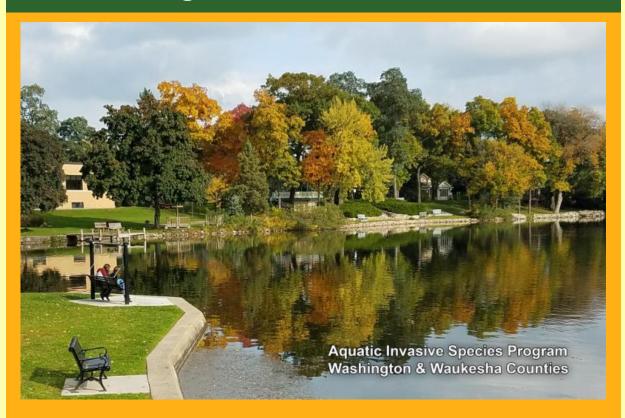
# **Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties**



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 <u>Purple Loosestrife</u> (*Lythrum salicaria*), a beetle species known as *Galerucella* or <u>"cella" beetles</u> 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** Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. Helping Native Plants Battle Invasive Species May to June Late June to April Mid-May Throughout the February to March Early July summer **Spring Dig Biological** Plan Add Beetles Watch and Release Control Maintain Release beetles into Meet with local partners Collect purple Collect beetles from By eating the plant, the Keep pools filled with a stand of purple to gauge interest loosestrife roots and the wild in mid-May beetles stress the plant water loosestrife when their shoots in April so it does not flower Locate and solidify food source is low. Collect 8-10 beetles Make sure beetles do usually late June to needed permission for Place potted plants in This helps native plants for every potted plant not eat their entire root digging, beetle early July a pool filled with take back the wetland, food source collection, and release water Place beetles on as every year, each area work sites The beetles can then plant inside the net purple loosestrife plant Once the food source go to work on Keep water two produces over 1 million Submit DNR permit By mid-summer, the is almost gone, the controlling the inches below the top seeds from pollinated beetles will have reproduced into as authorization application plant can be moved existing stand! of the soil so to not flowers to an existing stand, drown larvae many as 1,000 and nets can be Contact potential After releasing, fill out beetles per plant! Remember to collect the volunteers, explain removed and return the DNR Cover with nets to plant pots for rearing process, and confirm keep predators out insect release form to next year! intention to help dig the state and/or raise beetles

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<br>in combination:<br>Chemical<br>Cutting<br>Digging<br>Beetles  | Scattered<br>Individual<br>Plants | Small Populations Less than one acre | Medium<br>Populations<br>1-10 acres | Large<br>Populations<br>More than<br>10 acres |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Low Density<br>0-33% Coverage  |                                   | less.                                | Tea .                               | Terms   |
| Medium<br>Density<br>34-66% Coverage   |                                   |                                      |                                     | *   |
| 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. |                                   | Tens.                                | **                                  | *   |

#### Other Considerations

Consider Access: If you are unable to safely access a site (extreme muck, water levels, etc.), beetles are probably your best option.

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.

Chemicals: If you are in an area with wet ground, contact your WDNR Regional Lakes Biologist to determine if a permit is needed.

Images: sprayer by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND. Shovel by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC,

Lopper by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA, beetle by Emily Heald

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.

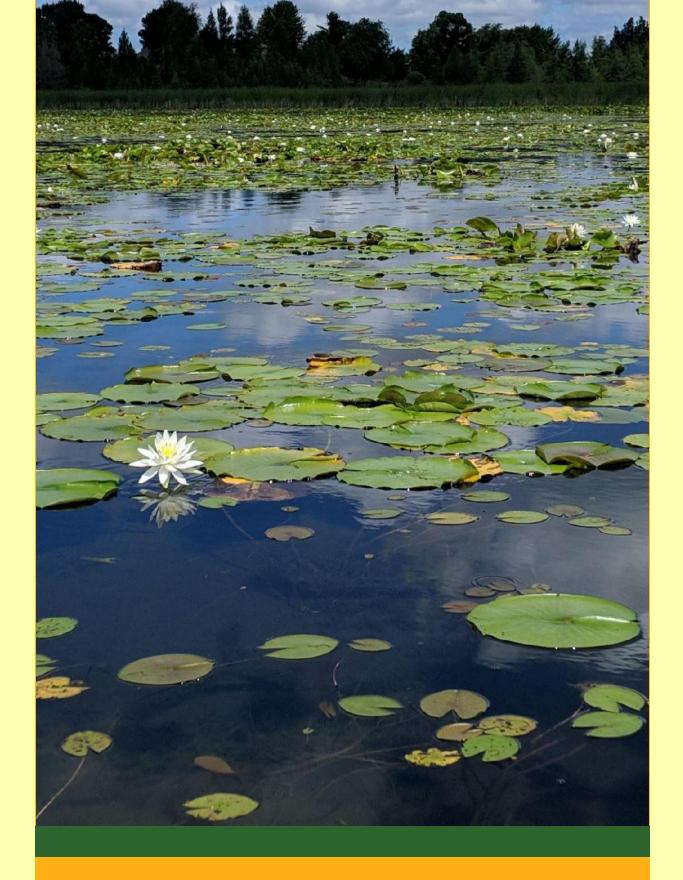


Do you know somebody who is passionate about working on the water? Washington & Waukesha Counties are recruiting for our summer intern positions! Duties include watercraft inspection through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, lake surveys, education & outreach events, and AIS removal efforts. These 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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