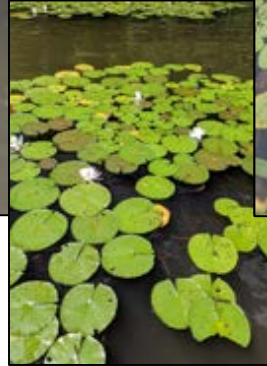


# Lake Gaston

## Aquatic Plant ID Booklet



**North Carolina State University**

Department of Crop and Soil Sciences  
Aquatic Plant Management Program

**Lake Gaston Association**

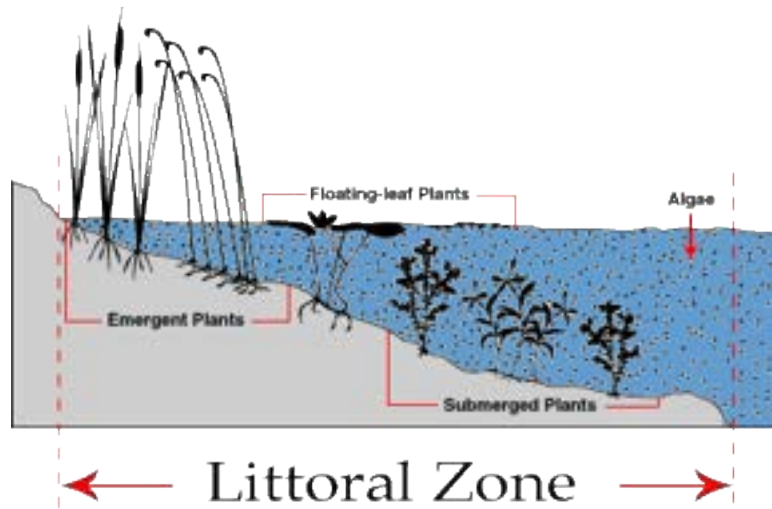
Environmental Committee

**Lake Gaston Weed Control Council**

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# All Plants



| Emergent     | Submergent   | Floating Leaf    | Algae           |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Arrowhead    | Cabomba      | American Lotus   | Chara / Nitella |
| Cattail      | Coontail     | Spatterdock      | Lyngbya         |
| Pickerelweed | Eel Grass    | Watershield      |                 |
| Rush         | Egeria       | White Waterlilly |                 |
| Water Willow | Hydrilla     |                  |                 |
|              | Naiads       |                  |                 |
|              | Pondweeds    |                  |                 |
|              | Spikerush    |                  |                 |
|              | Watermilfoil |                  |                 |



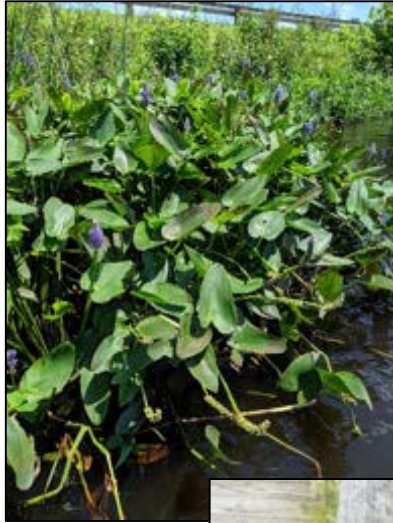
## Arrowhead

- **Native**
- Arrowhead shaped leaves on long stems
- White flowers arranged in whorls of three
- Veins emerge from single point on leaves
- Can be confused with Pickerelweed but has different vein pattern



# Cattail

- **Native**
- Very tall, flat, ribbonlike leaves
- Can stand 5 – 6 ft in height
- Flower in spring and summer, so may not have brown “cattail” flower spike



# Pickerelweed

- **Native**
- Lanceolate to heart shaped leaves attached by long stems
- Purple flowers
  - Flowers from May – October
- Can be confused with Arrowhead but has different vein pattern

## Emergent Plants



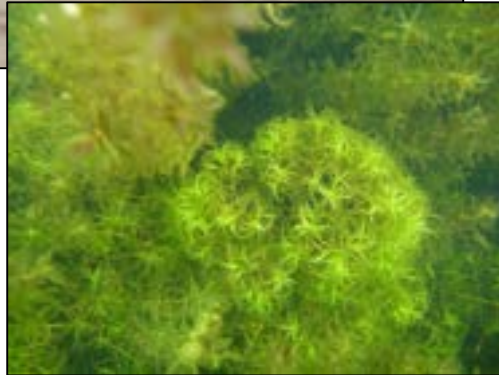
## Rush

- **Native**
- Stems are elongated, round, with sharp tips
- Can stand up to 4 ft tall
- Creates clumps or stands along the shoreline

## Water Willow

- **Native**
- Elongated leaves that are attached oppositely along the stem
- Round, solid, and pithy stem
- Creates large stands along shoreline





## Brittle Naiad

- Invasive
- Shoots are brittle and readily fragmented
- Leaves are linear and opposite
- Leaves are “bumpy”
- Leaves are in a “Feather Duster” type formation





