Illinois Needs Heroes: Aquatic Invader Prevention Programs

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Illinois Lake Management Association Conference 2018
Bloomington Illinois
Rambling Presentation Directory

• Background
• Aquatic Pet Take Back Events and Network
• Aquatic Invader Boat Decontamination Zones
• Invasive Crayfish Collaborative
• Some up and Coming Potential Invasives
Combines research, education and outreach to empower southern Lake Michigan communities to secure a healthy environment and economy.

Guardian and recorder of Illinois biological resources. Foster an understanding and appreciation of our natural heritage through outreach.
Transport -> Introduce -> Establish -> Spread -> Impact

Kolar and Lodge 2001
Aquatic Pets and Aquatic Invaders

Commercial activity involving organisms in trade is one of the principal ways in which non-native organisms have been introduced into the Laurentian Great Lakes Keller and Lodge 2007
Organisms in Trade Pathway

- Species have been established in the Great Lakes through aquarium release (17), planted (23) and bait release (9) (GLANSIS search Oct 6th, 2016)
- 9 million households with ornamental fish (Chapman et al 1997)
- 7% - 25% hobbyists release ornamentals (Gertzen et al 2008, Seekamp et al 2016)
BE A HERO
RELEASE ZERO

FIGHT THE SPREAD OF
AQUATIC INVADERS

PLANTS
Bag and place in the trash.

ANIMALS
Find a new owner or seek advice on humane disposal.

WATER
Disinfect or repurpose.

RELEASEZERO.ORG
BE A HERO
RELEASE ZERO

FIGHT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVADERS

PLANTS BAG AND PLACE IN THE TRASH.
ANIMALS FIND A NEW OWNER OR SEEK ADVICE ON HUMANE DISPOSAL.
WATER DISINFECT OR REPURPOSE.

RELEASEZERO.ORG
Pet Surrender Events
Illinois Organizations and People

IISG/INHS
University of Illinois Legal
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
  Conservation Police
  Biologists
  Regulatory
IL Department of Agriculture
  Animal welfare/State Veterinarian
US Fish and Wildlife
Animal Control
Aquarium Fish Sanctuary
Chicago Herpetological Society
Green Bay Aquarium Society
Can’t keep your aquatic pet?
Releasing aquarium and water garden pets can hurt them and the environment. Bring them to us instead!

Facebook and Twitter (144,207 impressions; 15,277 interactions)

Online
  Magazines
  Newspapers (40,000 impressions)

Print
  Flyers/Posters
  Newspapers (59,823 impressions)

Radio
  National Public Radio WBEZ Chicago.

244,480+ impressions over three events.
Aquatic Invaders in the Marketplace

Pet Surrender Networks

Alternatives to Pet Release

Illinois

Alternatives to Pet Release

Northwest

Veterinarians

Address  | Phone  | Can care for                      | Notes   
----------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------
Auburn Animal Clinic | 2515 Auburn St, | 615-966-5586 | Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Invertebrates |
Beaumond Animal Hospital | 1868 N Bell School Rd, Rockford, IL 61017 | 618-336-9404 | Reptiles, Amphibians |
Katherine Road Animal Hospital | 2522 Locust St, Quincy, IL 62301 | 217-266-1982 | Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Invertebrates |

Northeast

Veterinarians

Address  | Phone  | Can care for                      | Notes   
----------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------
Algonquin Animal Clinic | 10412 Rte 31, Algonquin, IL 60102 | 630-356-3206 | Reptiles, Amphibians |
Animal Care & Medical Center | 438 Parkline Rd, Libertyville, IL 60048 | 847-214-2004 | Reptiles |
NEVER
RELEASE AQUATIC PETS.

BE A
HERO
RELEASE
ZERO

GO TO
RELEASEZERO.ORG

FIND A NEW OWNER
SEEK CARE ADVICE

RELEASEZERO.ORG
/RE-HOME
RELEASEZERO.ORG
/AQUATIC-VETS

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Recreational Water Users
BE A HERO
TRANSPORT ZERO
™

FIGHT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVADERS

REMOVE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND MUD FROM ALL EQUIPMENT.

DRAIN ALL WATER FROM YOUR BOAT AND GEAR.

DRY EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY WITH A TOWEL.

TRANSPORTZERO.ORG
BE A HERO TRANSPORT ZERO
FIGHT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVADERS

95% OF BOATERS AND ANGLERS ARE ALREADY FIGHTING THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVADERS—KILLING PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT CAN HARM ILLINOIS WATERS AND RUIN YOUR BOATING AND FISHING.

TRANSPORTZERO.ORG

HELP PROTECT ILLINOIS WATERS

JOIN THE FIGHT!

What are AIS?
Aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and Asian carp, are plants and animals that do not naturally occur in our waters. Once established in a new body of water, they can do lasting damage to our environment, waterways, and Illinois’ economy, which all rely on healthy water resources.

How do they spread?
Often easily overlooked, the same way that these aquatic invaders spread is by hitchhiking rides on boats, trailers, and gear used by anglers, boaters, and other recreators. If you leave a water access area without taking precautions, you may be transporting these harmful organisms from one body of water to another.

What can you do?
The good news is that many of Illinois’ lakes, rivers, and wetlands are not yet invaded with invasive species. With a few simple but effective steps, you can help protect our waters!

As someone who cares about our lakes, rivers, and wetlands, I pledge to protect them from aquatic invaders. To help stop their spread:

1. I will remove, drain, and dry before I leave a water access.
2. I will follow AIS laws and regulations.
3. I will learn to recognize AIS.
4. I will dispose of all uncleaned bait and fish parts in the trash.
5. I will share this information with other recreators.

DON’T DUMP BAIT

The cost of AIS is too high to bear—hundreds of millions of dollars.

No AIS TUMBLEWEEDS REMOVED FROM BAIT

DO IT! LEAVE YOUR BAIT IN-TACT AND BAIT KEEPS ITS INVASIVE POTENTIAL.

LEADER CASE STUDY: IN ONE DAY OF WATER AND WIND:
86% Remove
92% Drain
81% Dry
Aquatic Invader Decontamination Zones

Waukegan & North Point
Invasive Crayfish Collaborative
Red Swamp Crayfish

- *Procambarus clarkii*
Marbled Crayfish

• *Procambarus fallax* forma *virginalis*
• Parthenogenic
• All female
• Found in pet trade only
• No known North American populations
Common Yabby

• *Cherax destructor*
• Australia
• Prohibited in Illinois
Australian Red Claw Crayfish

- *Cherax quadricarinatus*
Thank you!

Aquatic Pet Surrender Network
Or
Aquatic Invader Removal Areas

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Invasive Crayfish Collaborative

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