

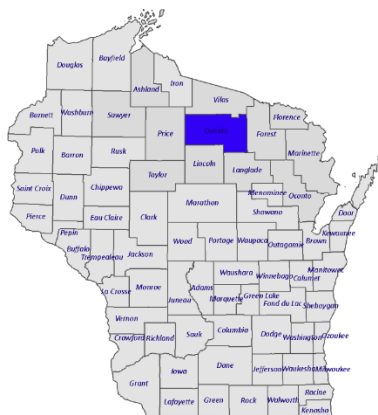


Land & Water Conservation Department

Little Carr Lake

Oneida County, Wisconsin

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Little Carr Lake AIS Monitoring and Water Clarity Report

Field Date: August 17, 2022
WBIC: 998800
Previous AIS Findings: Purple Loosestrife
New AIS Findings: No new AIS found.
Field Crew: Aubrey Nycz, Lead AIS Project 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.

Water quality monitoring provides information on the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of water. Monitoring aims at assessing the environmental state, detecting trends, and identifying potential problems in the water or watershed. The state of water quality is the result of complex natural and manmade conditions and the consequent of those interactions over time. Evaluating trends determines whether water quality is changing relative to land use and natural conditions. Water quality data provides important and useful information to lake groups, local and regional resource managers, community stakeholders, and provides guidance with protecting and enhancing our waters, watersheds and development to new approaches to water quality management.

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 DNR's AIS monitoring, identification, collection, verification, reporting, and decontamination protocols.

Data Collected: AIS identification, live specimens, photos, population densities, distribution, locations and GPS coordinates. Other observations may include species size, characteristics, and impact to native habitat. Water quality data includes Secchi disc, dissolved oxygen, temperature, water characteristics, and GPS coordinates.

Areas Observed: Perimeter of lake's littoral zone, inlets and outlets, around culverts, under and around docks and piers, and other areas identified as most vulnerable to the introduction of AIS.

Methodology: Searching for AIS in the water and along the shoreline is achieved by slowly canoeing around the entire lake's littoral zone, meandering between shallow and maximum rooting depth or 100' from shore (whichever comes first). Additionally, targeted sites considered high risk of invasive species introductions, such as boat landings, access points, parks, beaches, and inlets receive comprehensive AIS monitoring. Several methods and tools are utilized to achieve the survey: survey from the canoe, walking along the shoreline and shallows, using aqua view scopes, snorkeling to examine underwater solid surfaces, sifting through vegetation, and analyzing plant rake samples, veliger tows, and D-net sediment samples.

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.

Little Carr Lake Data: Little Carr Lake, located in the Town of Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, is a 51-acre seepage lake with a maximum depth of 30 feet (**Figure 1.**). There is one public small craft launch (**Figure 2**). The substrate is 25% sand, 10% gravel, 0% rock, and 65% muck. Along with reporting the depth and substrate, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) reports that the lake has Musky, Panfish, Largemouth Bass, and Walleye.

Field Notes (weather): The weather while conducting research on Little Carr Lake was sunny and warm. The air temperature was 78 degrees Fahrenheit. There wind was blowing at 6 miles per hour from the southeast.

Field Notes (AIS monitoring): We entered Little Carr via the large culvert that connects the lake to Big Carr Lake. We completed a visual meander survey around the entire lake's perimeter, searching both sides of the canoe, and moving in and out between various water depths. Polarized sunglasses were

used to aide in looking at the bottom substrate. Throughout our monitoring, we made note of the plants and animals we observed in the process (see **Table 1**). No new aquatic invasive species were observed in Little Carr Lake, but the previously identified Purple Loosestrife has continued to spread down the southern shoreline and around the culvert. We did not observe any Chinese Mystery Snails, although they are present in Big Carr Lake. The waterbodies are connected by a culvert so it is possible for the snails to migrate to Little Carr in the coming years. Information on these species can be found in the *AIS Quick Guide* in **Appendix A**.

