Middle Eau Claire Lake- BAISS Report

July 7- 21, 2025

The BAISS boat began work on Middle Eau Claire Lake on Monday, July 7, 2025. Six and a half days were spent on Middle Eau Claire. The boat’s air compressor failed on Wednesday afternoon, July 9th and two days of work were missed for the repairs. The parts were ordered and the BAISS boat’s wonderful volunteer mechanics rebuilt it. Over the weekend of July 19- 20, the air filter on the vacuum/water pump was also replaced along with a spark plug. BAISS boat divers and volunteers are very grateful for the efforts of the volunteer mechanics!

During the first week on Middle, work was done to remove CLP from the two larger patches (Bed RR) near “Hole in the Wall Bay”. The plants were found to be advanced in their life cycle with many mature turions. They were still upright but with weakening structures, while the native aquatic plants were thriving and at their peak. This created a situation where the robust native plants moving in the currents, contributed to the release of turions. Between that and the CLP roots growing beneath the native roots to crowd them out, extra care was needed to remove the CLP at this stage, making it more cumbersome and time consuming.

Also during the first week on Middle, the CLP Bed was surveyed that is located just south of the sand bar, an area popular for recreation. While some plants and turions were removed the CLP was found to be in such a degraded state that it was counter productive to continue to work there. Although initially 3 bags were removed, no significant progress was made in that area.

After not being able to use the Boat on Monday of the second week due to waiting on the air compressor parts for repair, Tuesday the divers surveyed Bed J, where reports and a photo of CLP plants on the surface had been sent a few weeks earlier, by concerned residents. The CLP in this area was already laying down and in too advanced a state to be removed. The rest of Tuesday was used to remove the still upright CLP in Bed RR and the one adjacent to it by “Hole in the Wall Bay”

Wednesday morning was cancelled due to poor weather conditions with rain and strong wind. In the afternoon the boat was moved to Middle’s largest bed of CLP- Bed TT, in the lake’s NE corner. This area has prolific Flatstem Pondweed as well as other natives such as Coontail, Elodea and Northern Water Milfoil. While the CLP were in an advanced stage, upright plants were found and able to be removed. The BAISS boat worked on Bed TT Wednesday afternoon and Thursday, followed by an additional day of work on Monday to make up for the loss of 2.5 days out of the 8 days scheduled on Middle. The boat was taken out, cleaned and moved to Sand Bar/ Tomahawk lakes after work on Monday, July 21st.

A big Thank you to Plant Biologist, Matt Berg and his Interns for working overtime to create the map files from his recent survey of Middle! It added accuracy of location and saved time for plant removal. Middle Eau Claire had excellent volunteer participation, Thank you!!

Total number of bags collected: 62.5

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Neff

BAISS Lead

Recommendations for Middle Eau Claire Lake 2026: An earlier time frame for the BAISS boat work and 3 weeks minimum to cover more of the plant Bed’s while the CLP is at an earlier, more viable stage.