

FBL Forum
May 13, 2021

BOLTON LAKES AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) MANAGEMENT PROGRAM & GRANT

Northeast Aquatic Research, LLC

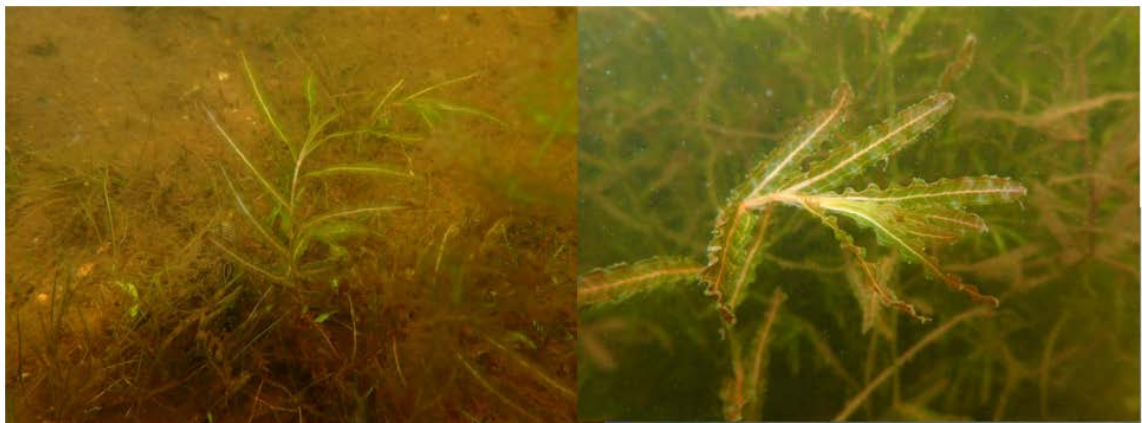
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Limnologist/Soil Scientist
Certified Lake Manager
(NALMS)

The Bolton Lakes AIS management program is a joint effort between the Towns of Bolton, Vernon, and Friends of Bolton Lakes

- AIS prevention & management is a long term commitment
- FBL volunteers are essential
 - Spotting AIS in the lakes
 - Checking incoming boats for plant fragments
 - Talking to neighbors about AIS
 - Communicate to Towns & Lake Manager
 - See something, say something (FBL website plant reporting tool)
- The ongoing AIS management program has been operating under two separate programs (Bolton and Vernon) since about 2012.
- FBL serves as the bridge between the two Towns; 2021 management is coordinated together



AIS in Lower Bolton Lake



Turions: can float around the lake and grow a new bed.



Current Invasive:
Curly-Leaf
Pondweed
Potamogeton crispus

AIS in Middle Bolton Lake

Variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)



VLM photo credit: Solitude

Present in MBL for decades; management is primarily maintenance-based (eradication unlikely at this point)

Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)



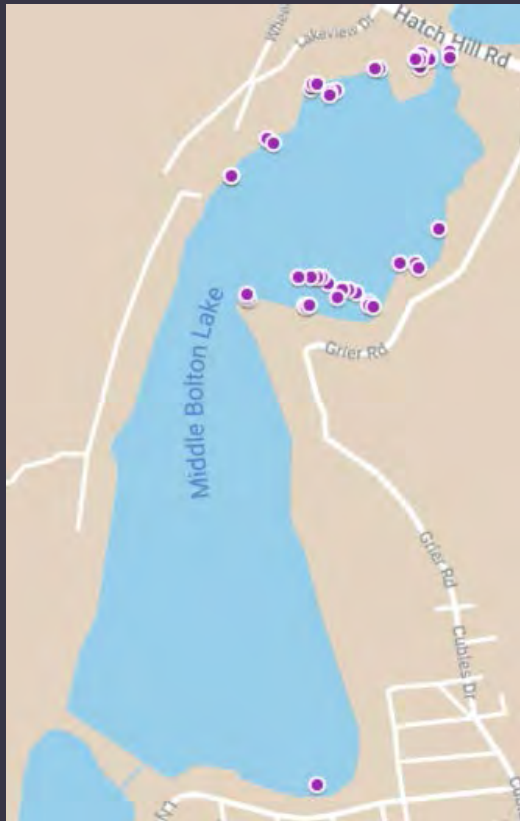
First found in 2017; have since been managing to ERADICATE it from MBL and prevent it from getting into LBL. Very close to 2021 potential eradication, but requires continued vigilance.

Progress against Fanwort at MBL!

- The 2021 AIS grant funding will support the continued management efforts and pick up where we left off!



