

# FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

October 2022

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## 1 FLOW AIS QUARTERLY UPDATE

FLOW AIS is closing on a productive field season this year. Purple Loosestrife monitoring and removal, European Frogbit work, and educational events. Each took a third of FLOW AIS time since July. All Purple Loosestrife sites for the field season were reinspected and will be added to the site list for next year, along with a couple new sites FLOW AIS has found out about in recent weeks. Sites with Purple Loosestrife did show an increase in beetle activity this year. Purple Loosestrife work with Rosie Page from the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Species Partnership (WHIP, also of Lumberjack RC&D) in Lincoln County went very well. Derek Thorn, the FLOW AIS Coordinator looks forward to partnering more with Rosie in the coming years for Purple Loosestrife work.

FLOW AIS spent time with both the Oconto County European Frogbit Technicians and county staff working to remove and monitor the European Frogbit population in the Oconto Marsh Unit, the Oconto Sportsman's Club and Lake Michigan. Throughout the entire summer field season while searching for the European Frogbit population extent, over 2,200 pounds of European Frogbit was removed in Oconto County, over 20 miles were surveyed, and 26 acres were covered by either walking or kayaking.

FLOW AIS participated in several education and outreach events throughout the area. FLOW AIS shared a booth with the Forest County Association of Lakes and WRISC for Kentuck Days in Crandon, talked about area invasive species and played AIS educational focused games with Antigo's elementary library students for their Ocean of Possibilities event. FLOW AIS participated in Forest Counties Envirothon day talking to area high school students about the importance of local waters, water quality, recreational impact use, and invasive species.

Snapshot Day was held in both Forest and Langlade counties in conjunction with FLOW AIS, the Forest County Association of Lakes, and Katie Bender Ream, the Shoreland Specialist for Langlade

County. Overall no new invasive species were found, and five lakes were surveyed throughout the two counties.



Photo Right: Kentuck Day Booth Forest County. Photo taken by Larry Sommer

## 1.1 FLOW AIS FUNDING CHALLENGE

FLOW AIS receives most of its yearly funding through the Lake Monitoring Protection Network (LMPN) funding allocation. Each FLOW AIS county (Forest, Langlade, and Oconto) contributes their county allocation of the LMPN funding to Lumberjack RC&D to fund FLOW AIS. FLOW AIS then has to apply for supplementary grants to meet the full funding requirements needed each year.

In September, FLOW AIS received a task from Steve Heimerman, of the Oconto County Waterways Association, and Tracy Beckman, the Executive Director of Lumberjack RC&D, to challenge the area counties and waterfront association to pledge a donation towards FLOW AIS funding for the 2023 year.

Each county and county waterway association has accepted the challenge. Single lake associations in the area have also agreed to pledge towards funding. FLOW AIS is very grateful to all of those that have pledged. If lake associations are interested in pledging a donation, please contact Derek Thorn, the FLOW AIS Coordinator, at [flowais@lumberjackrcd.org](mailto:flowais@lumberjackrcd.org) for more information on where to send your pledge to. Pledges need to be received before the start of 2023.

## 2 INVASIVE SPECIES HIGHLIGHT

### Zebra Mussels

Information from Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

Zebra mussels look like small clams, ranging in size from 1/8 to 2 inches in length. The shell is “D” shaped and white or cream-colored with jagged brown or black stripes. Zebra mussels may be confused with their invasive cousin, the quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*). The shell of the quagga mussels is rounder and usually light tan to almost white, with black, cream, or white bands. Both species have byssal threads (or ropes) on the hinge edge of their shells that allow them to attach to solid objects. These threads are unique to zebra and quagga mussels and are not found on native mussels.

Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters and are generally found in shallow (6-30 feet), algae-rich water. Their ability to attach to hard surfaces results from the tuft of fibers located at the hinge of their shell called byssal threads. These threads produce powerful glue that anchors the mussel in place. Any hard surface is a suitable place for a mussel to live. Zebra mussels may even colonize living organisms such as plants, other mussels, and the bodies of slow-moving animals like turtles.

