Lower Eau Claire Lake- BAISS Boat Report

May 12-22, 2025

The BAISS boat began working on Lower Eau Claire Lake on May 12, 2025. Four divers rotated shifts during the eight days the boat was operating, along with 15 community volunteers. The CLP plants were strong, young plants, not mature and at the best stage for removal at this time. Divers observed no turion formation, making it easier to extract the CLP with roots intact and without the plants falling apart or releasing turions. This was contrary to the conditions in 2024 when the plants were mature and the CLP beds had expanded due the mild winter and early Spring. However, last year's early lake warming provided the opportunity for turions to root around the parent plants, resulting in expanded patches. Many of the CLP plants that were extracted were growing from the turions of previous years.

Divers worked on the two largest beds: 1 & 3. Total number of bags collected: 69.25

For 2026, I recommend a minimum of 4 weeks of early CLP removal on Lower Eau Claire Lake to provide the additional time needed to positively impact the spread and expansion of CLP beyond the confines of the lake. I also recommend consideration of adding a fifth day per week for these four weeks, to increase the potential for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Neff

BAISS Lead