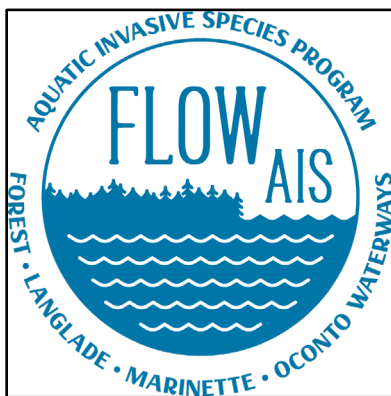


FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

January 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2022 Yearly Update
- FLOW Adds Marinette County
- Grants Applying For
- Purple Loosestrife Beetle
- 2023 Outlook
- Word Search



1 FLOW 2022 YEARLY REVIEW

This was the first full year for the FLOW AIS Program. FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn was excited that he was able to give more trainings this year. The trainings consisted of Clean Boats Clean Waters trainings for Forest and Oconto Counties along with Citizen Lake Monitoring Network trainings in Forest, Langlade, and Oconto Counties. This was the first year that FLOW AIS distributed Citizens Lake Monitoring Network equipment along with giving CLMN trainings. Education and outreach work stayed relatively the same when comparing 2021 and 2022. Educational events this year included teaching elementary kids about aquatic invasive species at the Antigo Library. Running a booth at Kentuck Days in Crandon with the Forest County Association of Lakes and WRISC. Lastly, FLOW AIS participated in Envirothon for the Forest County area High schools. Coordinator Thorn talked about invasive and native aquatic species in the Forest County area with the students.

FLOW AIS also worked more with CIZMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) in 2022, FLOW AIS work in conjunction with The Timberland Invasive Partnership, working on a joint project of managing and monitoring a population of Butterfly Dock in Gillette of Oconto County. FLOW AIS also did a guest presentation at TIP's annual steering committee meeting at the beginning of 2022. FLOW AIS also worked with the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Species Partnership (WHIP) on a Purple Loosestrife project in Lincoln County. The project focused on dispersing Purple Loosestrife beetles around Lake Mohawksin and monitoring and removing Purple Loosestrife around Grandfather Falls. Lastly, FLOW worked with WRISC to help control a population of invasive Phragmites in Laona of Forest County.

Outside of the Lake Monitoring Protection Network duties FLOW AIS has to complete; FLOW AIS also completed an Early Detection response grant for European frogbit in Oconto County. FLOW AIS completed the following deliverables for the grant:

- Trained frogbit technicians on frogbit history, identification, monitoring and removal work.
- Trained Marinette and Oconto County technicians to conduct Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections.
- Assist Oconto County in monitoring and hand removal of European frogbit.
- Led a field trip on European frogbit through the Oconto Marsh for the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Convention (UMISC).
- Created an informational brochure on European frogbit.

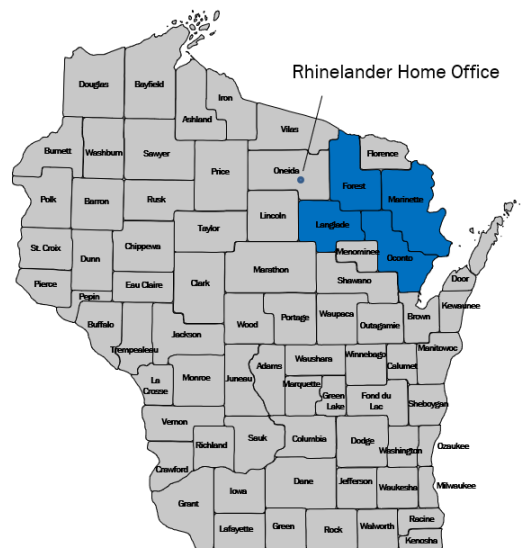
2 FLOW AIS ADDS MARINETTE COUNTY IN 2023

After two successful years of serving Forest, Langlade, and, Oconto Counties as part of the Wisconsin Lake Monitoring & Protection Network (LMPN), FLOW AIS has added Marinette County to its coverage area in January 2023.

FLOW AIS will now work to coordinate and promote the Citizen's Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN), Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW), AIS Snapshot Day, Landing Blitz, Drain Campaign, Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol, and other DNR initiatives through the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network in all four of its counties. FLOW will work closely with lake associations and the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Department in addition to its three other counties.

FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn is eager to start working with Marinette County. It is important to Thorn to continue to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. He explained, "I was happy to have the opportunity to make a difference in the world of aquatic invasive species by becoming the FLOW AIS Coordinator in 2021. Now I'm looking forward to the new possibilities the program will have with the addition of Marinette County in 2023."

