

WINTER 2020

VOLUME 24, ISSUE TWO



## BCLRA DONATES TO THE BURNETT COUNTY AIS PROGRAM!

On November 14, 2019 at the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) meeting the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association (BCLRA) made a presentation of \$500 to the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program. The check was received by committee chairman, Ed Peterson.

The AIS Program was established in Burnett County in 2006. This continuing effort is made possible through a grant program offered through the WI Department of Natural Resources. The grant application process is very competitive – support from partner agencies is a major plus when applying for DNR funds.

The BCLRA has been a strong supporter of the AIS program since its inception. They have been a great resource for training events and have provided support through many educational and outreach projects.

In 2013 the BCLRA Board of Directors established an annual donation of \$500 to the AIS program to help defray the cost of a summer intern. The focus of the summer intern is to address issues with invasive species such as Purple loosestrife, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and zebra mussels – to name a few. They also conduct Clean Boats, Clean Waters invasive species inspections, sign inventories at the public accesses/landings, and work with the AIS Coordinator gathering data through lake surveys – which is used to compile management plans for the lakes.

Intern candidates are students that are either college bound or currently attending college. Majoring in some area of natural resources is a requirement of the intern program.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers organization for their continuing and far-reaching support!



Ed Peterson, Chair, NRC Committee (left) receives donation from Roger Noe, President, BCLRA

### DONATE TO BCLRA

Our purpose is to promote the environmental protection of Burnett County’s lakes and rivers and its wildlife resources, to share information, projects, and results. If you would like to help BCLRA fulfill its mission, please consider a charitable donation. Any amount is appreciated and helps to provide support to the many projects BCLRA is involved in.

SEND YOUR CHECK TO: 7410 Co Rd K, #120, Siren WI 54872 payable to BCLRA.

Amount:	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100
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# Message from the President

By Roger Noe, BCLRA

## Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association

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LAKELINES is published semiannually at no charge by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Burnett County, 7410 Co Rd K, #107, Siren, Wisconsin, 54872.

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is featured online at  
[www.burnettcounty.com/LakeLines](http://www.burnettcounty.com/LakeLines)

### A GEM among GEMS...

Mid-September brought a 2 week "Getaway" to the Cascade Loop for Diane and I. What a beautiful trip! We traveled across Highway 2 through Montana, around Glacier and eventually to the Washington Coast and the San Juan Islands via the Cascade Mountains. Wow!!

Besides the natural beauty, the trip brought other issues to our attention. 1.) The Western states are handling the invasive species issue seriously. Very few state roads could be traveled without a watercraft inspection station being present. Any vehicle pulling a trailer or carrying a watercraft had to stop for inspection. It was apparent the states had invested heavily in protecting the water resources. 2.) The environment in general seemed to hold a higher place in the scheme of life i.e. limited use of styrofoam, beautiful trail heads with well-maintained facilities, limited use of plastic (plastic bags), etc. 3.) Perhaps the most significant issue to us...What we possess in northern Wisconsin is second to none. Vastness of the west, perhaps not. Spectacular rivers, streams, lakes, forests, dairy farms, etc. It is all here. The old saying "Can't see the forest for the trees..." brings us home. We needn't have to travel far to enjoy natural beauty in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is a "gem" that needs our help. Protection of our natural resources should be foremost in all of our life long pursuits. When we lose them, they are gone forever.



*Captured from an Iowa County camera*

### Snapshot Wisconsin

Snapshot Wisconsin is a volunteer-based partnership to monitor deer and other wildlife year-round, using a statewide network of trail cameras. The data these cameras collect helps support wildlife management decisions.

- 1686 volunteers
- 2173 trail cams
- Over 34 million photos

Interested in hosting your own Snapshot Wisconsin camera?  
Visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/research/projects/snapshot/>

## Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day – What Was Found?

Water lovers of all ages were invited to join the Burnett County Land Services Department on a search for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on August 17th, 2019 at the Crooked Lake Park in Siren, WI. This fun, hands-on effort, known as AIS Snapshot Day, relies on participants to monitor streams and lakes at designated sites, for signs of non-native plants and animals that pose risks to Wisconsin waterways and wildlife.

Coordinated by River Alliance of Wisconsin, in partnership with UW Extension's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Snapshot Day entered its' 6th successful year. Information collected was provided to the WI DNR to inform and guide monitoring and response efforts. Volunteers are key to the success of the event.

