

**A DAMAGING INVASION BY
CURLY LEAF POND WEED IN LAKE COUDERAY
REQUIRES PROMPT ACTION BY FRIENDS OF WINDIGO
March 2011**

Hello All Friends of Windigo Lake!

The Sawyer County Record reports that Lake Couderay has been invaded by the curly leaf pond weed and may sustain substantial economic and aesthetic damage. The concern on that lake is so great that residents have created a special foundation solely for the purposes of raising funds to eradicate the invasive species. This invasion of the neighboring lake suggests that Windigo must act now if its beauty is to be preserved.

As a result, the WLPOA is presently undertaking the following:

- Requesting Sawyer County Conservation Department and a biologist to undertake an annual review of the lake to identify invasive species;
- Requesting the monitoring of lake waters by all property owners and particularly by the bay captains in their geographical areas for noxious plant growth;
- Building and maintaining an eradication fund budgeted up to \$10,000.00 (currently at \$5000.00)
- Exploring possible financial grants from the Department of Natural Resources or other sources.

ANNUAL INSPECTION

In 2009, the Association had the lake inspected for harmful species by Sawyer County and a biologist. These inspections were requested in 2010.

MONITORING BY BAY CAPTAINS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Another line of defense is to request all owners and bay captains to monitor for possible invasive species utilizing enclosed handouts which depict the most prominent of the offending plants. (Additional copies of these materials may be obtained from a WLPOA officer or from the DNR).

If a plant is suspected as being harmful or otherwise questionable, it should be pulled and placed in a zip lock bag and taken either to the Department of Natural Resources on Highway 27 or to the Sawyer County Conservation Department on the lower level of the Sawyer County Courthouse for confirmation of its nature. If it is confirmed that the plant is problematic, your Association will then call upon a volunteer eradication team. This team will be asked to dig and/or pull the plants from the lake or shoreline while being supervised by either the county or by a biologist. If these efforts do not prove successful, it may be necessary to turn to professional help. The lake association would intend to fund this from the eradication fund.

THE WLPOA ERADICATION FUND

The lake property owners have generously contributed over \$5,000 to the eradication fund, which will be used, if needed at all, as recommended by the DNR, the county or other expert for purposes of removing any confirmed invasive species from the lake.

GRANTS

Since the cost of eradication through professional services can be extremely costly, the Association is also exploring the possibility of obtaining grants from the Department of Natural Resources or other sources. This effort alone may require some expenditures for the services of a knowledgeable grant consultant.

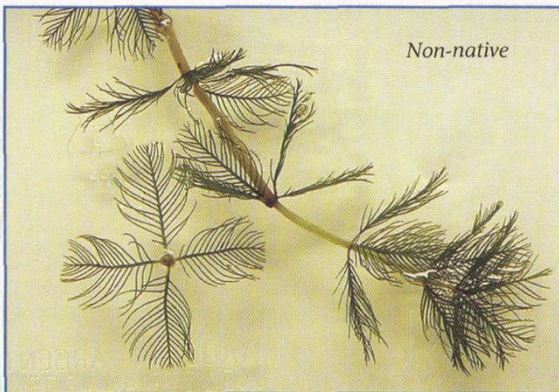
Thanks for your attention to prevent the invasion of Windigo Lake by damaging species. The WLPOA believes that it is urgent that we take action at this time through monitoring and education to prevent a decline in water quality and potential related loss of enjoyment and beauty for all lake owners. Please do what you can to preserve our lake.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

WLPOA Board of Directors

Eurasian Water-Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



Non-native

Highly invasive plant, able to form dense mats near the surface that entangle motor boat propellers and interfere with swimming. Spread by watercraft and trailers.

- Delicate feather-like leaves. Leaflets are mostly the same length.
- Leaves are usually limp when out of water.
- Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of 3 to 5 around stem.
- Usually 12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf.
- Long spaghetti-like stems.

If you suspect a new infestation, report it to your local DNR service center.

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LP/04

Northern Water-Milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)



One of the seven native milfoils found in Wisconsin. A valuable plant that offers shade, shelter and foraging opportunities for fish.

- Rigid feather-like leaves forming a Christmas tree shape. The lower leaflets are usually quite long.
- Leaves usually stiff when out of water.
- Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of 4 to 6 around stem.
- Usually 7 to 10 leaflet pairs per leaf.
- Stem is usually whitish or whitish green in color.

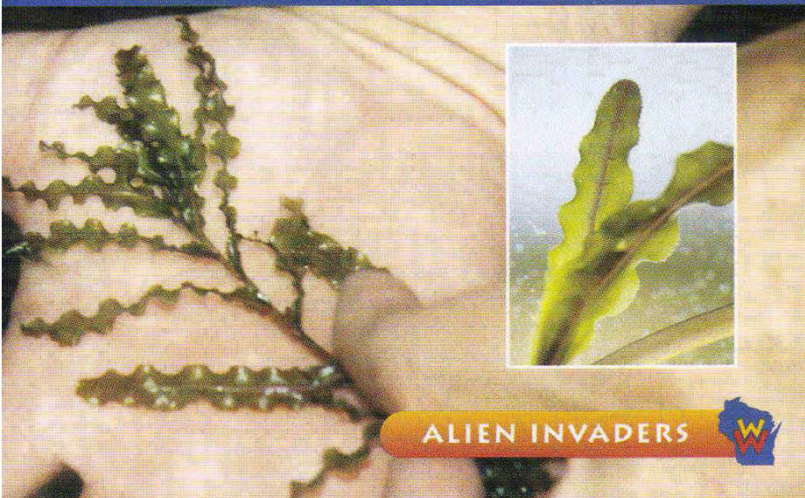


UW Extension
PUB-WT-394 2004



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ALIEN INVADERS



CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

Potamogeton crispus

WHAT IS IT?

