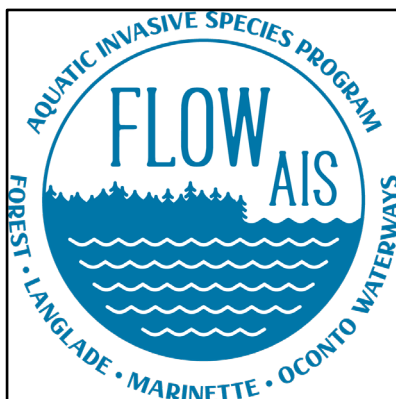


# FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

July 2023

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## 1 FLOW AIS QUARTERLY UPDATE

### Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol

Earlier this summer FLOW AIS, WHIP (Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Species Partnership), the DNR, Vilas and Forest Counties all worked together to get two mass rearing cages up with enough plants for the FLOW AIS and WHIP area. Over 120 pots were planted with purple loosestrife and 300 beetles were added to each cage to start the biocontrol process, with the hope that the beetles will multiply. FLOW AIS and the above-mentioned partners are hoping to release the beetles on the landscape soon. All of the partners have been doing great work to make sure both cages are in good condition for the result possible. FLOW AIS has a handful of locations that will receive beetles this year once they are ready.

### Education Outreach Events

FLOW AIS has been involved in several education outreach events this year. So far, FLOW AIS and TIP (Timberland Invasive Species Partnership) worked together for an education outreach event in Oconto for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders of Fairview Elementary. Coordinators Derek and Abby shared information on both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and how they can disrupt an ecosystem food web when introduced to a new area.

FLOW AIS also partnered with Paul Skawinski, the UW Extension Lakes Statewide CLMN Educator, to bring two workshop events to Oconto County and the surrounding FLOW AIS area. The workshop showcased common invasive species in the area and how to properly monitor lakes for invasives. The two events were very well attended, both had more people show up than who had registered for the event.

FLOW AIS was also asked to present at a workshop put on by Langlade County. FLOW AIS gave a presentation that focused on water quality, shoreland runoff, and what shoreline property owners can do to improve their own lakes water quality.



TIP Coordinator Abby Vogt (Left) for Fairview Education Day, Paul Skawinski (Right) for Oconto Education Day.

## Trainings and Other Field Work

FLOW AIS has continued to do both Citizens Lake Monitoring Network trainings and Clean Boats Clean Waters trainings for the whole area. FLOW AIS has trained a new CLMN volunteer in each of its four counties! All lake organizations that have Clean Boats Clean Waters staff have stayed up to date on their trainings as well. FLOW AIS also participated in the training of the new European frog-bit technician staff for both Marinette and Oconto County.

FLOW AIS Coordinator, Derek Thorn, has been making lake landing stops while he is out in the FLOW AIS area. At the lake landing stops, Thorn checks to make sure the stop aquatic hitchhiker boat landing signs are intact, and he inspects the boat landing area for new and already known aquatic invasives for that waterbody. Thorn has found a couple new aquatic invasives species while doing these inspections.



Please do not damage boat landing signs, (like the one above) these need to be taken down and replaced.

## Trainings Attended

Coordinator Derek Thorn attended the Spring AIS Partnership meeting. The highlight of was being able to communicate with other coordinators through the state and share ideas and events for projects and our summer field work. Thorn also learned more about the proposed updates to the 2023 Surface Water Grant Guidance (out now, see WI DNR surface water grant guidance website).

Thorn also attended an aquatic plant ID training organized by UW Extension Lakes and the Staff at the WI DNR. The plant ID class was held at Kemp Natural Resource station. Thorn was able to re familiarize himself with over 60 plants both native and invasive to the area.

Lastly, Thorn was able to attend the Six-County Lake Meeting at Nicolet College in Rhineland hosted by Vilas and Oneida County. The large meeting was well attended and included two speakers and a panel of experts that included two county zoning specialists, a Sheriff's deputy and two WI DNR game wardens. The speakers presented on the life cycles of spiny water fleas and zebra mussels, and the effect lead fishing tackle can have on loons. While the panel answered our questions on who to call, and what do for certain AIS and water related incidents. Questions ranged from boating laws, wake boats, aquatic invasive species, and the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.

## Snapshot Day Update

### What is Snapshot Day?

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 invasive species.

If you are interested in volunteering for Snapshot Day registration is open and can be done at the Water Action Volunteers website. Under "Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day 2023".



