

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

August, 2025

Prepared By:

Upper Saranac Foundation
It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality



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Overview

In 2025, the Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team continued its partnership with the Friends of Moody Pond, which began in 2022. Prior to this, aquatic invasive species (AIS) management was conducted by Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC in 2021. Collectively, these sustained efforts have been highly successful—AIS is now considered rare in Moody Pond.

As in previous management sessions, our divers began operations from the private beach residence of the Dumas family. This location offers convenient access to historically infested areas, enabling efficient and targeted management efforts.

AIS management for the 2025 season is scheduled to range between **182 and 227 hours**, depending on the extent of invasive plant growth and harvesting needs. This marks a significant reduction from previous seasons (360 hours in 2023 and 308 in 2024), reflecting the overall decline in both density and distribution of invasive plants. Work is being conducted throughout the growing season, beginning in June and concluding by the end of September. Management is generally completed in single-day stints, allowing staff to monitor plant growth throughout the entire growing season. This flexible, phased approach allows for a more effective outcome at a lower overall cost. **To date, a total of 138.5 hours of AIS survey and management has been devoted of the allocated 182 to 227 hours for the year.**

Our divers employed a variety of techniques to locate and remove AIS. Using paddleboards, the team regularly conducts visual surveys of the ponds entire littoral zone—areas where sunlight reaches the bottom and supports aquatic plant growth. In addition to surface observations, divers performed targeted underwater inspections in locations with a known history of AIS, focusing on areas where previous infestations had been documented. Shallow areas were typically surveyed through snorkeling, while deeper sections were accessed using a Hookah air compressor system, allowing for extended and efficient diving operations.

Only one species of AIS was found: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). During this month, and most recent management sessions, most of the AIS plants observed were small and immature. The limited presence of mature specimens reduces the likelihood of fragmentation and propagation, which is key to preventing further spread.

Additionally, survey efforts recorded a healthy abundance of Common Bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*), a native aquatic species found in the shallow areas near Mount Baker. Though it closely resembles Eurasian watermilfoil, Common Bladderwort is a non-invasive, ecologically beneficial plant that remains undisturbed during our management operations. We share this

information to reassure shoreline property owners that these native species are not overlooked infestations, but instead a valuable component of a balanced and healthy aquatic ecosystem.

In addition to management work, the dive crew participated in the Friends of Moody Pond Annual Ice Cream Social on August 9. The event featured live music, ice cream, and an online auction to support efforts to remove Eurasian watermilfoil from the pond. USF divers were on hand to answer questions, display equipment, and showcase milfoil specimens collected earlier in the week, helping to raise awareness of both the challenges and progress in AIS management.

Harvest Data – On Wednesday, August 6, the Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Dive Team, led by Chris Burnham, devoted 45 management hours to invasive species removal on Moody Pond. The crew—three divers and one topside support staff—removed 46 AIS plants totaling approximately 2.5 pounds. Plants were concentrated in historically known growth areas and varied in size from six inches to seven feet tall.

Date	Hrs.	Plants Removed
12-Jun	50	60
16-Jul	30	21
6-Aug	45	46
20-Aug	13.5	12
Total	138.5	139

