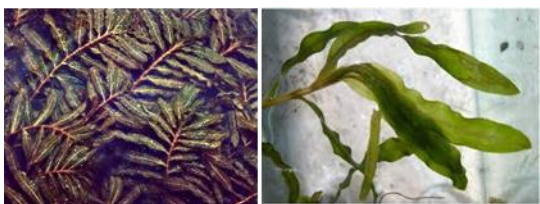


Mississippi Lake Invasive Plants Monitoring Exercise

On July 10th, 2016, members of the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists participated in an invasive species monitoring exercise on Mississippi Lake. In the morning, 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. Participants then split up into groups and went to five different locations on Mississippi Lake (Kinch Bay, Kings Bay, McGibbons Bay, McEwen Bay and Innisville Rapids) to search for invasive species.

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	
Curly-Leaf Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>) Locations: McEwen Bay & Innisville Rapids Abundance: Scattered 	European Frogbit (<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>) Locations: McGibbons Bay, McEwen Bay, Kings Bay, Kinch Bay Abundance: Scattered; Dense in Kinch Bay 
Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>) Location: McGibbons Bay Abundance: Single Plant 	Invasive Phragmites (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) Location: Innisville Rapids Abundance: Single Plant 

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 beckii*), 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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