

FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

April 2022

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FLOW AIS QUARTERLY UPDATE

FLOW AIS has received an Early Detection Response grant to work alongside the Wisconsin DNR and Marinette and Oconto Counties Land and Water Departments in efforts to monitor, remove, and educate the public about the new prohibited invasive species European Frogbit. With the grant, FLOW AIS will train Marinette and Oconto County technicians to participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, assist in monitoring and hand pulling of European Frogbit, present educational material on European Frogbit to county departments and organizations that work in and around Frogbit habitat. Through this grant FLOW AIS will also be able to attend meetings with the Michigan Frogbit Collaborative. This collaborative works with other neighboring states that have similar European Frogbit issues. It will be a great way for FLOW AIS to stay up to date on current European Frogbit issues and strengthen the efforts here in Wisconsin.

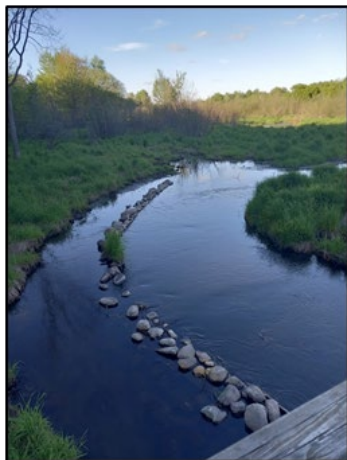
FLOW AIS has been packing, shipping, and hand delivering, Oconto Counties Citizen Lake Monitoring Network supplies the volunteers will use to monitor their lake. If any CLMN volunteer in the FLOW AIS area needs a refresher training, replacement supplies, or equipment please contact Derek Thorn, the FLOW AIS Coordinator. FLOW AIS also has two dissolved oxygen meters to be lent out for any volunteers interested in going above any beyond their CLMN requirements and measuring D.O. in your lake. Meters will be lent to volunteers for three to five days at time.

The FLOW AIS Coordinator, Derek Thorn, attended the Lakes and Rivers Conference earlier this April in Stevens Point Wisconsin. There were many good presentations and speakers. Derek is excited to share what he learned at the conference with the area lake associations and districts.

1.1 UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

AIS Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz- June and July of 2022

These two events are meant to spread awareness on not transporting AIS and making sure watercraft and recreational equipment is clean after recreationalists leave the local boat landing. Volunteers will be at random boat landings and will be handing out towels (while they last) to waterbody goers as they come to the landing. Both events will feature a towel give away. The drain campaign will feature blue towels resembling the previous ice pack giveaways.



AIS Snapshot Day- Saturday August 20th, 2022

What is Snapshot Day?

Snapshot Day is a statewide search between AIS educators and volunteers for aquatic invasive species. This event is typically done at boat landings and lake or river shorelines. It is a great way for volunteers to learn about and possibly find aquatic invasive species in their area. The event normally takes about half a day and is fun for all ages. Volunteers will learn how to identify native and invasive plants and how to properly monitor for invasive species.

Interested in learning more or volunteering for Snapshot Day in Forest, Langlade or Oconto County please let FLOWAIS know what lake you are interested in monitoring for that day.

2 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES HIGHLIGHT

Purple Loosestrife

Sources: Written information from Purple Loosestrife: A Major Threat to Wisconsin's Wetlands and Waterways. Photos from Paul Skawinski and FLOW AIS

Identification:

Growth: Upright, semi-woody, perennial with a dense bushy growth of 1 to 50 stems. The square (four sided) (see below) to many sided (6-8), green to red stems grow 3' to 9' feet tall. Old stems may persist for several years and are often found in clumps of several plants.

Flowers: Purple to pink and on numerous long spikes. with 5 or 6 petals.

Habitat: Moist-soil to shallow-water sites, such as wet meadows and pastures, marshes, stream and riverbanks, lake shores and ditches. Established plants tolerate dry conditions, such as gravel roadsides and abandoned fields. Still planted (illegally) in some gardens.

Blooming Period: Late June through early September. Spike blooms from bottom up. Lower pods may drop seeds while upper blooms are still present.

Distinguishing it from similar species: Few other wetland plants grow as tall, with odorless and numerous square or multisided stems, and spikes of brilliant purple flowers that turn into many small, oval pods.

Similar Species: Fireweed, Swamp Loosestrife, Winged Loosestrife, Lupine, Joe-Pye Weed, Pickerel Weed, Smartweed, and Steeplebush.



Biological Control for Purple Loosestrife:

Biological control is useful on all purple loosestrife, especially where plants are taller than waist height or on very large sites or where loosestrife seeds can infest new areas. Combining with other control methods may give best long-term control. Bio control works by dispersing enough beetles to establish a viable population. Control comes with population increase. Beetles can be reared at many locations like home, school, work, or onsite. You can contact Jeanne Scherer at jeanne.scherer@wisc.edu with the WDNR Biocontrol Program to learn more about the program. If you do plan to grow beetles for a project, you will need to fill out a free WDNR permit. The permit is required to cultivate loosestrife and to raise control beetles. You can also work with the FLOW AIS program to make sure you get beetles for your project area.



FLOW AIS plans on rearing beetles this year and has three control sights of interest with the possibility to add more sites as the summer unfolds. If there is an area you think would be a good fit for a biological control project let FLOW AIS know. FLOW AIS is also working on a possible joint project between FLOW AIS and Rosie Page of WHIP (also of lumberjack RCD). This project is still pending given the funding from WPS. Rosie and Derek have worked in the past and are excited to possibly work together again.

3 WHAT'S NEXT FOR FLOW?

FLOW AIS is very excited for the upcoming field season and cannot wait to get back outside and working to help prevent and control AIS in Forest, Langlade, and Oconto County. This season shows no shortage of projects before it gets cold again. Here is a small look of what is going on in the FLOW AIS world with more projects to come.

- FLOW AIS was asked to give a presentation and training at the Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Association on the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network
- Spring AIS Partnership Meeting, FLOW AIS will be giving a presentation on Butterfly Dock in Oconto County
- European Frogbit work in Oconto County and collaboration work with Michigan
- Purple loosestrife digging and beetle rearing once the snow melts
- Planning summer educational events with the Forest County Association of lakes. Probable projects and booth event ideas were discussed at the monthly meeting in March.
- Eurasian Watermilfoil Early Detection Response grant collaboration in Forest County
- Various education and outreach events in the FLOW AIS area.
- UMISC- October 25-27th in Green Bay Wisconsin

If you or your lake association would like to learn more about the FLOW AIS program and what FLOW does underneath the Lake Management Protection Network, or if you need a Clean Boats Clean Waters or Citizens Lake monitoring network training done, please contact Derek Thorn at flowais@lumberjackrkd.org or (715)-490-3325 and he can come to your next lake association meeting or be of assistance.



FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD

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FLOW AIS WORD SEARCH

U F R G A G U V J M M U H K W
N S R U N E Z G R E M R W W K
P B C A G I R Q C J E L Q P W
E V H X G C R H Y E C D L Z U
L L E E F M A P T Z D V W O F
J G M W R N E N S R M K Z H I
Y E I B I I U N H X N I D N E
Y D C C H L W M T G C E W U L
Z P A P O N U T Z A E V O C D
V L L V C F S Z M S T M F R S
R E V O N R U T P H Z I L A E
D J B B N E P N X N T J O Q A
G G E M F E I D C M R M M N S
A K G T U R I O N L Z A L Z O
C M G T M I J W D C V F Z Q N

Word Bank

Seed, Turion, Fragmentation, Chemical, Mechanical, Turnover, Spring
CLMN, Volunteer, Field Season

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Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code