

Lower Nemahbin Lake Starry Stonewort Timeline

August 25, 2019. Starry Stonewort (SSW) discovered at the Waukesha County boat launch, in channel between Upper and Lower Nemahbin Lakes.

September 2019. Survey of Lower Nemahbin, indicates SSW not found elsewhere in the lake. Also, Upper Nemahbin had been surveyed in August 2020 with no SSW found.

September 2019. Discussions among DNR, Lower Nemahbin Lake Association (LNLA), Upper Nemahbin Lake Management District, Waukesha County AIS Coordinator, and Eco Waterway Services (contractor) on whether work should be done immediately or wait until Spring. Decision was to move ahead with a DASH assisted hand pulling of SSW, in view of the localized SSW infestation. Chemical treatment was deemed not practical because of the current in the channel. Approvals received from DNR and Waukesha County and a DNR rapid response grant was secured to cover 75% of the cost.

October 8 to 11, 2019. Hand pulling performed with DASH and turbidity containment curtains at boat launch.

June 22, 2020. First sign of SSW at the boat launch in 2020.

July 2, 2020. Divers inspect the boat launch area. SSW is found adjacent to the boat launch dock and surrounding areas.

July 13, 2020. Decision is made to proceed with hand pulling without DASH so as to (1) reduce the spread to other lakes by SSW clinging to exiting boats/trailers and (2) reduce the spread from the channel downstream into Lower Nemahbin Lake.

July 27, 2020. First hand pulling of 2020. SSW removed, mostly by rolling up 1 foot thick mats of vegetation, in and around boat launch and just south of the freeway bridges at the entrance to Lower Nemahbin. Reproductive bulbils not yet present on the green leaf-like portion of the SSW.

August 6, 2020. Visual inspection (by LNLA volunteer Ed Cohen) of Lower Nemahbin south of the freeway bridges indicates SSW is present in propeller scars where SSW has filled to replace damaged existing vegetation, at least 100 yards south of the bridges.

August 26, 2020. Inspection performed by divers of the launch area and just south of the bridges. Found very little SSW at the boat launch, more SSW south of the bridges.

August 31, 2020. Second hand pulling of 2020. Minor clean-up in launch area, most work performed south of freeway bridges in propeller scarred areas. Areas where SSW was comingled with existing vegetation were left alone.

Week of September 7, 2020. DNR team performs a point intercept survey of Lower Nemahbin and reports no SSW was found.

JRK 9/19/2020