



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Public Information Meeting on Aquatic Plant Research Project in Lake Monona
Monday March 31, 7 p.m. at Alliant Energy Center**

(Madison, WI) People living near Turville Bay in Lake Monona, and others interested in the restoration of native plant communities in the Yahara Lakes, will have an opportunity to learn more about an aquatic plant research project on Monday evening March 31.

The public information meeting will be held beginning at 7 p.m. in Room Mendota 5 of Alliant Energy Center's Exhibition Hall, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way in Madison. Representatives from Dane County, the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will describe their cooperative research project to evaluate two methods to control Eurasian water milfoil (an aquatic exotic plant) and restore native plant communities.

Eurasian water milfoil begins growing early in the year, and creates a dense growth canopy which shades out native plant species.

Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk said, "We need to be proactive in addressing this threat to our lakes. This project is an excellent opportunity to try innovative solutions to keep those beautiful waters blue."

The project, which will begin this year as soon as the ice is out from Lake Monona, will involve early season active treatment (using low-level selective herbicides and deep cutting with aquatic harvesters) and analysis for three years, followed by two to three years of post treatment monitoring.

Sue Jones with the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds said, "This project is an excellent opportunity for us to learn if early spring herbicide use and mechanical harvesting will allow us to control Eurasian water milfoil before most native plants begin their growth, and give an advantage to native plants."

The research is being supported by a Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species grant and by DNR staff time, with matching funds and labor provided by the Dane County Department of Land and Water Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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