"More and more people want to know how they can help protect the local lakes, rivers and streams they love. Snapshot Day makes taking action a fun, efficient and community-building event," explained Natalie Dutack, AIS Watershed Groups Manager at River Alliance of Wisconsin. "We've seen nature lovers, paddlers and anglers take part. We've also had families, troops of Scouts, and retirees come out. Everyone enjoys the hands-on opportunity to learn more about the waters near them, and by providing a venue and some training we can help them become stewards of their waters," Dutack continued.

This year was the Burnett County Land Services Department's first time hosting Snapshot Day. They joined a larger network of over 20 conservation organizations helping to prevent the spread of invasive species across Wisconsin. Throughout the state nearly 200 volunteers joined the search for AIS. In Burnett County, there were 6 participants for the 2019 event. The Burnett County Land Services Department is hoping this event will grow each subsequent year.

Following a brief identification training, participants dispersed to collect samples at critical monitoring sites, and then reconvened to report what they found. Overall, there were 8 different waterbodies monitored, 2 new populations of AIS that were found, and 5 AIS populations that were able to be verified. Several of the AIS found were: narrow leaf cattails, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, Chinese mystery snails, and banded mystery snails.

Besides searching for AIS, participants were encouraged to bring back a specimen of any plant or animal that they could not identify. This allowed participants to learn native species, and gain knowledge on aquatic plant and animal identification. All participants left with new knowledge on aquatic life.

If you have any questions about AIS Snapshot Day or would like to get involved for 2020, feel free to contact Thomas Boisvert, the Burnett County AIS Coordinator at (715)-349-2109 Ext. 1382 or [tboisvert@burnettcounty.org](mailto:tboisvert@burnettcounty.org).

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## Aquatic Invasive Species Quick Guide

### Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

**Description:** Water hyacinth is a distinctive, free-floating plant known for its inflated leaf stalks and brightly colored flowers. The leaves and stalks are glossy and smooth to the touch. The spongy, inflated bases of the leaves help the plant float. A mass of dark, densely packed roots hangs beneath the plant, absorbing nutrients directly from the water. Water hyacinth can produce 8-15 large flowers which occur on a single spike. The flowers have 6 petals and are purple to white with a yellow spot on the top petal. The fruit is an enclosed capsule containing three seeds.



The flowers are produced on a spike and are purple-white with a yellow spot.  
Photo: Chris Hamerla

**North American Distribution:** Water hyacinth has been documented in the southern U.S., along both coastlines, and occasionally in the Great Lakes region.

**Dispersal Vector(s):** Water hyacinth was first introduced to the United States as an ornamental water garden plant from South America in 1884. It often spreads to new locations through illegal dumping of water garden plants/animals. It reproduces by seeds and vegetative stolons. Many young plants can remain attached to the parent plant until they are separated by either wind or physical damage. This allows water hyacinth to form large, dense mats.

**Ecological Impact:** Water hyacinth can form large colonies that can clog waterways, preventing boating, fishing, and other water activities. These plant mats block sunlight from reaching submergent plants below, and create stagnant water conditions that attract mosquitoes. Water hyacinth is problematic for wildlife as it impairs animals from moving across the surface of the water.



Water hyacinth has thick and spongy leaf stalks, allowing it to float on water.  
Photo: Paul Skawinski

**Control Options:** Manual removal by hand or machine is a simple and cost effective control for Water Hyacinth when dealing with small infestations. Because the plant floats and usually is not rooted into sediments, the removal of the plant is relatively easy. Hand removal should be done as soon as possible to minimize the chance of seed production.

Herbicides can also be used to remove water hyacinth. Plants should be treated with an herbicide approved for aquatic use to minimize harm to amphibians and other aquatic organisms.

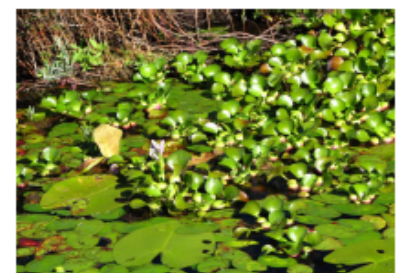
A biological control for water hyacinth has been used on large infestations when an herbicide application is not desirable. Two weevil species, *Neochetina eichhorniae* and *Neochetina bruchi*, have been successful at reducing water hyacinth. The insects lay their eggs on the enlarged stalks of the plant and the larvae tunnel through. The open wounds invite infection by bacteria and fungi, which can stress or kill the plants.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/hyacinth.html>  
<https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/uploadedFiles/moretonbay/environment/vegetation/water-hyacinth.pdf>  
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/141>  
<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=EICR>

This Quick Guide is part of a series on aquatic invasive species, and may be reproduced for educational purposes. Visit us at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/clmn](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/clmn) or [www.goldensandsrod.org/our-work/water](http://www.goldensandsrod.org/our-work/water) to download this series of handouts. Developed by Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. as part of an aquatic invasive species education program, supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Maintained and updated by the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.

