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**News from the Shoreline**

**Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species Program April 2, 2020**

**ATTENTION ALL WISCONSIN 4TH – 8 GRADERS!**

**Enter the 2020 Northwoods’ Invasive Species Poster Contest and**

**Help STOP the Spread of Invasive Species**

The 2020 Northwoods’ Invasive Species Poster Contest is underway and ALL Wisconsin students in grades 4th – 8th are invited to submit a poster!

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak we’ve had to make a few changes, but hope these changes create an easier way for you to participate in our contest! How? We are now accepting photos of poster entries.  In this way, students can easily participate from home.  When taking a photo of the poster, please fill the frame, and make sure it is clear.  This is extremely important.  Additionally, a photo of the ENTRY FORM must be sent along with the poster entry. Email both photos (poster and entry form) to Michele Sadauskas at [msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us) by 4:00 p.m., April 29th.

GOAL:   The primary goal of this contest is to educate 4th – 8th grade students about any aquatic, terrestrial and wetland invasive species that are threatening Wisconsin’s lands and waters. The contest encourages students to nurture their interest for the visual arts, science, and environmental conservation.

ENTRY DEADLINE: 4:00 p.m., April 29, 2020

**TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE**

* Create a piece of art showing any aquatic, terrestrial and/or wetland invasive species that are threatening Wisconsin’s lands and waters.
* Share your knowledge of invasive species.
* Consider creating a memorable and catchy slogan.
* Help raise awareness and inspire others to take action!
* Ask your teacher if you can get extra credit!
* Share the contest with your teachers, classmates, family, and friends!

As of March 30, 2020, we have received posters from the following teachers:

* Mrs. Judith May, Crescent Elementary School, Oneida County
* **Mrs. Sue Zahorik, Wausaukee Elementary School, Marinette County**
* Mr. Rodney Dymesich, Phillips Middle School, Price County

TEACHERS: If you have posters in your possession, please mail them to:  Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department, P.O. Box 400, Rhinelander, WI.,  54501.  If you have dropped off posters at a drop-off location, and your name is not listed above, please contact Michele at <mailto:msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us>.

WIN BIG PRIZES: Winners are chosen in four divisions (grades): Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6, and Grades 7-8. Each division competes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place divisional trophies, honorable mention ribbons, and best slogan ribbons. Teachers, classrooms, and school libraries could win a prize too.

For full contest details, entry form, resources, and more, please refer to the attached poster contest brochure or visit: [https://www.oclw.org/2020-northwoods-invasive-species-poster-contest.html](https://webmail.co.oneida.wi.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=3BNl9R7LCIceUtCvlAfSi6tTk_YVdugv0LaFqaCvq2ndPZHQWdbXCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2fwww.oclw.org%2f2020-northwoods-invasive-species-poster-contest.html).

**COVID-19 Impacts Clean Boats, Clean Waters and Lake Monitoring Activities.**

During this crazy time of COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, we wanted to let you know how our AIS efforts will be impacted and adapted. We’re trying our best to be concise and provide updates for all of our programs, but in some cases we’re just going to have to wait and adapt as decisions are made.

AIS MONITORING:  
Most DNR monitoring activities, including water quality monitoring, has been suspended until further notice. The Governor's order further restricts travel and activities of all residents of Wisconsin, and driving chemistry samples to the post office would be considered non-essential travel and therefore not allowed. Depending on state-level restrictions at any given time, some monitoring activities that can be conducted on an individual basis, or with someoene whom you are sheltering with, may be condicted. We are working with the River Alliance of Wisconsin, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, and Water Action Volunteers to coordinate AIS Snapshot Day on August 15, 2020.

CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS (CBCW)  
CBCW watercraft inspectors have been asked to discontinue all inspections and activities. As of right now, the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department is still planning to hold CBCW workshops in June and participate in the annual AIS Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz. However, due to COVID-19, this is all subject to change. More info on the workshops coming soon!

CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING NETWORK:  
Volunteers have been asked to not collect any water chemistry samples this spring, as the Department of Natural Resources water quality monitoring has been suspended until further notice. The Governor's order further restricts travel and activities of all residents of Wisconsin, and driving chemistry samples to the post office would be considered non-essential travel and therefore not allowed. Depending on state-level restrictions at any given time, other monitoring activities may be able to continue, such as water clarity, aquatic invasive species, native aquatic plants, and some aspects of chemistry monitoring like water temperature, color, and perception.

GRANT-FUNDED AIS ACTIVITIES:  
The DNR Grant Section Chief and staff are working to determine how grants will be affected by all of these changes. Information will be communicated soon – hang tight!

 PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BIO-CONTROL:  
Plant digging and potting should be limited to work you can do alone or with members of your household.

Watch for more details on that coming soon.