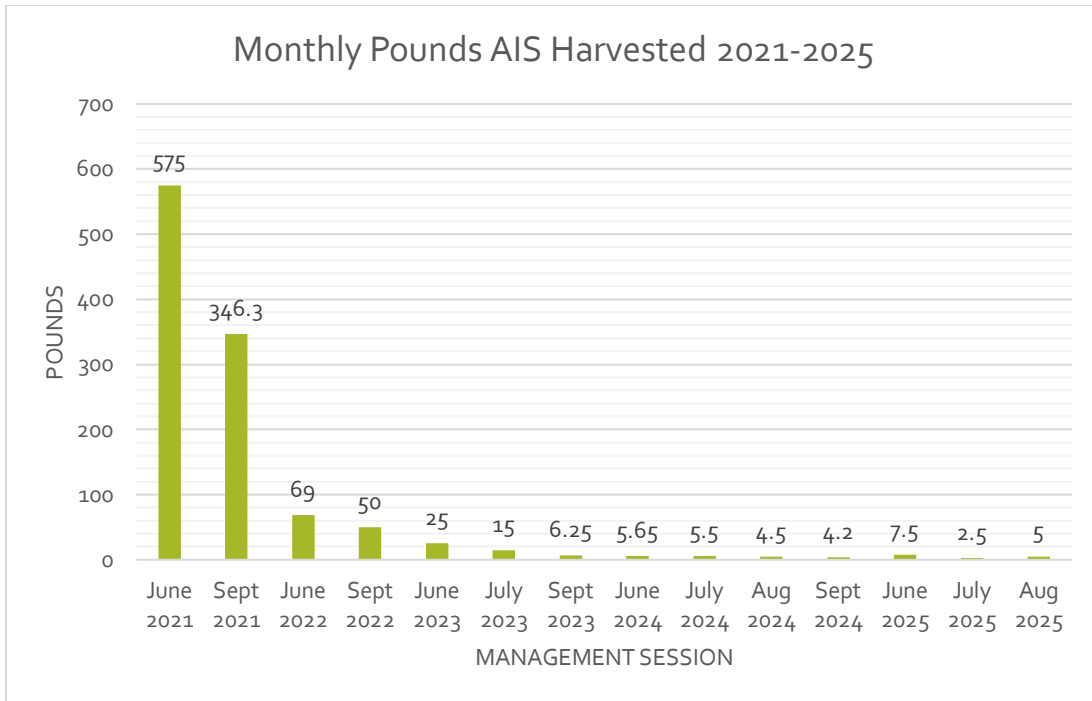
The dive team returned on Wednesday, August 20, under the leadership of Bryce Davison. Due to cold and windy conditions, the three-person crew concluded work early at 12:30 p.m., logging just 13.5 hours. During this time, they removed 12 plants with a combined biomass of roughly 2.5 pounds. Of these, one was a large single-stem plant, while the rest were very small.

August Totals:

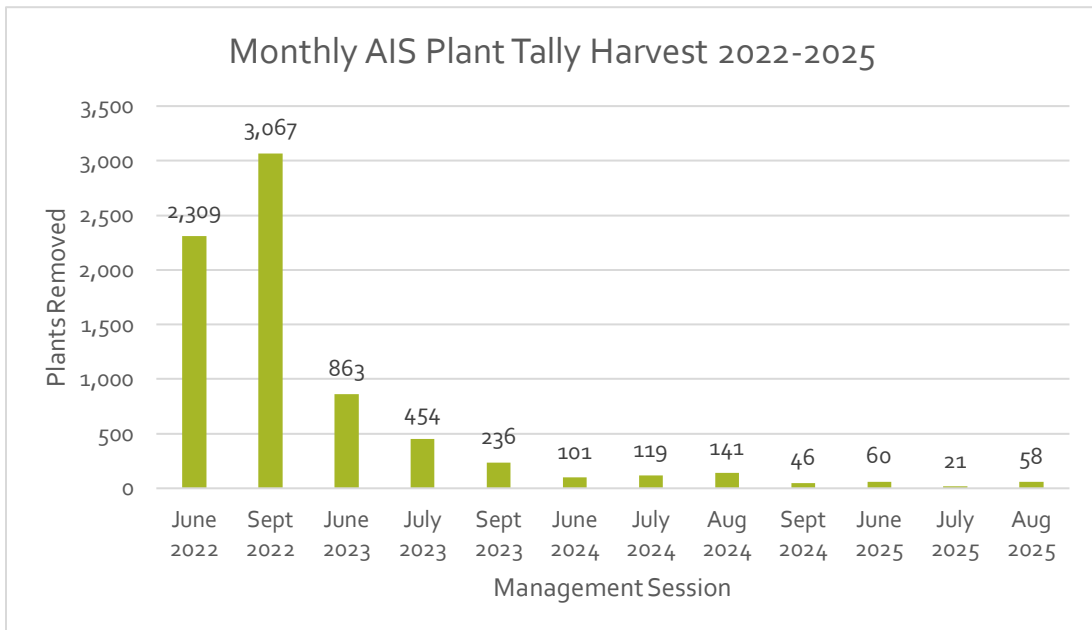
Over the two management days, the team invested 58.5 hours and harvested 58 plants with a total biomass of about five pounds. The relatively low biomass underscores the small size of most plants removed this month. Because fragmentation from larger, multi-stem plants is the greatest contributor to AIS spread, early removal before plants mature remains a critical part of effective management.

AIS Harvesting Comparisons: 2021–2025

Moody Pond harvest data demonstrates a clear and encouraging downward trend in AIS abundance since management began in 2021. The number of plants harvested remains the most consistent and reliable metric of long-term success. By this measure, 2025 shows continued progress—gone are the days of removing thousands of plants monthly, as was the case when USF divers began their efforts.



Similarly, to the general decrease on poundage of plants removed, the plant tally also shows a striking reduction. From a high of 3,067 plants removed in September 2022, the August 2025 harvest reported just 58 plants.



