't be too spooked by its ghoulish look; together, we can prevent the spread by cleaning our equipment and emptying all water in our boats, buckets, and live wells.

Want to learn more about the Spiny Water Flea? Jump on over to the Wisconsin DNR page or ask your local AIS Coordinator!

(Photo Credit to UW Madison)



Beaver Creek Reserve
November 8

Purple Loosestrife is an invasive species that thrives in wetland and shoreline ecosystems. This plant comes from Europe and Asia and is a restricted species in Wisconsin. Once Purple Loosestrife establishes, it alters the ecological functions of wetland systems.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) Identification:
Opposite or whorled linear shaped leaves
Purple/Pink flowers on one long spike with 5-6 petals

If spotted, please consult your local Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator for a positive identification of Purple Loosestrife.

Read more about the Purple Loosestrife on the Wisconsin DNR website:
https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/_/Invas.../fact/PurpleLoosestrif



Every year, incredible volunteers from all over the state help collect important data for Wisconsin lakes. These volunteers help collect data on water clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and aquatic invasive species!

This data then helps lake groups, counties, and state biologists with management, conservation initiatives, and monitoring long-term trends.

In 2025, our CLMN volunteers spent over 111 hours monitoring 25 stations on 13 lakes throughout Eau Claire, Chippewa, Rusk, Dunn, Pepin, and Buffalo counties!

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work in helping to conserve Wisconsin waters!

Photos from CLMN volunteers.



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Beaver Creek Reserve
November 23 at 2:00 PM

The Chinese Mystery Snail is a large, invasive snail native to Asia.

These snails give birth to live young and can be found in lakes, rivers and streams as a restricted invasive species in Wisconsin.

Chinese Mystery Snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*) Identification:

Right handed shell opening with an operculum

Adults over 1.5 in in length with a wider shell

Have you spotted a mystery snail? Contact your local AIS coordinator for a positive identification.



Beaver Creek Reserve
November 15

The Rusty Crayfish is an invasive species that actually comes from within the United States, from the Ohio River basin. In Wisconsin, this is a restricted species currently found in 923 lakes and rivers.

Rusty Crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*) Identification:

Rust colored spot on the carapace

Black bands on claw tips

It's important to remember that these characteristics may not be apparent on all rusty crayfish.

Please consult your local Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator for a positive identification.

Read more about the Rusty Crayfish on the Wisconsin DNR website-

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/RustyCrayfish>



Beaver Creek Reserve
December 20 at 2:00 PM

Hole-y mackerel, it's cold out here! Bundle up, winter anglers, the time has come to prepare to go ice fishing!

We hope you get a bite and enjoy the winter wonderland scenery.

The fish are still active under the ice, but so are the invasive species. So please take the extra step to clean your gear and equipment, and only buy bait from a Wisconsin bait dealer. We want to protect the future of our waters, and preventing the spread of invasive species is a great step toward that goal.

Want to know where to get bait? Share your favorite local bait shop in the comments!



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GLOSSARY

AIS – Aquatic invasive species

ALPOA – Amacoy Lake Property Owners Association

BCR – Beaver Creek Reserve

CBCW – Clean Boats, Clean Waters

CLMN – Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

CSC – Citizen Science Center (Beaver Creek Reserve)

LCC – Land Conservation Committee (Eau Claire County)

LCFM – Land Conservation and Forest Management (Chippewa County)

LLLPRD – Lower Long Lake Protection and Restoration District

LMPN – Lake Monitoring and Protection Network

LWIPA – Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association

Secchi disk – instrument used to measure water clarity

Station – Specified location on a waterbody with historical and/or continuous associated fieldwork

SWIMS – Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System

WBIC – Waterbody identification code

WCI – Watercraft inspector

WDNR – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Research & Articles

The Knowledge and Perceptions of Recreational Anglers Related to Alien Plant Species in Freshwater Ecosystems: A Case Study From Hungary

[Full Article Link](#)

