

Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



March 2023 Paid Internships & Volunteer Opportunities

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[Washington County Website](#)

[Waukesha County Website](#)

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol

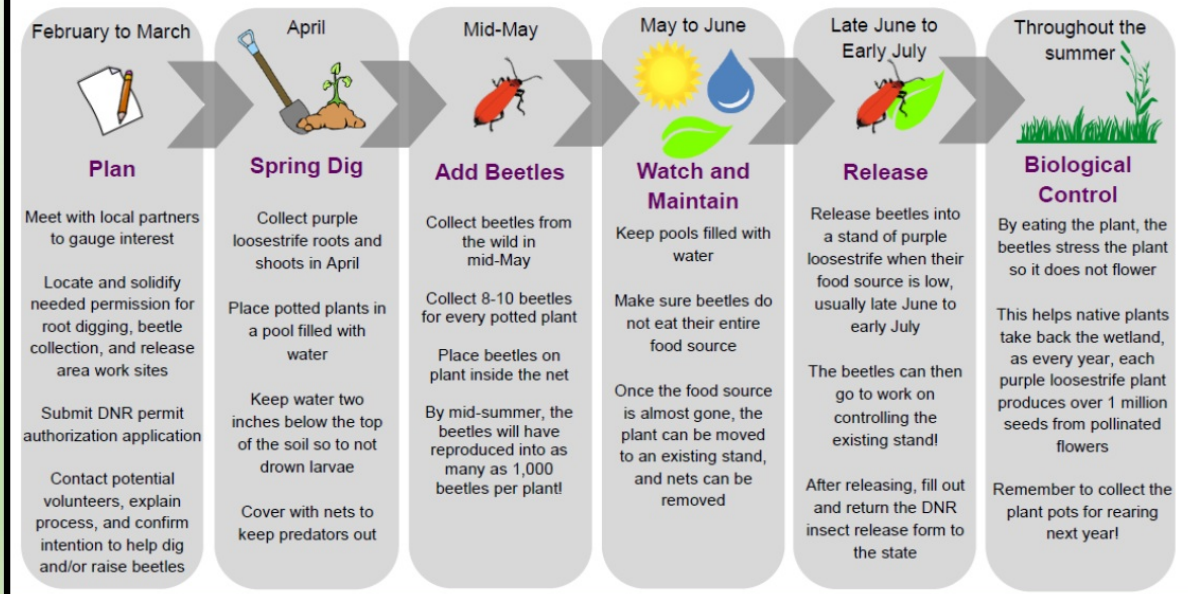
Biocontrol is a type of pest management that utilizes living organisms to control a nuisance or invasive species. In the case of invasive Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a beetle species known as *Galerucella* or "cella" beetles can be introduced to manage dense or difficult to reach populations. These beetles are specialized predators, meaning they prefer to consume invasive Purple Loosestrife and have no negative impacts to our native plant species. Cella beetles are also very prolific; 10 collected beetles can multiply into 1,000 over the course of a month. These characteristics make them an excellent biocontrol candidate, and they have successfully proven that throughout the state since the 1990's. For more information, visit the WIDNR's Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol website [here](#).

Purple Loosestrife Biological Control

Helping Native Plants Battle Invasive Species



Golden Sands
Resource Conservation
& Development Council, Inc.



Graphic provided by Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., member of the Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Timeline













You can help assist with the Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol program through digging and planting rootstock, sewing nets, collecting beetles, raising plants and beetles, and releasing beetles.

If you are interested in volunteering at any stage of the Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol process, please reach out to Amanda Schmitz (amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov) or (262) 483-9687 for more details.



Cella beetles consuming Purple Loosestrife

Integrated Pest Management Options for Purple Loosestrife, including Biocontrol

| Options to use alone or in combination: Chemical Cutting Digging Beetles | Scattered Individual Plants | Small Populations Less than one acre | Medium Populations 1-10 acres | Large Populations More than 10 acres |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Low Density 0-33% Coverage</p> |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Medium Density 34-66% Coverage</p> |  |  |  |  |
| <p>High Density 67-100% Coverage If the area is very small and there are no nearby patches for beetles to relocate to if food runs out, use an option other than beetles.</p> |  |  |  |  |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Other Considerations</p> <p>Consider Access: If you are unable to safely access a site (extreme muck, water levels, etc.), beetles are probably your best option.</p> <p>Survey time: If possible, base your ratings during peak bloom time. This may be July-August in southern Wisconsin or August-September in far northern Wisconsin.</p> <p>Chemicals: If you are in an area with wet ground, contact your WDNR Regional Lakes Biologist to determine if a permit is needed.</p> | | | | |

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Author: Jeanne Scherer, UW Madison Division of Extension: Natural Resources Institute-AIS Program (2022)

Integrated Pest Management

There are several factors to consider when selecting a control method for Purple Loosestrife, including the density of the population and access to the site. Smaller, scattered populations may be better controlled via cutting, digging, or chemical application. The above graphic provides guidance on which method is most appropriate for your site.

