

# Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



## April 2024

Trout Parasite Discovered, Aquatic Plant Explorer, & Upcoming Trainings

Amanda Schmitz:

Email: [amanda.schmitz@washcowisconsin.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisconsin.gov) or [aschmitz@waukesha.wisconsin.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukesha.wisconsin.gov)

[Washington County Website](#)

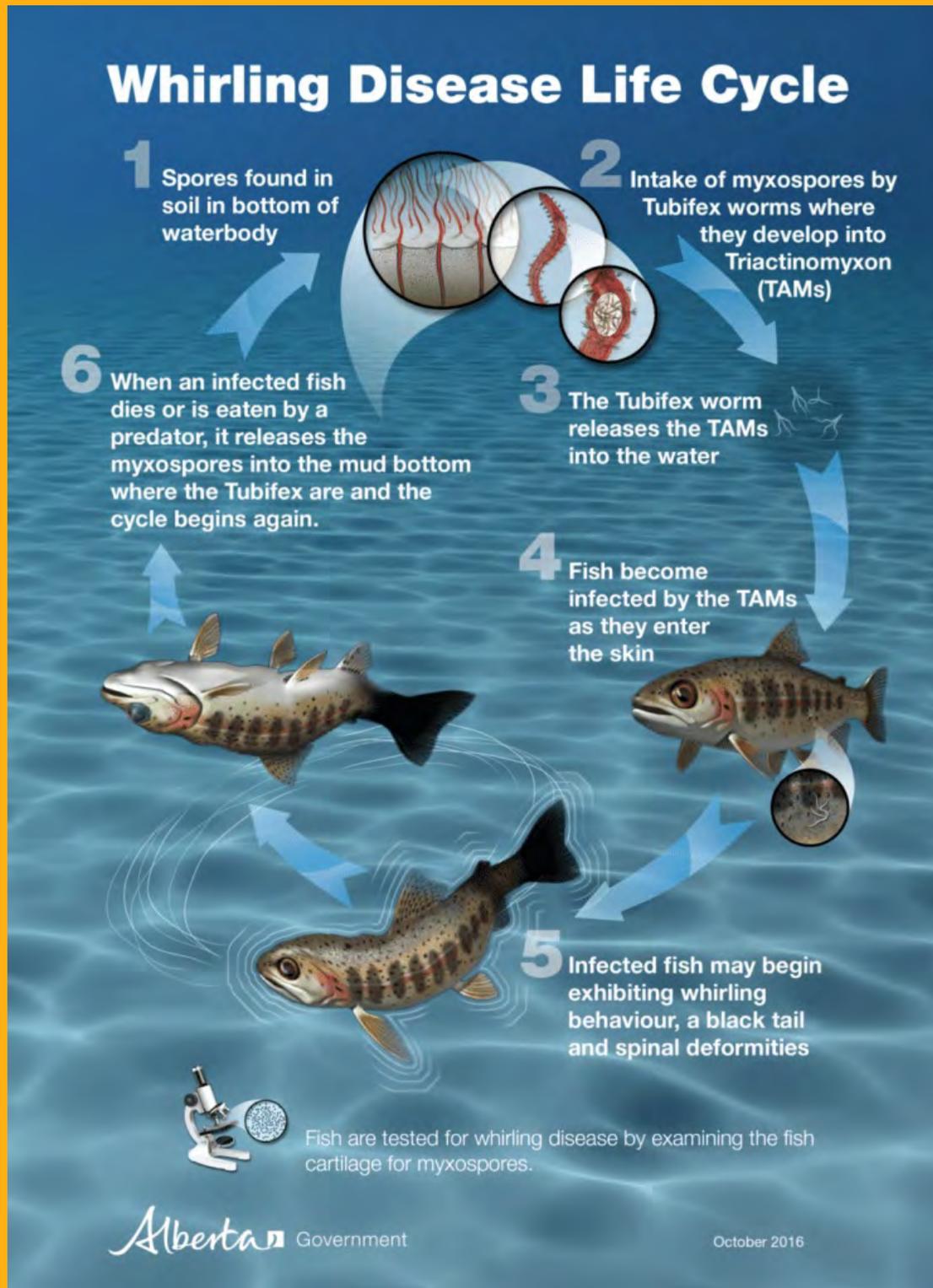
[Waukesha County Website](#)

*Attention Water Users! As you start your recreation season on the water, I want to remind you to not only be safe but continue to be on the lookout for plants or animals that you do not recognize to report potential AIS as soon as possible! Please reach out to me at the above emails or at (262) 483-9687 with any suspicious species. Safe and happy boating! - Amanda*

## Parasite Discovered in Wild Wisconsin Trout

The Wisconsin DNR has announced the discovery of an aquatic parasite, [Myxobolus cerebralis](#), in Langlade County. This previously undetected parasite

damages the cartilage and nerve tissue of trout and salmon and has been known to cause [whirling disease](#).