The FLOW position is made possible through the WDNR Surface Water Grant Program. Each county in Wisconsin receives a WDNR allocation to put toward AIS programming & prevention. Lumberjack RC&D Council, acting as the agent for Forest, Langlade, Oconto, and Marinette Counties, will administer WDNR AIS programming. Tracy Beckman, Executive Director for Lumberjack stated, "The FLOW program only works if there is continuity and stability at the coordinator position. Add in a passionate and dedicated coordinator like Derek and it's a recipe for success. The addition of Marinette County will ensure the position is funded at the level needed to create that stability and Derek's enthusiasm and passion will ensure its success now and into the future. It's a win, win for conservation!"



3 GRANTS APPLYING FOR

FLOW AIS and the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Species Partnership (WHIP) is applying for a grant through the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council. If the project is funded, it will allow both programs to expand on their purple loosestrife biocontrol capabilities. Through this grant it will allow both FLOW AIS and WHIP coordinators, Rosie page and Derek Thorn, to work together to control purple loosestrife population within their service area. Forest and Vilas County (both in Lumberjack RC&D territory) have agreed to also support the project. Forest County has agreed to help house a mass rearing cage supplied by the WDNR and help to maintain the cage during its time of use. Vilas County has agreed to support the project by contributing to the project by helping to gather both Purple Loosestrife and beetles needed for the project.

In 2022 both Rosie and Derek were involved in statewide conversations on how to potentially improve the biocontrol of Purple Loosestrife within Wisconsin. From those discussions is where this grant idea came from. If this grant is funded, it could act a steppingstone for future grant projects for FLOW and WHIP.

4 BIOCONTROL WITH BEETLES



In the last year FLOW AIS received a lot questions about purple loosestrife. A topic of many of the questions was “what do you treat it with?”

Purple loosestrife is an excellent species to manage through [integrated pest management](#), a combination of choices that depend on the extent of the population and the ability to access it. Chemical control is usually used for spot treatments, often combined with manual removal of a portion of the plant or the entire plant when possible. A permit is required for chemical use if the site is wet. Flower stems can also be clipped to reduce seed production. When plants populations get past 25, and especially when difficult to access, biocontrol is a great option.

For biocontrol the insects of choice are two leaf eating beetles from the genus *Galerucella*. These beetles were introduced to North America for biocontrol in the 1990s. Yes, they are non-native to America. However, they are a very selective species of beetle that only feed on the leaves of purple loosestrife and live their entire life cycle on the plants. They are not invasive here. Beetles need to be administered to a population for at least 2-3 years to see a reduction in purple loosestrife population size. The beetles overwinter at the base of the plants. Several AIS Coordinators are currently trying to get them to overwinter in a controlled setting. But more pilots will need to occur to determine how effective the process can be throughout the state.

Biocontrol is a simple process: purple loosestrife plants are collected from a known location, potted, and placed in water-filled kiddie pools with nets over the pots. Once the plants get large enough, ten beetles are placed on each plant. Beetles will then begin to chew on the potted purple loosestrife and begin to reproduce. Once the new adult beetles emerge, the whole pot will be placed into a wild population of purple loosestrife so the beetles can feed on the wild populations of loosestrife and settle in for winter to hopefully begin an ongoing population for management. The beetles will not completely destroy the plants, but they will weaken them, so they are no longer overwhelming the native plants.

Purple loosestrife biocontrol projects can be upgraded to mass rearing cages. A mass rearing cage houses 50-80 plants. Beetles are free to fly around from plant to plant inside the cage. Mass rearing cages also comes with other benefits. You don't have to mess with individual nets. Instead of being transported in pots, beetles can be collected in plastic bags and easily brought to the wild locations. Releases take less time, and you can often rear more beetles to release them on a specific location.

Want to learn more? Check out [Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol and You](#) or contact [Flow AIS](#).

2023 Outlook for FLOW AIS

- Build relationships with Marinette County and its Lake groups
- Wisconsin Waterfowl and Trappers' convention booth with Golden Sands RC&D
- OCLAWA aquatic Plant ID workshop for Snapshot Day
- Grant presentations for OCLAWA
- Lake and Rivers Convention April 19-21
- Numerous education and outreach events with FCAL



Mass rearing cage
Three Lakes, Oneida County



FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD

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5 FLOW AIS WORD SEARCH

W	Z	H	W	C	P	B	O	Q	E	V	J	F	E	F
P	H	S	A	H	T	J	T	V	K	H	Q	T	D	N
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A	L	H	T	S	E	R	O	F	L	E	R	E	B	P

Word Bank: Forest, Langlade, Oconto, Marinette, Lumberjack, White Lake, Roberts Lake, Kelly Lake, Newton Lake, Chute Pond

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Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code