In a year-to-year comparison, August 2024 saw 141 plants removed, while in August 2025 only 58 were found and harvested—a 41% reduction. This marked decline highlights the effectiveness of ongoing management efforts.

These results highlight the ongoing success and effectiveness of persistent, targeted management efforts by the Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team. Continued vigilance will be key to maintaining these hard-won gains and preventing re-infestations.

Future Plans

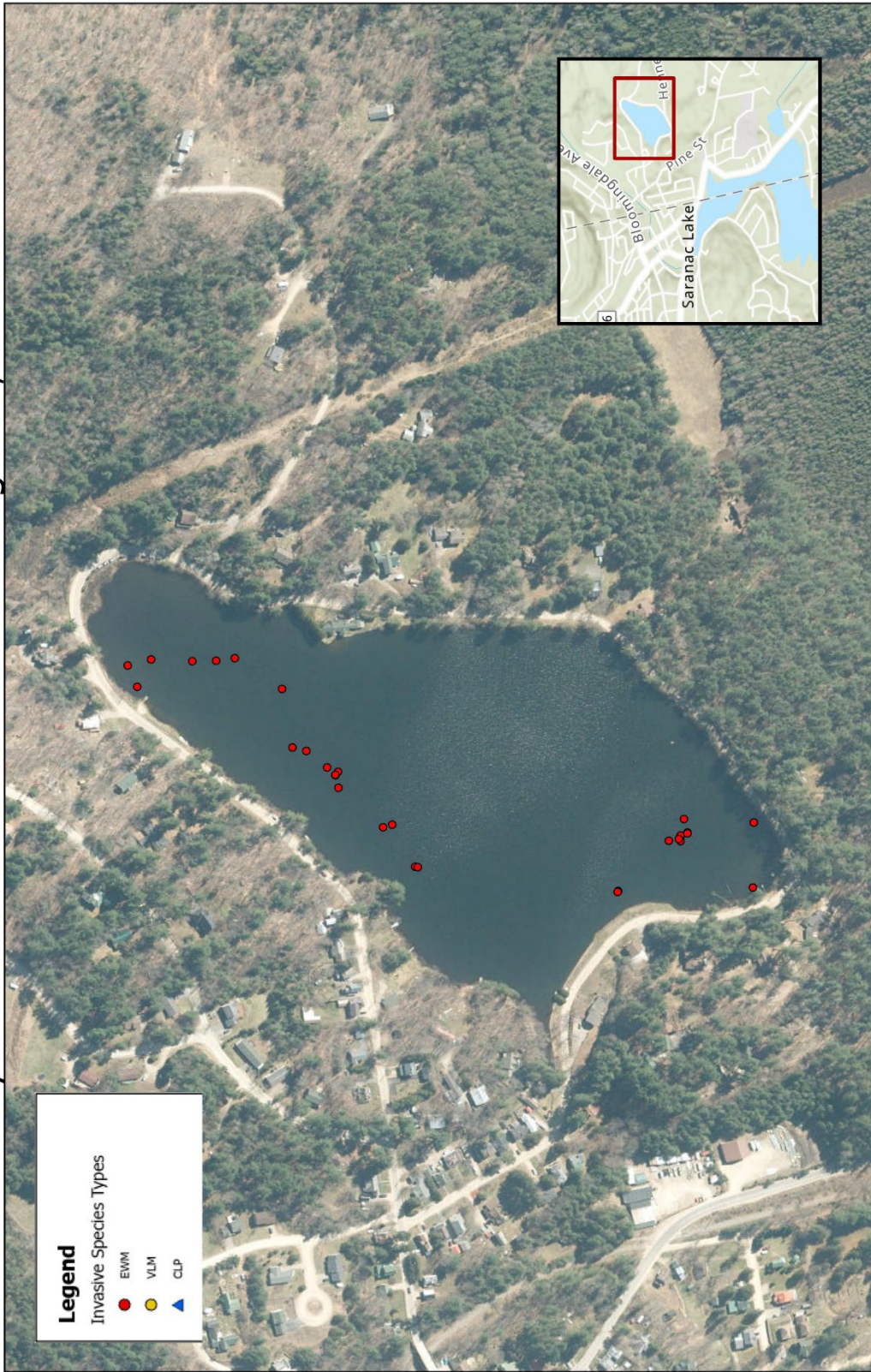
The Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) team will return to Moody Pond in September to continue monitoring and managing aquatic invasive species (AIS). Based on growth observed during monitoring visits, our staff will conduct targeted harvesting. Particular attention will be given to areas where there has been a history of Eurasian watermilfoil, ensuring that any potential regrowth from fragmentation is detected and managed before maturing and spreading further.

