



April 22nd, 2020

Dear Friends,

As you may know an invasive plant species, curly leaf pondweed, CLP, has infested Rice Lake in the Turtle River Watershed. It was first detected in 2014 and has since spread into the Turtle River downstream of Rice Lake, and “pioneer” plants were discovered in Pike Lake last fall. Several methods of removing this plant have been tried unsuccessfully over the past six years. The only realistic method of exterminating them is to hand pull. That will take an all-hands-on-deck operation.



Curly Leaf Pondweed

The Great Pondweed Pull

That is why we are writing to you today. We need people, boats and equipment to achieve this goal. **This is an incredibly important project. We must stop this invasive and keep it from spreading downstream to the Lake of the Falls and the Turtle Flambeau Flowage**

We have attached a volunteer form which you can either fill out on line and return or mail it to:

Iron County Lakes and Rivers Alliance, Inc
7812N Quill Point Road
Mercer, WI 54547

The Plan

There two components to this plan:

1. Remove pioneer plants from Pike Lake and the Turtle River between Rice Lake and Pike Lake. This portion of the plan is being funded through a Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response grant. The first activity will be a survey of the river and Pike Lake to determine both the health of the lake and the prevalence and location of CLP on or about June 1st. That will take contracted specialists about one day. The next day our volunteers will locate and pull the pioneers. Pulling can be done by hand in shallow waters or by using a weed rake from a small boat. The harvested weeds will be placed in large onion bags and deposited at a designated shore location.
2. During this same timeframe Carol Warden, University of Wisconsin Extension Invasive Species Specialist, will do a survey of Rice Lake. This survey will take about two days, after which our volunteers will pull the weeds in the same manner as in Pike Lake and the Turtle River. Because the lake has a very large population of CLP, the pulling process will take several days to accomplish. Therefore we need lots of volunteers.

The pulling activities will be carefully administered to maintain “more than safe” social distancing.

Small boats, canoes or open kayaks are needed. No motors. We also need water weed rakes .

Pulling can also be done by wading with or without waders as water temperatures dictate. Also needed are on-shore helpers to gather bags of weeds , drive tucks, help to clean boats and help with pulling assignments.

We anticipate that an on-line puller training session will be available on or about May 23rd. A detailed schedule of activities will be forthcoming to volunteers in the next few days.

Thanks to all who can help.

Iron County Lakes and Rivers Alliance, Inc.

ICLRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership open to lake associations and individuals.