

Invasive Species

- Introduction Becky Norris
- Eurasian Watermilfoil Becky Norris
- Phragmites Australis Sharon Vreeland
- Purple Loosestrife Leslie Meyers

Introduction (1)

- Invasive species typically have no natural predators in the local environment.
- This leads to their out-competing and replacing the native varieties.
- Loss of native species impacts the food chain, causes degradation of wildlife habitat, and adversely affects the economy of communities largely dependant upon the tourist trade.

Introduction (2)

- We have chosen from among the thousands of invasive species affecting our country to speak about three that are particularly relevant to our local area:
 - Eurasian Watermilfoil
 - Phragmites Australis
 - Purple Loosestrife

Eurasian Watermilfoil



Comparing Eurasian and Native Watermilfoil Plants



EWM in Elk River Chain of Lakes

- Six Mile Lake (extensive)
- Hanley Lake (extensive)
- Clam River (Butch's Marina)
- Torch Lake (cove between Stony & Lone Tree Points)
- Torch Lake (Alden Harbor)
- Lake Michigan (Elk Rapids Harbor)

Tools to Prevent EWM

- Check boats & trailers for plant materials & remove any before launching boat.
- Discard bait & bilge water away from lake.
- Provide educational signs at launch sites.
- Provide boat washing stations.

Tools to Control EWM

- Herbicides
- Harvesting
- Weevils
- Benthic Light Barriers

What TLA is Doing about EWM

- Herbicide treatment in spring / early summer at Alden Harbor & Butch's Marina.
- Considering benthic barrier deployment in infested cove in Torch Lake & possibly as follow-up for spot regrowth at Alden & Butch's.
- Continual lake-wide surveillance for EWM emergence.