

# Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council News



Issue 4: August 17, 2022

What better time than high summer to learn about new efforts underway and tools available to reduce aquatic invasive species? Read on for these, a list of the non-plant invasives of greatest concern for Pennsylvania, and more news from the Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council.

Please consider sharing this newsletter or the [signup page](#) with your networks. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter or the council, [drop me a line](#).

—Kris Abell, Coordinator, Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council

## Fish and Boat Commission Proposed Rulemaking Aims to Reduce Aquatic Invasives Introduced by Private Stocking, Bait Release, and Watercraft; Public Comment Invited



The Fish and Boat Commission has drafted a proposed rulemaking pertaining to the propagation, introduction, and transportation of live fish into Pennsylvania waters.

Under this proposal, 58 Pennsylvania Code Chapters 71 and 73 would be combined into a single chapter (71a) that would address the growing challenge of aquatic invasive species by:

- Implementing a private-stocking authorization application and review system, including fish health requirements;
- Prohibiting the release or disposal of live bait fish, with narrow exceptions;
- Creating a fish health inspection protocol to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species and pathogens; and
- Creating watercraft inspection requirements to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by watercraft.

In Pennsylvania, thousands of lakes, ponds, and stream sections are stocked by private individuals with fish purchased from commercial fish producers and dealers.

To address the increasing risks associated with aquatic invasive species and pathogens, there is a need to ensure that all proposed fish stockings are reviewed, considered for their ecological risk, and, where appropriate, authorized.

More than 30 states have requirements for how and when fish are stocked in state waters. Currently, Pennsylvania is the only state in the Northeast that doesn't require individuals to obtain some form of authorization or permission to stock fish.

The Fish and Boat Board of Commissioners approved the draft proposed rulemaking on April 25. It's open for public comment until September 17. Comments can be [submitted online to the Fish and Boat Commission](#).

If the final rulemaking is adopted at a future meeting of the Board, the regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2023.

## 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan Includes New Tools to Help Managers

The Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council released the [2022 Pennsylvania Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan](#) in June with several new features to help aquatic invasive species managers.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan is a decision-support tool to guide agencies and organizations in conducting a coordinated and structured response to new aquatic invasive species infestations in Pennsylvania.

The plan details the eight actions aquatic invasive species managers should take when they receive a report of a new aquatic invasive species sighting. It provides guidance for determining when a rapid response is appropriate and what types of responses should be considered.

The 2022 plan includes several new tools:

- **Funding matrix:** A quick reference on federal, state, and regional grants that can assist in aquatic invasive species rapid response. (Appendix G)
- **Pesticide permit requirements:** An outline of the necessary permits and costs required for the application of pesticides in Pennsylvania. (Appendix H)
- **Case studies:** Case studies on Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Mercer County Conservation District rapid response activities, including objectives, implementation, and lessons learned. (Appendix I)

Pennsylvania Sea Grant led development of the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan. Since the council approved the initial Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan in 2014, Sea Grant has conducted mock rapid response exercises to help aquatic invasive species managers practice using the plan and to identify areas where the process could be improved. This feedback informed the 2022 plan update.

For questions about aquatic invasive species rapid response in Pennsylvania, [contact Sara Stahlman](#).

## Invasive Insect, Animal, and Pathogen Species of Concern Identified



Red-eared slider

The Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council recently identified the [invasive insects, animals, and pathogens of concern for Pennsylvania](#).

The list includes invasive fish, aquatic invertebrates (e.g., crayfish and mussels), aquatic pathogens, reptiles, amphibians, terrestrial insects and other invertebrates (e.g., worms, slugs, and snails), plant pathogens, birds, and mammals.

While many invasive species are established in Pennsylvania, and many more could be introduced, the council believes these species present the greatest risk of damage to our agricultural and natural resources.

