Upper Eau Claire Lake- BAISS Report

June 9- July 7, 2025

This year on Upper Eau Claire the 7 dedicated BAISS boat divers and many, many wonderful volunteers worked 3 four hour shifts Monday- Thursday for 4 weeks. The 12 hour days proved to be an excellent strategy in the race to combat the speedily maturing Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) and have the greatest possible impact on the plants. There were only 2 partial rain outs and the last day there were some problems with the water pump/vacuum motor shutting down which caused delays.

CLP on the East side of “ Three in One” Island, continues to be out of control. The first two weeks the crew worked to clear a throughway along the island, shoreline and the shallow North end, so that riparian owners could access their docks and people accustomed to fishing along the island would have less chance of disturbing the CLP. Flyers were posted on social media and at the landing, advising people to avoid boating on the East side of the island, or if necessary boating slow/no wake within 75’ of shore. Landing monitors on the Upper are using the posted maps and the identifying picture to let people know the areas to avoid and help them to identify the invasive CLP.

Plant Biologist Matt Berg reported significant expansion of Upper’s CLP beds in ‘25. He recommended clearing Outlet Bay. The delta-like ecosystem in Outlet Bay is similar to Mooney Bay on Lower and CLP could quickly take over this area. Divers removed the CLP from this area and worked on removing plants from the bay by the channel to Devil’s Lake to have the same impact in that Critical Habitat area. Although significant progress was made there, the delays caused by the water pump/vacuum motor malfunctioning meant that the work was not quite completed.

The second largest CLP bed is on the West side of Upper from the corner by Peninsula road extending almost to the old boatlanding on Lake Road. Divers worked on this bed and another one adjacent to it. This is a heavily used area both for fishing and recreation on and near the sand bar. Unfortunately, due to the rapidly warming waters the plants were past their prime. Earlier pulling and substantially more time was needed in these areas.

Total number of bags collected: 195

Recommendations for Upper Eau Claire Lake 2026: Early Chemical treatment of the CLP beds on the East side of the island using a barrier, to impact the invasive CLP and have minimal impact on native plants and riparian owners. Also an earlier time frame for BAISS boat work, 12 hour days for a minimum of 4-5 weeks or possibly adding a 5th day if only 4 weeks are available. The Chemical treatment should create an opportunity for more work to be focused on the smaller patches as well as more extensive work completed on the larger patches.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Neff

BAISS Diver Lead