## When is Snapshot Day?

Saturday August 19th at 8:30am

Location: 15471 WI-32, Mountain, WI 54149 (Oconto County)

Link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/SxVk2bxCk8AgyDZz9>

FLOW AIS plans to rotate Snapshot Day each year so that each county gets its own snapshot day in the future.

## FLOW AIS Upcoming Events

- Kentuck Days event booth, Crandon WI – Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>
- European Frogbit Removal (Oconto/ Marinette) - First week in August
- Snapshot Day – Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>
- OCLAWA annual fall meeting – Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>
- WI Waterfowl and Trapper convention booth, - Antigo, September 8-9
- Marinette Environmental Days - September 27-29<sup>th</sup>
- FCAL annual meeting – Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>

## Aquatic Invasive Species Highlight

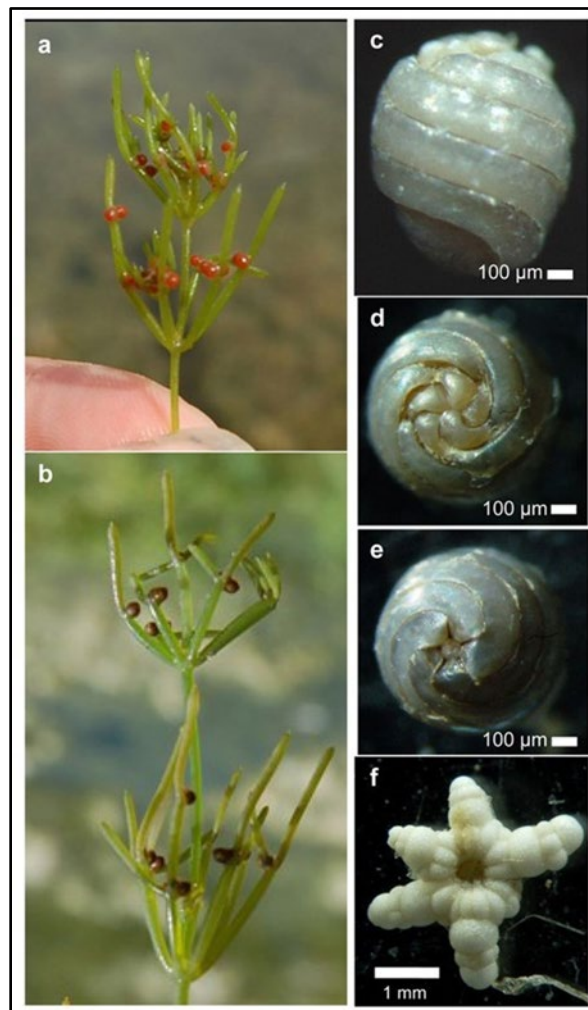
### Starry Stonewort

(Article and photo from: Species factsheet, Feb.2021 EGAD # 3200-2021-02)

Starry Stonewort, *Nitellopsis obtusa* is a macroalgae in the family Characeae which is non- native in Wisconsin. It is dioecious, meaning its gametangia (female oogonia and male antheridia) are found on separate plants. Reproductive parts of Starry Stonewort develop at branchlet nodes adjacent to large cells called bracts. These large bract cells are easily mistaken for furcated or forked branchlets, a characteristic of the related genus *Nitella*. Instead, Starry Stonewort has simple, or non-forked branchlets similar to the more common genus *Chara*.

Only male Starry Stonewort plants are currently known in North America. This means that as far as we know Starry Stonewort is spreading one of two ways, by either cloning itself in a waterbody it is already known to be in or by being spread, through aquatic hitchhiking to make it to a new area. Often, Starry Stonewort gametangia (reproductive parts) are visible with the naked eye, however determining if they are male or female might require a 20x hand lens. It is always recommended to collect voucher specimens in the field and use a microscope to assist in identification when back in the lab.

Statewide there are currently 27 Lakes and rivers with Starry Stonewort. None of which are in the FLOW AIS area, however there is a population withing the Lumberjack RC&D region.



*Nitellopsis obtusa* a. habit of male -b. habit of female  
f. star shaped bulbil (Boissezon et al., 2017).





*FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD*

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## 2 FLOW AIS WORDSEARCH

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

Word Bank: European Frogbit, Mystery Snail,  
Loosestrife, Milfoil, Zebra Mussel, Waterflea, Phragmites,  
Round Goby, Starry Stonewort, Curly Leaf

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**Recipient Name**

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code