Each species is categorized by the degree of threat it presents:

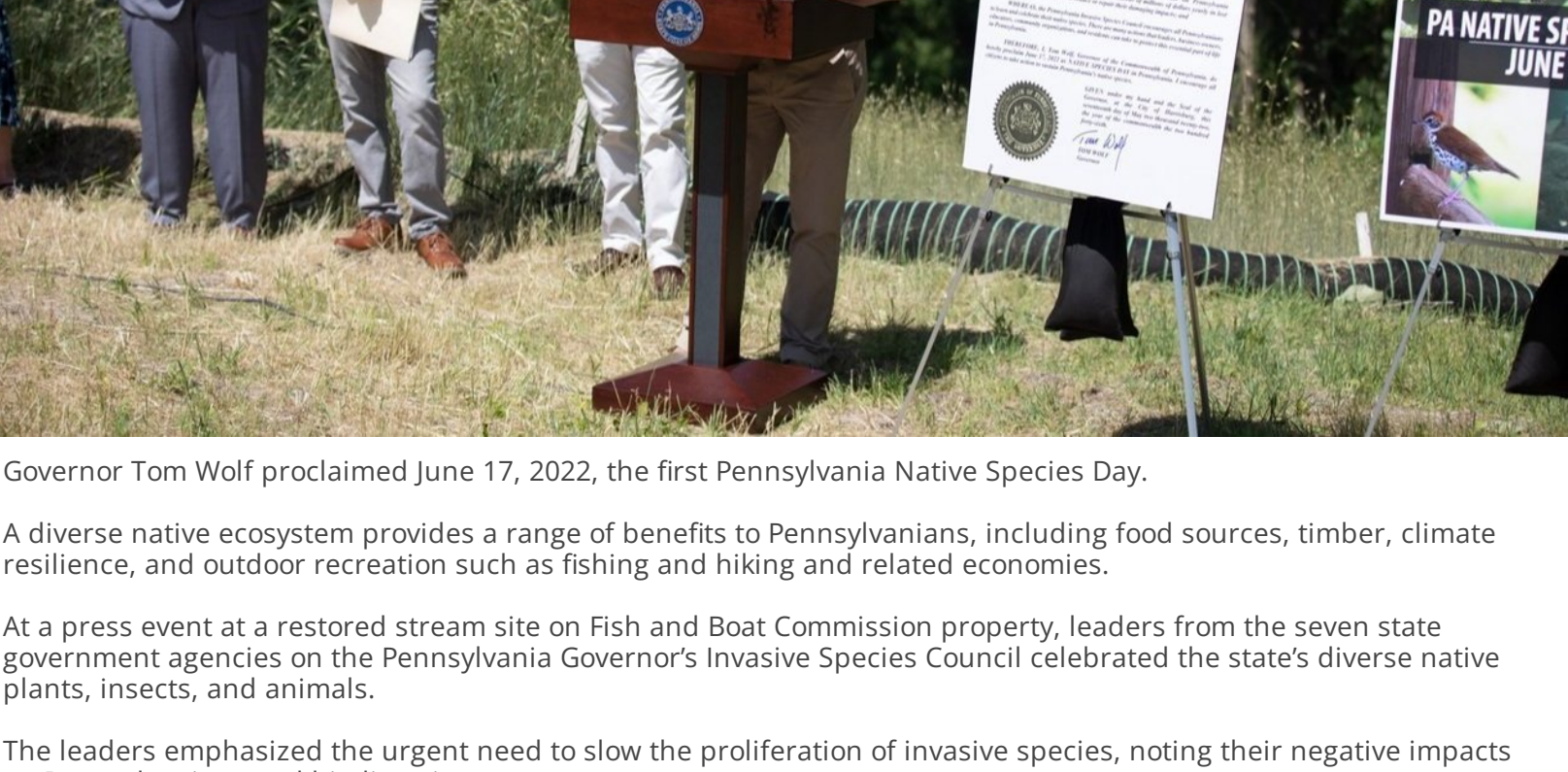
- **Potential:** Not yet detected in Pennsylvania, but there's a high risk of invasion.
- **Emerging:** Recently introduced in Pennsylvania, with limited distribution to date.
- **Established:** Widespread throughout the state and having serious impacts on our agricultural and natural resources.

The regulatory status of each species is noted, indicating if a federal or state ban or quarantine exists. Select species have been given impact scores based on analysis of economic, ecological, and human health impacts. The council is working on developing impact scores for all species on the list.

