

LILLY LAKE NEWS

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Aquatic Plants in Lilly Lake

- Study completed in 2009 by Aron and Associates.
- 15 species found.
- Most common species:
 - Robbins Pondweed
 - Eurasian Water Milfoil
 - White-stem Pondweed
 - Chara
- Plants were found even at the deepest location.
- Chemical treatments target the Milfoil.



White-stem Pondweed

GET TO KNOW YOUR LAKE DAY

On July 7, a number of people gathered at the public boat launch to learn a little more about lakes and specifically Lilly Lake. Some attendees had lived on the lake for more than 60 years, while others less than a year. There were even some visitors from California. Mike Adam, who is a biologist with Lake County (IL) and a Lilly Lake area resident, talked about a number of lake subjects, including how to keep them healthy.

Topics ranged from the microscopic plants (called phytoplankton) and animals (called zooplankton) in the water to the historic dredging of Lilly Lake. A healthy lake will have both phytoplankton and zooplankton as they are the basis of the food chain. The zooplankton feed on the phytoplankton (often algae), which can help keep the nuisance algae in control. The zooplankton rely on places to hide from predators like bluegill. This is where the aquatic plants come into play. Plants not only serve as places for animals to hide, but also help stabilize the lake bottom sediments. They also use the nutrients in

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Mike points out some of the aquatic plants in Lilly Lake.



All photos by Marilyn Magnuski.

Equipment used to measure the water quality of the lake: Secchi disk, water sampler/bottle, thermometer with cord, and backpack.



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the water that would otherwise be used by algae. However, not all aquatic plants are good. Lilly Lake has a very good number of native aquatic plants, but there are two species (Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed) that are non-native and need to be managed or monitored. Much of the operating budget on the lake goes to chemically treating the Milfoil. Mike showed the participants what the good native plants and the bad Milfoil look like.

Other discussions included the recent stocking of northern pike into the lake to help control the abundant bluegill populations, the historic dredging of the lake, and what everyone can do to help keep Lilly Lake one of the best lakes in the area.

After Mike answered questions from the group, a number of people boarded pontoon boats and circled the lake. Mike pointed out some of the plants in the water and along the shoreline. There are some shoreline plants that are beneficial (like bullrush), but others (Phragmites, cattails) that can be problematic. After circling the lake, the group anchored at the deepest part of the lake (roughly 22 feet) and Mike demonstrated how he collects water clarity readings with a Secchi disk and takes water samples. The water samples are sent to the State lab in Madison and are analyzed for phosphorus and chlorophyll (a measurement of algae), He also collects water temperature from the surface down to the lake bottom.

It was a fun, informative day and it is tentatively planned for a repeat performance next summer!



A Secchi disk is lowered into the water to measure water clarity. ←

Water is collected with a simple PVC device. →

Mike and his assistant for the day measure water temperature. ←



Planning for 2018-19

Do you have an idea for our community? Want to include something in the newsletter?

Please contact:
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