

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) SURVEY

September 23, 2011

On September 23, 2011, I (James Buck) accompanied Brad Roost of Cason & Associates while he conducted the fall Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) survey of Kusel Lake. Roost is a limnologist (lake specialist) who works with Cason & Associates, the environmental firm Kusel Lake has retained to control AIS and monitor the water quality of Kusel Lake. Specifically, Roost and I were looking for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). EWM is a nonnative plant that grows in many Wisconsin lakes. It grows aggressively, and can crowd out native plants which provide for the health of the lake and good habitat for fish. EWM creates a canopy over the top of the lake and prevents sunlight from getting to other plants in the water, and thereby kills those plants. Therefore, it is very important to control EWM.

In 2006, Kusel Lake, which is a 70-80 acre lake, had 19 acres of EWM. Since then we have been trying to eradicate EWM from Kusel Lake. In 2010 we found only 2.5 acres of EWM. This year our survey found even less EWM. Roost estimated we found approximately 1.5 acres of EWM which will require treatment in the spring. Thus, our vigilance appears to be working.

We were especially pleased to find no EWM in the channel leading to Evergreen Campsites, where we found the most last year. One way to prevent the spread of EWM is to have all persons who use Kusel Lake check their boats for weeds on their trailer and on their boats before putting their boats in Kusel Lake. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been promoting a Clean Boats/Clean Waters program for several years. It appears that the program may be working for Kusel Lake combined with the efforts of Cason & Associates to kill EWM by using herbicide in the spring.

There has been a disturbing development with regard to EWM. There now is a hybrid of EWM. No one is sure how to treat this hybrid. For the time-being a greater amount of herbicide being used to

eradicate it. Roost said the DNR has tested various ways of treating the hybrid EWM, and it believes that increased concentrations of herbicide are not required to control it. However, Roost and others who actually treat the hybrid EWM in the field believe that increased concentrations work best. Last year hybrid EWM was found in Kusel Lake, so to be on the safe side we have been using higher concentrations of herbicide to treat any and all EWM we find in Kusel Lake.

Overall, we were very pleased with the results of the latest AIS survey. We welcome the help of any lake owners who find EWM near or on their property.

Submitted by:

James R. Buck

Commissioner of Kusel Lake
for the Kusel, Wilson, and Round Lake District