The list of insects, animals, and pathogens adds to the list of plants of concern, which the council identified in 2021. The complete [Invasive Species of Concern for Pennsylvania list](#) is meant to inform decision-making by government, legislative, agricultural, business, education, and community organization leaders.

The council also asks that you share the list and encourage your networks to report sightings of these species. It's especially important for Pennsylvanians to report potential and emerging species. See the [Report an Invasive Species web page](#) for how to report.

## Wild Chervil, Chocolate Vine, and Lesser Celandine Added to Pennsylvania Banned Plant List



Wild chervil

Wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*), and lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) have been added to the [Pennsylvania Noxious Weed List](#).

Noxious weeds are determined to be injurious to public health, crops, livestock, and agricultural land or other property and cannot be sold, transported, planted, or otherwise propagated in Pennsylvania.

The Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee voted to add these species to the list on July 21, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture placed a [notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin](#) on August 13, 2022, making it official.

The action becomes effective and enforcement begins 60 days after the Bulletin notice.

Wild chervil and chocolate vine were designated Class A Noxious Weeds, meaning they're established but not yet widespread in Pennsylvania, and eradication of infestations is feasible and intended. Lesser celandine was designated Class B, meaning it's widely established in Pennsylvania and can't be feasibly eradicated.

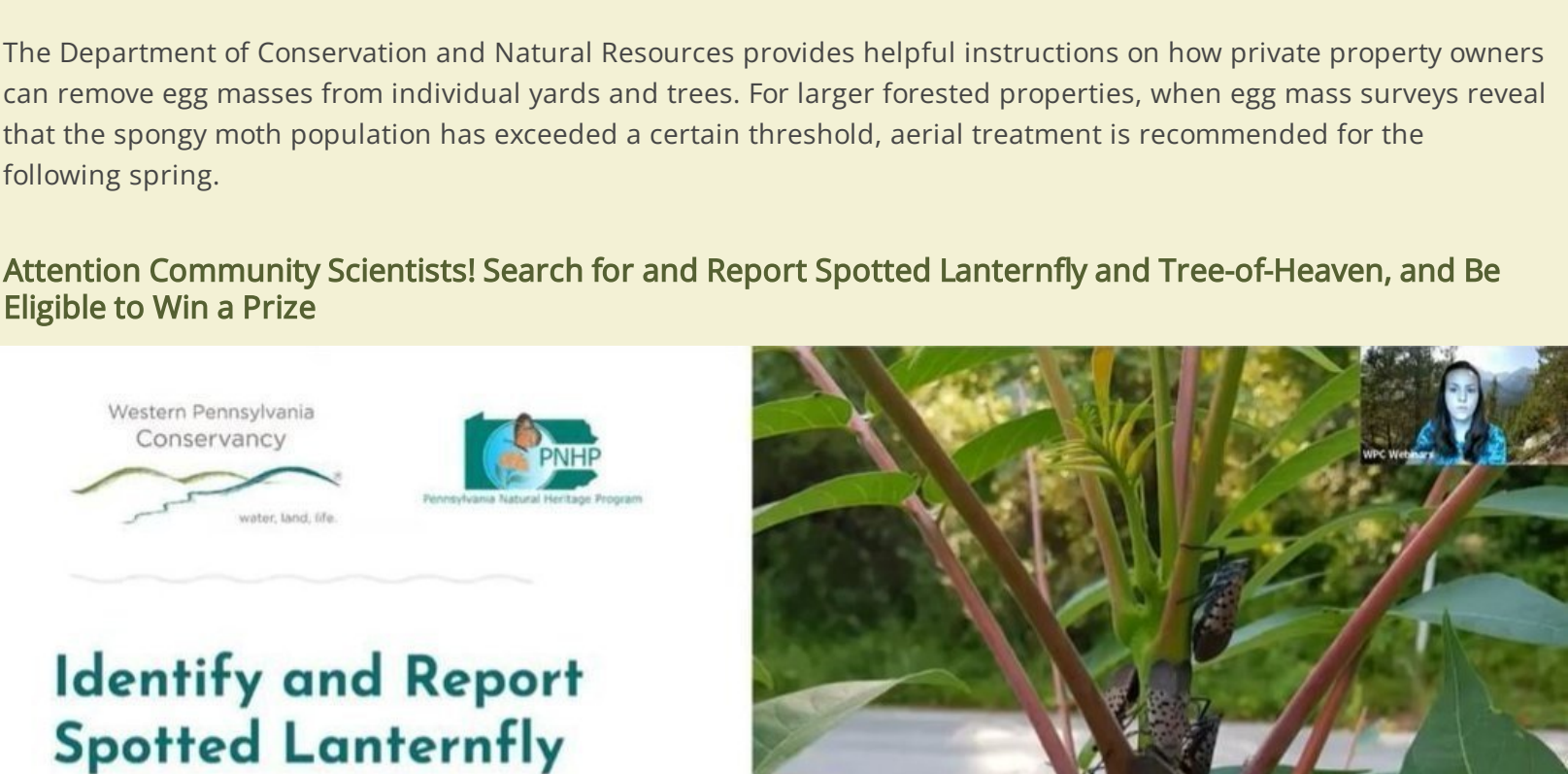
Wild chervil and chocolate vine are relatively common nursery and landscaping plants. Banning their sale in Pennsylvania before they're more widespread will help protect natural areas and preserve biodiversity. Wild chervil can act as a reservoir for a virus that infects carrots, celery, and parsnips, so preventing additional spread helps to protect these agricultural commodities.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture asks that sightings of Class A noxious weeds be reported by calling their hotline 1-833-INVASIV or [sending an email](#). Class B noxious weeds or any other invasive plant can be reported to the [PA iMapInvasives database](#).