WH-1-15



Water hyacinth can quickly form large, dense mats that crowd out native aquatic plants.  
Photo: Paul Skawinski

# PROTECT YOUR WATER



Burnett County Land Services  
-Zoning Division

715-349-2109

<http://www.burnettcounty.com/>

## WHY should you care?

Water supports all life on our planet and is crucial to public health. Water in Burnett County includes roughly 300 named lakes, 40 named rivers/streams/brooks, and thousands of individual wetlands ranging from all different sizes. Along with Burnett County's scenic waterways there are thousands of private wells which can be found on record with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Burnett County's Land Services Department is at the forefront of protecting these wells, lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands from pollution to invasive species... and everything in between. It is our goal to protect **YOU**, the environment, and the water we so desperately require.

Speaking of pollution, did you know one potential source of pollution in Burnett County could be under your feet? **A failing Septic System can be dangerous to your health and a potential source of pollution to the environment.**

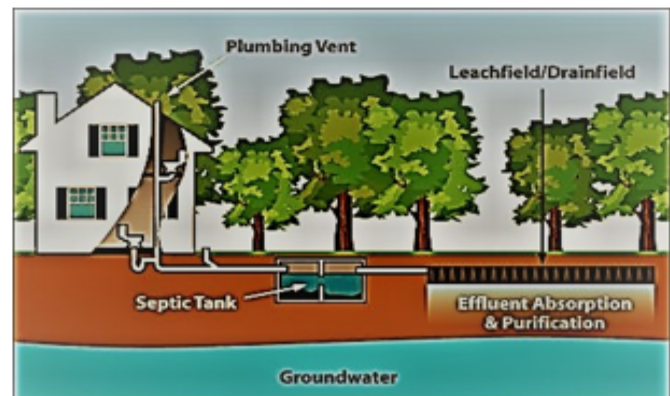
## Pollution Prevention Tips...

- Maintain your septic system by having a licensed professional pump/inspect your sewer! **(It's the Law)**
- If you see something say something... There's never a wrong time to do the right thing, public safety is critical to us... **(Yes, you may remain anonymous)**
- Protect your Buffer Zone, the more vegetative buffer, the healthier your water source. **(Less nutrients entering the water can decrease nasty algae blooms)**
- Make sure your septic tank and drainfield are further from your well or waterbody than required. **(This will help prevent bacteria/excess nutrients from entering your well)**
- Never flush or dispose the following items by way of your septic system: disposable diapers, bandages, rags, home brewery waste, mud, metal objects, animal bones, cat litter, egg shells, melon rinds, paper towel, feminine hygiene products, string, cigarettes, sanitary napkins, paint, automotive fluids, sticks, plastics, grease, drain cleaners, liquid fabric softeners, corn cobs, coffee grounds, large amounts of cleaning products, contraception items (male/female), and **ESPECIALLY** no antibiotics or medications of any type!

**There are many other items not mentioned above that should never be flushed... please remember, the less stress on your septic system the longer it will last, and the more \$\$\$ you can save.**

*"Never enter your septic system for any reason"*

- Common Sense



# IT'S TREE SALE TIME!!

It's time for the Annual Tree, Shrub and Plant Sale sponsored by the Land Services Department – Conservation Division, and supported by the Natural Resources Committee. This sale makes available for purchase several varieties of trees, shrubs, native plants and native seed. Because we purchase in larger quantities, we are able to offer these items at great prices!

Sales are done on a “first come, first served” basis so order early to be sure you get what you are interested in. Payment in full, including sales tax, must be included with your order.

Varieties offered are:

TREES: Balsam Fir, Jack Pine, Red Maple, Red Pine, White Pine, White Spruce, and new this year – Bur Oak and Silver Maple.

SHRUBS: American Highbush Cranberry, Hazelnut, Juneberry, Ninebark, Red Osier Dogwood and Red Splendor Crabapple.

