



# Crescent Lake

## Oneida County, Wisconsin

Page 1: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring





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## **Crescent Lake AIS Monitoring**

Field Date: July 14, 2022  
WBIC: 1564200  
Previous AIS Findings: Eurasian Watermilfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Rusty Crayfish, Yellow Iris  
New AIS Findings: Aquatic Forget-Me-Nots  
Field Crew: Aubrey Nycz, AIS Lead Program Assistant, and Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department  
Report By: Madeline Hetland

**Purpose:** Water is Wisconsin's most precious resource. It provides an essential lifeline between wildlife, recreation, public trust resources, agriculture, industry, health and safety, and environmental, urban and rural interests throughout the state. With a growing population and a treasured supply of fresh water, the protection of water for designated and beneficial uses is of paramount importance.

Each year, the Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program staff conducts AIS early detection monitoring and baseline water quality monitoring in Oneida County waterbodies. In addition, staff conducts AIS monitoring at boat landings, rivers, streams, wetlands, roadsides, culverts, and Organisms in Trade. Monitoring takes place from June through September of each year.

AIS early detection monitoring is the most effective approach to locating pioneer populations of WI Chapter NR 40 regulated AIS, species not widely established, and newly introduced species to Wisconsin. Early detection of AIS is crucial for rapid response, containment, management, preventing their spread, and reducing management costs. Implementation of rapid response activities is vital in maintaining the stability of a waterbodies ecosystem services, habitats, fisheries, recreational opportunities, property values, economy, and human health.

Our monitoring program is in collaboration with the DNR, UW Extension's Citizens Lake Monitoring Network Program, and Great Lakes Indian Fish Wildlife Commission. All AIS staff are trained in the in the DNR's AIS monitoring, identification, collection, verification, reporting, and decontamination protocols.

**Areas Observed:** Perimeter of southeast bay's littoral zone, including beaches and boat landings, inlets and outlets, and under and around docks and piers, and other areas identified as most

vulnerable to the introduction of AIS. We also walked down the shoreline on both sides of the portage trail from Emma lake.

**Targeted Chapter NR40 Invasive Species Include:** Asian clams, banded mystery snails, Chinese mystery snails, Faucet Snails, New Zealand mudsnail, quagga mussels, zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, spiny waterfleas, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, flowering rush, non-native phragmites, purple loosestrife, yellow iris, and variegated reed manna grass (*Glyceria Maxima* 'Variegated').

**Other priority species include:** red swamp crayfish, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hops, European frog-bit, yellow floating heart, water chestnut, Brazilian waterweed, Hydrilla, fanwort, parrot feather, water hyacinth, water lettuce, and rock snot.

**Crescent Lake Data:** Crescent Lake, located in the Town of Crescent, Oneida County, is a 616-acre spring lake with a maximum depth of 32 feet (**Figure 1.**). There is one public boat landing on Crescent Lake located on the north end of the lake off of Highway 8 (**Figure 2**). The substrate is 30% sand, 25% gravel, 25% rock, and 20% muck. Along with reporting the depth and substrate, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports that the lake has musky, panfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and walleye.

**Field Notes (weather):** The weather while conducting research on Crescent Lake was sunny and calm. The air temperature was 77 degrees Fahrenheit, and there was 55% humidity. There was little to no wind while we were monitoring on Crescent Lake.