"It is unknown how *Myxobolus cerebralis* will impact our local trout populations at this time" said Justine Hasz, DNR Fisheries Management Bureau Director. "In some states where the parasite has been found, trout and salmon have developed whirling disease, which has negatively impacted their local populations. However, other states with the parasite have seen no evidence of fish with whirling disease nor have they seen their trout and salmon populations impacted."

*Myxobolus cerebralis* is only capable of infecting trout and salmon. It cannot infect other fish species and poses no threat to humans or household pets like

cats and dogs. However, it is generally recommended that anglers never consume fish that appear sick or diseased.



Brown Trout with black, deformed tail.

### *Brown Trout exhibiting signs of Whirling Disease*

Like many aquatic invasive species, this parasite is nearly impossible to eradicate once it has been established, but steps can be taken to limit the spread. The DNR is reminding anglers of the importance of cleaning and disinfecting their gear after fishing.

Anglers are also encouraged to wear rubber-bottomed boots or waders. All water, vegetation, and/or mud that may contain the parasite should be removed at streamside, followed by a thorough cleaning. All equipment including boats, trailers, boots, waders, nets, and float tubes should be dried completely before being used again.

It is also important to not dispose of fish tissue or by-products into bodies of water to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and other fish diseases.

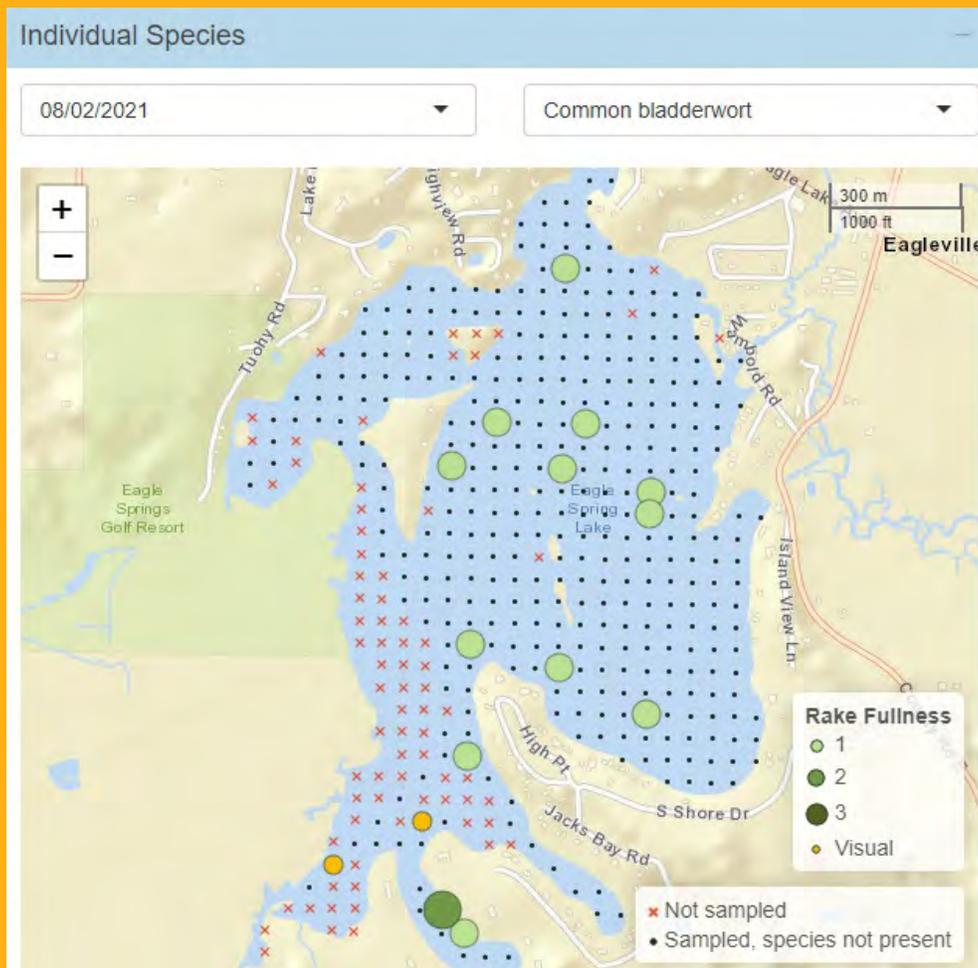
If you think you have caught a fish exhibiting symptoms of Whirling Disease, please contact myself or [your local DNR office](#) to report it.