Zebra mussels have spread rapidly throughout the Great Lakes and into several major river systems of the eastern United States, including but not limited to the Ohio, Illinois, Mississippi, and the Hudson. Zebra mussels are now known to be in at least 23 states, primarily within the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds regions. Zebra mussels are known to be in the following lakes:

Lake Metonga	Forest County
Roberts Lake	Forest County
Archibald Lake	Oconto County
Boot Lake	Oconto County
Caldron Falls	Oconto County
Crooked Lake	Oconto County
Kelly Lake	Oconto County
Leigh Flowage	Oconto County
Machickanee Flowage	Oconto County
Oconto Falls Pond	Oconto County



Zebra mussels attached to a rock from Lake Metonga in Forest County

# WHAT IS NEXT FOR FLOW

## Grants In the Works

With the end of the field season wrapping up FLOW AIS is working on applying for grants for next year. One of the grants is a county wide lakes grant, working in conjunction with Forest and Langlade Counties. Another grant is focused on creating a educational video on European Frogbit for both the public and the AIS community. The last grant is a joint project with WHIP and will focus Purple Loosestrife control, beetle rearing, and other elements of control.

## FLOW AIS In the News

### Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference

Derek Thorn will be a part of two presentations during his first time at UMISC in Green Bay, October 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. The first presentation is a joint presentation with Ramona Shackelford, the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator out of Bayfield, and Matt Wallrath, the Invasive Species Program Manager at Upper Sugar River Watershed Association in Mt. Horeb. The presentation will be focused on area Butterfly Dock projects. Derek will be presenting on the Butterfly Dock project results in Oconto County. The project was done with Alix Bjorklund, the former Timberland Invasive Species Partnership Coordinator.

The second presentation will be a field trip to the Oconto Marsh Unit in Oconto. Derek will be talking about the European Frogbit efforts in Oconto County and on and the impacts that the species has had on the area.


Derek is looking forward to the conference and is excited to share what he will learn with the FLOW AIS counties and area lake associations.

### Fall AIS Partnership Meeting

For the Tuesday edition of the Fall AIS Partnership meeting Derek will be giving European Frogbit updates in a presentation along with other members of the Wisconsin Frogbit Collaborative

**PIONEER EXPRESS PAGE 17, AUGUST 29, 2022**

### **FCAL Fall Forum a success**



*Derek Thorn, coordinator of invasive species for Forest County, inspects for an invasive brought to the fall forum by a lake resident.*

The Forest County Association of Lakes hosted its annual Fall Forum for area lake leaders on Friday, August 19th. This event was held at the Lake Lucerne Clubhouse/parillon on Hwy W. Our appreciation to the Lake Lucerne Association for donating this awesome space.

24 people representing 12 Forest County lakes were in attendance. Presentations were offered by Jeannie Fannin, the Forest County Zoning Administrator, regarding changes to shoreline zoning rules. Jeannie also offered information on how to safeguard the health of our septic systems. Handouts from this presentation can be obtained for your lake organization by contacting Jeannie at [jfannin@co.forest.wi.us](mailto:jfannin@co.forest.wi.us)

Following Jeannie was a presentation from Greg Matzke regarding the health of our local fisheries. Greg is the DNR Fish Biologist for Forest County. Both Greg and Jeannie fielded many questions from the assembled lake representatives.

In conjunction with these presentations, Derek Thorn conducted AIS Snapshot Day. Derek is the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Forest County. He looked at samples and pictures of suspect invasives that were brought in by the attendees.

Our appreciation to our speakers and attendees. It's always good to get together to share our common problems and solutions as lake property owners.

Submitted by Pam Schroeder/2022 FCAL President  
Photo by Larry Sommer.

Thank you to all of you who read this newsletter. Please watch for the next one in January of 2023.



*FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD*

### Contact

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## 3 FLOW AIS WORDSEARCH

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

Word Bank: Conference, Grants, European Frogbit, Fall, Halloween, Pumpkins, Bow Season, Football, Data Entry, Thermocline

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