

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

July 2026

Prepared By:

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



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Overview

In 2026, the Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team continued its partnership with the Friends of Moody Pond, building on aquatic invasive species (AIS) management efforts that began in 2021. These sustained efforts have been highly successful, and aquatic invasive species are now considered rare throughout Moody Pond.

As in previous years, divers operated from the Dumas family's private beach, which provides efficient access to historically infested areas. The continued decline in the density and distribution of invasive plants has significantly reduced the level of management required. The 2026 program is projected to require just 100–175 diver work hours, down from 360 hours in 2023, 308 hours in 2024, and 185 hours in 2025. Through the completion of the July 2026 management session, the Foundation had logged 83 diver work hours.

Management is conducted through targeted single-day work sessions between June and September. This schedule allows divers to monitor for regrowth and remove newly established plants before they reach maturity and have the potential to fragment and spread. The adaptive management approach has proven both efficient and cost-effective while maintaining long-term control of the infestation.

Divers employed a variety of survey techniques, including surface spotting from paddleboards, snorkeling, line swims, grid searches, and deeper-water surveys using a Hookah air compressor system.

Only one aquatic invasive species, Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), was detected during management activities. Most plants were small and immature, and the overall continued decline in both plant abundance and biomass provides further evidence of the long-term effectiveness of the management program.

Harvest Data

The Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team returned to Moody Pond on July 16 for its second aquatic invasive species (AIS) management session of the 2026 season. A three-person crew worked from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break, contributing a total of 24 personnel hours. Management activities concluded earlier than planned due to poor air quality from Canadian wildfire smoke, which affected diver breathing and reduced surface visibility.

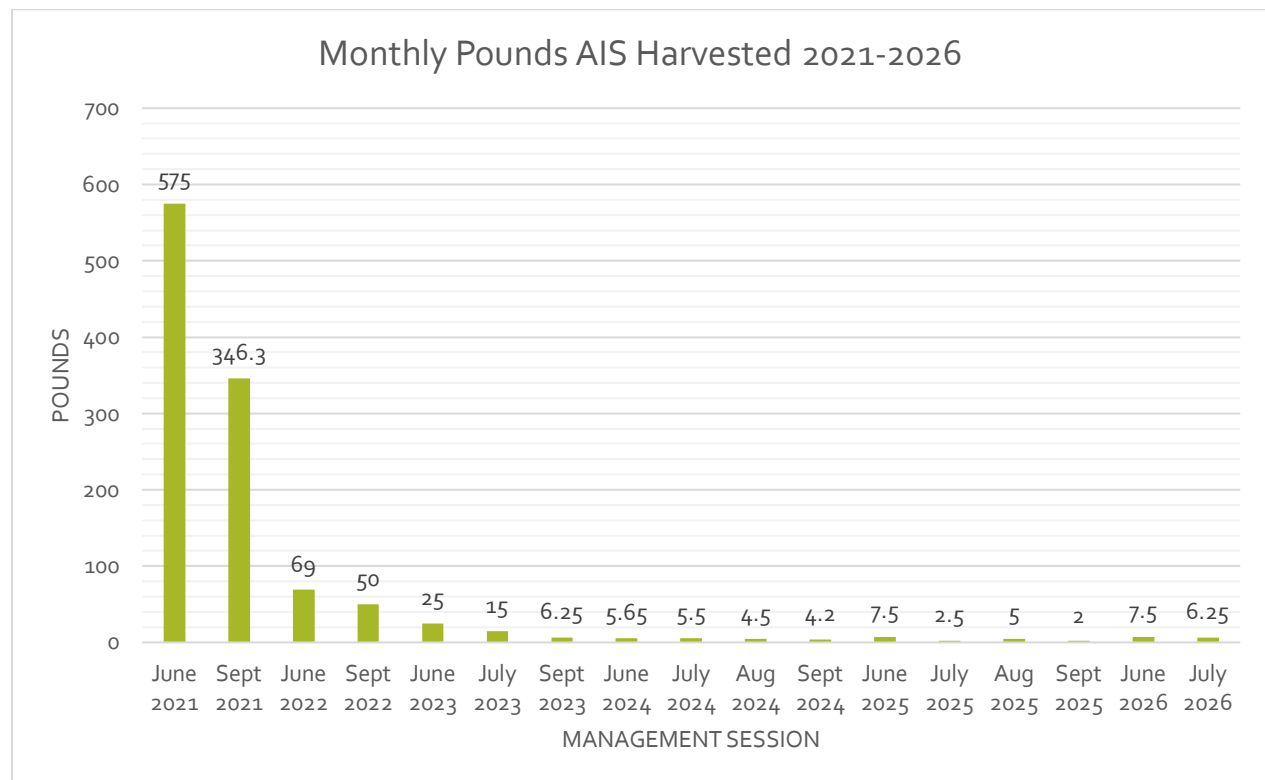
The day began with surface-spotting surveys in the pond's shallow littoral zone. However, smoke-related haze limited visibility above the water, and no invasive plants were detected. The crew then transitioned to underwater line-swim surveys in deeper areas, where water clarity was noticeably improved compared to previous management sessions. Divers with multiple seasons of experience remarked that the water exhibited the best underwater visibility they had ever observed in Moody Pond.

