

## Invasive Species Management and what it means for 2019

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The goal of aquatic plant management adopted by the Round Trade Lakes Improvement Association (RTLIA) for the Trade Lakes has been to control non-native aquatic plant species including curly-leaf pondweed (CLP), Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), and purple loosestrife (PL) from damaging the health of our lakes. In late 2017 the RTLIA applied for three grants, one for each lake. To our surprise, all three of these grants were awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the spring of 2018. We welcomed these grants because AIS management is very expensive including the use of chemical herbicides and physical removal. The grants support three years of CLP, EWM, and PL management on the four lakes.

Beginning in 2018 we treated 6.8 acres of both CLP and EWM in Long Trade Lake. In Round Lake, 8.86 acres of EWM were chemically treated. In Little Trade Lake, 7.42 acres of CLP and 4.11 acres of EWM were chemically treated. In Big Trade Lake, 13.36 acres of EWM were chemically treated. More CLP was initially targeted for chemical treatment in 2018, however poor growing conditions in the spring of 2018 limited the amount of CLP present in the lakes. These 2018 treatments on all four lakes are considered successful.

In Long Trade Lake, Fall bed-mapping of EWM in 2017 identified 15 beds of EWM. After the 2018 treatments, only one bed of EWM remained and that was in the channel between the main body of the lake and the millpond in front of the dam. In Round Lake, 2017 fall bed-mapping identified 15 beds of EWM. In 2018, after the treatments, only 7 beds remained. In Little Trade Lake, 2017 fall bed-mapping identified 14 beds of EWM. In 2018, after the treatments, only 7 beds remained. And in Big Trade Lake, where we saw our greatest success, 2017 Fall bed-mapping identified 32 beds of EWM totaling 11.05 acres. In 2018, only 25 beds remained totaling only 1.33 acres!

CLP management in 2018 on Long Trade and Little Trade Lakes successfully reduced the amount of CLP in the lakes. Differences between pre- and post-treatment aquatic plant survey work suggests a 92% decline in CLP in the treated areas of Long Trade Lake, and a 93% decline in the treated areas of Little Trade Lake. However, with CLP multiple years of management are generally necessary to see significant declines in the distribution and density of CLP overall. Also, in 2018, it is difficult to separate the impacts on CLP of the applied herbicide and the poor growing conditions. With either, the results remain the same; there was a huge decline in CLP. Mapping in 2019 will help determine if the amount of CLP will remain lower in these two lakes.

Purple loosestrife eating beetles were again raised by a Round Lake volunteer and a thousand or more beetles released in the wetland areas near the inlet to Round Lake. This project will continue in 2019. Purple loosestrife survey work was done late in the summer proving the need for a physical removal effort for this non-native aquatic plant species as well. More training of volunteers to support this effort will be completed in 2019.

Our success in 2018 suggests there will not be as much chemical treatment, particularly of EWM in the four lakes in 2019. However, the same areas of CLP that were targeted in 2018 will be treated in 2019. Because not as much CLP was targeted in 2018, there will be more funding available to target EWM, particularly in Round and Big Trade Lakes, but physical removal by lakeshore owners will still be a huge part of the management strategy going into 2019.

It is hoped that the RTLIA can once again implement at least one large-scale, community involved, physical removal project like what was done a few years ago. Volunteers will be recruited and then trained to complete physical removal of EWM in 2019, and hopefully a picnic or two will be had to reward the volunteers. Beer (or Root Beer) and Brats for Everyone!!