

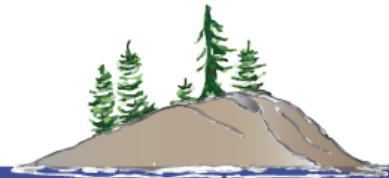
Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

September, 2025

Prepared By:

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



Upper Saranac Foundation
P.O. Box 564, Saranac Lake, NY 12983

www.usfoundation.net

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 was 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 concluded in September. Management was 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.

By the conclusion of our management in September, a total of six days throughout the 2025 season amounted for 185 total hours of AIS survey and removal.

Our divers employed a variety of techniques to locate and remove AIS. Using paddleboards, the team regularly conducted 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.

Date	Hrs.	Plants Removed
12-Jun	50	60
16-Jul	30	21
6-Aug	45	46
20-Aug	13.5	12
8-Sep	30	18
22-Sep	16.5	15
Total	185	139

Only one species of AIS was found: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). During this month, and similar to previous 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.

Harvest Data – September 2025

September 8, 2025

The Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Dive Team, led by Bryce Davison, devoted 30 management hours to surveying and removing invasive species on Moody Pond. The crew—two divers and one topside support staff—removed 18 AIS plants totaling approximately one pound. Exceptional surface spotting allowed divers to easily view the pond bottom, marking invasive plant locations with weighted lobster buoys before retrieval.

AIS plants were concentrated in historically known growing areas, with one exception: a small cluster was discovered in a deeper southern section of the pond where plants had not previously been found. Two additional plants, located in very shallow, eight inches of water were located along the western shore and retrieved from a kayak.

September 22, 2025

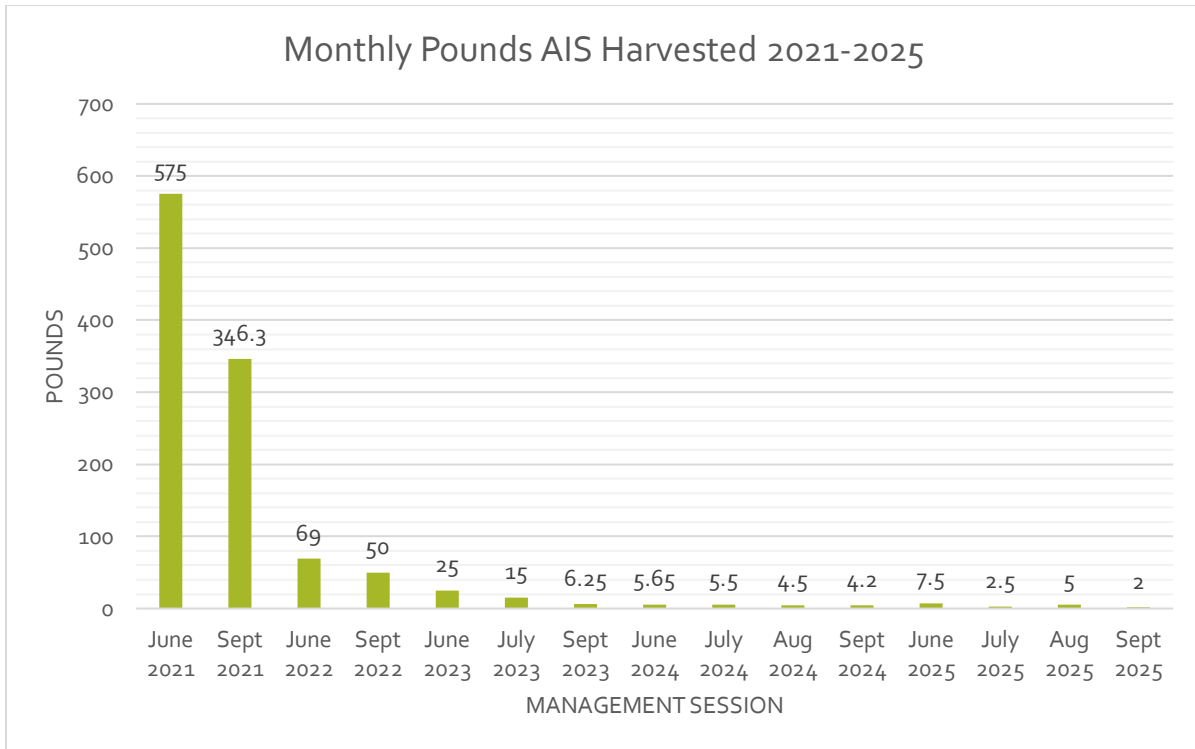
The team returned on September 22, again led by Bryce Davison, investing 16.5 management hours and removing 15 AIS plants totaling one pound. Using surface spotting before diving, the crew located two larger plants in deeper water along the western shore, with all others under two feet in height. With few plants present, the team concluded work early at 1:30 p.m.