Survey efforts began along the northern shoreline and proceeded counterclockwise around the pond. Divers initially located 11 Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) plants in the northern section and 12 plants along the western shoreline. Following lunch, line-swim surveys continued into deeper water, where divers made an unexpected discovery of two dense patches of Eurasian watermilfoil. These patches contained 133 plants and were found in an area previously considered too deep to support plant growth. The exceptional water clarity likely enabled their growth in deeper waters and their detection for the first time.

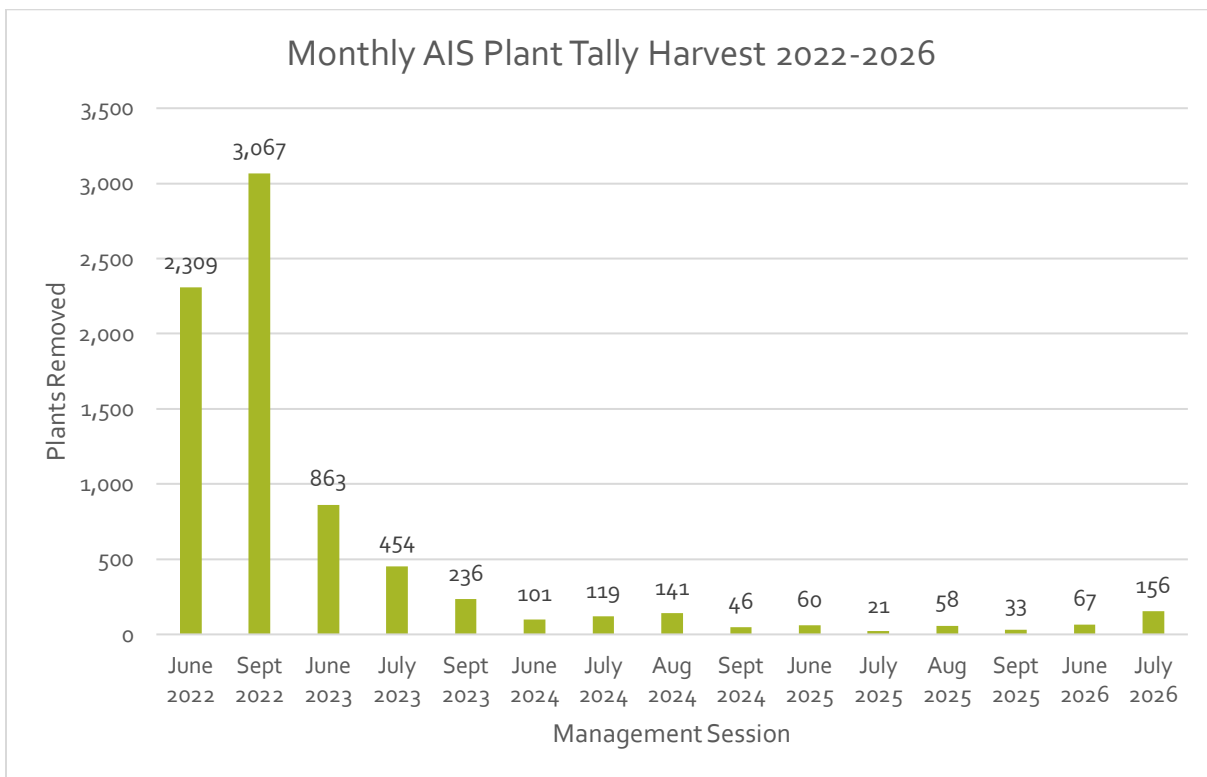
In total, the crew removed 156 Eurasian watermilfoil plants with an estimated biomass of 6.25 pounds. Although the newly discovered deep-water patches increased the day's harvest, their removal further demonstrates the value of continued monitoring and adaptive survey techniques. Improved water clarity allowed divers to locate and eliminate previously undetected infestations before they could expand or contribute to the spread of invasive plants.

AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2026

Although the July 2026 management session resulted in a higher biomass and greater number of plants than were removed during the June 2026 visit, the overall trend continues to demonstrate a substantial long-term decline in aquatic invasive species (AIS) since management began in 2021. The increase was largely attributable to the discovery of two previously undetected deep-water patches of Eurasian watermilfoil, which were located only because of exceptional underwater visibility.



The long-term reduction in infestation remains striking. In terms of biomass, the initial June 2021 harvest removed approximately **575 pounds** of Eurasian watermilfoil, compared to just **6.25 pounds** removed during the July 2026 management session—a reduction of nearly **99%**. Plant counts show a similar pattern. Following a peak removal of **3,067 plants** in September 2022, the July 2026 effort removed **156 plants**, representing a reduction of approximately **95%** from peak management levels.



Overall, these results demonstrate the continued effectiveness of sustained, science-based AIS management. While isolated pockets of invasive plants remain, their continued detection and removal before they mature and spread highlights the value of ongoing monitoring and supports the conclusion that Eurasian watermilfoil is now rare in Moody Pond.

Future Plans

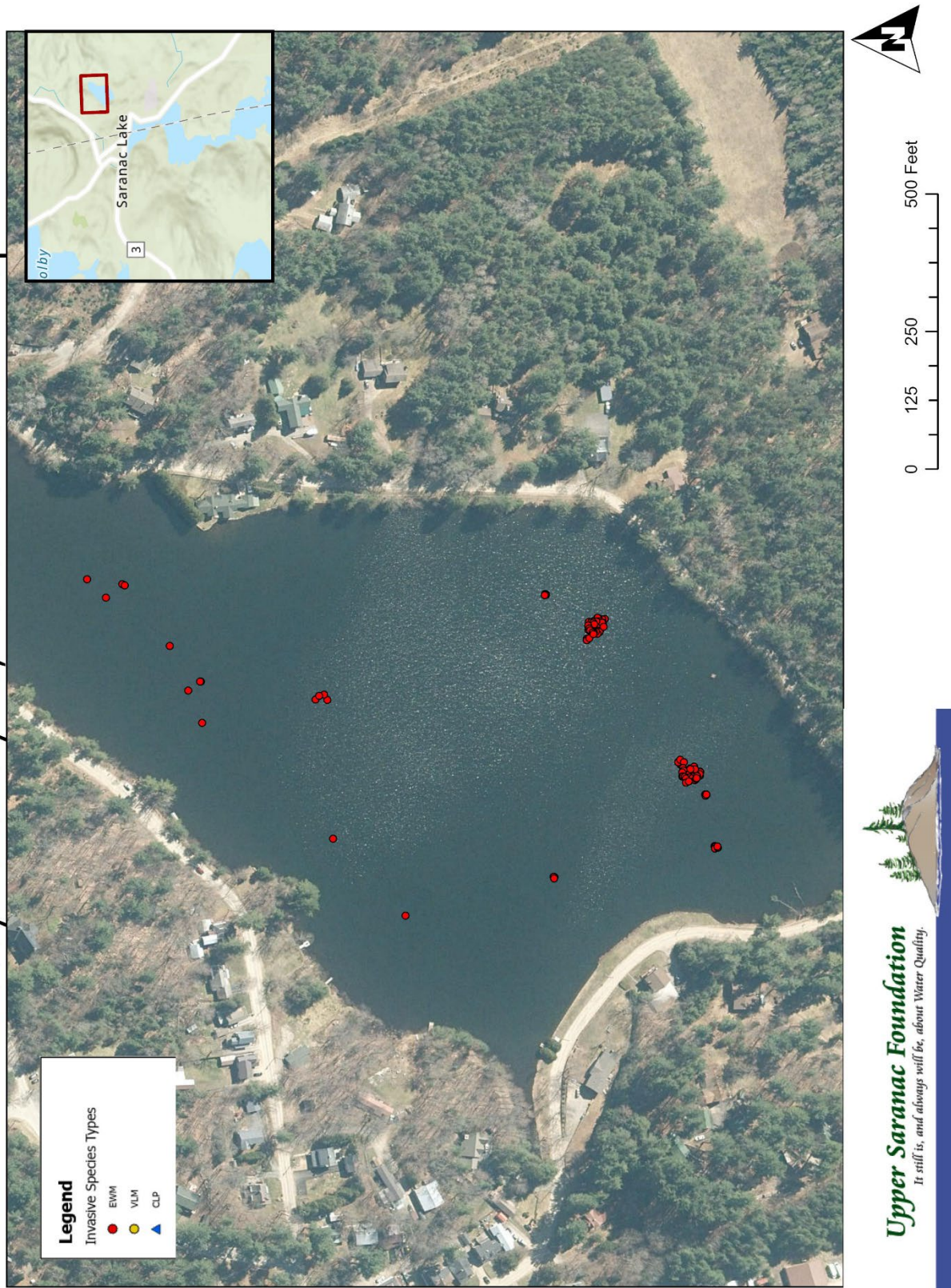
The Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team will return to Moody Pond in August to continue monitoring and managing aquatic invasive species (AIS). Divers will conduct targeted surveys and harvesting based on plant growth observed during both this and previous management seasons, with particular attention given to areas where larger plants were previously removed and to the newly discovered deep-water infestation. These follow-up efforts

will help ensure that any regrowth resulting from fragmentation is detected and eliminated before plants mature and spread.

