

# FLOW AIS Waterways Writings

April 2025

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## 1 FLOW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

With winter still sticking around into early April this year, FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn is really beginning to look forward to the field season this year.

Derek is working on preparing chemistry monitoring yearly supplies for the Marinette and Oconto County, Citizens Lake Monitoring Network volunteers. Derek has been communicating and working with the UW-Extension Lakes team out of Stevens Point and Chastin Harlow to make sure the yearly supply and lab slips are ready to go for each volunteer this year.

Chastin is the new Northern Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator who is taking over for Sandy Wickman after her retirement. He is looking forward to his roll and working with all of the volunteers in his northern area.

The purple loosestrife biocontrol collaborative between Forest County, Vilas County Land and Water, the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Species Partnership, and FLOW AIS will continue for a third year. At the end of the last field season over 100 plants were dug from Seagull Bar in Marinette County and a location off of Highway 8 in Forest County for overwintering. Overwintering plants each year allows the collaborative to get an early start on getting the plants potted to grow and allows for a less stressful start to the field season. The overwintering plants get potted and placed into the two purple loosestrife mass rearing cages the collaborative has. Those plants will act as a food source for the starter beetles the collaborative collects. Once the starter beetles begin to reproduce, the collaborative will begin to disperse them across their seven-county region so the starter beetles can begin to feed on the wild populations of purple loosestrife across the area. As part of the project this year Derek plans to monitor the population of plants running along Highway 64 in Marinette and Oconto County. Many populations along the highway have not been documented in years past.

The FLOW program also has AIS lake monitoring work planned for the field season. Derek will follow up on monitoring that was done last year on White Lake in Langlade County where he and Adams County AIS Coordinator Keifer Sorka found evidence of Eurasian Watermilfoil in the lake. Derek will also do follow up Eurasian Watermilfoil monitoring on Jessee Lake in Langlade County. Lastly, Derek has made plans with Amanda Smith, the Regional AIS Biologist for the area, to monitor for European Frog-bit at the Bagley Flowage in Marinette County and the Machickanee Flowage in Oconto County. European Frog-bit had not been found in any inland lakes to date, Amanda and Derek are hoping it stays that way.

Even though field season is not in full swing Derek has been able to get out of the office for some education outreach events. Both Derek and the Timberland Invasive Species Partnership Coordinator Abby Vogt have worked together to do education events at Saint Anthony School in Oconto Falls, Peace Lutheran School in Langlade County, a homeschool classroom event in Langlade, and an event at the public library in Antigo.

At each event Derek and Abby explained to students what invasive species are and why we should care about the impacts they can cause. Students also got to learn about common terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in the area. Students were also able to learn through playing games. Derek had students play invasive species musical chairs, so they could learn how fast invasive species could spread if not removed before going to a new place. Abby had the students get creative and draw their own invasive species, each student had to come up with special invasive characteristics for their species. Students also participated in an invasive species scavenger hunt. With four education events in the books yet this year, Derek still has more planned throughout the field season. (see the upcoming events section below)

### WI DNR Surface Water Grant Updates for 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently awarded more than \$6 million in grant funding for lake organizations, nonprofit organizations and municipal and county governments throughout the state this year

This year, the program received 418 applications from eligible applicants requesting nearly \$8 million. Of the applications received, 371 grants totaling more than \$6 million were awarded. The projects are incredibly diverse, including education and outreach activities, management planning, habitat restoration, runoff management, water quality improvement projects and aquatic invasive species prevention and management.

Of the grants awarded, 156 organizations statewide will receive support to participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. This year 7 lake organizations within the FLOW AIS Region were awarded a CBCW grant. 38 organizations, including FLOW AIS with Forest Langlade, Marinette and Oconto Counties will receive support to continue to participate in the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network (LMPN). The LMPN supports lake monitoring and aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention activities on a county basis and continues to be present in 69 of 72 counties in Wisconsin. The LMPN funds are the main funding source for the FLOW AIS program. FLOW AIS also applies for other surface water grants as a supplement for the program.

### Sea Lamprey in the News

Efforts to quell the Great Lakes Sea Lamprey invasion will continue this year. Officials overseeing the program are now working on hiring staff.

The news came as a relief to Great Lakes fish advocates, who say annually dosing the region's rivers with lamprey-killing chemicals is the only way to keep the eel-like invasive fish from eradicating beloved Great Lakes species such as whitefish, walleye and trout.

Now, "our teams are putting on their running shoes and running as hard as they can to get what must be done, done," said Greg McClinchey, legislative affairs and policy director for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the binational body that oversees lamprey control efforts on both the US and Canadian sides of the lakes.

