

Greetings from the Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species Team!

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By Aubrey Nycz, Oneida County AIS Program Assistant

We have had a busy spring and summer so far! Each year, we strive to involve elementary and middle school students in our Aquatic Invasive Species awareness programs. This year, we have already been lucky enough to teach over 500 students about Aquatic Invasive Species. We traveled to CAVOC, Kemp Station, Hodag Park, and Lake Superior. The kids were excited to learn about how to keep our local lakes clean for their swimming, fishing, and boating enjoyment! We also just wrapped up our 2016 Invasive Species Poster Contest. There were many participants from Oneida County, Price County, Iron County, Douglas County, Forest County, Ashland County, and Bayfield County. Thank you to all of the students, teachers, and parents who contributed from the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department! The AIS Team also participated in the Hazelhurst Lake Fair. We set up a booth at the fair to show locals which invasive species are affecting our Northwoods lakes. Our aquarium included Eurasian Water Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, Rusty Crayfish, and Chinese Mystery Snails! Aside from these exciting events, the AIS team has been busy helping to maintain the local lakes. We have spent some time removing Yellow Iris and Forget-Me-Nots on Boom Lake and Yellow Iris on Lake Tomahawk. We also spent some time inspecting watercrafts at busy boat landings in Oneida County. Keep an eye out for volunteers wearing blue Clean Boats, Clean Waters shirts! As we approach the Fourth of July, we plan to release some Purple Loosestrife beetles on Purple Loosestrife plants in the next couple of weeks. The beetles will eat Purple Loosestrife, making them a great method to control the spread of this invasive plant. Finally, we brought the county canoe out of storage and have begun monitoring lakes again. We canoe around a lake's perimeter and record water clarity, temperature, and saturation resolution levels. By monitoring lakes, we are able to learn more about a lake's ecosystem. Our lakes are always changing, so it is important that we are up-to-date with the lakes in our area and the wildlife that inhabit them. As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns that you may have at 715-369-7835. Enjoy the rest of your summer!