

FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

October 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Education Outreach
- Lake Surveys
- Purple Loosestrife
- Other Notables
- 2025 Outlook so far
- Word Search

1 FLOW AIS QUARTERLY REVIEW

The last leg of the field season for FLOW AIS was busy with several of its yearly projects. Including, lake surveys, education and outreach, purple loosestrife beetle releases, cage take down and gathering purple loosestrife plants for overwintering.

Education and Outreach

FLOW AIS held Snapshot Day this year in Marinette County at the Caldron Falls Reservoir. Overall, the event was great, Coordinator Derek Thorn was able to use the event day show the attending volunteers how to do their own Snapshot Day next year. A volunteer in attendance from the Wheeler Lake Association in Oconto County plans to hold a Snapshot Day like event for the residents of Wheeler Lake next year in June for invasive species action month.

FLOW AIS was also able to assist with two different environmental days in September this year again. One event was a three-day long event in Marinette County which reached 386 4th grade students overall. Coordinator Derek Thorn talked to the kids about what invasive species are, the common invasive species we have in the area, and ways to prevent them spreading from lake to lake.



Derek also had the kids play two different games to explain the impacts invasive species have on our waterbodies. Kids played the human knot game in order to demonstrate the communication process that takes place between lake residents, AIS biologists, AIS coordinators, and county staff when a new invasive species is found in a lake. Several people have to work together and communicate to

figure out one common goal, whether its getting a knot undone or removing a new invasive species. Only one out of thirty-two groups of kids were able to untie themselves. When Derek asked the kids how they did it, the lead kid giving directions explained that they had found out how to complete the game on YouTube, months before when playing it with family. The second game Derek had the kids play was sharks and minnow with an invasive species twist. The Invasive species (sharks) had to tag the noninvasive (minnows), the game represents how fast invasive species can potentially spread in a lake if left unchecked.



Derek showing Students zebra mussels at Lake Noquebay Park in Marinette

The second environmental day was in Forest County and hosted by the Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL). Highschool students from Crandon, Laona, and Wabeno were able to learn about what a typical field season day looks like for FLOW AIS, different invasive species in our area, how to monitor for invasive species, and how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Derek received positive feedback on both events and is looking forward to them again next year.

Lake Surveys

Coordinator Derek Thorn enjoyed being able to do several different kinds of lake surveys in the last half of the field season. Derek assisted Oconto County Lakes Biologist Brenda Nordin with a point intercept survey on the Townsend Flowage looking for plant community abundance and eurasian watermilfoil. After several weather delays Derek was able to complete an early detection response survey for Bass Lake in Oconto County, for a new population of eurasian watermilfoil. Derek then was asked to speak at the association's annual meeting on the extent of the findings. Derek also assisted Jim Zach of the Lake Lucerne Advancement Association in Forest County on a eurasian watermilfoil response survey for a new detection in Lake Lucerne found in August. Furthermore, Derek was able to complete two more lake surveys in Langlade County as well. One at the Sider Creek Flowage and the other at High Lake. Each of which had no invasive species found during the survey.