Field Notes (water quality monitoring): To observe the water clarity and quality on Little Carr Lake, we used a depth finder and maps indicating where data had been collected in the past to locate the deep hole. We used a Secchi disk to measure water clarity and a dissolved oxygen meter to measure water quality. Oxygen is needed for a healthy fish population, and also for plants to respire at night. The measurements from the dissolved oxygen meter can tell us if the organisms in the lake are under stress. The dissolved oxygen measurements on Little Carr Lake looked healthy. These measurements can be found in **Table 2**. The Secchi disk reading was at 12 feet out of a maximum depth of 34 feet. While the WDNR has the maximum depth listed at 30 feet, we recorded 34 feet on our depth finder.

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

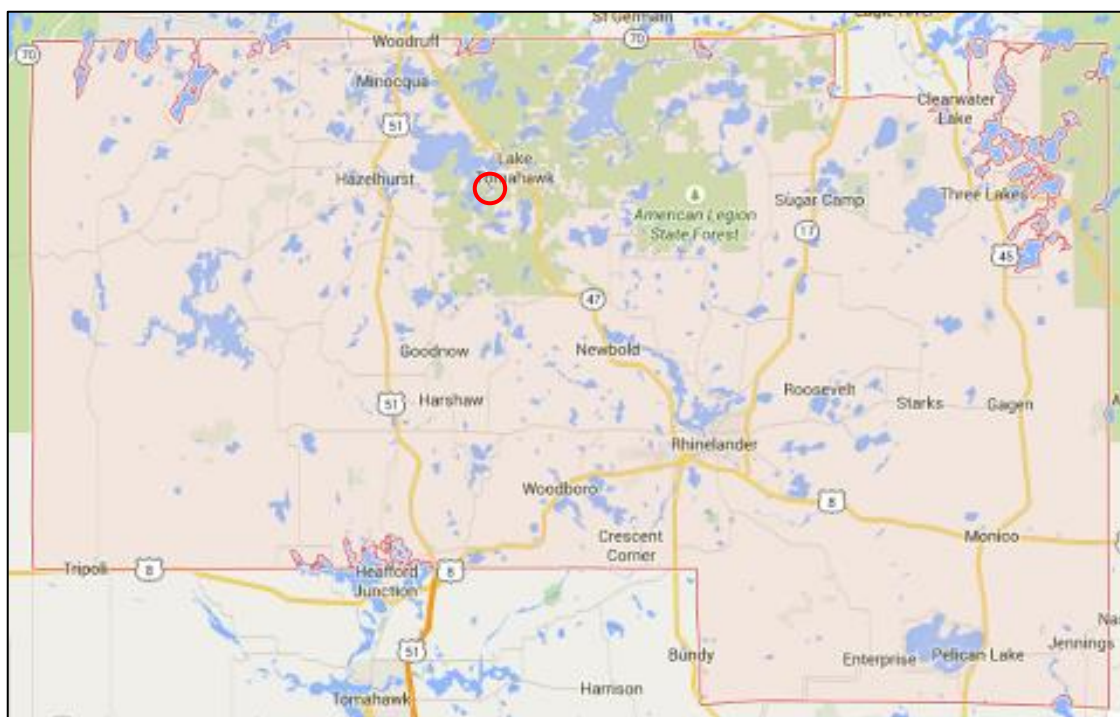


Figure 2. Map of Little Carr Lake.



Map Key



Small Craft Launch



Location of dissolved oxygen and Secchi disk reading

Latitude: 45.802280

Longitude: -89.619478



Culvert/ Launch location

Table 1. Common plants found in Little Carr Lake while monitoring.