The lamprey control program relies on a small army of US Fish and Wildlife Services employees trained to fan out across hundreds of rivers each year, dosing them with a chemical called TFM that kills lamprey while sparing other species.



Article taken from "Bridge Michigan, Michigan's Nonprofit News Source". You can view the full article at:

<https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/trump-reverses-cuts-great-lakes-lamprey-program-uncertainty-remains>



If you would like to learn more about Sea Lampreys in the great lakes and their impact on the great lake's fishery and towns around the great lakes. I highly recommend watching the documentary called The Fish Thief. I was able to view it on Amazon Prime. The documentary goes in depth on early research done on lamprey control, fishing impacts, and the research that lead to working with the chemical TFM that is mentioned in the article above. The documentary is narrated by J.K. Simmons.

## Lakes and Rivers Convention Highlights

At this year's convention Derek was given the opportunity to present on the resort owner outreach surface water grant project pathway project, FLOW AIS has been working on since 2024. He presented on the projects original inspiration, the highs and lows of beginning the project, the folder outreach work done in 2024 along with the idea for further folder outreach and creating AIS cleaning stations for area resorts in 2025.

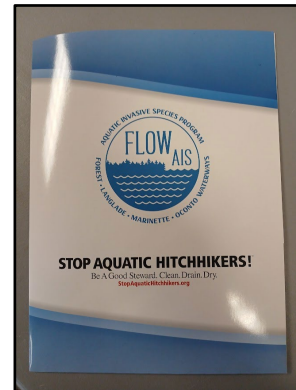
During the rest of the convention Derek also enjoyed several workshops, presentations, and speakers. Topics included proposed aquatic plant management rule changes, The T.O.A.D program with Marinette Counties Anne Bartels and WAMSCO'S Kori Halstead, Spooky Lakes and digital reach with Geo Rutherford, and several AIS prevention presentations of which topics included, I-LIDS, Golden Sands EWM work on Big Bass Lake, Statewide AIS pathway prevention projects, and European Frog-bit work around the great lakes region. Conference attendees were also treated with a presentation by Chris Heeter called "Wildly Forward Together, Stepping Through the Usual Towards What's Next". The presentation focused on Chris's dogsled team, each individual dog's roll, how they found their roll, and how they fit into the team. Much of the message could be translated to how partners and coworkers work together in projects rolls.

Derek was able to catch up and network with several statewide AIS and county partners throughout the whole convention where they were able to hear and share stories about work, lakes, current and past projects, collaborate on Lake Monitoring Protection Network based project ideas, and talk about hobbies.

## AIS Outreach Folders

The AIS outreach folders that were created as part of the resort owner outreach grant are available as a fee for service to individual lake organizations. Folders include a variety of statewide education outreach material and contact information. These are great folders for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, and lake association members.

Contact FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn for more information on pricing and folder content via email at [flowais@lumberjackrcd.org](mailto:flowais@lumberjackrcd.org)



## FLOW AIS First Annual Meeting

FLOW AIS will be hosting their first ever annual meeting. The meeting is open to the public in the FLOW AIS area. FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn will give FLOW AIS news and other project updates. There will also be three other speaker presentations for public attendees. Amanda Smith will be presenting on her statewide dock service provider pathway project work, Lindsay Peterson will highlight a special WRISC project, finally Kayla Littleton will give a drone demonstration.

A final location has not been chosen yet, However the meeting will be located in Forest County. When a location is settled information will become available. Please RSVP to FLOW AIS Coordinator Derek Thorn by Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> via email or phone.

Email: [flowais@lumberjackrcd.org](mailto:flowais@lumberjackrcd.org) Cell Phone: 715-490-3325

## Upcoming Events for FLOW

- Online CBCW trainings April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>
- CBCW training for Lake Lucerne in Forest County, May 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10:30
- Fairview Education Day with TIP May 29<sup>th</sup>
- FLOW AIS Annual Meeting, June 12<sup>th</sup> in Forest County – More information to come
- Anderson Lake Plant ID and CLMN Education Day June, 14<sup>th</sup> at water's Edge Bar 10-12
- CBCW training for Butternut Franklin Lakes Association, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30
- Six County Lake Meeting July 11<sup>th</sup>
- Joint AIS/TIS Day at the Riverview Townhall in Mountain, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am
- Snapshot Day, Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> ...Location to come in May



*FLOW AIS Is a Part of Lumberjack RCD*

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**FLOW AIS WORD SEARCH**

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**Word Bank:** Florence, Forest, Langlade,  
Lincoln, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto,  
Oneida, Shawano, Vilas

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