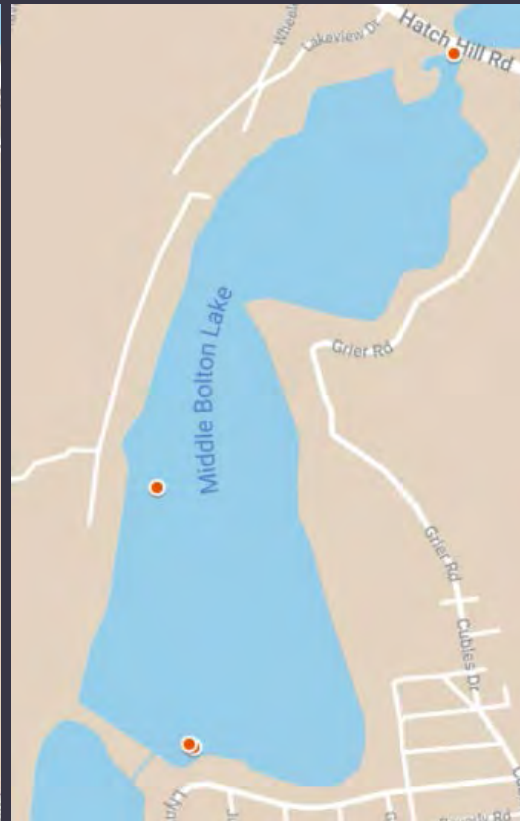
2017



2018



2019



2020



Difficult AIS management at Lower Bolton (but we have a good 2021 plan!)

Curly-leaf pondweed has expanded rapidly in the last two years.

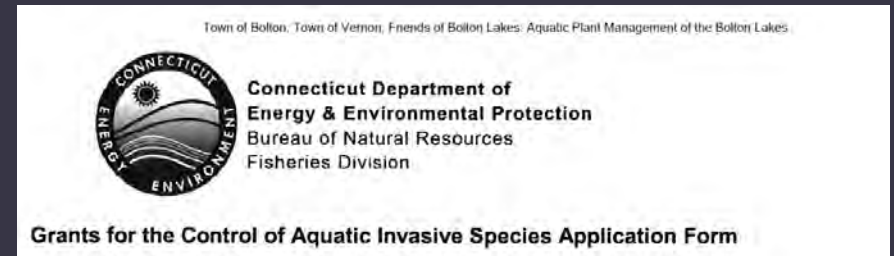
But many of these points from 2020 were "Very Sparse" single plants. The key will be early-season management (most likely herbicide treatment) in 2021 to prevent new areas from taking hold.

Must prevent the establishment of a sediment turion bank to stay ahead of this species.



“ AIS Stamp Act” – Public Act 19-190

- HB 6637 – received substantial support from lake residents, non-profits, professional scientists, etc.
- Bill passed; funds generated from a nominal motorboat-registration “ AIS stamp fee” (\$5 CT/ \$20 out-of-state boaters to operate in CT waters)
- Read all about it on CT DEEP’s website:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/FAQs/FAQ-AIS-Stamp>
- Created the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds Preservation account \$\$\$
- Will serve as an annual source of revenue to specifically tackle AIS and cyanobacteria problems in CT freshwaters; annual grant applications are anticipated
- NEAR drafted the AIS grant application for the Bolton Lakes in January 202; Towns received notice of award on April 8th, 2021



- State AIS Grant funded in amount of **\$24,910.50**
- Towns & FBL Match Amount (including in-kind services) **\$13,233**

What is being funded? / 2021 Plans...

• Lower Bolton

- Early-season aquatic plant survey – search for all Curly-leaf pondweed; follow-up mapping
- Determine management & potential treatment area, finalize permit requirements as needed (already in motion)
- Appropriate AIS management – either herbicide treatment, and/or diver-hand removal/benthic barriers for small isolated patches
- Post-treatment inspection of treatment plants; Fall full aquatic plant survey to find any newly sprouted turions; follow-up mapping & reporting
- Late-season Curly-leaf management as needed.
- Analysis of volunteer-collected water quality samples

• Middle Bolton

- June Fanwort search of all previously known locations
- Mid summer full-lake plant survey and detailed Fanwort/Variable milfoil search
- Follow-up mapping & reporting
- AIS Management action; depending on plants found either small herbicide treatment or benthic barrier
- Post-management aquatic plant survey, native and invasive species
- Analysis of volunteer WQ samples
- Year-end report for Towns, FBL, and DEEP

What is being funded? / 2021 Plans...

Bolton Lakes: Public Outreach & Educational Programs

- Boat launch ambassadors training, supplies, equipment
- Watershed street signage
- Prominent AIS signage
- FBL brochures/handouts/newsletters
- FBL public forums
- Equipment used to detect cyanobacteria and monitor WQ
- FBL Online Portal to Report Potential AIS & Cyanobacteria Blooms
- FBL continued participation in EPA BloomWatch & Cyano-scope programs



https://www.friendsofboltonlakes.org/uploads/3/0/0/0/30007939/final_ais_application_bolton_lakes_2.12.2021_scope_of_work.pdf

Let's have a great year!