<p>Common Bladderwort (<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>)</p> <p>Description: A submerged aquatic plant. Leaves contain small sacks that trap small invertebrates. This plant usually has unrooted stems that easily tangle with other plants, and tends to look cloudy underwater.</p> <p>Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: frenchhill.org</i></p>	
<p>Large Purple Bladderwort (<i>Utricularia purpurea</i>)</p> <p>Description: long stems up to several feet long, often forming large patches. Leaves fine, arranged in whorls of 5-7, with scattered tiny bladders on the tips of the leaves. Flowers are purple, 5-parteed, 2-lipped, the lower lip having three lobes and a yellow spot.</p> <p>Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: Shirley Denton</i></p>	
<p>Pitcher Plant (<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>)</p> <p>Description: A wetland plant that has a very characteristic “pitcher” or cup-shaped leave. Insects climb down into these leaves and become entrapped by fluid and sticky hairs. Once the insect dies it is slowly ingested by the plant.</p> <p>Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: Stephanie Boismenue</i></p>	
<p>Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)</p> <p>Description: A flowering plant with a square or 6-sided stem and smooth leaves. Flowers tend to be a pinkish purple with 6 petals.</p> <p>Status: INVASIVE</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: Dave Britton</i></p>	
<p>Sundew (<i>Drosera spp.</i>)</p> <p>Description: A wetland plant that has flattened green leaves with bright red glands. These glands have a sticky goo to entrap insects that are attracted to the plants fragrance and bright colors.</p> <p>Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: James Henderson</i></p>	
<p>Water Shield (<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>)</p> <p>Description: An aquatic plant with stems up to 2 meters long. This plant has small floating leaves and reddish purple flowers that have 6-8 petals.</p> <p>Status: Native</p> <p><i>Photo Credit: Shannon Sharp</i></p>	

Table 2. Dissolved oxygen levels and temperatures at the deep hole.

Depth (Feet)	Temperature (°F)	Percent of Dissolved Oxygen	Dissolved Oxygen Levels (mg/L)
2	74.5	94.1%	7.65
4	73.4	93.8%	7.72
6	72.9	93.1%	7.70
8	72.5	91.2%	7.56
10	72.1	86.1%	7.16
12	71.7	77.0%	6.43
14	70.3	35.8%	3.00
16	65	4.9%	0.43
18	59.4	1.5%	0.14
20	55.3	0.9%	0.09
22	52.3	0.5%	0.05
24	50.9	0.3%	0.03
26	50.1	0.2%	0.02
28	49.8	0.1%	0.01
30	49.7	0.0%	0.00

Resources: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=998800>

Appendix A. AIS Quick Guides



Aquatic Invasive Species Quick Guide

Chinese Mystery Snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis* Reeve)

Description: Chinese mystery snails are often large, up to nearly 3 inches tall. Shells are typically dark brown, and may have some dark vertical ridges near the opening. The lowermost whorl of the shell is usually much wider than the rest of the shell. At the opening of the shell, a thick, hardened plate called an operculum is able to seal the shell against predators or harmful chemicals in the water. Chinese mystery snails are capable of grazing algae from surfaces and filter-feeding on suspended algae particles.

North American Distribution: Scattered across North America, but they are most abundant in the eastern and central United States.



The Chinese mystery snail can be nearly 3 inches tall.



Chinese mystery snails have a tough plate called an operculum covering the shell opening.

Dispersal Vectors: Native to eastern Asia, Chinese mystery snails were first imported to the U.S. in the late 1800s as a food item in oriental markets. It is believed that some people may have "seeded" these snails into local waterways for later harvest. Chinese mystery snails are also introduced to water gardens for the purpose of clarifying the water and grazing algae from hard surfaces. At any time during summer and fall, each female may contain dozens of small snails at different stages of development. She occasionally gives birth to small batches of live young, complete with shells.

Ecological Impacts: Chinese mystery snails likely compete for food and resources with native snails and other grazers or filter-feeders. Some research studies suggest that impacts to native species may be insignificant. Chinese mystery snails serve as a secondary host for a trematode parasite that has been killing large numbers of waterfowl in the Midwestern U.S. Some larger animals like turtles or muskrats may occasionally feed on Chinese mystery snails.

Control Options: Manual removal of Chinese mystery snails remains the only effective method of control. Of course, the effect on the population depends on the number removed and the total population size. These snails prefer mucky, organic sediments, so manual removal is likely to be a difficult option in many areas.

Chemical control efforts tend to be unsuccessful and have unintended consequences to native snails and/or other animals. Chinese mystery snails can seal up their shells with their operculum, protecting them from unfavorable conditions like chemical pesticides. Most North American snails do not have this ability and would be harmed.



Juvenile Chinese mystery snails, just minutes old.

