

FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

July 2025

WHAT'S INSIDE

- FLOW Annual Meeting Highlights
- Purple Loosestrife Update
- Snapshot Day
- CBCW, CLMN and SWIMS
- AIS Monitoring and Education
- Resort Outreach Work
- Upcoming Events



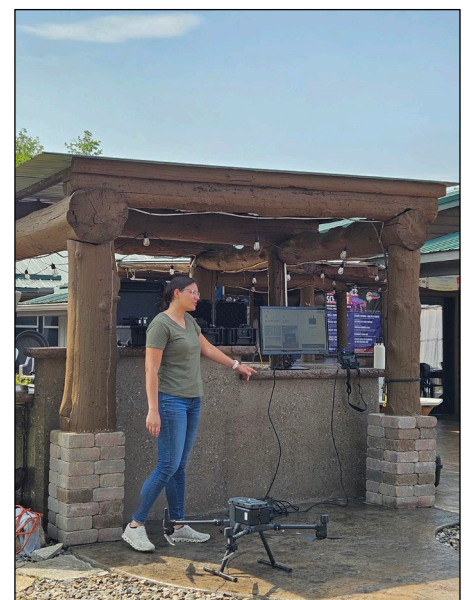
Purple Loosestrife Update

The Purple Loosestrife Collaborative began collecting beetles and larva later this spring. The group was able to collect 600 larva and a few beetles to be placed in their two mass rearing cages this year. The larva were collected in a few places including Laona, Minocqua, Rhinelander, and Eagle River. The collaborative was also donated 700 beetles from Stephanie Boismenu, the Oneida County AIS Coordinator who manages three beetle mass rearing cages for Oneida County. Nicolet College in Rhinelander is partnering with the collaborative this year. They are hosting the two mass rearing cages in their community garden. If you are in the area, we encourage you stop by the garden and take a look at beetles and purple loosestrife plants. Beetles will be distributed across the collaborative's seven county area later this summer.

1

FLOW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

FLOW AIS held its first annual meeting since the beginning of the program. The meeting was held at the Northwoods Inn in Pickerel Wisconsin. In total twenty-eight people attended the meeting. Everyone in attendance enjoyed topics from all three of the speakers. Amanda Smith, the Northeast Regional AIS Biologist, gave a full update on her project working with dock service providers and how the project is going statewide. Kayla Littleton, the Forest County Conservationist provided a drone demonstration for those in attendance. She explained the several different projects Forest County has used the drone for so far and how it has become a huge help to the county overall. Lastly, Lindsay Peterson from the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition gave a presentation on common terrestrial invasives and how they can impact water quality in lakes and rivers. Everyone was able to come away with something new from being at the the meeting. The Photos from the event below are thanks to Lindsay Peterson. Pictured below, Amanda Smith (left), attendees (right) Kayla Littleton and drone. (bottom)



Snapshot Day 2025

Snapshot Day is a statewide search between aquatic invasive species 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 aquatic invasive species.

This year Snapshot Day is happening in Langlade County on August 9th. Join FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn and Audrey Gossett the Langlade County Conservation Specialist to look for aquatic invasive species around Langlade County. The morning meeting location for the morning will be outside the Post Lake Improvement center in Elcho. Everyone within the FLOW AIS area and surrounding area is welcome to join.



If you are interested in volunteering for Snapshot Day, registration is open and can be done at the Water Action Volunteers website. Google Snapshot Day 2025 water action volunteers to go to the registration page. Link below <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/events/aquatic-invasive-species-snapshot-day-2025/>

Clean Boats, Citizen Lake Monitors, And SWIMS...Oh My

FLOW AIS has continued to assist the area lake associations with their Clean Boats Clean Waters programs. Several training courses have taken place in Forest and Oconto Counties. Trainings have been both in-person and virtual. The virtual trainings have taken place through online zoom meetings and the on-demand training quiz option inspectors can use for their own convenience. Derek has also been receiving interest from a few new lake organizations interested in beginning the program in 2026.



FLOW AIS has also been able to continue providing volunteer trainings in Marinette and Oconto Counties for the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network program. Coordinator Derek Thorn has gotten new volunteers set up to do clarity monitoring and assisted volunteers with their ongoing chemistry monitoring, gathering chlorophyll and phosphorus samples for their lake. Derek and Paul Skawinski, the Citizens Lake Monitor Statewide Educator, were able to join the Marinette County Thunder Lake volunteer and assist in gathering their clarity and chemistry samples for June. The volunteer for Thunder Lake has over 30 years of data collecting experience with the program. Paul and Derek were able to learn a lot about the history of Thunder Lake and share the over 30 years' worth of data collected with the volunteer at the end of the day through the Wisconsin Water Explorer database. If you are interested in seeing what your lakes data looks like. Use the link below and enter your

lake.