NATIVE PLANT assortments are available in 4 options and native seed mix comes in 2 varieties.

Trees are sold in bundles of 25; shrubs in bundles of 5; perennial plants by the tray and wildflower seed by the package/oz. There are no restrictions on how you choose to use your trees/plants.

You can view the brochure and order form at: <http://www.burnettcounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/7496>.

Pickup for the trees and shrubs will be the end of April 2020. For native plants and seeds, pickup will be the beginning of June 2020.

For questions or more information feel free to contact us at 715.349.2109 or email us at [landservices@burnettcounty.org](mailto:landservices@burnettcounty.org).



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## Healthy Lakes

The Healthy Lakes initiative is a statewide effort providing outreach, technical assistance and funding for five simple and inexpensive best practices that are appropriate for most lakeshore properties. These practices improve lake and land natural beauty as well as slowing, diverting, and filtering runoff.

The 5 Practices are:

- 1) Fish Sticks – Create Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Fish Sticks are feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for all sorts of critters – from fish to song birds. They can also prevent bank erosion- protecting lakeshore properties and your lake.
- 2) Native Plantings – Improve Wildlife Habitat Natural Beauty and Privacy, and Slow Runoff. Native Plantings include grasses and wildflowers with shrubs and trees. Choose a template based on your property and interests – from bird/butterfly habitat to a low-growing garden showcasing your lake view.
- 3) Diversion – Prevent Runoff From Getting Into Your Lake. Diversion Practices move water to areas where it can soak into the ground instead. Depending on your property, multiple diversions may be necessary.
- 4) Rock Infiltration – Capture and Clean Runoff. Rock Infiltration practices fit in nicely along roof drip lines and driveways and provide space for runoff to filter itself. They work best if your soil is sandy or loamy.
- 5) Rain Garden – Create Wildlife Habitat and Natural Beauty While Capturing and Cleaning Runoff. Rain Gardens multi-task – they improve habitat and filter runoff while providing a naturally beautiful view.

You can choose from five best practices that will improve habitat, beautify your property, decrease erosion, and reduce runoff heading into a lake.

Talk to your Lake Association today to get a project going. To be eligible for a grant, you can partner with a qualified lake organization or lake district, or a local municipality, county or tribal government to submit a grant application.

If you or your lake association have any questions about doing a project, any of the technical practices issues, give Dave at Burnett County Land Services Department, Conservation Division a call at 715-349-2109 or email: [dferris@burnettcounty.org](mailto:dferris@burnettcounty.org). The Healthy Lakes website <https://healthylakeswi.com/> contains a wide variety of helpful tips and tools that are useful from filling out the application to closing out a grant. There are publications describing the specifications of the best practices, a video walkthrough of filling out the application, and much more. Check it out! The DNR contact for the Healthy Lakes program is Pamela Toshner ([Pamela.Toshner@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Pamela.Toshner@wisconsin.gov)).

Since the Healthy Lakes program is designed for smaller projects, if you have an issue such as large amounts of runoff or erosion, Burnett County can assist. Contact us at [landservice@burnettcounty.org](mailto:landservice@burnettcounty.org) or 715-349-2109.



# Upcoming Events

**Friends of the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area (FNBWA) Sharp-Tailed Grouse Viewing Blind Sign-up.** February 1 & 2, 2020

**Siren Lions Club Ice Fshing Contest**  
Siren (Lower Clam lake) | February 29, 2020

**Cozy Corners Trails 45th Annual Booya** |  
North of Danbury | March 7, 2020

**Siren St. Patrick's Day Parade** Siren | March 14, 2020 2:00 pm

**Webb Lake St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
Webb Lake | March 21, 2020

**10th Annual Wedding Fair** | Siren | March 28, 2020 11:00 - 3:00

**Taste of Siren** | Northwoods Crossing Event Center | Siren May 2, 2020 5:00 - 8:00

**Siren Nationals** | Siren | May 9, 2020

For more information on other Burnett County events, visit our website at: <https://burnettcountyfun.com/event-directory/>



## BEWARE!

The ice conditions are not good so far this winter, so check carefully before going onto any waterbody, especially wetlands.