This phased management approach—spaced strategically throughout the growing season—allows for the identification and removal of new growth before it becomes a larger problem.

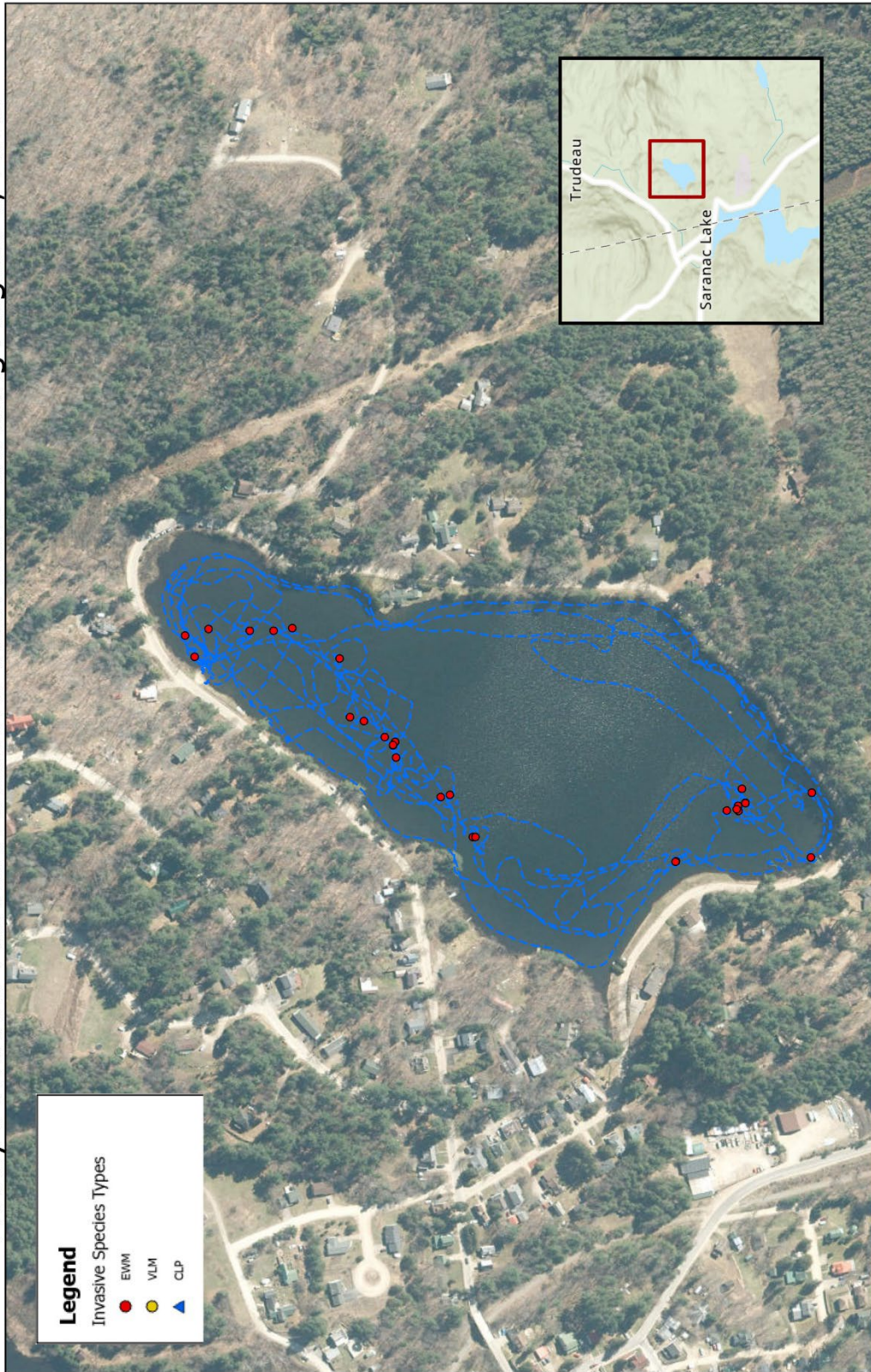


Friends of Moody Pond Annual Ice Cream Social - August 9, 2025 (photo: Friends of Moody Pond)

Moody Pond AIS Harvest Locations August 6, 2025



Moody Pond AIS Harvest Locations With Diver Tracking August 6, 2025



Moody Pond AIS Harvest Locations August 20, 2025



Moody Pond AIS Harvest Locations With Diver Tracking August 20, 2025

