

Elodea at the Lake

Saturday July 25th, FSWCD and partners held an educational event called *Elodea at the Lake* to inform community members about Elodea. Booths and demonstrations were set up to show how to identify Elodea, management options, and ways to prevent the spread of this noxious waterweed. Other events included a kid's booth, free food, and door prizes. The door prizes were donated by Test the Waters, Gallo's, and Holm Town Nursery: **thank you to these contributors!** Winners of the door prizes are: Alyssa (Holm Town Nursery gift card), Celina from Fairbanks (Gallo's gift card), Jeanette from Anchorage (Gallo's gift card), Mary from North Pole (free scuba diving in the pool), and Tom from North Pole (free single raft rental for the day).



Mitch Osborne, Katherine Sample and their crew demonstrated the suction dredge in action near the pier around 2:30. Over 70 adults and children came to the booths throughout the 3 hour event. The first booth held the email list sign-up, door prize tickets, general Elodea information, and Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District information.



The second booth had kids activities, including an aquarium displaying the before, during and after an Elodea infestation, a fishing game, an elodea & native fish wheel, crafts, and prizes.

The third booth educated participants on the identifying features of Elodea and two native plants that are sometimes confused with Elodea, along with real samples of each.



The last booth offered free hot dogs, chips, cookies, soda, and water to the event attendees. Near these booths was a display of a "Clean, Drain, Dry" scene with a trailer, waders, and the "Clean, Drain, Dry" sign to show attendees what to check to avoid spreading Elodea.

Many thanks to those who helped at the event: Jeff Adams, Ricky Borland and employees of the FNSB Parks and Rec, Makeesia Lee and her catering group, Nick Lisuzzo, Mitch Osborne and his crew, Katherine Sample, Aditi Shenoy, Amelia Sikes, Delia Vargas-Kretsinger and Tricia Wurtz.

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