**Clean Boats, Clean Waters Summer 2020 Campaigns**

No human virus is going to keep the fish from biting or summer from coming our way. However, due to Covid-19, Wisconsin’s annual summertime aquatic invasive species (AIS) campaigns that remind anglers and boaters that they have the power to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS, ~~to drain all lake and river water, and remove all plants and animals from their boats, trailers and equipment,~~ is undergoing a slight change in 2020. The annual Drain Campaign, normally held in early June, will be merged with the annual Fourth-of-July Landing Blitz. The combined campaigns will run from June 28 – July 5. Better yet, these dates mirror the Great Lakes Regional Landing Blitz that includes launches in every state and Canadian province in the Great Lakes Basin.

During the week, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspectors throughout Oneida County will be joining forces with AIS partners from around the state to give away over 5,500 hard-sided ice packs to anglers. Each ice pack is stamped with the reminder to Drain Your Catch. Draining includes the water in fishing buckets and live wells. Any lake water added to your catch or water that comes in contact with the fish potentially carries diseases or microscopic invasive animals, such as the larvae of zebra mussels. Draining your catch as well as your boat and any other gear that takes on water is important for keeping our waters healthy.

In addition, watercraft inspectors will also be giving away over 10,000 of the ever popular “Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker” free microfiber boat towels as a thank you to boaters they observe practicing the important prevention steps of “Inspect, Remove, Drain, and Never Move.” The towels serve as a reminder to take action to prevent the spread of AIS and are perfect for soaking up water in live wells and for wiping down boats, jet skis, anchors and other equipment before leaving the launch. One ice pack or towel is given to each boat owner while supplies last.

These campaigns are a great opportunity to remind everyone that the power to protect our water resources is shared by all of us who love Wisconsin’s waters. Wisconsin has approximately 300 launches participating, including over 50 in Oneida County. No matter where you launch, always remember before you leave the launch to:

* **Inspect** boats, trailers and equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals.
* **Remove** all attached plants or animals
* **Drain** all water from boats, motors, live wells and other equipment
* **Never move** live fish away from a waterbody
* **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash
* **Buy** minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer
* Only use leftover minnows when either 1) fishing with them on the same body of water or 2) on other waters if no lake/river water or other fish have been added to the container.

Following these steps also helps boaters comply with Wisconsin state law, which prohibits the transport of aquatic invasive species. To learn more about invasive species and their impacts to Wisconsin’s waters and economy, visit [DNR.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov/) and search “Invasive Species.”

**Draft Surface Water Grant Program Guidance Available for Review!**

Surface water grantees, applicants, and support staff,

Exciting news! A first draft of program guidance for the consolidated Surface Water Grant program is available at this link: [https://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/nr193.htm](https://webmail.co.oneida.wi.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=ekykTY-qh-azQlGpgk1h1fL_E3RVxOXQVcUGOI-pEaA6r3uXq9zXCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2feur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2f%3furl%3dhttps%253A%252F%252Flnks.gd%252Fl%252FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA0MDcuMTk4NzUwNTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2Ruci53aS5nb3YvQWlkL25yMTkzLmh0bSJ9.cF9S8yYT_3d1RkNZckCwGgr3A_ErFllnlKAoCasyb_o%252Fbr%252F77135552830-l%26data%3d02%257C01%257C%257C03c785e8c55745ca979608d7db306adc%257C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%257C1%257C0%257C637218873301083995%26sdata%3diW%252FSX7PvxgCFDDwip1bFXpBwxib%252FwrCTtKNiu1g5JGs%253D%26reserved%3d0)

You will see a box with links to the draft program guidance just under the program's infographic. The entire document is posted there, as well as a few smaller, easy-to-read pieces. Our hope is that this document contains all you need to know to navigate the grant program. In addition, we have included a series of supporting appendices. We hope the document is helpful and easy to understand. Please note that at this time, the document is very much a first draft and is subject to change. To that end:

We could use your help!

There will be a formal public review and comment process after the rule becomes law in early summer. **However**, your feedback, comments, and ideas for improvements *before*we head to public comment would be extremely helpful.

Please consider reviewing our first draft and submitting feedback. Simply address your review to [DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov](https://webmail.co.oneida.wi.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=upkNNtjtkW7jPLqPi7GRt-jVtwRGmEGFrx28K43NIrA6r3uXq9zXCA..&URL=mailto%3aDNRSurfaceWaterGrants%40Wisconsin.gov). Be assured, giving us feedback now does not prevent you from participating in the formal comment period later this summer.

**Lake Conservation Webinars**

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) is hosting a webinar blitz over the next month.  Several Wisconsin efforts are featured, as well as research and program examples from other states in the 8-state partnership.  Check out the information below to register.  You can also subscribe to the MGLP newsletter at the very bottom of this email to get updates on future opportunities.

The MGLP brings together resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in naturally formed lakes of the Midwest. We foster collaborations on fish habitat science, education and outreach, and conservation. For more information, stop by our website, follow us on Twitter, or reach out to our coordinator, Joe Nohner. If you aren't already on our newsletter email list, you can SIGN UP HERE.

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