The Committee also heard testimony on five new plant species that will tentatively be added to their October quarterly meeting: burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), and Chinese, European, Japanese, and border privet (*Ligustrum sinense*, *L. vulgare*, *L. japonicum*, and *L. obtusifolium* respectively). Public comment on these and other species can be [sent via email](#).

If you have any questions about the listing of these two species as noxious weeds in Pennsylvania, please [contact the Department of Agriculture](#).

## Wolf Administration and Partners Highlighted Importance of Biodiversity on First Pennsylvania Native Species Day



Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed June 17, 2022, the first Pennsylvania Native Species Day.

A diverse native ecosystem provides a range of benefits to Pennsylvanians, including food sources, timber, climate resiliency, and outdoor recreation such as fishing and hiking and related activities.

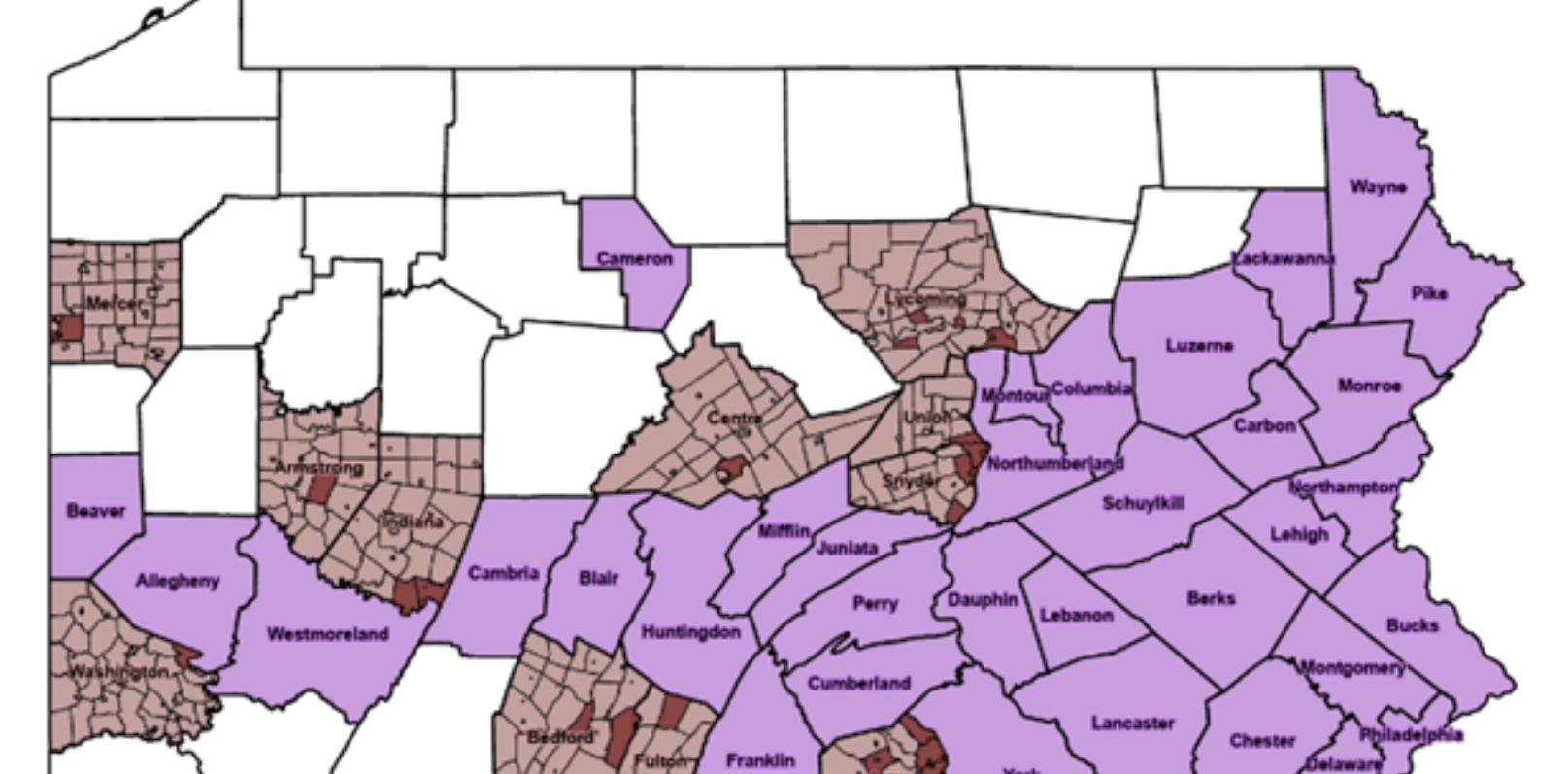
At a press event at a restored stream site on Fish and Boat Commission property, leaders from the seven state government agencies on the Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council celebrated the state's diverse native plants, insects, and animals.

The leaders emphasized the urgent need to slow the proliferation of invasive species, noting their negative impacts on Pennsylvanians and biodiversity.

The speakers highlighted many actions that state agencies are taking with Council members and other partners to reduce invasive species. Watch the press conference and find more information at the [Pennsylvania Native Species Day web page](#).

## Resources and Opportunities for Your Organization

### Spongy moth: What can we do about this outbreak year?



There's no doubt that 2022 is an outbreak year for spongy moth in Pennsylvania. As more people have noticed the defoliation of trees and barren mountaintops, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry has received a high number of calls and emails with questions about spongy moth and what can be done about it.

The department's blog post "[What Can We Do About the Spongy Moth Outbreak?](#)" has the answers. It provides thorough instructions and resources for private landowners, and gives an update on the department's and the Game Commission's efforts to control spongy moth on public land in Pennsylvania.

The thing to know is that successful treatment of spongy moth infestation begins long in advance, with egg mass surveying and planning during the preceding year. In other words, to reduce negative impacts next spring, the time to act is now!

Female spongy moths lay their eggs as light tan egg masses on trees, stones, and other flat sheltered areas in June and early. Late summer and fall months are the prime time for your property for these masses and remove them.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides helpful instructions on how private property owners can remove egg masses from individual yards and trees. For larger forested properties, when egg mass surveys reveal that the spongy moth population has exceeded a certain threshold, aerial treatment is recommended for the following spring.

