

Badger Fly Fishers

An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers



Newsletter

November 2014

DNR receives grant for New Zealand mudsnail monitoring

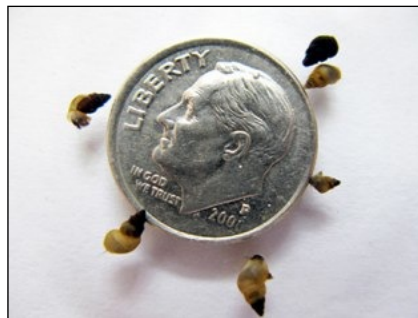
by Wisconsin DNR

MADISON -- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been awarded a \$32,000 grant by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Mississippi River Basin Panel to lead a project that will help determine the distribution of the invasive New Zealand mudsnail in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

The [New Zealand mudsnail](#) was found in Dane County's Black Earth Creek in 2013, the first appearance of the harmful invader in the Midwest outside of the Great Lakes basin. Although it measures just one-eighth of an inch in length, New Zealand mudsnails can multiply quickly through asexual reproduction and outcompete native insects that are used by trout and other fish for food.

Maureen Ferry, a DNR aquatic invasive species monitoring coordinator, said the snail's small size makes them very transferable and once they begin to colonize a new stream, they are difficult to detect with traditional sampling methods.

"The small size of the snails makes them easy to move from stream to stream and their ability to seal their shells allows them to survive out of water for one month, possibly more," Ferry said. "By learning where they are located, we can better target prevention efforts."



Penn State photo

The aquatic invasive species coordinators from Iowa and Illinois agree with the approach.

"We know that Iowa trout anglers fish streams all across the country," said Kim Bogen-schutz, of the Iowa DNR. "Being able to detect a new infestation quickly will help us protect Iowa's valuable streams."

Thanks to the grant, awarded in mid-September, Wisconsin DNR will search for New Zealand mudsnails using environmental DNA surveillance. The technique is especially effective at detecting the presence of the species at low densities where traditional sampling techniques may fail to

find them. A pilot project led by Wisconsin DNR earlier this year helped refine the technique that will be used to carry out the grant work.

The Wisconsin DNR will collaborate with the United States Geological Survey and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to process eDNA samples from 28 sites across Wisconsin and eight sites each in Iowa and Illinois. The work has already started and results will be available by early 2015.

Bob Wakeman, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Wisconsin DNR, said the effort is a prime example of the strong partnerships needed to combat the snails and other invasive species.

"Wisconsin's aquatic invasive species program is based on partnerships, both within the state and throughout the region," Wakeman said. "Our close ties to neighboring states will allow us to understand how widespread the New Zealand mudsnails are, while our relationships with Wisconsin scientists will allow us to efficiently get the necessary eDNA work done."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Wakeman, aquatic invasive species coordinator, 262-574-2149, Robert.Wakeman@wisconsin.gov

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Chainsaws donated to TU

At our October meeting the Badgers' membership approved the donation of two Stihl chainsaws, necessary safety equipment and accessories to the Southern Wisconsin chapter of trout unlimited for their stream-side brushing projects and invasive species removal.

The equipment was presented and used Saturday, November 1st on the Sugar River at the Falk Wells Sugar River Wildlife Area.

If you would like to get involved on future workdays, contact, jim.hess@tds.net,

And by the way, the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association has created a nifty paddlers' map. <http://usrwa.org/wp-content/uploads/US-RWApaddlingmap.pdf>



Photo by Jim Beecher

Bob Harrison (right), Badger Fly Fishers president, presents a pair of chain saws and accessories to SWTU Conservation Committee chair, Jim Hess.

The Badger Fly Fishers Newsletter is published monthly. Articles, photos, information, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month of issue to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St., Madison WI 53711. If possible, Word files sent to: johnson7@tds.net are most appreciated.

Share your thoughts on Wisconsin's fish and wildlife, their habitats, and outdoor recreation

From the Wisconsin DNR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is currently revising two key conservation plans - the [Wildlife Action Plan](#) and [Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Plan \[PDF\]](#). Through completion of an online questionnaire, the public can give the department valuable input regarding Wisconsin's fish and wildlife resources management.

"We take great pride in our efforts to involve the public in our conservation efforts," said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. "These two plans are the driving force behind much of the department's federal funding, and will help Wisconsin continue to provide for such a wide range of outdoor activities."

The Wildlife Action Plan and Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Plan act as a blueprint for how the department will manage and protect Wisconsin's fish and wildlife resources over the next ten years.

The department must complete each plan in order to receive federal funding that will help support healthy, sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. Funding is also key for the creation and maintenance of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state.

Public involvement is a key piece of the puzzle in ensuring the state remains a leader in resource management and protection.

An online survey is one component of a comprehensive public outreach effort associated with updating the Wildlife Action Plan and Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Plan. The survey will close Nov. 14 at midnight.

To complete the survey, click [here](#) or enter this address into your search bar: <http://22.selectsurvey.net/DNR/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=88KK8pm2>.

Translated versions will be made available in both Hmong and Spanish within the next few weeks.

To learn more about the Wildlife Action Plan and the Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Plan, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "[wap10year](#)."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tara Bergeson, DNR conservation biologist, 608-264-6043



Photo by Dan Johnson

Next Meeting:

Monday
November 24th

Matt Wagner - Fishing the Elk River in British Columbia

Matt Wagner of the Driftless Angler Fly Shop has been leading an annual trip to Fernie, British Columbia for the past dozen years. Next year's trip will be in August.

Fernie is about 40 miles above the U.S. border, north of Kalispell, Montana. There are both wading and drifting opportunities on the Elk River and its tributaries. The targets are native Westslope cutthroat and bull trout.

And besides the excellent fishing, Matt's program will highlight the gorgeous scenery of the Rocky Mountains and the Elk Valley.

Come early and join us for dinner too.



Events Calendar

November 18th **WSA Monthly Meeting**

Dan Boggs and Abe Downs of
Blackwater Flyfishing - Fishing the dark water
of the Wisconsin River

November 24th **BFF Monthly Meeting**

Matt Wagner - "The Elk River in British Columbia"

December 16th **BFF - WSA Holiday party**

January 20th **WSA Monthly Meeting**

Brad Simms - Smallmouth fishing in Southwest
Wisconsin streams

January 26th **BFF Monthly Meeting**

Randy Berndt - Fishing the Upper Peninsula

The Badger Fly Fishers' meetings are normally held on the fourth Monday of each month. **The Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance** meets on the third Tuesday. Both groups meet at the Mapletree Restaurant on Highway 51, in McFarland, Wisconsin.

Programs begin at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Visitors and guests are always welcome.