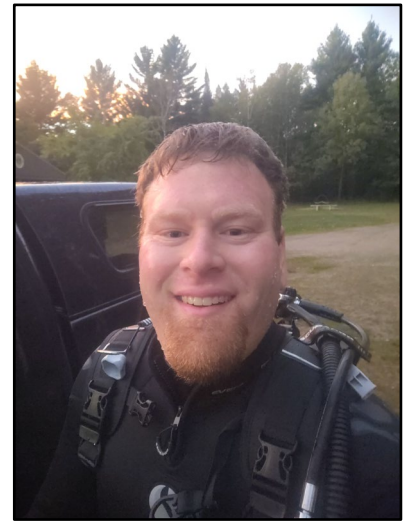


Photo from weekend dive at Star Lake in Vilas County

Lastly, Derek was able to scuba dive for two surveys towards the end of the field season. For one survey Derek assisted Marinette County with work on Little Newton Lake, assessing the current extent of the lakes eurasian watermilfoil population. The second survey was done with Keifer Soroka, the Adams County AIS Coordinator at White Lake in Langlade County. The survey was a small part of a joint monitoring field day the two coordinators had organized for a Citizens Lake Monitoring Network review. The two coordinators spent the dive looking for the extent of what could possibly be a newly found population of eurasian watermilfoil around the kayak launch. Derek and Keifer were able to send in photos to the AIS biologist, but no full verification has been made yet. Once verification is complete, if the species is verified to be eurasian watermilfoil, if needed a standard early detection response survey will be completed by FLOW AIS.

Purple Loosestrife



This year Derek was able to release at three different sites in the area, with an additional site release in the area done by Kayla Littleton, the Forest County Conservationist. Overall, with the partnership between FLOW AIS, WHIP, Vilas, and Forest Counties, 4,438 beetles were released on the landscape in the joint 7-county area. Cage production was slower this year, the group is hoping that next year the cages will be able to produce a few more beetles. In addition to the sites beetles have been released in the past Derek is working on a plan to release beetles along highway 64 in Marinette County.

Derek, Rosie Page of WHIP, and Cathy Higley of Vilas County were able to dig 93 purple loosestrife plants from the right of way off of Highway 8 in Laona in mid-October. The group was very surprised and happy to find that

they were able to dig that many plants as this was their first time digging at the location. The plants will be overwintering behind Dereks house in Rhinelander. Derek, Rosie, and Kayla Littleton plan to dig the remaining plants needed for overwintering at Seagull Bar in Marinette County. The group is hoping to have between 120-140 plants overwintering overall. The partnership is also looking for a new area to put their two cages up next year. A few ideas of new areas are being looked into at this time.



Truck bed full of purple loosestrife plants ready to be overwintered

Other Notables from FLOW AIS

- FLOW AIS participated in the European Frogbit removal day in Marinette County at Seagull Bar. The work crew was able to remove just over 1000 pounds of European Frogbit.
- 200 AIS educational folders were given to four area resorts in the FLOW AIS area as part of the resort owner outreach grant. Derek plans on creating more folders this winter for another round of outreach next year. Responses on the folders have started to come in for the survey included within the folder. Derek has received positive feedback on the folders both from resort owners and from members of the public who received one.
- Around 240 surface water grant applications were submitted to the DNR this year for 2025. This is about the same number of applications that were received last year.
- Derek has been assisting multiple lake associations with surface water grant help this season. Assistance ranges from planning advice, written grant guidance, reimbursement assistance, and other questions that come up in the application process. Derek also assisted with a Lumberjack grant application for this year as a well.
- Derek will be attending the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference in Duluth Minnesota this coming November. Derek is looking forward to the vast variety of the presentations that are available to pick from during the conference and the educational field “The Hitchhiker's Guide to Aquatic Invaders” which focuses on unique ways to educate folks on AIS.

Outlook For 2025

- Even though the year is winding down and there is a winter break until next field season Derek has already been receiving interest for projects, presentations, and education events for FLOW AIS in 2025.
- All four counties have agreed to partner with FLOW AIS program in 2025.
- The second phase of the Resort Owner Outreach grant will take place in 2025, the second phase will focus on another round of outreach folders as well as cleaning tools, tips and ticks for resort guests.



FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD

Contact

FLOW AIS

315 S. Oneida Ave.

Rhineland WI, 54501

Office phone: 715-490-3325

flowais@lumberjackrkd.org

Website: <https://lumberjackrkd.org/flow-ais-program>

2 WORD SEARCH

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

Word Bank: Soot, Drake, Piper, Astro, Whiskey, Ginny, Pepper, Kimber, Ivy, Biscuit

FLOW AIS

315 S. Oneida Ave.

Rhineland WI, 54501

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code