

How does AIS spread?

The main way aquatic invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed spread to new waters is often by hitching a ride on boats and trailers of the very people who enjoy the water the most.

Cleaning boats and equipment before leaving the landing is an important step that people need to prevent the spread of invasive species. NR 40 requires everyone to Inspect, Remove, Drain, Never Move.

The Town of Barnes operates a Clean Boats Clean Waters program that assists boat owners in identifying and disposing of plants, animals, and bait before leaving the landing. Some bait exceptions exist, and are listed in the DNR regulations.

AIS has the potential to spread by disruption that occurs when boats move through the affected areas. Plants can break off and take root in other parts of the lake.

To minimize spread of aquatic invasive species, boating operations should occur in the middle of the lake, away from shorelines, and bays.

See location of curly-leaf pondweed on Upper Eau Claire Lake on the map in this brochure.

Below is a picture of a turion (or bud) from curly-leaf pondweed.



Boating Safety

Experienced and novice boaters alike need to be mindful that our waters are being shared by many users of varied interests, so always be respectful of others.

Wisconsin conservation wardens and county sheriffs enforce the boating laws of Wisconsin. The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available at local businesses.

Age Requirements:

Persons born after January 1, 1989 must hold a valid boating safety certificate to operate a motorboat.

A person 10 years old, or older, may operate a motorboat only if accompanied by a parent or guardian who holds a boating safety certificate.

A person 12 years old, or older may operate a motorboat if that person holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1 1989.

A person 12 years old, or older, may operate a PWC (Personal Watercraft) only if that person has completed a boating safety course.

A person born before January 1, 1989 is exempt from safety course requirement, but is encouraged to take the boating safety course which can be found online.

Safety Equipment:

Wear a life jacket! You need one for your safety, and **Wisconsin law requires** a personal flotation device for each person on board all boats, kayaks, canoes and paddleboards.

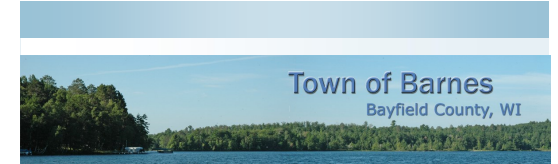
Safety Distance:

While operating a motorboat on any lake, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when **within 100 feet** of a raft, pier, or lake shore.

While operating a Personal Watercraft anywhere on the water, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when **within 100 feet** of any other boat, kayak, canoe, and other PWC.

While operating Personal Watercraft, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when **within 200 feet** of lake shore.

Slow-No-Wake is moving as slow as possible while still in control of the boat's direction.



Welcome to our area!

UPPER EAU CLAIRE LAKE

And Aquatic Invasive Species



Upper Eau Claire Lake is a 1024 acre lake with a maximum depth of 92 feet. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing located on Peninsula Road. There is minimal parking at the boat landing, so please respect adjacent landowners' property.

We take pride in the quality and clarity of our lake waters. Enjoy our natural resources and respect our State Laws.

Town of Barnes 3360 Co Hwy N Barnes WI 54873

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Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP)

Curly-leaf pondweed has been found in Upper Eau Claire Lake; approximate points are marked on map. Please help us control this Aquatic Invasive Species by decontaminating your boat before entering and after leaving the lake.



Curly-leaf pondweed
(*Potamogeton crispus*)

Curly-leaf pondweed invades freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers and streams and has the ability to become dominant in optimal conditions. Curly-leaf pondweed can grow under the ice while most plants are dormant but then dies back in mid-July.

Curly-leaf pondweed has a large growth spurt from ice out to early spring. Its natural ability to thrive in colder temperatures allows it to avoid competition with native species. The formation of dense mats interferes with recreational activities on the lakes.

Due to the early growth period, mechanical harvesting occurs in spring or early summer. Hand pulling and harvesting reduces biomass and possibly reduces the production of turions. When turions become detached from the plant, the turion can drift to the bottom of the lake and become a new plant. This is one way curly-leaf pondweed can spread.

Volunteers' help is integral and includes reporting curly-leaf pondweed to DNR or County AIS Coordinator, so learn to recognize it. New volunteers to pull plants and participate in prevention activities are always welcome.

To learn more about invasive in the Barnes area lakes, contact the Town Clerk for information on training opportunities and AIS prevention activities.

Curly-Leaf Pondweed

What we are doing to control spread of CLP

Curly-leaf pondweed was first detected in Upper Eau Claire Lake in 2007. It is concentrated in several areas of the lake, with the heaviest concentration in commonly called Pease Bay, northerly along the east shoreline, and between the island and east shore.

The initial effort to control the population was hand-pulling plants by volunteers and riparian owners. Education efforts were increased at boat landings as the Clean Boats Clean Water program monitors boats arriving and leaving the lake. Shoreline. Riparian owners monitor their own shoreline as part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring network, report findings and volunteer time to Town Clerk's office.

In the summer of 2020, a new patch was found between Upper Eau Claire Lake and Shuenenburg Lake which was hand-pulled by volunteers and will continue to be monitored.



Hand-pulling weeds from the lake bottom continues by volunteers. Control efforts includes a mechanical harvester mounted atop of a pontoon, called the Barnes Area Invasive Species Sucker or BAISS. The Town of Barnes funds the operation of the BAISS, along with two certified divers. Community members, organizations, riparian owners and anyone loving the outdoors, volunteer for four hour shifts to operate the pontoon, monitor divers' needs, and dispose of plants.

If you are interested in learning more about BAISS operations or wish to volunteer, please contact the Town Office.

Riparian owners can restore shorelines with native plants and bushes to control erosion and reduce runoff. Creating a buffer zone by simply not mowing along the shoreline is the easiest and least expensive method.

Partners & Sources for Information:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Invasive Species website
Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation
Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan
University of Wisconsin
Wi Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detectors Handbook

Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species

Whether you are a **boater, angler, paddler, water gardener/pond owner, or nursery owner**, you have a very important role to play in keeping Wisconsin's lakes free of aquatic invasive species.

Boaters, anglers, and paddlers INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment.

- REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway)
- DRAIN all water from boats, motors, livewells, and all equipment
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.
- BUY minnows from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer.

Nursery Owners and Water Gardeners, do not sell, release, transfer, or purchase invasive plants that are restricted or prohibited in Wisconsin.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

How you can help:

Minimize potential for spread of curly-leaf pondweed by using the middle, and deepest part of the lake when boating.

Follow Slow-No-Wake rules around peninsulas and in bays.

Familiarize yourself with known locations of curly-leaf pondweed in order to avoid those affected areas.

Be able to recognize curly-leaf pondweed and report any new patches.

Join our Volunteers:

Clean Boats Clean Waters, Citizen Lake Monitoring network, and attend AIS Committee meetings.

The Committee is looking for volunteers to drive the BAISS pontoon, and also help as deck hands in harvesting operations.