



FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

The purpose of FCAL, Inc. is to facilitate education, research and sharing between organizations, governmental bodies and the general public of Forest County to protect Forest County inland water bodies, environs and watershed for now and future generations, including but not limited to: aesthetic beauty, water quality, wildlife habitat and fisheries.

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water." Loren Eiseley



Protecting Your Waterfront Investment

WI-DNR UW Extension

Shoreland Zoning isn't only for aesthetic purposes. Educated and cautious development on our lakes and rivers can improve our investment value.

The quality of our lakes can be controlled by how we take care of our land. Studies in the Midwest have found that lakes with clearer water commanded higher property prices. It was discovered that *when the clarity of a lake went down 3 feet, property values also went down by the tens of thousands.* The healthier the lake the more fish, more fish=great fishing and again higher property values.

Zoning Ordinances control impervious surface, structure placement and vegetation removal on our shorelines which all play a part in keeping our lakes and rivers healthy.

Impervious surface regulations control hard surfaces on a property. **A study of 47 warm water streams in Wisconsin showed impervious surfaces that cover greater than 12% of a lot caused a decrease in many fish species. Less fish=less property value.**

The buffer zone on a shoreline is the area 35 feet upland from the high-water mark. The removal of the vegetative buffer zone is prohibited in NR115 and Forest County's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

Often when someone invests in a shoreland property they have the idea that it looks better with a



well-manicured lawn, striving for that golf course or beach. Although this makes a great area for sitting and swimming it is very harmful to the lakes. A mowed lawn sends rain runoff carrying debris such as lawn clippings or pet waste to the water. This fuels the algae growth. These manicured lawns also attract geese, which are grazers. In one week, an adult goose can produce 15 pounds of slippery, smelly droppings. The runoff that is deposited in the lake can cover spawning beds of walleye, cutting off oxygen to their eggs.

A study of 8 shoreline properties in Vilas and Forest Counties showed that a manicured lawn yielded more nitrogen and phosphorus than a natural shoreline.

Did you know one (1) pound of phosphorus can result in five-hundred (500) pounds of algae?

Another benefit of a buffer zone is that it provides habitat for insects such as grasshoppers and ants. These insects sometimes end up in the lake providing food for bluegills and other fish. Trees on the shoreline provide shade, with no shade the water warms up, this also affects certain fish species.

Structure setbacks are not only so you can't see the

Continued on Page 2 📖

The enclosed Courtesy Code will go into effect pending approval by the FCAL board at the June 16th meeting.

Attention!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MAILED TO EACH RIPARIAN LAND OWNER IN FOREST COUNTY.

IT DOES NOT INDICATE MEMBERSHIP IN FCAL!

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING FCAL BY COMPLETING THE MEMBERSHIP FORM IN THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND SENDING IT IN. THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PART DUE TO A GRANT FROM THE MOLE LAKE SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY. THANK YOU!

Continued from Page 1

structure from the lake. This also helps the health of the lake. Structures that are set further back allow more room towards the lake for vegetation like shrubs and trees and help to stabilize the shoreline. The setback of a structure also will dictate the placement of a sanitary system. It is better to have all of this further back.

Many waterfront land owners wonder how the removal of natural vegetation on a single lot could harm the lake. The issue is not the one person on a single lot, the issue is when a majority of the owners do the same thing. It all adds up to poor lake quality.

You don't have to give up your lawn to create a natural wildlife friendly shoreline. Consider reverting 65-70% of your frontage back to natural. This still leaves an area big enough to enjoy with family for swimming and sunbathing. The County Lands Conservation office may be able to help with a cost share grant to rehabilitate your shoreline. Some of the native plants are beautiful and can make your yard look like a park (a healthy, lake friendly park).

Taking care of your property helps to take care of the lake and will provide many years of successful fishing and enjoyable swimming. This all protects the value of your lakefront property.

Watch a short video about how shoreland zoning helps fish, wildlife and water quality at bit.ly/ShorelandZoningVideo. This link is case sensitive so make sure to pay attention when typing in the address.

Your Chance to Be Heard: Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC)

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the purpose of the WCC is to have citizens "elect delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources for present and future generations."