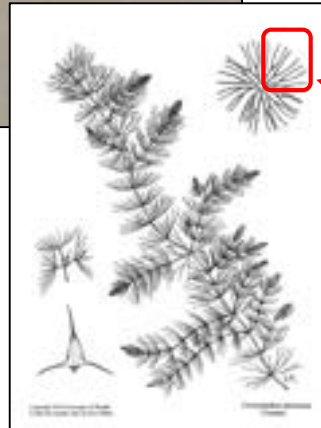
## Cabomba

- **Native**
- Fan-shaped leaves
- Leaves are not ridged and are oppositely arranged



# Coontail

- **Native**
- Submersed or Free-Floating
- Bushy Feathery Leaves can resemble raccoon's tail
- Leaves have "Lobster Claws"
- Can be confused with Watermilfoil





## Eel Grass

- **Native**
- Long, thin, and ribbonlike leaves
- Can grow up to 4 ft in length
- Grows in dense stands





## Egeria

- **Invasive**
- Linear and soft leaves
- Easily confused with Hydrilla, but Egeria is more robust and feels soft to the touch
- No jagged serrations along edge of leaves



# Hydrilla

- **Invasive**
- Leaves are whorled in groups of 4 to 8 around stem
- Leaf edges are serrated
- Can be confused with Egeria, but Hydrilla is more coarse to the touch





## American Pondweed

- Native
- Leaves are elliptic
- Leaves can be submersed or floating and therefore can have different appearances





## Spikerush

- **Native**
- Thin, unbranched stems
- Branched spikelets may or may not be present at stem tips
- Resembles terrestrial grasses in appearance
- Clumps can be attached together by root runners



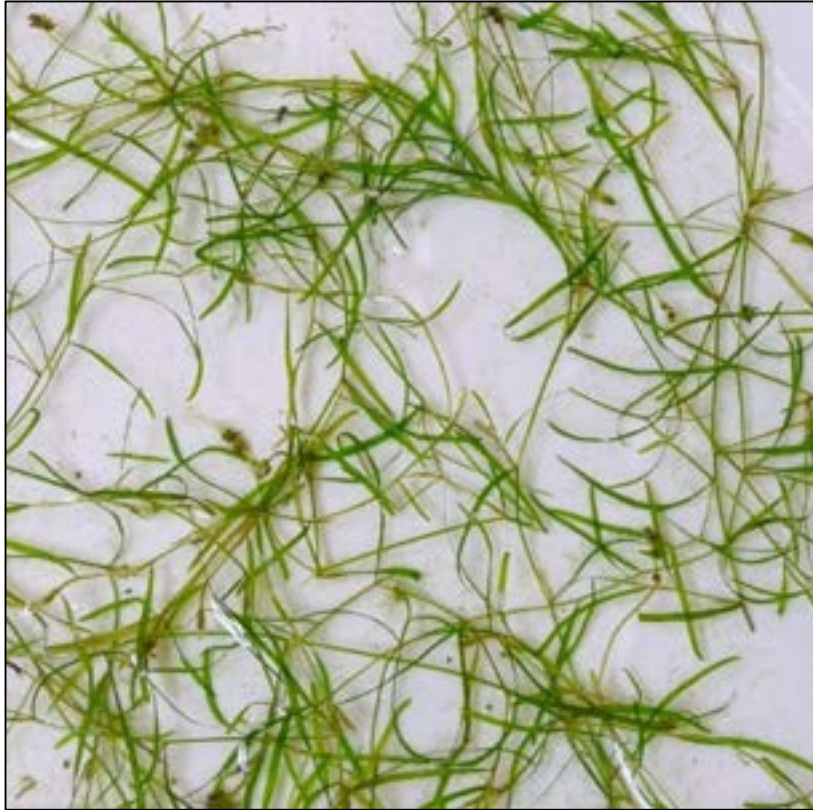
*Photo Credit:  
NaturalWaterScapes.com*



## Southern Naiad

- **Native**
- Leaves are slender and occur opposite of each other
- Leaves can be up to 1 inch long
- Can be confused with Submersed Pondweed
- Pondweed leaves occur alternate of each other while naiads occur opposite