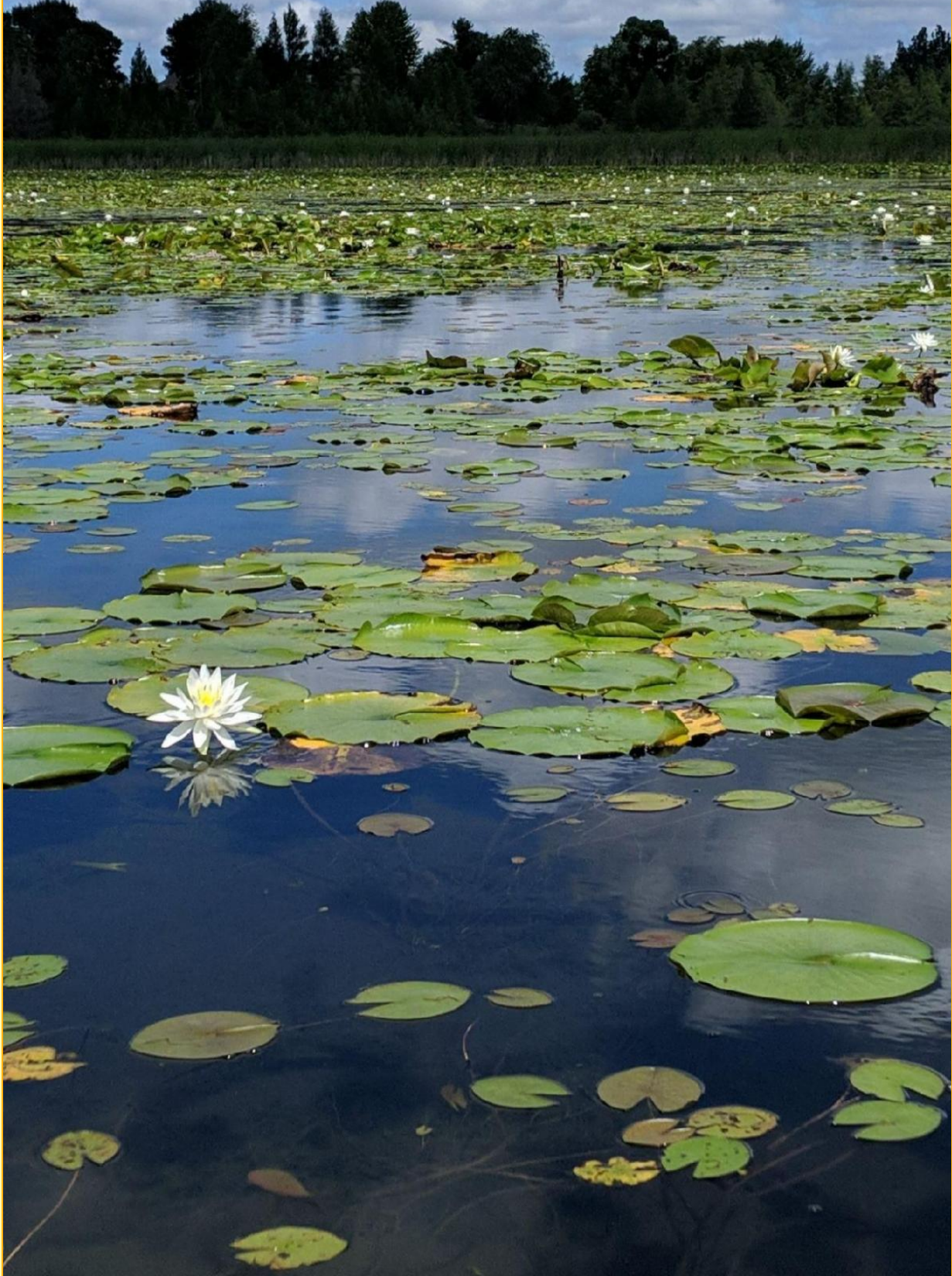


Do you know somebody who is passionate about working on the water? Washington & Waukesha Counties are recruiting for our summer intern positions! Duties include watercraft inspection through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, lake surveys, education & outreach events, and AIS removal efforts. These positions are great resume builders for anyone looking to enter the environmental field. Both full-time and part-time positions available.

[Washington County Positions](#)

[Waukesha County Positions](#)





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The Aquatic Invasive Species Program is a cooperative effort between Washington & Waukesha Counties, supported by grant funds from

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a number of
generous local lake groups working to control the spread of AIS.
Thank you for your support!*

For more information:

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