There are many ways to be involved with the WCC. You can contact your local delegates, attend committee meetings, participate in Spring Hearings, become a WCC delegate, participate in WCC delegate elections, and/or complete the annual survey (which can include voting on specific resolutions). You can even follow the WCC on Facebook. If you want more information on the WCC, you can find it at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc>.

FCAL Liaisons:

Lumberjack RC&D (Resource, Conservation and Development Council,) Larry Sommer
FLOW AIS (Forest, Langlade, Oneida Marinette, Oconto Waterways), Derek Thorn
Forest County Land and Water Conservation, Steve Kircher
WRISC (Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition), Lindsay Peterson

FYI – Our website: fc-al-wis.org is under reconstruction. Check it out soon.

What to Do If You Find an Injured Loon

*Submitted by Pat Schultz
from the Loon Watch newsletter*

1. Never leave the loon. Contact rescuers to let them know about their location and condition of the loon, and they will advise you.

Loon Rescue: 715-966-5415

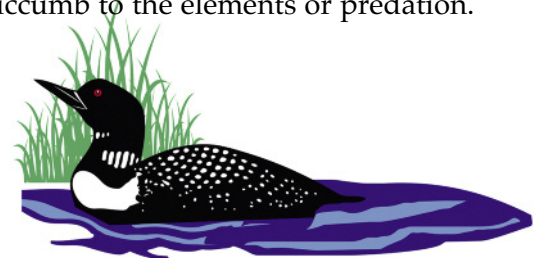
Raptor Education Group: 715-623-4015

2. To prevent the loon from scooting away, place a blanket or towel on top of the loon. NEVER swaddle a loon. Loons do not have diaphragms and would not be able to breathe if swaddled.

3. Loons can be difficult to handle and will not understand that you are trying to help. Be aware of the very sharp bill that they use to defend themselves.

4. The loon rescue groups may be able to talk you through the procedure to handle the loon. If you do not feel comfortable, place the loon in a large rubber maid box or large sturdy cardboard box with holes punched in the top. Crinkle up newspaper to line the bottom of the box and put a towel on top. This provides cushion for their V-shaped keel and prevents injury.

5. Loons need to be returned to large water bodies, NOT PONDS. Loons require a 1/4 mile aquatic runway to achieve flight. If they are left on a small pond, they will attempt to leave via land and will likely succumb to the elements or predation.





FCAL President's Message from Pam Schroeder

Greetings lake lovers!

In an atmosphere where volunteerism seems to be waning, I continue to be grateful for such an active and committed Board of Directors. We have resumed our "in person" monthly board meetings which are open to the public, meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month at 9:30 AM in the lower level of the Crandon Public Library. We offer the option of virtual attendance via Zoom as well. Let me know in advance and send me your email address (pschroed0214@gmail.com) or text to 920-540-8702.

The only fundraising event we have continues to be our Annual Meeting and Banquet. Your presence is needed to reach the quorum mandated by our Bylaws to conduct the business of electing board members. It is important to have your lake represented on the FCAL board. **Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21 at 4 p.m. at the Wabeno Legion Hall and plan to attend.** Christian Cold will once again present an engaging program and bring some of his wild friends to share.

We also welcome the essay contest winners and their families. It is always a fun part of the evening to meet them and have them share their winning essays. If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation to help pay for the dinners of these special guests, remembering always that they hold the future of our lakes in their hands.

Thank you all for your continued support and for being a conscientious steward of our healthy Forest County lakes and streams.

Book and Author Recommendations:

Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan

The Devil's Element by Dan Egan (Topic: phosphorus)

Ripple Effect by Ted Rulseh

John Bates

Paul Badomski



"Stay close to the serenity of a lake to meet your own peace of mind." Munia Khan

Hodag Solar Park is Now Operational

Located south of Highway 8 on Highway 17 near Lake Julia on 50 acres of land and having 21,000 solar panels, the Hodag Solar Park can produce 7.5 megawatts which is enough to power 2,000+ homes.

These panels are newer technology and are called bi-facial which means they can collect solar energy on both sides following the sun across the sky. They not only absorb the sunlight, they also collect light reflected from snow.

