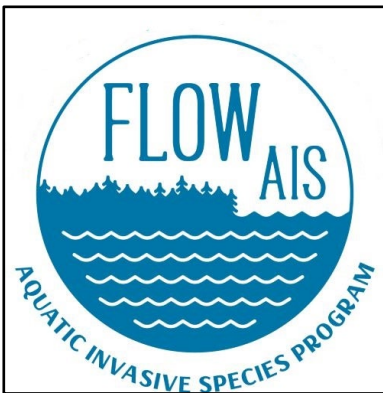


# FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

May 2026

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## 1 FLOW AIS 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

FLOW AIS is holding their annual meeting in Marinette County this year at Red Arrow Park. Happening August 21, 2026 from 9:00am-12:30.

### 2026 Presentations Include

1. History of Seagull Bar State Natural Area and local AIS. Presenter: Amanda Smith WI DNR
2. Marinette County European Frogbit Work  
Presenter: Sheri and Chuck, Marinette County Land and Water
3. Frogbit Monitoring  
Presenter: Derek Thorn FLOW AIS
4. Trapping, Waterfowl and Staying clean off the great lakes  
Presenter: Chris Hamerla, Golden Sands RC&D

Lunch is provided for attendees. Email FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn at [flowais@lumberjackrcd.org](mailto:flowais@lumberjackrcd.org) if you are interested in attending

### 2026 Grant Project Update

Through the Wisconsin surface water grant program this year there were a total of 471 applications requesting \$7.4 million. Overall, 426 projects received funding with only \$6.1 million in funding available for awards statewide.

Two of the projects FLOW AIS applied for received funding. The first was to continue and expand its resort owner outreach project that started in 2024. The expansion will bring in Seven other AIS coordinators and cover sixteen counties. So far, FLOW AIS and the rest of the partners had their kick-off meeting planned to set up work for the rest of the season.

The second project FLOW AIS received funding for is to help boost capacity, interest, and creativity in the Langlade County Waterways Association. So far, FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn has been helping with LCWA outreach of yearly projects and meetings, working on creating an informational survey with the Help of the UW-Extension lakes team and Langlade County staff to draw interest to the organization, and creating a database for all current members of the organization to find useful information related to water within Langlade County.



The last award FLOW received was from Lumberjack RC&D to assist with its overall program funding to keep the work FLOW is known for going.

## FLOW AIS Fee For Service Work



Shoestring Lake, Langlade County

Starting this year FLOW AIS will begin accepting fee for service work. Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Annual lake monitoring for aquatic invasive species
- Water quality monitoring, outside the CLMN program
- Surface water grant writing assistance, projects currently for 2027
- Purple loosestrife work if you are outside FLOW AIS area
- Aquatic invasive species informational folders for education and outreach needs.

If your lake association is interested in any of these above projects or are wondering if an idea you have would fit our fee for service work. Please reach out to the FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn by email at [flowais@lumberjackred.org](mailto:flowais@lumberjackred.org). Derek has already started to receive inquiries about potential projects.

## 2026 Lakes and Rivers Convection Highlights

This year's Lakes and Rivers Convention was great. FLOW Coordinator Derek Thorn was able to network with several AIS Coordinators, DNR, and Extension staff throughout the entire conference. There were several valuable sessions that Derek Attended focused on recreational impacts on lakes, shoreline restoration, algae and diatoms, stream and river monitoring, mussel monitoring work in Chippawa County, and Eurasian Watermilfoil management. Derek also attended three different workshops focused around gathering data for watershed management, algae and cyanobacteria identification, and Maco invertebrate identification.

If any of the topics mentioned seemed interesting to you consider attending the 2027 Lakes and Rivers Convention happening April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. The lakes convention is a great way to connect with professionals and members of the public that all care about Wisconsin's water.

Furthermore at the convention, Lumberjack RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development Council) Executive Director, Tracy Beckman, lead a special session at the conference in conjunction with Glacierland RC&D and Golden Sands RC&D, discussing the history of each organization, the different programs that make up each of the nonprofits and how they are able to work with government agencies and the public on natural resource projects based in the area.

Another conference happening this year is the Upper Midwest Invasive Species conference in Lacrosse this October. Derek will be presenting on to the collaborative expansion work done in 2026 to the resort owner outreach project FLOW AIS started in 2024.



Pictured left, Andy Teal, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator, Middle Rosie Page, WHIP Coordinator, Right Derek Thorn, FLOW AIS Coordinator

## Education Works: Boaters who know the ‘Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!’ rules are doing their part to stop AIS

Reprinted from our friends at [Wisconsin Sea Grant](#)

Millions of dollars are spent each year on programs that encourage recreational boaters to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels and hydrilla. But do these programs, like the national Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! and Clean, Drain Dry brands, actually work?

Recently published research from a University of Wisconsin–Madison team shows for the first time that yes, they do.

“Before now, we only assumed these messages work,” said Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant’s aquatic invasive species outreach specialist and coauthor of the study. “This research shows, for sure, that Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! and Clean Drain Dry outreach help keep our lakes and rivers free of invasive species.”

You can read the recently published research article in the journal [Management of Biological Invasions](#).

### FLOW AIS 2026 Early Work

FLOW AIS was able to partner again this year with Langlade County Land and Water and the Timberland Invasives Partnership to hold two education outreach events on the aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in the Langlade County area. Coordinators Derek (FLOW AIS), Biranna (Timberland) and Audrey (Langlade County) presented to 80 students at the Peace Lutheran School in Antigo. Students were able to learn why cleaning off recreational gear is important to help minimize the spread of invasive species. Students were also able to get creative and design their own invasive species character. The 2<sup>nd</sup> event the three hosted was at the Antigo public library in early April where they shared much of the same information with the public attendees. Biranna and Derek were also interviewed by the local news for the event.

FLOW AIS held two online Clean Boats Clean Waters trainings with both Oneida County Land and Water and Vilas County Land and Water for volunteers all around the area

Derek Thorn and Lucas Obrien of Forest County Land and Water were able to get a head start setting up the purple loosestrife mass rearing cages at Nicolet College in Rhinelander again this year. The cages will fully be up before the first purple loosestrife plants begin to sprout in the spring. FLOW AIS is partnering again with WHIP, Vilas County and Forest County Land and Water, to continue their collaborative work rearing purple loosestrife beetles. The next steps for the collaborative will be to pot purple loosestrife plants to grow in the cage and collect starter beetles that will feed on the plants and multiply. Once there are thousands of beetles (hopefully) they will be released onto wild populations of purple loosestrife where the beetles will feed on the plants.



Overwintering purple loosestrife plant, in the backyard of FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorns’s house

The last of spring field work was the spring supply delivery of the citizens lake network monitoring supplies to all of the volunteers in Marinette County. Each volunteer monitors their lake four times a year gathering data on chlorophyll and phosphorous levels, along with temperature and clarity of the lake. Some volunteers also collect dissolved oxygen levels. All the data collected by the volunteers can be found on the Wisconsin DNR water explorer webpage.



FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD

### Contact

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## 2 WORD SEARCH

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

**Word Bank:** Bond, Brekker, Cranston, Cross, Duke, Holmes, Kerbouchard, Maddox, Pickett, Poirot

Main characters last names of favorite books or novel series

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**Recipient Name**

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code