

## Great Herring Pond Weed Survey

Aquatic invasive species, particularly invasive pond weeds, are a concern for many lake and pond groups. Given the size and recreational popularity of Great Herring Pond, it has been a primary goal of the Aquatic Invasives committee to conduct a baseline survey of the pond to determine if there are any invasives present.

On August 22, Tom Clarke was kind enough to take me out on the pond to conduct a survey. We visited 18 points distributed approximately 500 meters apart along the shoreline and roughly 25 meters offshore (this varied based on depth and personal judgement.) At each point we raked up a few samples of whatever growth was present and I identified the species that we found. We found 0-4 species at each site; those with no growth were typically rocky.

The great news is that all the species we found (7 total, listed below) were native! The map has been labeled with where each species was found by the initials of the scientific name; if no species were found the site is marked with an "X".

Scientific Name	Common Name	Key	Features
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	coontail	Cd	Branched, whorled leaves
<i>Chara vulgaris</i>	common stonewort or muskgrass	Cv	Brittle with mineral scale, smells skunky
<i>Elodea nutalli</i>	slender/western waterweed	En	Pointy leaves in whorl of 3
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	slender/leafless watermilfoil	Mt	No true leaves, bumpy stem
<i>Najas guadalupensis</i> *	common waternymph	Ng	Close clusters of paired leaves with tapered bases
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	common bladderwort	Uv	Large bladders, tips of branches have tufty shapes
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	wild celery	Va	Ribbon-like with distinct stripe down center

\*May have been *N. flexilis* – difficult to distinguish in the field, but both are native

Now that we know that the pond generally hasn't been invaded by anything, the next step is education and vigilance. There is a lot of boat activity in the pond, and any boat coming from another water body could bring a piece of invasive weed that could colonize the pond. Also, now that we know what we usually see here, anything different will stand out more. Please keep your eye out for anything that seems like it doesn't belong!

- Sara Grady