

FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

January 2025

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1 FLOW AIS YEARLY REVIEW OF 2024

FLOW AIS had another great year in 2024 filled with education outreach, AIS response monitoring, Purple Loosestrife biocontrol, European Frogbit planning along with monitoring and removal in Marinette County, Citizens Lake Monitoring Network trainings, and lastly finished the first phase of the program's resort owner outreach project.

For the second year in a row FLOW AIS participated in Marinette Counties environmental field days program and the Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL) education day. FLOW AIS also partnered with the Timberland Invasives Partnership for education outreach events at both Fairview Elementary in Oconto and White Lake Elementary in Langlade.

Lastly FLOW partnered with FCAL for presentations focused on water quality in Laona for FCAL's annual essay contest.

FLOW had AIS response monitoring surveys in all for counties for multiple aquatic invasive species this year. The species FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn looked for included Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, European frogbit, faucet snails, and purple loosestrife covering several water bodies. Coordinator Derek Thorn was also able to do presents absence monitoring four select lakes in Langlade County.

FLOW AIS conducted multiple training for both the clean boats clean waters program and the citizens lake monitoring network program. Derek received feedback that many new Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteers enjoyed the online training opportunities. New CLMN volunteers expressed they were excited to learn how water quality impacts lake health and the importance of trend monitoring.

Several things happened with European frogbit this year! Throughout the summer Derek trained the Oconto and Marinette County European frogbit technician on the cleans boats clean waters program so they can educate boaters on the newer invasive species at high priority boat launches. He also helped the technicians with monitoring and removal and was again part a removal workday at Seagull Bar in Marinette County. To date 30,268 pounds of European frogbit have been removed by the entire European frogbit collaborative since frogbit was found in 2021. The European frogbit collaborative continues to meet and discuss long term management goals to

help control the spread of the species for the future.

Lastly, Derek was able to attend two different conferences this year. The Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point and the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) held in Duluth this year, Derek was on the aquatic sub planning committee for UMISC this year. Derek was thrilled to be a part of the committee and enjoyed collaborating with colleagues from across the Midwest.

Resort Project Update

The first phase of the resort owner outreach project was completed in 2024. Derek created 200 outreach folders full of aquatic invasive species ID information, cleaning and decontamination information, AIS statewide and regional contacts, links to aquatic invasive species, by water body information, a short survey for resort guests, and lastly clean boats clean waters stickers and the stop aquatic hitchhiker sticker. Derek will be presenting about on the highlights and lowlights project at the Lakes and Rivers Convention in Steven Point April 26-28. Derek has also received positive feedback on the folder information from area lake associations, interested in having them for their own outreach events. The second phase of the project this year will focus on delivering more folders to resorts and working on creating cleaning stations for resort boat launches, to promote minimizing the spread of aquatic invasive species.



More Than Two Milfoils?

That is correct there are more than two species of milfoil. There are seven in total. one is considered invasive. Most of us have heard of northern watermilfoil, the native species, and Eurasian watermilfoil, the invasive species. But there are other native species as well. Including, Farwell's milfoil, alternate milfoil, variable milfoil, low water milfoil, and whorled milfoil. There is also a dwarf milfoil and the northern Eurasian hybrid, that has been showing up more and more places.

As an AIS Coordinator the three most common native species that I see when I am on lakes in the FLOW AIS area are Northern watermilfoil, Farwell's Milfoil, and Whorled milfoil. Below are some identifying characteristics of each. Descriptions can be found in the Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest 3rd edition, written by Paul Skawinski. See photos of each plant below the descriptions.

Northern Watermilfoil- *myriophyllum sibiricum*

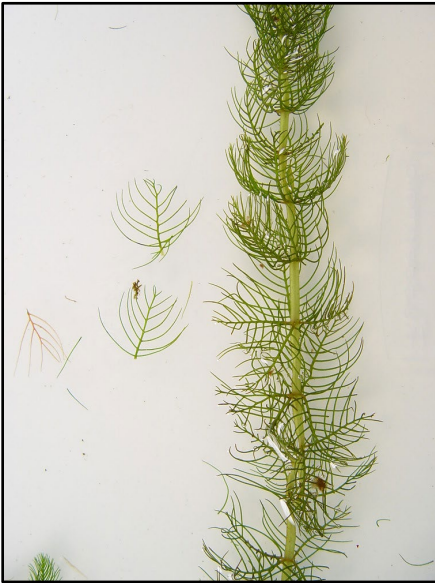
Stem whitish or tan usually fairly stout. Leaves whorled, somewhat stiff, with 4-11 pairs of leaflets. Leaf's tend to hold their shape out of water. Forms winter buds in early fall, which appear as small, condensed areas of leaves, an emergent whorled flower spike has upper bracts that are small and smooth or slightly serrated. This species hybridizes with Eurasian watermilfoil and may show intermediate characteristics.

Farewells Milfoil- *myriophyllum farwellii* (photo credit to Paul Skawinski)

Delicate stems and leaves, collapsing out of water. Some leaves are whorled on the stem, some alternate/scattered, **with less than 14 pairs of leaflets per leaf.** Leaflets often have tiny black spicules in their axils.

Whorled Milfoil- *myriophyllum verticillatum*

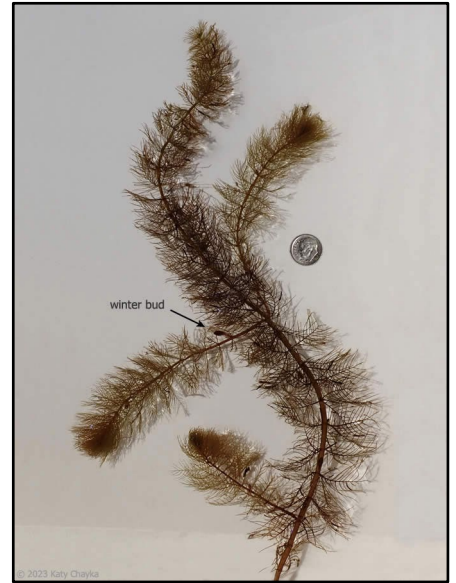
Stem is greenish brown, most leaves with no leaf stalk, in whorls for 4-6, 8-17 pairs of leaflets. Distance between whorls is often very short, small club shaped winter buds form adjacent to stem in autumn. Flower spike is emergent.



Northern Watermilfoil



Farwell's Milfoil



Whorled Milfoil

Photo (Below) of northern watermilfoil, whorled milfoil, and Eurasian watermilfoil side by side at a lake in Langlade County. Eurasian watermilfoil on the left, northern watermilfoil in the center, whorled milfoil on the right. The individual ID quality of each plant is not the best in the photo but the main goal was to show that you can tell three different milfoils apart from one another.



Upcoming work this Year for FLOW AIS

Field work

Follow up early detection response surveys from 2024
 Marinette County purple loosestrife highway survey
 European frogbit planning and monitoring
 Lake association project assistance and meeting attendance
 Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinatization
 Clean Boats Clean Waters trainings

Events

Lakes and Rivers Convention (March 26-28)

6 County Lake meeting (July 11th)

Snapshot Day (August 9th)

More events to come as dates get narrowed down



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2 WORD SEARCH

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

Word Bank: Bugs, Daffy, Lola, Porky,
Elmer, Tasmanian, Sylvester, Tweety,
Yosemite, Marvin

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