Amanda Schmitz - (262) 483-9687 or  
[amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov)  
[aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov)

## **APEX - Aquatic Plant Explorer**

The Wisconsin DNR has recently launched a new application that allows folks to view aquatic plant data from waterbodies across the state. This tool incorporates Point Intercept survey data into a GIS map setting, allowing you to view waterbody plant data as a whole or on a species-specific level.

APEX also graphs changes in abundance of particular plants over time and evaluates the overall condition of aquatic plant populations in a waterbody.



*APEX map showing Common Bladderwort populations in Eagle Spring Lake*

Curious about your lake? Take a look!

Visit APEX

## Upcoming Trainings

### Clean Boats, Clean Waters

In-person CBCW trainings:

- **Thursday, April 25th at 5pm - [Big Cedar Lake PRD \(4480 Goring Dr., West Bend, WI 53095\)](#)**
- **Wednesday, May 15th at 5pm - [Retzer Nature Center \(S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53188\)](#)**

Virtual CBCW training:

- **Thursday, May 9th at 6pm** via Microsoft Teams.

Click here for virtual training sign up



These trainings are free and open to the public.

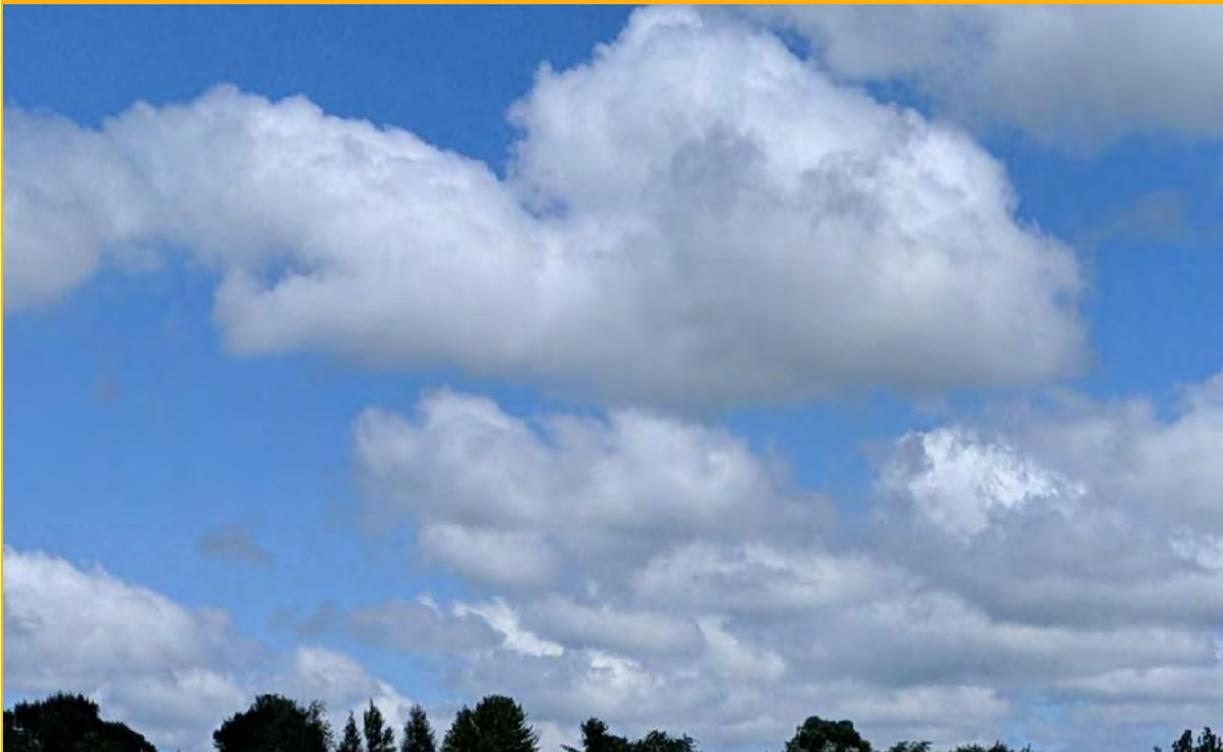
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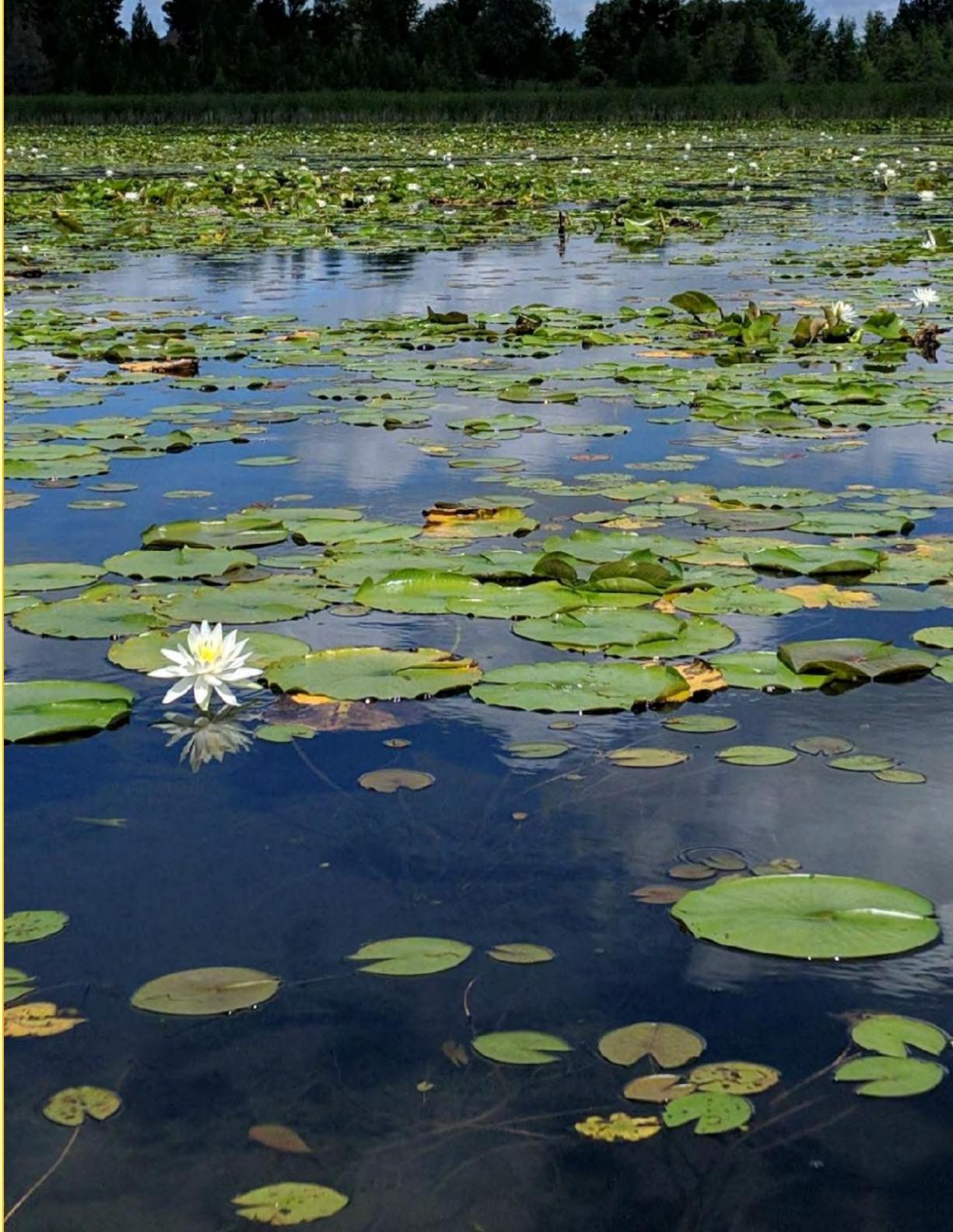
## Citizen Lake Monitoring Network



Are you interested in getting involved in Citizen Lake Monitoring, or a volunteer just looking for a refresher? Join us on **Friday, May 17th** from 9am-12pm at the [Waukesha WDNR Office - 151 NW Barstow St \(Room #151\), Waukesha, WI 53188](#)

This training is free, open to the public, and does not require pre-registration.





Please Click Here to  
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*The Aquatic Invasive Species Program is a cooperative effort between Washington & Waukesha Counties, supported by grant funds from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a number of generous local lake groups working to control the spread of AIS.*

*Thank you for your support!*

For more information:

Email: [amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov)  
[aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov)

Washington County  
262-335-4806  
[www.washcowisco.gov](http://www.washcowisco.gov)

Waukesha County  
262-548-7818  
[www.waukeshacounty.gov/ais](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/ais)

Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use | 515 W. Moreland Blvd. AC230,  
Waukesha, WI 53188

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[adifrances@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:adifrances@waukeshacounty.gov)

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Sent by [aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov)