

# Fighting Invasives on Three Fronts – One Lake Association's Journey

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## I. Fighting AIS, particularly Zebra Mussels, with a Focus on Education



32 families around the lake are hanging “Zebra bricks” off their docks in an early detection effort.



AIS educational material is distributed at all Lake Association events and left on vehicles at the main public access.



A Minnesota DNR AIS Public Awareness grant allowed us to place AIS posters in surrounding marine-related businesses.

Our overall goal is to make our invasive fight something that will fit into the “Summer at the Lake” lives of our members.

- A. There should be a “fun” component.
- B. The payoff must be visible and personal.
- C. A focus on positive outcomes is essential.

## II. Buckthorn Eradication Efforts Motivated by a Valued Prize



Instead of a small group attacking the buckthorn, the entire lake community is involved and vying to win a \$25 gift certificate to our spring plant sale. Property owners cut their buckthorn and apply blue-dyed glyphosate to the cut end using a “blaster.”



Stands of buckthorn are being replaced with bright blue stumps all around the lake.

## III. Increasing General Invasive Species Awareness with Appealing Projects



Native grass seed, collected at Lake Maria State Park, will replace stands of reed canary grass and garlic mustard at the south public access, which has also been declared a monarch waystation. Planting native grasses appeals to residents, who use what they have learned about both the natives and the invasives they are replacing on their own properties.



An information booth on monarchs, complete with larvae munching milkweed, helps lake residents identify these endangered insects. “Monarch flats” are sold at the plant sale each spring containing native plants that monarchs love. These plants are replacing invasives on shoreland around the lake, motivated by lake residents' desire to provide monarch habitat.



Eurasian Water Milfoil will have a hard time flourishing here. The focus is on the beauty of the native bulrush not the milfoil problem.

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