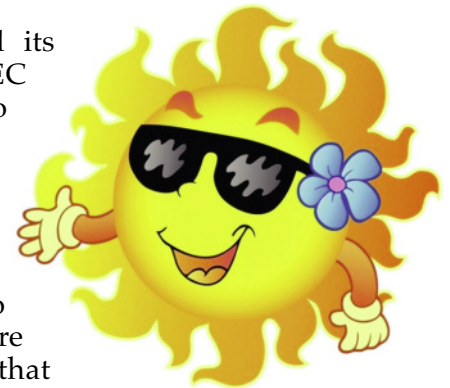
Last year, the amount of energy collected was enough to power 3.5 million smart phones for a year, run 136,000 laptops, run more than 32,000 refrigerators for a year, 4,000 electric vehicles for a year or laundry for 24,000 households.

WPS spokesperson Matt Cullen said, "WPS has set a goal of being net carbon neutral by 2050. It also expects to eliminate coal as an energy source by the end

of 2035."..."WPS and its parent company WEC Energy Group plan to invest \$5.4 billion in solar, wind, and battery storage facilities in Wisconsin over the next five years."

"We also expect the steps we are taking, adding that renewable energy generation as well as retiring older, less efficient fossil fuel facilities will provide approximately \$2 billion worth of savings to our customers over the next 20 years."

Source: Article provided courtesy of Katie Thoresen at WXPR.org



Mole Lake Fisheries Has Record Breaking Year of Walleye Stocking

In October, Mole Lake Fisheries wrapped up another successful year of stocking walleye into local lakes. Walleye were harvested from the six tribal rearing ponds, at the fish hatchery complex, which is located on North Mole Lake Rd, east of the ball fields. A record 71,000 large fingerling walleye were harvested from the ponds and stocked into 20 lakes in Forest, Florence, Langlade, Marinette and Oconto counties. Mike Preul, Director of Fisheries, says "it was a great rearing season, the best yet! We were able to raise record numbers of high quality walleye with most walleye in the 7 – 9 inch range. These walleye should survive well because of their large size"

Walleye were raised for approximately five months. Walleye eggs were collected from local lakes in the spring,



and hatched fry were stocked into the ponds for grow out to fall. Walleye were fed minnows to achieve the desired large fingerling size. Walleye stocking occurred in lakes where the walleye populations are struggling and need help; the large size of walleye

results in higher survival rates. Walleye stocking is intended to be temporary in each lake - to provide a boost to the population until natural reproduction takes over. The ultimate goal is for walleye populations to be self-sustaining where stocking is no longer needed. Many of the best walleye lakes in the area, such as Pelican, Metonga, Enterprise, Kentucky, North Twin, Lily need no stocking to maintain strong walleye populations.

Since 2014, Mole Lake Fisheries has stocked 521,000 large fingerling walleye into 52 different lakes in seven local counties.

Beginning in fall 2022, Mole Lake fisheries began an exciting project to raise walleye indoors through the winter months. Walleye are currently being raised using a recirculating aquaculture system where water is reused with very little addition of new water. Walleye are fed commercial pelleted feed that slowly sinks in the water. Approximately 2000 walleye will be raised until late spring, at which time they will be transitioned to minnow forage and stocked into local lakes. Walleye will be up to 12 inches in length and the hope is that they will survive

Please contact Mike Preul, Director with any questions or comments at 715-478-7621.

Northwoods Lights Out Sessions

Are you looking for a new way to enjoy the wonders of the Northwoods? Exploring the night skies, watching fireflies, and star-gazing are just a few ways to appreciate the darkness. The Oneida and Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department are sponsoring two Lights Out! weekends:

- June 17-18 – Firefly Watch
- August 12-13 – Milky Way and Perseid Meteor Watch

Unnecessary lighting with improper placement and design interferes with visibility to the wonders of the night sky. Other impacts from light pollution include human health impacts, sleep disruption, confusion for migratory birds and other wildlife, and wasted energy. You can help by only using lighting you really need, choosing energy-efficient bulbs, and directing lights downward. Working together, we can protect the night sky for everyone.

