

## Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District Learn To Monitor for Aquatic Invasive Species – We Need Your Help

**Starry Trek:** In a 1/2 day on Saturday August 17, 2019, hundreds of volunteers in Minnesota and Wisconsin gather at their local lakes (Farm Island Lake in our case), and then spread out to other lakes looking for several different Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), with a focus on Starry Stonewort, a newer, fast-spreading, and perhaps the most destructive AIS. We will also be looking for other types of AIS.



**What do participants do during Starry Trek?** You will meet at a local training site (Farm Island Lake North, Public Access) where you will receive a brief training on how to identify starry stonewort and other target aquatic invasive species and how to follow the search protocols. Groups are then sent out to local lakes to follow the protocols and bring back any suspicious organisms. Starry Trek is a free event and no experience or special equipment is required. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and be done by 12:30 p.m.

This free, family-friendly event is a great way to get outdoors, learn more about AIS and help protect your area lakes. It's a fun learning activity and is part of a scientifically designed project. It's also very effective at discovering new infestations.



Please join us for this important activity.

In a half day, with little effort, you might become a hero!

For more information visit **StarryTrek.org** or to register, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/starry-trek-2019-registration-63798369641>.

Information is also available by calling the Aitkin County SWCD at (218) 927-6565.

**Sign up by August 9<sup>th</sup> to receive a tote bag, boot brush,  
and more AIS identification / sampling tools!**