

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day: Wisconsin residents invited to help search Wisconsin's waters for invasive species on August 19<sup>th</sup>**

Water lovers of all ages are invited to join the statewide search for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This fun, hands-on effort, known as AIS Snapshot Day, relies on volunteers to monitor streams, lakes, and wetlands at designated sites across the state, for signs of non-native plants and animals that pose risks to Wisconsin waterways and wildlife. Volunteers have a choice to register at one of over twenty event locations hosted by local conservation groups.

Coordinated in partnership by UW-Madison Division of Extension, UW-Stevens Point Extension Lakes, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Snapshot Day is entering its' 10th successful year. Information collected will be provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to inform and guide monitoring and response efforts. Volunteers are key to the success of the event.

"Projects like AIS Snapshot Day are a fun and simple way for volunteers to get engaged and for the local site leaders and DNR to collaborate" says Maureen Ferry, DNR AIS Monitoring Coordinator. "DNR has a long list of sites with suspected but unverified AIS that AIS Snapshot Day monitoring targets. This increases the chances of volunteers finding a species. Plus, each year, we make new detections."

Last year over 150 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to monitor at more than 234 sites across the state making for a fun and safe event.

This is a free event. Recommended for ages 8 and up, minors must be accompanied by an adult.

EVENT DETAILS:

Saturday, August 19th

8:30 am-12:30 pm

\*time may vary by location

REGISTRATION:

Register and see all event details at: <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/events/>

Advance registration is requested to help Site Leaders build monitoring plans.