Source: VCLRA.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL FCAL GRADE 5-6 ESSAY CONTEST
May 2023

Kentuck Day Booth-FCAL and WRISC
July 29, 10 am-4 pm • Courthouse Square

FALL FORUM

August 18 • Lake Lucerne Clubhouse 9:30-11 am

ART ON THE SQUARE BOOTH FOREST CTY
September 23 • 10 am-4 pm

**HIGH SCHOOL'S ENVIRONMENTAL
FIELD TRIP** September 2023

FCAL ANNUAL MEETING
October 21 • Wabeno American Legion Hall

FCAL MEMBER LAKE EVENTS:

ROBERTS LAKE

ROBERTS LAKE FISHEREE
August 12 • Roberts Lake Clubhouse

**LAKE LUCERNE
ANNUAL BOAT PARADE** July 2

FUN DAY
August 5 • Lucerne Clubhouse 10 am-4 pm

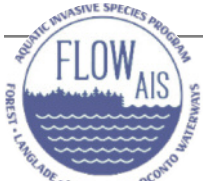
GOLF OUTING September 5

**LAKE METONGA
ANNUAL MEETING** Sat., July 1 • Crandon H.S. 8:30 am

BOAT PARADE/PICNIC
Sun., July 2 • 1 pm Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort

WEEDS N WALLEYE BANQUET
Sat., October 7 • Mole Lake Conference Center

**SILVER LAKE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETINGS**
July 1 & August 9, 9 am, Laona Community Center.
Lakewide **RUMMAGE SALE** TBD



Flow AIS Work in Forest County

Submitted by Derek Thorn, FLOW AIS Coordinator

Purple Loosestrife Work

FLOW AIS, the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Species Partnership (WHIP), and Vilas County have partnered together with Forest County to enhance the purple loosestrife biocontrol programs of both FLOW AIS and WHIP. FLOW AIS and WHIP received a purple loosestrife beetle rearing cage from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources this spring. The cage will be set up outside the Forest County courthouse along with a cage Vilas County has.

The two beetle rearing cages will be a huge improvement from the previous operations FLOW and WHIP used to help control invasive purple loosestrife plant. In the past beetle rearing was done by nesting individual potted purple loosestrife plants in a kiddie pool. Each potted plant would have its own net around it. Then when ready biocontrol beetles would be placed inside each net. The beetles would then feed on the plant and reproduce also. When ready the pots would be released into the wild and the purple loosestrife beetles could feed on wild populations of purple loosestrife. However, this operation style limited the number of plants that could be grown and limited the amount of beetle production.

With the new rearing cages pots are no longer individually netted. Instead, all of the potted plants fit in one big cage. This allows for more plants to be grown and more beetles to be produced on site. When the beetles are ready to be released, only the beetles will leave the cage instead of the whole potted plant. This allows for greater ease of beetle transport and save time releasing the beetles. Beetles will be distributed through both the FLOW AIS and WHIP area which encompasses both Forest and Vilas Counties.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Training Update

On top of the normal in person Clean Boats Clean Waters Trainings that FLOW AIS offers. FLOW AIS now gives Clean Boats Clean Waters inspectors the option to do an online training. The online training is available at any time so an inspector can become

certified or renew their certification anytime of the year they would like.

In order to become certified, inspectors will need to pass the quiz with a score of 100%. The quiz is open book and during the quiz inspectors are able to refer back to the video while taking the quiz. The training is in Google forms and answers will be automatically recorded and logged by the FLOW AIS program.

The online training will be available starting May 2nd of 2023 For all FLOW AIS counties. Links for the training will be posted on the FLOW AIS website. If you would like the link for the online training, please email flow ais coordinator Derek Thorn at flowais@lumberjackrcd.org.

The online training was put together in conjunction with Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties AIS programs.

Citizens Lake Monitoring Network Volunteer Training



FLOW AIS is looking forward to continuing to train interested volunteers on taking water clarity and chemistry data (temperature, oxygen content, chlorophyll, and phosphorus) for their lake. Volunteer data monitoring happens from ice off through the fall season.

The volunteers conducting the monitoring on their lakes are a huge help to the state of Wisconsin. The data they collect is public knowledge and can be found on the DNR lakes page. The data helps to establish or continue the health of our aquatic ecosystems. The data can be of great use for lakes wanting to create or update a lake management plan. The amount of data collected statewide could not be possible with the help from the volunteers willing to donate their time. If someone interested in becoming a volunteer monitor for their lake, please contact the FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn at flowais@lumberjackrcd.org.

I also wanted to share with you the lakes in Forest County that have collected water quality or chemistry data since 2021. All of the information can be found either at your lakes "find a lakes page" on the DNR website (link below). You can also find the spreadsheet data for Forest County attached at the second link below.

