



# THE LAKE BEAT

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Fall/Winter 2012

## Articles:

- LEAP program and what it offers.
- Things to accomplish for the end of season wrap-up.
- A spotlight on an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Water Hyacinth.



## Lake Education Assistance Program

The Lake Education Assistance Program (LEAP) has been an integral part of the Surface Water's Education Program. Started in 1995, LEAP is celebrating its 17th year. Over the years, LEAP has provided teachers, schools and not for profit organizations with nearly a quarter of a million dollars to study lakes and their watersheds. LEAP provides funding for approximately one hundred lake and lake watershed related educational field trips, seminars/workshops, projects, and activities every fiscal year.

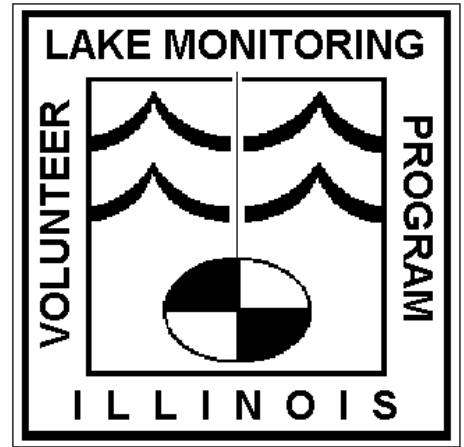
Projects and activities must have stated goals and involve the enhanced lake/lake watershed education of teachers, students, organizations and/or the community. A one page final report will be required, including such things as the level of participant involvement, videos, photographs, artwork, and/or written work. Funding will be in the form of reimbursement of documented costs incurred, and can be applied to such items as educational materials, scientific equipment, substitute teacher payment, buses/drivers, seminars, workshops, software, and visual materials.

APPLICATIONS EXCEPTED THROUGH THE END OF FEBRUARY!

**[www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation/leap.html](http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation/leap.html)**



# End of Season: To Do!



Send any completed Secchi Monitoring forms to your Regional Coordinator as soon as possible.

Recycle all unused lab sheets, and ½ gallon jugs.

Rinse and dry all monitoring equipment before storing for the winter. Do not use cleansers on any of the equipment. A quick rinse with tap water will do the job! Dry thoroughly. Once clean and dry, place all equipment neatly and upright in the tote and store in your basement, garage, or other location that is safe from the weather.

Unused sample bottles may be retained for use.

Any volunteer not wanting to continue in the Program next year, please contact their regional coordinator or Greg Ratliff at Illinois EPA to make arrangements for equipment pick-up. Greg can be reached by email at [greg.ratliff@illinois.gov](mailto:greg.ratliff@illinois.gov) or by telephone at 217/782-3362.

## A few specific tips:

**Secchi Disk:** Rinse your Secchi disk to remove as much dirt as possible. Dry carefully. If you are using a measuring tape, make sure the line is dry and wound back in its reel without folds and moisture. If you are using a rope or surveyor line, make sure the line is dry and untangled before winding back on its reel.

**Chlorophyll Equipment:** Make sure your weighted bottle sampler is clear of mud and is fully dry before putting into storage. Give your filtering equipment (magnetic funnel, filter base, graduated cylinder and collection flask) one final rinse and let sit out to dry completely before storing.

**Storage Tote:** Make sure the tote is clean. Dry thoroughly before storing equipment.

**Depth Finder:** If dirty, gently wipe clean with a damp, soft cloth. Remove the battery before storing.

**DO/Temp meter:** Disconnect the probe from the meter. Remove the batteries from the meter. If dirty, gently wipe off the meter, probe shroud, or probe body with a damp, soft cloth. Store in the aluminum (or plastic) tool case provided.

**Cardboard storage box** (used to store unused sample bottles): Please store this box with your other equipment over the winter in a clean, dry environment. We will refill the box with new sample bottles next year.



## Regional Coordinators:

### VLMP Statewide Contacts

Greg Ratliff, IEPA, Springfield, 217-782-3362 & [greg.ratliff@illinois.gov](mailto:greg.ratliff@illinois.gov)

### Northern Coordinator

Holly Hudson, CMAP, Chicago, 312-454-0400 & [hhudson@cmmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmmap.illinois.gov)

### Lake County Coordinator

Kelly Deem, LCHD, Libertyville, 847-377-3009 & [kdeem@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:kdeem@lakecountyil.gov)

### Southern Coordinator

Travis Taylor, GERPDC, Marion, 618-997-9351 & [travistaylor@greateregypt.org](mailto:travistaylor@greateregypt.org)

## AIS Spotlight: Waterhyacinth

*Eichhornia crassipes* is native to South America. The plant floats on the water surface or is sometimes stranded on mud and appears rooted. It has thick, glossy, round leaves with ornate lavender flowers. Its reproduction is by vegetative means which allows the plant to quickly take over large areas quickly. Waterhyacinth can survive as dormant seed to weather periods of drought. Dense growth of waterhyacinth

can clog water intakes and impact water quality as well as exclude native vegetation.



### References:

[www.protectyourwaters.net/hitchhikers/plants\\_water\\_hyacinth.php](http://www.protectyourwaters.net/hitchhikers/plants_water_hyacinth.php)

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/aqua/apis/PlantInfo/PlantListTotal.aspx>

Photo: [http://sites.duke.edu/writing20\\_12\\_f2010/2010/09/13/water-hyacinth-brought-down-by-climate-pattern-or-tiny-beetle/](http://sites.duke.edu/writing20_12_f2010/2010/09/13/water-hyacinth-brought-down-by-climate-pattern-or-tiny-beetle/)