

## Mississippi Lake Invasive Plants Monitoring Exercise 2017

Between August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, members of the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists as well as the Mississippi Lake Association participated in an invasive species monitoring exercise on Mississippi Lake. Participants were given a short presentation at the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority office on invasive species possibly present in the lake, briefed on sampling protocol and given field kits and a bay/area to target. Participants were free to sample at their convenience until mid-September. The areas targeted this year were Kinch Bay, Kings Bay, McGibbons Bay, McEwen Bay, Hunters Bay, Pretties Bay, Code Bay, Mallochs Bay and Innisville Rapids.

Four different invasive plants were found, including curly-leaf pondweed, European frogbit, purple loosestrife and phragmites. This should not be considered, by any means, to be an exhaustive list of invasive plants in Mississippi Lake. The purpose of the exercise was to increase awareness through community involvement and to hopefully inspire similar initiatives in the future.

| Invasive Plants Found                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p><b>Eurasian Water Milfoil</b> (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>)</p> <p>Location: Mallochs Bay</p> <p>Abundance: Scattered</p>                                                                   | <p><b>European Frogbit</b> (<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>)</p> <p>Locations: McGibbons Bay, Pretties Bay, Kinch Bay, Code Bay, Innisville</p> <p>Abundance: Dense Patches; Single Plant in Pretties Bay</p>  |
| <p><b>Purple Loosestrife</b> (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)</p> <p>Location: McGibbons Bay, McEwen Bay, Pretties Bay, Kings Bay, Hunters Bay, Red Rock, Beckshore</p> <p>Abundance: Scattered</p>  | <p><b>Invasive Phragmites</b> (<i>Phragmites australis</i>)</p>                                                                                                                                               |

Volunteers returned with samples of native plants as well, including coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), northern watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), sago pondweed (*Stuckenia pectinata*), common waterweed (*Elodia canadensis*), common duckweed (*Lemnoideae*), star duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*), flat-stemmed pondweed (*Potamogeton zosteriformus*), water marigold (*Megalodonta beekii*), spotted joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*) and pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*). In many instances, northern watermilfoil and coontail were mistaken for European watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and common waterweed was mistaken for hydrilla.

## Acknowledgements

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