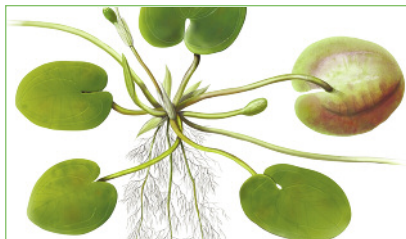
Find a lakes page: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/ForestCountyMonitoringReports>
<https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/waterquality/Stations.aspx?location=21&year=ALL>



WRISC New Projects Coming for This Season

The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) is looking forward to another busy season in 2023 with several projects ramping up as the weather warms.

We're excited about some of the new projects we have lined up for this season! One of those projects is our European Frog-bit early detection project. European Frog-bit is a highly invasive floating leaf aquatic plant that looks like tiny lily pads with small white flowers. It can form extensive, dense mats of vegetation which shade out native aquatic plants and use up the oxygen in the water when they start to decompose. These large infestations can also impact recreational access and activities.



Unfortunately, European Frog-bit has been found in several locations in our region now, including some larger populations in and around Marinette, and a few isolated populations along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Menominee County, MI. Partners from both Michigan and Wisconsin have come together to address this invader and WRISC maintains a cross-jurisdictional response effort. If you think you have found European Frog-bit, please contact us immediately at wildriverscwma@gmail.com or (906) 774-1550 ext. 102

WRISC is also going to be focusing in on our public

lands this season. One of the unique aspects of cooperative invasive species management areas (CISMAs) is that we can bridge the gap between public and private lands. Where agencies are often limited, WRISC can build relationships and conduct work across boundaries to accomplish landscape scale impact. Through a new project from the US Forest Service and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, WRISC will be conducting early detection surveys and control activities within a "buffer zone" adjacent to federal and state lands in an effort to protect these lands from invasive species. If your property lies within one mile of state or federal land boundaries and you're interested in participating in our project (by allowing either survey or management on your property) please let us know!

However, our long-standing programs will not be forgotten! We are looking to assess our Clean Boats Clean Waters program, which WRISC has been running for more than 10 years now. A survey will be distributed this summer requesting feedback on our CBCW program and what improvements or adjustments can be made to enhance this foundational WRISC program. We want to ensure we are implementing the program in an effective manner and making the biggest impact while educating boaters and water recreationists. The survey will be distributed in a number of ways, but can be found on our website at www.wrisc.org. As a bonus, if you complete the survey you will be entered into a drawing to win some cool prizes throughout the summer!

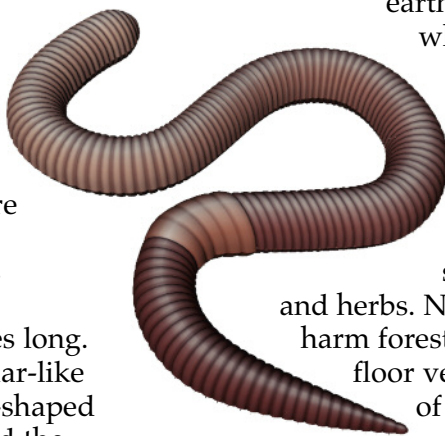
Nightcrawlers: Invasive or Not?

Submitted by Vi Lamers, FCAL Board Member

Nightcrawlers are invasive species throughout the world. Of a total of about 6000 species of earthworms, about 120 species are widely distributed around the globe. These are the peregrine or cosmopolitan earthworms. Some of these are invasive species in many regions.

1. Nightcrawlers are deep burrowers but surface to forage for food.
2. Adults can range from 5 to 8 inches long.
3. Nightcrawlers have a swollen, collar-like structure (clitellum) that is saddle-shaped and does not go all the way around the worm's body.

In North America, approximately 182 earthworm species in twelve families are reported from the United States of which sixty are introduced. Only two genera



earthworms are indigenous to North America while introduced genera have spread to areas without any native species, especially in the north where forest ecosystems rely on a large amount of undecayed leaf matter. When worms decompose the leaf matter, the ecology may shift making the habitat unsurvivable for certain species of trees, ferns and herbs. Nightcrawlers, not just jumping worms, can harm forests by changing the soil structure and forest floor vegetation. Their feeding can result in a loss of soil moisture, compacted soil, exposed roots, erosion and an increase of pathogens and non-native plants. Larger earthworms such as the nightcrawler and the Alabama jumper can be eaten by adult salamanders, which is beneficial for their populations, but they are too large for the juvenile

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC. 2023 Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

LAKE/RIVER: _____ LAKE ORG.: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____ FROM: _____ TO: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check appropriate membership category)

☐ Individual/Families ☐ (\$25/One yr.) ☐ Lake Organization (\$50/yr.) ☐ Business Org. (\$50/yr.)
☐ (\$100/Five yrs.)