Additional Information:

Dillon, R. T. Jr., M. Ashton, M. Kohl, W. Reeves, T. Smith, T. Stewart & B. Watson 2013. *The freshwater gastropods of*

North America. <http://www.fwgna.org>.

Global Invasive Species Database. *Bellamya chinensis*.

<http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1812&fr=1&sts=sss&lang=EN>

Photo credit: Paul Skawinski

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Golden Sands
Resource Conservation
& Development Council, Inc.



Aquatic Invasive Species Quick Guide

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.)

Description: Purple loosestrife is a perennial wetland plant in the Lythraceae family, growing to about 8 feet tall. Stems are woody, and 4-sided (rarely 6-sided in very large plants). Leaves are opposite or occasionally in whorls of 3, with smooth margins and no leaf stalk. Each flower has six petals, and many whorls of these flowers bloom at the same time. Large plants may have many pink-purple flower spikes. Fruit capsules contain thousands of seeds each.

North American Distribution: Nearly all U.S. states and the southern Canadian provinces. Reported as far north as 65°N latitude.



Purple loosestrife produces tall flower spikes and stands up to 8 feet tall.

Dispersal Vectors: Purple loosestrife seeds probably arrived in North America from Europe, in heaps of soil used for ship ballast. It also may have been intentionally imported for ornamental use, medicinal use, or use by beekeepers. Large purple loosestrife plants can produce over two million wind-dispersed seeds per year.

Ecological Impacts: Purple loosestrife can rapidly colonize new areas, displacing native vegetative communities. In many wetlands, purple loosestrife has become the dominant species. Nesting habitat quality can decrease as the result of purple loosestrife introduction, reducing the waterfowl and shorebird communities. Some cultivars of purple loosestrife can also hybridize with our native winged loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum*), reducing the native's genetic integrity.

Control Options: Manual removal of small stands of purple loosestrife can be very effective. Plants in moist, soft substrate can often be pulled out by hand, including the roots. Very large plants may require some digging to remove the entire plant. Cutting flowerheads or seedheads can prevent seed dispersal in the short term, but plants will re-sprout from the roots and may produce new flower spikes.

Glyphosate or 2,4-D-based herbicides can be used; they should be approved for aquatic use to avoid unnecessary harm to the ecosystem. For scattered plants, herbicide is best applied with a small bottle and a wicking tip that can be used to "paint" herbicide onto the plants. Cutting the stem near the base and "painting" the cut stem is often effective. Most states require chemical use permits for any herbicide treatments in standing water or wetland situations.

Biological control of purple loosestrife is a widely used, effective method of control. *Galerucella* beetles feed on purple loosestrife without negatively affecting native wetland plants. Many states and organizations offer free assistance to volunteers looking to raise *Galerucella* beetles for local release into infested wetlands.

Additional Information:

Mai, T.K., Lovett-Doust, J., Lovett-Doust, L., and Mulligan, G. A. 1992. The biology of Canadian weeds. 100. *Lythrum salicaria*. Can. J. Plant Sci. 72: 1305-1330

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Purple loosestrife biocontrol. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/loosestrife.html>

Photo credit: Paul Skawinski

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PL-1-14



Purple loosestrife flowers have six wrinkled, pink-purple petals.



Purple loosestrife stems are woody and nearly square.



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Land & Water Conservation Department

Little Carr Lake AIS Monitoring and Water Clarity Report

Field Date: July 13th, 2017
WBIC: 998800
Previous AIS Findings: Purple Loosestrife
New AIS Findings: None
Field Crew: Aubrey Nycz, AIS Project Leader, and Derek Thorn, AIS Project Assistant,
Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department
Report By: Aubrey Nycz and Derek Thorn

On July 13th, 2017, Aubrey and I went to Little Carr Lake to implement AIS monitoring along with water clarity and quality assessments. Little Carr Lake is a 51 acre oligotrophic lake located in Oneida County, with one public, small craft launch (Figure 1 & 2). Little Carr Lake is adjacent to the Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks State Natural Area (Figure 3). The lake has a maximum depth of 22 feet, and the substrate is 25% sand, 10% gravel, 0% rock, and 65% muck. Along with reporting the depth and substrate, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reports that the lake has panfish, largemouth bass, walleye, and musky.