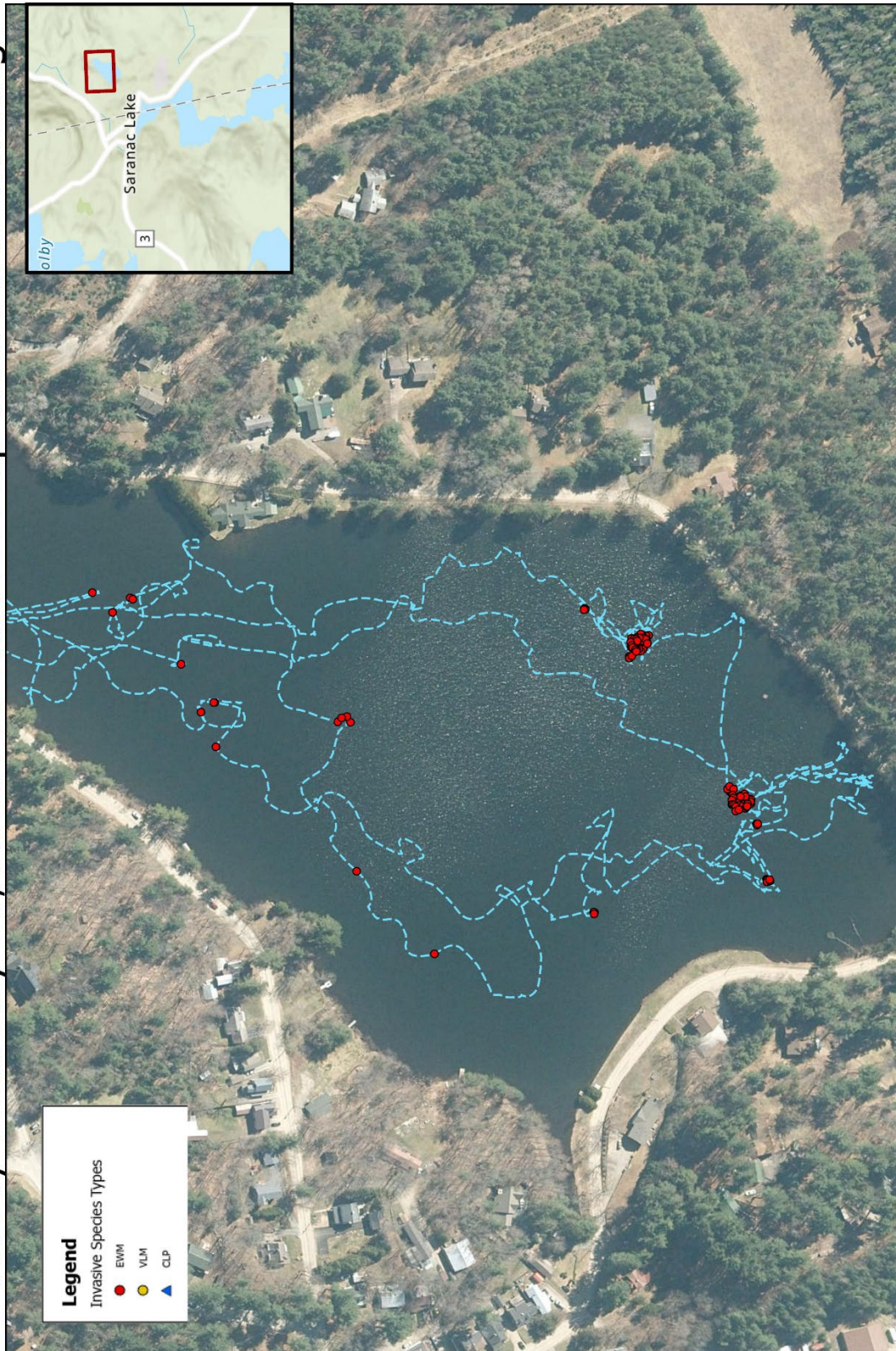
This phased management strategy, with survey and harvesting efforts conducted at regular intervals throughout the growing season, allows newly emerging plants to be removed while populations remain small and manageable. Continued monitoring is essential to maintaining the substantial reductions in Eurasian watermilfoil achieved since management began in 2021 and to preventing the establishment of new infestations.

In addition to field operations, Upper Saranac Foundation staff will participate in the Friends of Moody Pond Annual Ice Cream Social on August 1, where they will display dive equipment, provide an overview of the 2026 management program, and answer questions from residents. The event provides an excellent opportunity to engage the community, highlight the success of the AIS management program, and reinforce the importance of continued stewardship in protecting Moody Pond.

Moody Pond July 16, 2026 AIS Harvest Map



Moody Pond July 16, 2026 AIS Harvest Map With Diver Tracking



0 125 250 500 Feet