Make checks payable to : FCAL, Inc.

Return application and check to: Treasurer, FCAL, Inc.

P.O. Box 68 Pickerel, WI 54465

Additional Donations _____

Members do not need to live on water.



Thanks to Our Forest County Businesses Supporting FCAL:

Schaefers IGA Laona State Bank
Associated Bank Conway Tru-Value Hardware
CoVantage

salamanders to consume, which leads to a loss in their population.

Currently there is no economically feasible method for controlling invasive earthworms in forests. Earthworms normally spread slowly, but can be quickly introduced by human activities such as construction, earthmoving, plantings and the release of worms used as fishing bait. The reason they are considered invasive species is because they damage forest floors. Never release them in a natural forest. If you use them for fishing bait, throw away any unused worms in the trash.

They tunnel in the soil and come up to the surface at night. During the day, you can see robins grabbing them with their beak and in rainy weather they will be crawling over sidewalks, driveways, and roads.

Earthworms are beneficial to lawn health but leave behind product waste called castings. They feed primarily on organic material in soils, eating fresh and decaying material from plant roots, including crops like corn and soybeans. As they feed, they move and mix their waste with the soil in a moist, microbe-rich environment. Earthworm tunnels bring in oxygen, drain water and create space for plant roots.

Please be responsible and do not throw earthworms in the woods or National Forests! Only you can protect our natural resources.

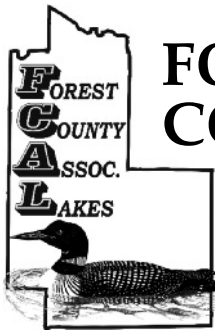


**FOREST
COUNTY
ASSOCIATION
OF LAKES, INC.**

FCAL Objectives...

- 1. Education/Sharing...**To educate the Forest County public and riparian owners on issues and to facilitate dialogue between organizations and governmental bodies.
- 2. Long Range Planning...**To participate in long-range planning efforts regarding the water resources of Forest County.
- 3. Regulatory/Enforcing...**Facilitate efforts of the governmental bodies to enforce regulations which affect inland water bodies usage and water quality.
- 4. Cooperative...**Provide a vehicle for greater cooperative efforts between riparian owners, riparian users, appropriate governmental agencies and the citizens of Forest County.

Visit Forest County Association
of Lakes at: www.fc-al-wis.org



FOREST COUNTY

ASSOCIATION
OF LAKES, INC.
PO BOX 68
PICKEREL, WI 54465

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
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EAGLE RIVER WI
PERMIT NO 7

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PLEASE REMEMBER...

- Thoroughly clean and dry fishing equipment, bait buckets, boats and trailers before using again.
- Empty all water from equipment before transporting.
- Remove all mud, plants and aquatic life from equipment.
- Do not move fish or plants from one body of water to another.
- Be respectful and courteous to one another on all lakes and waterways.

With appreciation from the Forest County Association of Lakes

This newsletter and other interesting information can be viewed online at: www.fcawis.org

Invasive Species Training and Education Day



Want to get better at identifying aquatic plants in your lake and help your lake to better control Aquatic Invasive Species?



TWO EVENTS - JUNE 10, 2023

- **1ST SESSION:** 9:00am-11:00am

at the White Potato Lake, Sanitary District building, 3266 Walkers Bay Road, Pound, WI.

- **2ND SESSION:** 1:00pm-3:00pm

at the Lakewood Community Center, 17258 North Road, Lakewood, WI.



Trainings hosted by Paul Skawinski,
UW Extension Lakes CLMN
and
Educator Derek Thorn,
FLOW AIS Coordinator

Sponsored by: Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Association
Open to Public of Forest, Langlade, Marinette, and Oconto Counties

Interested in attending? Send an email to Derek Thorn
by June 2 to: flowais@lumberjackrwd.org and put in
subject line: "June AIS Workshop"