Abstract

The value of recreational anglers' ecological knowledge and perceptions have come to prominence in the past few decades. Based on recent studies, their observations might include those of alien organisms and, therefore, might be particularly important in monitoring and revealing the causes of aquatic invasions. Although the number of registered anglers in Hungary has doubled in less than 5 years, exceeding 1 million by May 2024, little is known about their ecological knowledge. To learn more about anglers' knowledge and perceptions of alien plant species, 72 field interviews were conducted between December 2021 and May 2023 at four regularly fished freshwater bodies in Hungary: Hévíz Canal and Lakes Fényes, Balaton and Velence. During interviews, photographs of 12 alien plant species, occurring mostly at thermal water habitats, were shown to anglers as their observations on the effects of biological plant invasions were recorded. Overall, most anglers were unable to name all of the presented species, but at least half of the respondents could confidently identify four species, whereas those regularly fishing at thermal water habitats were able to identify correctly more of the invasive plants. Sixteen of the 72 interviewed anglers were engaged in aquaristics, two of whom confessed that a plant species (i.e., water lettuce [*Pistia stratiotes*]) and a fish species (i.e., goldfish [*Carassius auratus*]) previously held in aquaria had been intentionally released into the wild by them. Our research underlines the importance of anglers' observations about alien organisms, but anglers also have the potential to promote aquatic invasions, especially if they are aquarists too. Anglers might also facilitate early detection of plant invasives before biological invasions occur. We suggest that anglers are an untapped resource in defining and implementing conservation strategies that could counter the spread and establishment of aquatic plant invasives.



Persistence of florpyrauxifen-benzyl in sediments following application to a large oligotrophic lake to control Eurasian watermilfoil

[Full Article Link](#)

Introduction

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl (FPB) is a recently registered arylpicolinate herbicide used to control dicots including Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). Laboratory studies indicate rapid degradation of FPB in water, but sediment persistence in aquatic systems remains poorly understood, creating uncertainty in ecological risk assessments. We evaluated the environmental fate and transport of FPB and its degradants in water, plants, and sediment following application of the herbicide to two bays of Lake George, NY. FPB was rapidly lost from the water column within 72 hours, consistent with prior studies, but persisted in sediments for at least one year. Sediment cores revealed vertical migration of FPB, which may contribute to frequent non-detects in surface sediments and potentially explain why US EPA was unable to establish sediment half-lives in aquatic systems. Measured concentrations exceeded the 28-day no observable adverse effect concentration (NOAEC) for chironomids for at least a year, highlighting the potential for long-term chronic exposure to benthic organisms. Modeled sorption and dilution scenarios aligned with field observations and indicated that circulation dynamics expanded the affected area beyond the direct treatment zones. These results demonstrate that FPB and its degradants persist longer in sediments than suggested by laboratory studies, raising important questions about long-term ecological risks, effects of repeated applications, and underestimation of sediment persistence. Long-term studies such as this are essential for understanding the fate of these compounds and for guiding informed decisions about future herbicide applications.



Muskrat disturbances and their analogues reduce invasive plant dominance within a Great Lakes coastal wetland

[Full Article Link](#)

Abstract

Wazhashk (Common Muskrat in Anishinaabemowin; *Ondatra zibethicus* [Linnaeus, 1766]) plays a central role in the creation stories of the Great Lakes Ojibwe Nations, including the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and has important responsibilities, including modifying the environment and providing habitat for other organisms. Muskrats create disturbances in cattail marshes, contributing to heterogeneity and species diversity, though the effects on invasive cattails and associated invasive plants varies or has not been documented. We evaluated the ecological effects of muskrat disturbances and muskrat-disturbance-analogue (MDA) management treatments (vegetation treatments modeled on muskrat disturbance) on plant communities and 2 common invasive plants, hybrid cattail (*Typha × glauca* Godr.; hereafter *Typha*) and European frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* L.; hereafter *Hydrocharis*), in a large northern Great Lakes coastal marsh. Muskrats effectively reduced invasive plant species cover of both species, reducing *Typha* by 71% and *Hydrocharis* by 88% compared with unmanipulated controls. MDA treatments reflected the pattern of muskrat disturbance by reducing invasive *Typha* but did not reduce *Hydrocharis* cover. Neither muskrat disturbances nor MDA treatments resulted in consistent effects on plant diversity or floristic quality metrics; however, MDA-harvest treatments increased floristic quality metrics compared with invaded controls. Thus, muskrats and MDA treatments were all effective at producing desirable ecological outcomes, though the responses varied. Muskrats are important disturbance agents that promote heterogeneity in *Typha*- and *Hydrocharis*-invaded Great Lakes coastal wetlands, and management efforts to increase their populations should be considered.