*Photo Credit: IllinoisWildflowers.info*

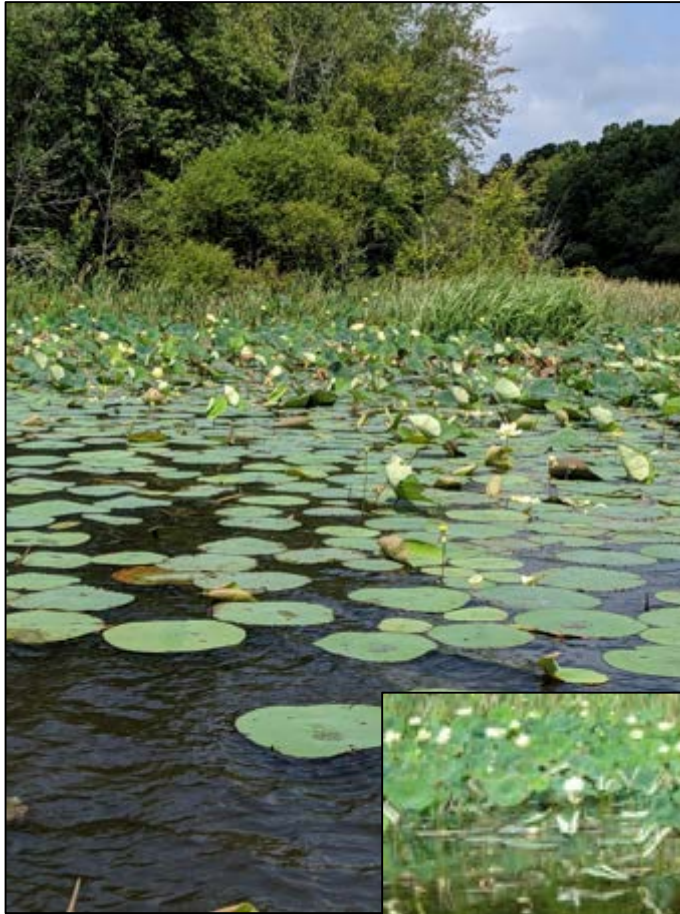
## Submersed Pondweed

- **Native**
- Leaves are slender and occur alternate of each other
- Leaves can be up to 2 inches long
- Can be confused with Southern Naiad
- Pondweed leaves occur alternate of each other while naiads occur opposite



## Watermilfoil

- **Invasive**
- Leaves are whorled, thin, and divided into delicate segments
- Leaves are flimsy and have no form out of water
- Leaves have a feather-like shape
- Can be confused with Coontail



# American Lotus

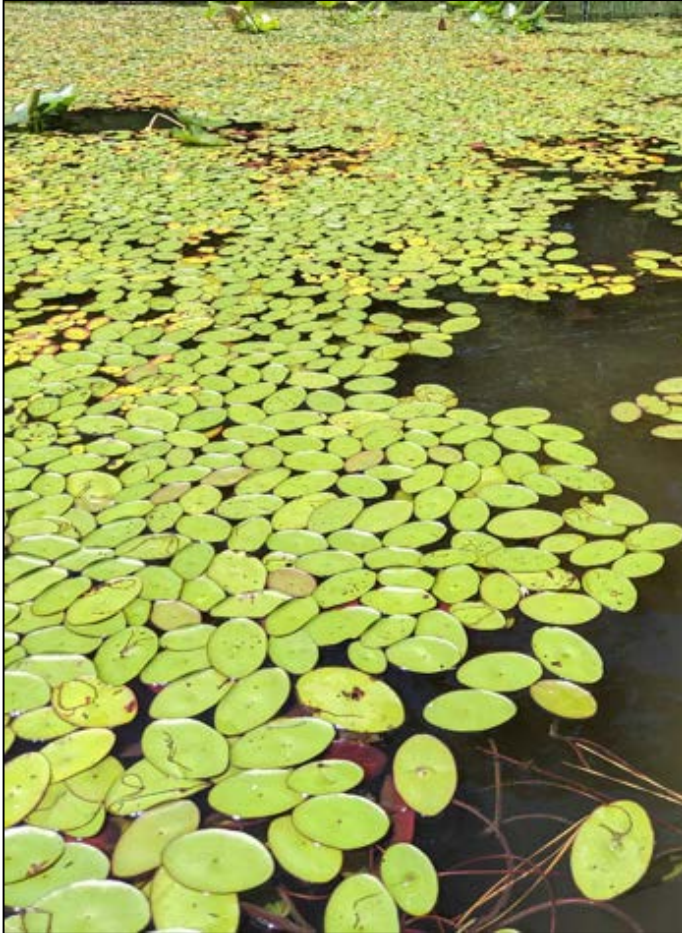
- **Native**
- Very Large Round Leaves
- Leaves could be floating or standing slightly above water surface
- White Flower
- Large Seed Pods

## Floating Leaf Plants



# Spatterdock

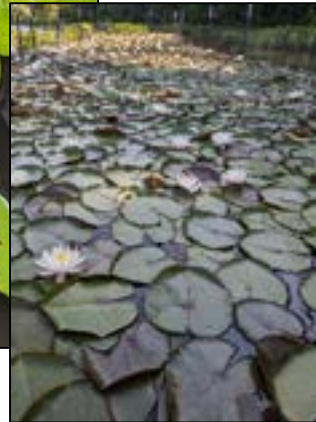
- Native
- Heart shaped leaves
- Leaves could be floating or standing slightly above water surface
- Yellow round flower



## Watershield

- **Native**
- Oval shaped leaves
- Smooth on Top
- Underneath usually covered in jelly-like coating
- Leaves grow from single stem
- Small red flowers

## Floating Leaf Plants



# White water lily

- **Native**
- Pac-Man shaped leaves
- White Flower
- Leaves grow from single stem



# Chara / Nitella

- **Native**
- Course alga that resembles a vascular plant
- Segmented
- Distinctive musky/garlic odor



## Lyngbya

- **Noxious**
- Black / dark green mats
- Filamentous alga/cyanobacteria that resembles human hair
- Foul odor
- Has both benthic and surface mat forms