The weather while conducting research on Little Carr Lake was fair. The outside temperature was 73 degrees Fahrenheit, the sky was partly cloudy, and there was little wind. There was no adverse weather to impede our measurements in any way.

When conducting our AIS lake survey, Derek and I did a complete shoreline scan while meandering in and out between different depths. We looked on the shoreline itself and also in the water, noting the plants and animals we had observed in the process. When possible, we got in the water and used the aqua scopes to have a closer look at the bottom composition.

To observe the water clarity and quality of Little Carr Lake, Derek and I went to the deep hole to obtain data information. After locating the deep hole with our sonar unit, we used a Secchi disk to measure

clarity and a dissolved oxygen meter to measure water health. Oxygen is needed for a healthy fish population, and also for plants to respire at night as well. The measurements from the dissolved oxygen meter can tell us if the organisms in the lake would be under stress. Thankfully, both of these measurements were relatively average in nature, and there should be no concern for the health of Little Carr Lake. The Secchi disk reading was 9 feet, and the dissolved oxygen readings can be found in table 2.

Derek and I did not observe any new invasive species while on Little Carr Lake. We did, however, observe purple loosestrife, along the south end of the lake. The purple loosestrife on the lake is being monitored by our AIS team, and it has been treated with beetles the past two years. We plan to continue monitoring Little Carr Lake in the coming years. Other than the purple loosestrife, this waterbody seems to be healthy, and many native plants were present and thriving. The four most common plants that we observed were Bullhead Pond Lily, Purple Loosestrife, Watershield, and White Water Lily. These plants can be seen below in table 1.

Findings: Taken between 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. on July 13th, 2017

Aquatic Invasive Species: We did not find any new invasive species along the perimeter of Little Carr Lake.

Secchi: The Secchi reading on this lake was 9 feet out of a 22 foot maximum depth. The water color was a murky, dark blue color.

Dissolved Oxygen: These measurements can be seen in Table 2.

Figure 1. Map of Oneida County, WI with Little Carr Lake circled in red (approximate location)



Figure 2. Map of Little Carr Lake with the location of the Secchi disk reading labeled.

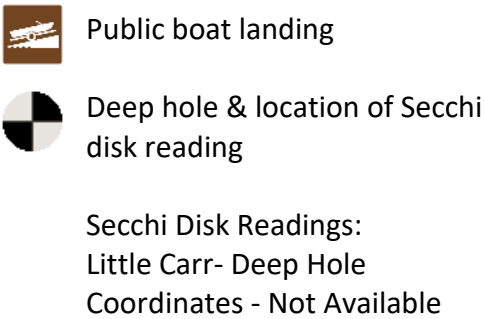


Figure 3. Map of Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks State Natural Area