<https://dnr-wisconsin.shinyapps.io/WaterExplorer/> (use the “select water body” search bar to find your lakes data)

For those of you who volunteer to either the Clean Boats Clean Waters program or the Citizens Lake Monitoring program, there is a new login process in order for you to access the SWIMS database. And enter in the data you have collected throughout the year. The New login process takes place with a “My WI ID” you will need to create an ID in order to gain access to SWIMS again. If you are a volunteer who has not been able to get into SWIMS or have not yet created a “My WI ID” this year and need to, please contact Derek Thorn The FLOW AIS Coordinator at flowais@lumberjackred.org. if you are having issues with the My WI ID login or SWIMS.

Thank you to all of those who volunteer for these two programs. The data and information you collect during your monitoring efforts ensures that there is an abundant information about the health of our waterbodies statewide and aid in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species across our landscape.

AIS Monitoring and Education Events

FLOW AIS hosted the first Project RED (Riverine Early Detection) monitoring day along the Wolf River with Audrey Gossett of Langlade County. Derek, Audrey, and the group of volunteers paddled a five-mile section of the Wolf River looking for new aquatic invasive species. No new invasives were found. However, the group did find existing purple loosestrife populations along the shore, with an active beetle feeding on most plants. Several species of native mussels were found along the way of the paddle.

Derek was able to join Amanda Smith, the Regional AIS Biologist, to monitor for European Frog-bit, a free-floating prohibited lily pad-like invasive species in Marinette and Oconto Counties. The two went along the shoreline of the Machickanee Flowage and the Bagley Flowage. No European Frog-bit was found in either flowage during the survey.

Wheeler Lake interns Grace and Claire hosted the first AIS Discovery Day for Wheeler Lake. The discovery day followed WI state lake monitoring protocols, choosing five key areas to monitor around the lake. Volunteers were able to retrieve plant samples using a throw rake from each of the five points selected. The plants were later brought back to shore and identified by Derek, Grace, and Claire. No new aquatic invasive species were found in Wheeler Lake. Lastly, monitoring wise, Derek spent some time following up on Eurasian Watermilfoil reports from last year in Langlade County. The main goal for each lake was to verify the plant species and find the population extent through each lake. Monitoring work for Eurasian Watermilfoil in Marinette County also continued on in Little Newton Lake with Chuck Druckrey a few weeks ago.

For the education side of FLOW AIS, Derek was able to participate in two events with the Timberland Invasive Species Partnership recently. The first event was at Fairview Elementary in Oconto teaching students about the impact of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. The second was hosting a shoreline education day for lake front property owners in Oconto. The event focused on ways to improve your shoreline and protect your lakes water quality. With presentations from Derek, Brianna LeFebre (The New Timberland Invasive Partnership Coordinator, for Lumberjack RC&D) and Ken Dolata, The Oconto County Conservationist.

Lastly, Derek was able to attend a plant identification put on by Paul Skawinski, the statewide Citizens Lake Monitoring Network Educator, and statewide aquatic plant management staff at the Kemp Natural Resources station in Woodruff. Attendees were able to learn and go over 60 aquatic plants both native and invasive. Derek enjoys the opportunity to continue learning about and stay up to date on all things aquatic plant wise.



Ken Dolata giving a presentation on shoreland erosion and the Oconto County cost share program

Continued Resort Owner Outreach

FLOW AIS has distributed and put up two AIS cleaning stations this year at resorts in the area. One at Pine Beach Resort on Lake Noquebay in Marinette County and the other cleaning station on the boarder of Forest and Langlade counties at Pickerel Point Resort on Crystal Lake. Resort owners have been excited about the opportunity to receive the educational folders and cleaning stations. They have expressed that they look forward to being part of slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Many owners said they will reach out for more folders when their current supply becomes limited. FLOW AIS plans to continue to reach out to more resorts in the area to distribute the rest of the folders and cleaning stations.





FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD

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Upcoming Events in the FLOW AIS Area

- Snapshot Day in Langlade County, Saturday August 9th
 - FCAL Fall Forum, Friday August 15th
 - Fall OCLAWA meeting, Saturday August 23rd
 - Forest County Envirothon, October 2nd
 - 2026 Lakes and Rivers Convention Dates April 15th -17th in Stevens Point.
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Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code