September Totals

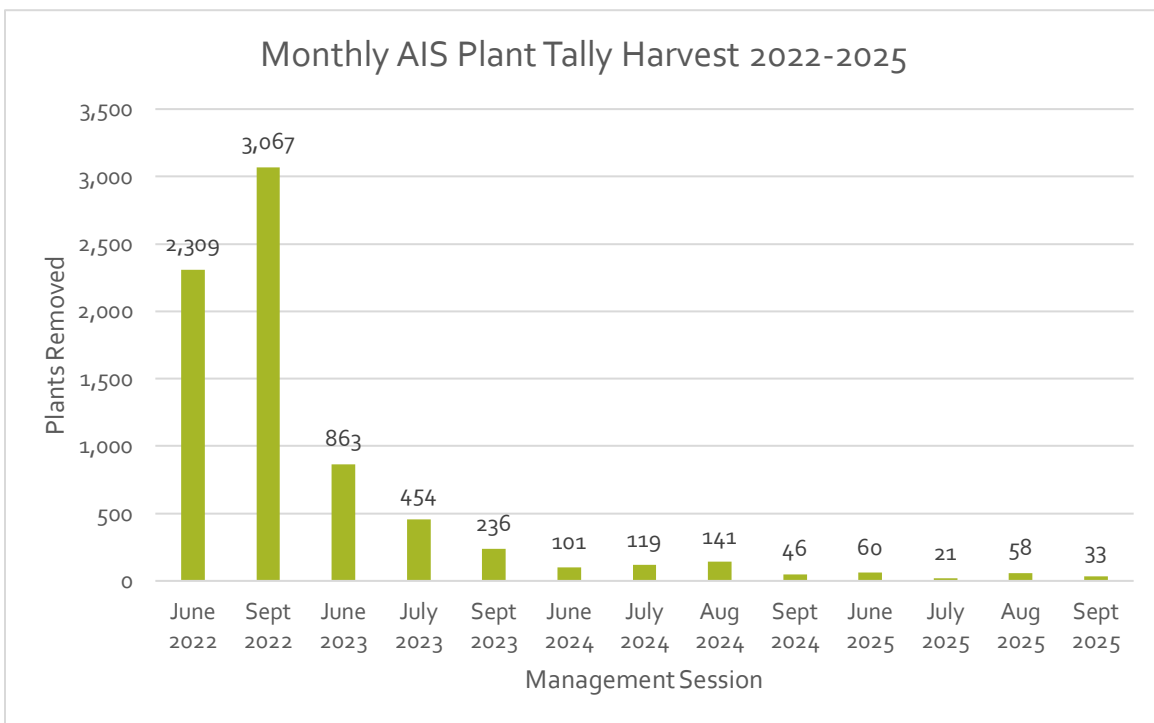
Over two management days, the team logged 46.5 hours and harvested 33 plants, weighing approximately two pounds in total. As in past sessions, the relatively low biomass reflects the small size of most plants removed. Because fragmentation from larger, multi-stem plants is the greatest contributor to AIS spread, early removal before maturity remains essential to effective management.

