

Bear Lake Property Owners,

Yesterday while boating around the lake, I noticed that the Yellow Iris problem has spread significantly. We now have roughly a dozen or so colonies started at various locations around the lake. All colonies are on the shoreline at or above the ordinary high-water mark. This means each plant or colony is on private property. The Lake District cannot enter private property and remove them therefore that must be done by the property owner. This plant was brought onto Bear Lake by a property owner who didn't realize what they had. They just thought it was a beautiful plant and wanted it on their shoreline. The original plants have since been removed, the seeds however are now off and running. The plant is easy to identify while in bloom. It is almost impossible to tell the difference if it's not in bloom. The Blue Flag Iris the native desirable plant lives in the same settings. The Yellow Iris will eventually overtake and force out the native plants. Yellow Iris is poisonous, and wildlife will not eat it.

PLEASE REMOVE THESE PLANTS AND DISCARD PROPERLY IN THE TRASH OR BURN.

Here is a link to the DNR's Website on Yellow Iris. -

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/YellowFlagIris.html>

Thanks in advance for your help in protecting Bear Lake

Mic Austin
Chairman BLPRD