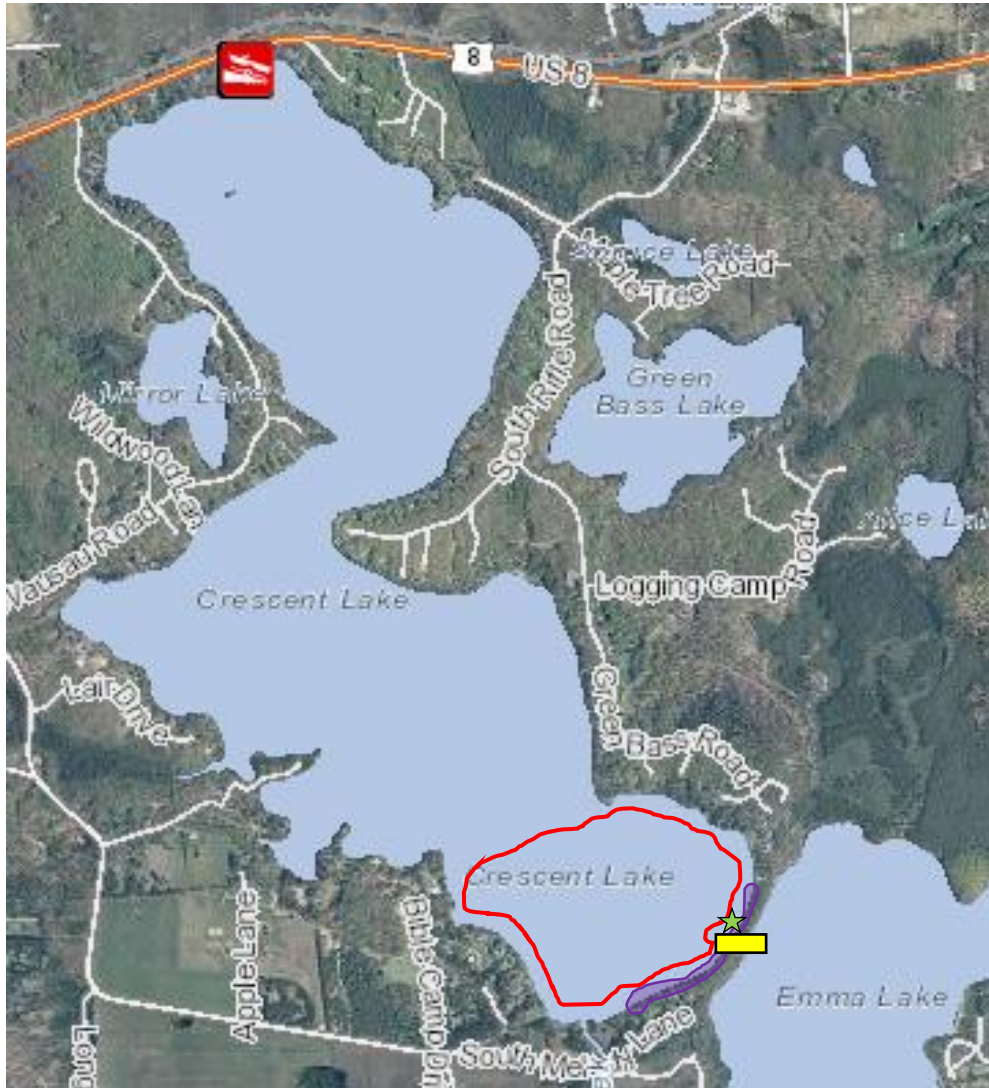
**Field Notes (AIS monitoring):** We completed a visual meander survey around the perimeter of the southeast bay, searching both sides of the canoe, and moving in and out between various water depths. We looked both in the water and along the shoreline on either side of the portage trail coming from Emma Lake, where we launched. Polarized sunglasses were used to aide in looking at the bottom substrate. The water was clear and calm. Previously observed aquatic invasive species include Eurasian Watermilfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Rusty Crayfish, and Yellow Iris. Aquatic Forget-Me-Nots were observed along the shoreline and haven't yet been verified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Because this invasive species has yet to be verified, we collected GPS coordinates of where we found the aquatic forget me nots, took pictures, and collected a plant specimen for submitting to the WDNR. Information on Aquatic Forget-Me-Nots can be found in the AIS Quick Guide in **Appendix A**.

Resources: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=1564200>

Figure 1. Map of Oneida County, WI with Crescent Lake circled in red.



Figure 2. Map of Crescent Lake.



**Map Key**



Boat Landing



Portage to Emma Lake



Area Monitored by Canoe



Area Monitored by Foot



Site of Aquatic Forget-Me-Nots



## ***Aquatic Invasive Species Quick Guide***

*Developed by Oneida County AIS, 2018*

### **Aquatic Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis scorpioides*)**

Aquatic forget-me-not is an herbaceous perennial that grows along streams, rivers, lakeshores, wetlands, marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, springs, ponds, reservoirs, wet soils, moist woodlands, wet meadows, ditches, and gardens. It is a highly competitive plant and reproduces rapidly.



#### **Description:**

- Aquatic forget-me-not grows 4-12 inches tall and blooms continuously from May-September.
- Flowers clustered on an inflorescence. Individual flowers are dainty, sky blue and have five jointed petals with a central yellow eye.
- Leaves are alternate leaves and oblong to lance-shaped. The upper leaf surface is either hairless or sparsely covered with hairs, while the lower surface is sparsely to moderately covered with hairs.

#### **Natural History:**

Aquatic forget-me-not is native to Europe and Asia and was introduced as an ornamental plant for water gardens and ponds and for medicinal cultivation.

#### **Ecosystem Impacts:**

- Thrives in moist locations, crowds out native species and grows in large monocultures.
- Can alter the canopy layer and may reduce nutrients available to native plants.
- Aquatic forget-me-not poses a threat to two threatened and endangered Wisconsin native plants; the threatened intermediate spike sedge (*Eleocharis intermedia*) and the endangered winged monkey flower (*Mimulus alatus*).

#### **Reproduction:**

High! It is capable of abundant reproduction through spreading stolons (runners) and abundant seed production.

#### **Management:**

Management before seeds set is beneficial to long-term control.

- Mechanical Removal: hand pull or dig out. It is important to remove the root system to prevent new growth. Place in a black plastic bag, close tightly and put in the garbage.
- Chemical: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/AquaticForgetMeNot.html>