## Crex Meadows Events January - May 2020

### January

Sunset Snowshoe Hikes (January 10 & 30 from 3:30 pm- 5:00 pm): *Join us for a peaceful sunset snowshoe hike at Crex Meadows! Hike will take place on the 1.25 mile trail behind the visitor center. Snowshoes provided. All ages welcome. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.*

### February

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike (Friday, February 7 from 6:00-8:00 pm): *Enjoy a peaceful evening walking or snowshoeing on the trail behind the Visitor Center. Luminaries will light your way through the woods. Warm up inside with hot chocolate and baked goods. Snowshoes available on a first come, first serve basis or bring your own. Even with little to no snow, we will still have the event. Flashlights/headlamps suggested.*

Family Resources Snowshoe Hike (Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm): *In collaboration with Burnett County Family Resources, Crex will hold a snowshoe hike for families that want to get out and enjoy nature in the winter! Snowshoes and snacks will be provided! (Sign up through Burnett County Family Resource Center).*

Sunset Snowshoe Hike: (February 28 from 3:30 pm- 5:00 pm): *Join us for a peaceful sunset snowshoe hike at Crex Meadows! Hike will take place on the 1.25 mile trail behind the visitor center. Snowshoes provided. All ages welcome. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.*

### April

Learn to Hunt-Turkey (DATES TBD): *Event welcomes novice adult and youth hunters. The WDNR encourages friends or families to sign up that have no hunting connection, previous mentees are encouraged to sign up again. No license is required and since novices will be hunting with a mentor; hunter education requirements are waived. Equipment will be provided if needed. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Bunkhouses available to participants.*

### May

Spring Wildlife Festival & Open House (Saturday, May 16): *This festival is an opportunity for wildlife enthusiasts to celebrate the arrival of spring at one of the largest state owned wildlife areas in Wisconsin. Enjoy guided tours through the property, songbird banding, wildlife presentations, and activities for kids. Also join area birders in documenting any birds seen on May 19 on our 270 bird species checklist! Some events require pre-registration; call Lauren at 715-463-2739 for more information.*

For a full list of events or event descriptions, please visit our website: [www.crexmeadows.org/programs-events](http://www.crexmeadows.org/programs-events).

# Odds and Ends

## Burnett County Septic System Evaluation (Random Selection)

Lake Description	Clam Lake	Yellow Lake	Big Trade Lake	Little Trade Lake	(North) Sand Lake	McKenzie Lake	Middle McKenzie Lake	Mud Hen Lake	Webb Lake	Wood Lake	Devils Lake
Parcels of Importance	295	218	110	37	189	131	95	110	189	171	185
Total Systems Not Serviced	134	112	29	10	66	60	48	29	85	70	92
Total Systems Serviced	161	108	81	27	123	71	47	81	104	101	94
Not Serviced (%)	45.42	51.38	26.36	27.03	34.92	45.80	50.53	26.36	44.97	40.94	49.73
Serviced (%)	54.58	49.54	73.64	72.97	65.08	54.20	49.47	73.64	55.03	59.06	50.81

**Disclaimer:**

The data above is accurate as of 12/2/2019, but changes may occur (Change is overall dependent on the reporting organization). This data ONLY shows the number/percentage of septic systems maintained or unmaintained via Burnett County Land Service's online POWTS reporting system.

### Lake Leader Institute Recruitment for Crew 13

Enhancing Wisconsin's lake resources through leadership, training, and civic engagement.

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/lakeleaders/default.aspx>

Seminar 1 May 20-21, 2020 at the Pilgrim Center in Green Lake WI  
 SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS OF LAKE MANAGEMENT

Seminar 2 early to mid-September at Kemp Station near Woodruff WI  
 AQUATIC ECOLOGY & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAKES

### Attention water enthusiasts!

Burnett County cares strongly about our water resources, and protecting them is of utmost priority. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can cause severe damage to the environment, economy, and culturally significant resources. Due to this, Burnett County has an AIS ordinance in place to help slow the spread of these organisms.

State law mandates water users to remove all aquatic plants and animals from water equipment, drain all water, and never transport aquatic plants or animals. The Burnett County ordinance takes things one step further, and states that if decontamination materials are present at a water access point they must be used by law. Decontamination procedures may consist of a mild bleach solution, a hot-water pressure washer, or another effective method as determined by the County.

Recently, the fines for non-compliance with this ordinance were raised by the County Board. For a first offense, the minimum fine is approximately \$300.00.



LakeLines  
Burnett County Lakes & Rivers  
Association

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# LAKELINES

WINTER 2020

VOLUME 24, ISSUE TWO



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