## Attention Community Scientists! Search for and Report Spotted Lanternfly and Tree-of-Heaven, and Be Eligible to Win a Prize



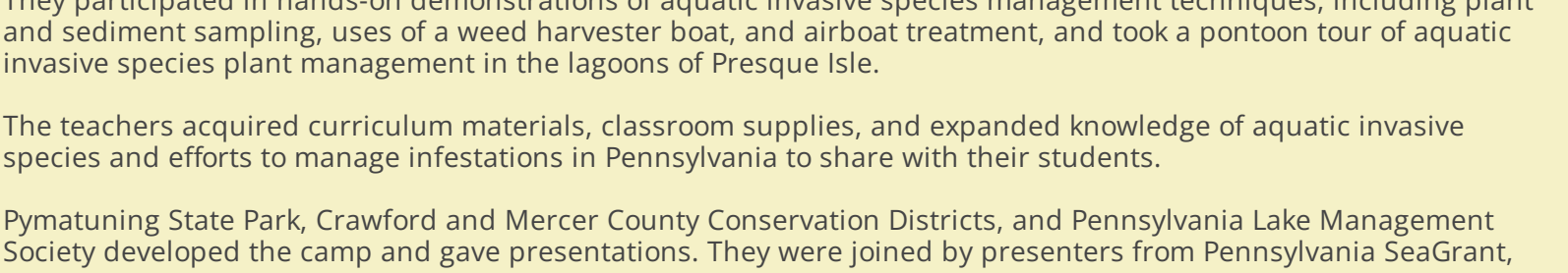
The [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) and [Pennsylvania iMapInvasives Program](#) are hosting a unique new volunteer event to identify and report [spotted lanternfly](#) and its favored host plant, [tree-of-heaven](#).

Individuals, organizations, municipalities, and companies around the state can participate. You'll claim an area in an online interactive map and conduct on-the-ground searches in that area over the summer and fall.

You'll report the presence of spotted lanternfly or tree of heaven, or not-detected findings, to iMapInvasives and/or the Penn State Extension online reporting tool.

After watching "[Identify and Report Spotted Lanternfly and Tree-of-Heaven](#)" for detailed instructions, you simply contact the event host, [Amy Jewitt](#), to be added as an official participant and claim at least one location to survey. Surveys can be conducted through November.

## Where is SLF Found?



This is a statewide event. Participants can conduct surveys in regions where spotted lanternfly infestations haven't been found yet or have only recently been located in a few spots—including much of northwest, northcentral, and southwest Pennsylvania—or in the existing spotted lanternfly quarantine zone.

Over 50 areas of the map have been claimed so far, but plenty of areas are left. Join in! It's a great reason to get out on your own or as a group for walks or hikes in new spots. Or you can easily add it to your regular outdoor routine. In a random drawing, prizes will go to five lucky participants!

## Tips from one Pennsylvanian who turned an urban yard into a no-mow native habitat



Any Pennsylvanian with a yard can help reduce the proliferation of invasive plant species statewide by transitioning to native-only plants, shrubs, and trees. Consider sharing these [helpful tips from a resident](#) in southcentral Pennsylvania with your community residents or organization volunteers. Spread the word, not the invasives!

## Teachers Learn about Aquatic Invasive Species at Pymatuning State Park "Plant Camp"



Teachers from around the state immersed themselves in the challenges of managing aquatic invasive species at a "Plant Camp" hosted by Pymatuning State Park, July 26-28.

Fourteen formal and nonformal educators of grade 9-12 students explored lakes in northwestern Pennsylvania, learning how to survey for and identify aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their spread.

They participated in hands-on demonstrations of aquatic invasive species management techniques, including plant and sediment sampling, uses of a weed harvester boat, and airboat treatment, and took a pontoon tour of aquatic invasive species plant management in the lagoons of Presque Isle.

The teachers acquired curriculum materials, classroom supplies, and expanded knowledge of aquatic invasive species and efforts to manage infestations in Pennsylvania to share with their students.

Pymatuning State Park, Crawford and Mercer County Conservation Districts, and Pennsylvania Lake Management Society developed the camp and gave presentations. They were joined by presenters from Pennsylvania Sea Grant,

Cleveland Metroparks, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Regional Science Consortium.

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