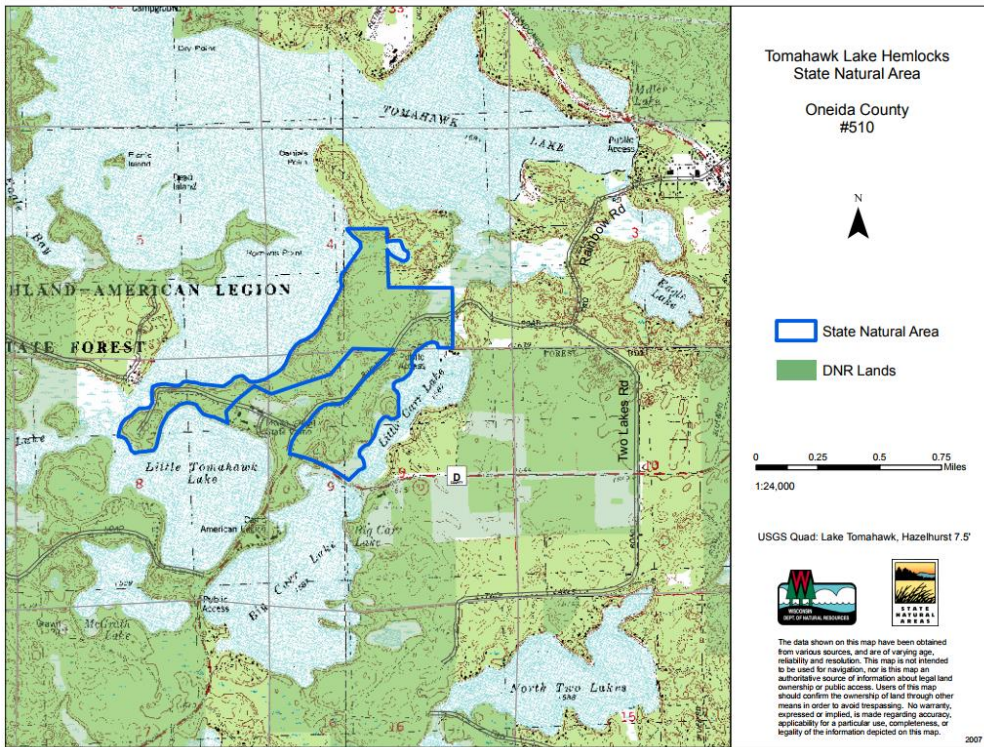




Table 1. Plants found in Little Carr Lake when monitoring.

Common Name	Scientific Plant Name	Description	Image
Bullhead Pond Lily (Spatterdock)	<i>Nuphar variegata</i>	An aquatic plant with heart-shaped leaves that can grow to be 15inches long. This plant also has a yellow, cup-shaped flower. This plant is native.	 Photo Credit: Jomegat's Weblog
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	A flowering plant with a square or 6-sided stem and smooth leaves. Flowers tend to be a pinkish purple with 6 petals. This plant is invasive!	 Photo Credit: Dave Britton



Water Shield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	An aquatic plant with stems up to 2 meters long. This plant has small floating leaves and reddish purple flowers that have 6-8 petals. This plant is native.	 <p>Photo Credit: Shannon Sharp</p>
White Water Lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	An aquatic plant that has large, round leaves that can grow to be 12 inches in diameter. White water lilies also have large, white flowers with many petals. This plant is native.	 <p>Photo Credit: Joseph A. Marcus</p>

Table 2. Dissolved oxygen levels and temperatures taken at the deep hole.

Depth (Feet)	Dissolved Oxygen Levels (mg/L)	Temperature (F)	Percent Dissolved Oxygen
2	8.16	73.7	100.5
4	8.06	74.3	100.0
6	7.99	74.5	99.4
8	6.9	73.8	85.2
10	7.10	72.4	86.3
12	5.95	70.2	70.7
14	2.8	67.1	32.1



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Little Carr Lake AIS Monitoring and Water Clarity Report

WBIC: 998800
Previous AIS Findings: Purple Loosestrife
New AIS Findings: None
Field Date: July 13, 2016
Field Crew: Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator, and Abbi Bowman, AIS Project Assistant, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department
Report By: Abbi Bowman

Stephanie and I monitored Little Carr Lake on July 13, 2016. Little Carr Lake is located just outside of Lake Tomahawk, WI on County Road D between Highway 47 and Highway 51 in Oneida County (Figure 1). It is a seepage lake of 51 acres with a maximum depth of 30 feet. The substrate on the lake is 65% muck, 25% sand, and 10% gravel. There are plenty of fish species that dominate this lake which include but is not limited to Musky, Panfish, Largemouth Bass, and Walleye. Little Carr Lake's trophic state is listed as mesotrophic. Mesotrophic lakes are lakes with an intermediate level of productivity, which generally produces clear water, beds of submerged aquatic plants, and average levels of nutrients. For being such a small waterbody, Little Carr Lake is commonly influenced by steady water traffic with help from its connecting sister lake, Big Carr Lake. Heavy boat traffic can lead to large amounts of wildlife disruption and shoreline erosion if improperly cared for.