AIS Harvesting Comparisons: 2021–2025

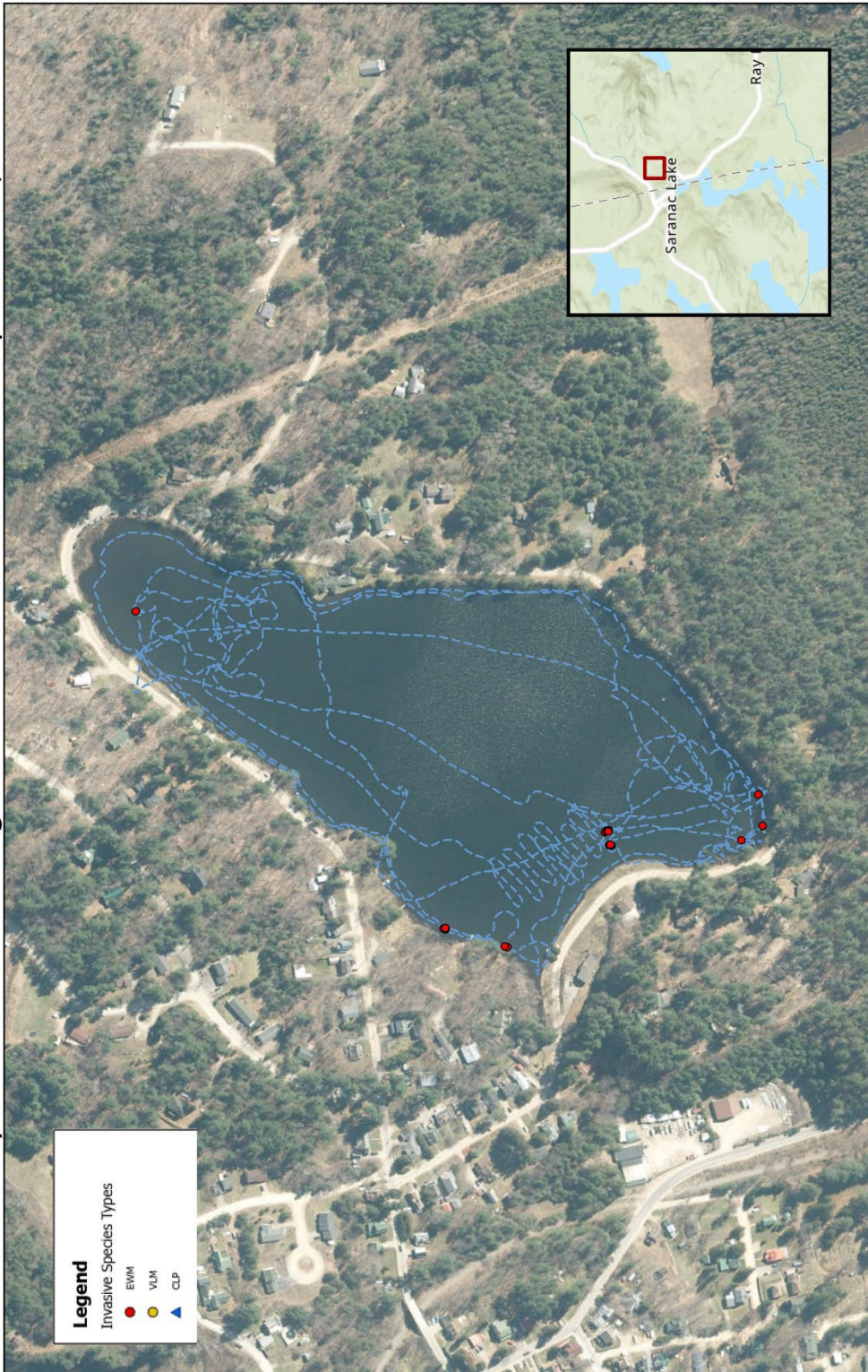
Moody Pond harvest data shows a clear and encouraging downward trend in AIS abundance since management began in 2021. The number of plants harvested continues to be the most reliable indicator of progress. By this measure, 2025 demonstrates sustained success—far removed from the days when divers routinely removed thousands of plants each month.



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 September 2025 harvest reported just 33 plants.



Moody Pond Diver tracking with AIS Harvest Locations September 8, 2025



Moody Pond AIS Harvesting Locations with diver tracking September 22, 2025



Future Plans

The Upper Saranac Foundation will prepare a final report compiling both survey and harvesting data for the year. The report's objective is to assess the effectiveness of management efforts by analyzing current and historical milfoil abundance, establishing long-term trends, and guiding future practices.

A final payment invoice—reflecting the balance due after subtracting the initial deposit—will accompany the report. Submission of the final report by the Friends of Moody Pond to the Adirondack Park Agency will satisfy permit requirements as outlined in APA General Permit 2020-0249.

Photos



USF Aquatic Invasive Diver USF diver displays invasive plants removed during management efforts



USF Aquatic Invasive Species dive team member retrieves invasive plant during field operations



Dive team members utilizing calm waters for surface spotting operations

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