This underwater plant usually grows in lake water 3 to 10 feet deep. Its wavy leaves with fine-toothed edges make it appear "crispy." It was accidentally introduced when common carp were stocked in North America.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

This invader grows well in cold temperatures, even under ice. It begins early in the spring, and shades out native plants, forming dense mats that make it tough to boat or swim. When curly-leaf pondweed dies back in mid-summer it releases nutrients, which can cause algal blooms and other problems. It's easily spread by boats and trailers.

MANAGEMENT

- Physical removal (DNR permit required except for raking and hand-cutting)
- Aquatic herbicides (with DNR permit only)

WILD!

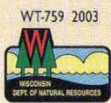
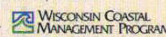
This plant peaks by Memorial Day, often dying back by the 4th of July!

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/invasives

Main photo: V. Ramey, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida

Inset photo: F. Koshere, WI DNR

Recycled paper



WT-759 2003

ACTIONS WINDIGO PROPERTY OWNERS CAN TAKE TO DETER INVASIVE SPECIES

By now, most Windigo property owners are aware that many lakes in Sawyer County have been afflicted with a variety of invasive species including beautiful Lac Courte Oreilles, a short distance from us. The dire condition at that lake is best depicted by this photo and the words of its lake association:

If we do nothing, the days of coming to the lake and just enjoying the pristine beauty and clean water will be gone.

Lac Courte Oreilles is at the tipping point of an irreversible decline in water quality. The threats are real and they are compounding. Excessive algae and weeds are seen in the water and on the shorelines in places they have never been seen before.

COLA (Courte Oreilles Lake Association), your lake organization, has aggressively addressed water quality issues to maintain and enhance your lake experience. The financial costs are substantial.

Invasive species right now are trying to damage our fragile water quality here on the lake we all love!

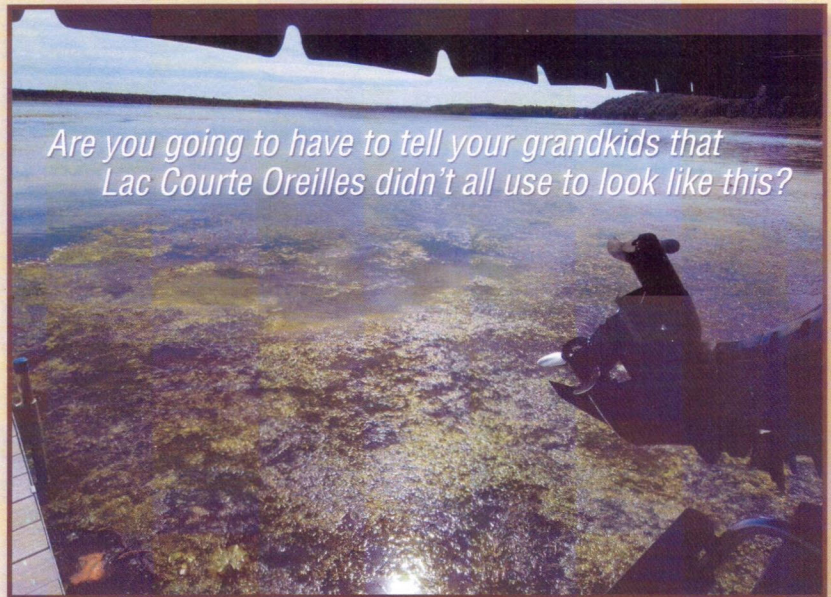


Photo and text by COLA

With the above words, all of us have been warned about the threat caused by invasive species and your association is responding with a variety of actions. Nevertheless, our lake needs the help from every property owner to assist in efforts to deter the invasive species. It is presently believed that the lake is free of the noxious weeds and this may be the result of the longstanding effort by lake owners to maintain the "natural or seamless" shoreline which mirrors the shoreline of our beautiful island. Professionals who have surveyed the lake have expressed the opinion that one of the reasons the lake is without harmful plant life is that our natural shoreline screens out nutrients upon which the invasive species needs to grow. The natural shoreline benefits the shoreline owner in significant ways:

Water Quality: Shoreline vegetation traps and filters sediment and debris from rainfall and snow melt.

Shoreline Stability: Native plants can help stabilize shorelines and reduce erosion. In the water, aquatic plants, such as water lilies and pickerel weed, help protect shorelines by deflecting and absorbing the cutting action of waves, ice and boat wakes.

Aquatic Habitat: Shorelands protect aquatic habitat by improving the quality of adjacent waters through shading, filtering, and moderating water flow.

Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat: Shorelands are a place of transition where a variety of creatures from land, air and water live together.

Property Values: A study found that good water quality, which natural shorelands help to protect, added as much as \$200 per frontage foot to the value of shoreland properties.

(<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Protecting-and-Restoring-Shorelands-P598.aspx>)

What is clear is that all of us should continue what we have been doing including:

- maintaining a natural shoreline;
- encouraging all plant growth along the shores of Windigo;
- planting trees and shrubs, keeping in mind that trees do not block the view, but are part of the view;
- monitoring for invasive species and reporting suspicious plants to the DNR or Sawyer County Conservation Department.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping Windigo beautiful!

WLPOA