There is only one public boat landing on all of Little Carr Lake located directly off of County D, however, we launched from a private landing located down Rainbow Rd. just off of County D. This private land is owned by the Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks State Natural Area located within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. The landing itself is down a short passage through the woods with logs to assist you in lowering the canoe up and down the hills present. We used aqua scopes to observe the boat landing's shoreline for any possible invasives, and then continued to canoe the perimeter of a little over half the lake. The weather was rather rough and uncooperative for us this day; the wind was blowing uncontrollably, dark storm clouds rolled in fast, and a downpour of rain started right after we had gotten off the water. Due to these conditions, we were unable to get a Secchi reading or take any water clarity tests, but we were successful in locating the deep hole for future reference.

We used an already existing contour map of Little Carr Lake to assist us in finding the deep hole, and then further used the depth finder to bring us to the exact point of 30 feet to gather the most accurate data. Stephanie navigated the canoe until we found a good anchoring point, but it was so windy, we were unable to get any accurate readings for the dissolved oxygen levels and temperature readings. From here, we paddled back to shore, examined a bit more of the shoreline for invasive species, and then called it a day before the storm hit.

In the time we spent monitoring Little Carr Lake, we did visual inspections from the canoe the majority of the time. Although Purple Loosestrife has previously been found on this lake, we found several colonies around the shoreline that we made sure to mark using our GPS coordinates so we are easily able to go back to these points in the future for restoration or removal. One of the colonies we found was located right on a rented cabin's beachside. We informed the renters of the Purple Loosestrife and the damage it does as an invasive. We also stopped several times to get out of the canoe and search along the shore for snails, mussels, crayfish, and any other potential invasives. In addition to finding the Purple Loosestrife plants, we also found (but does not limit the entire plant/animal species of Little Carr Lake to our findings) a very thriving and diverse native plant community spread across the lake's shoreline. Purple Loosestrife was the only invasive species we came across in our findings.

Findings:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

Unfortunately, we spotted numerous Purple Loosestrife plants/colonies scattered around Little Carr Lake's shoreline. While Purple Loosestrife has already been documented on this waterbody, we are hoping it has not spread from previous years.

Secchi:

We were unable to take the Secchi reading due to heavy wind conditions.

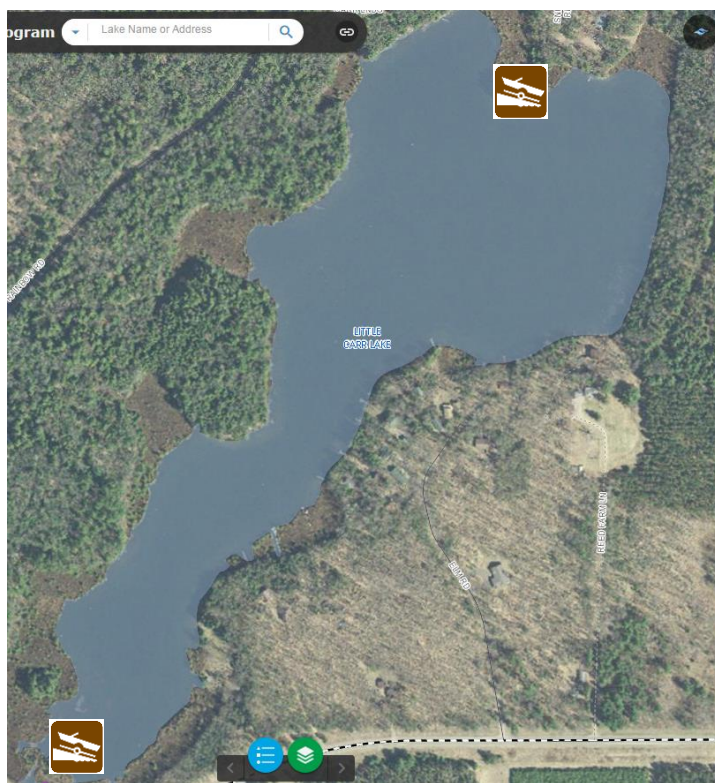
Dissolved Oxygen:

We were unable to take the dissolved oxygen levels due to heavy wind conditions.

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



Figure 2. Map of Little Carr Lake; need to map out Purple Loosestrife coordinates and gather the Secchi reading and dissolved oxygen/temperature levels



Little Carr Lake - Deep Hole Latitude 45.80 Longitude -89.62

Resources: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=998800&page=facts>