

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Waukesha County



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The Beetles Are Coming! The Beetles are Coming!

This year, the Waukesha County AIS team plans to join State efforts to control purple loosestrife in our wetlands.

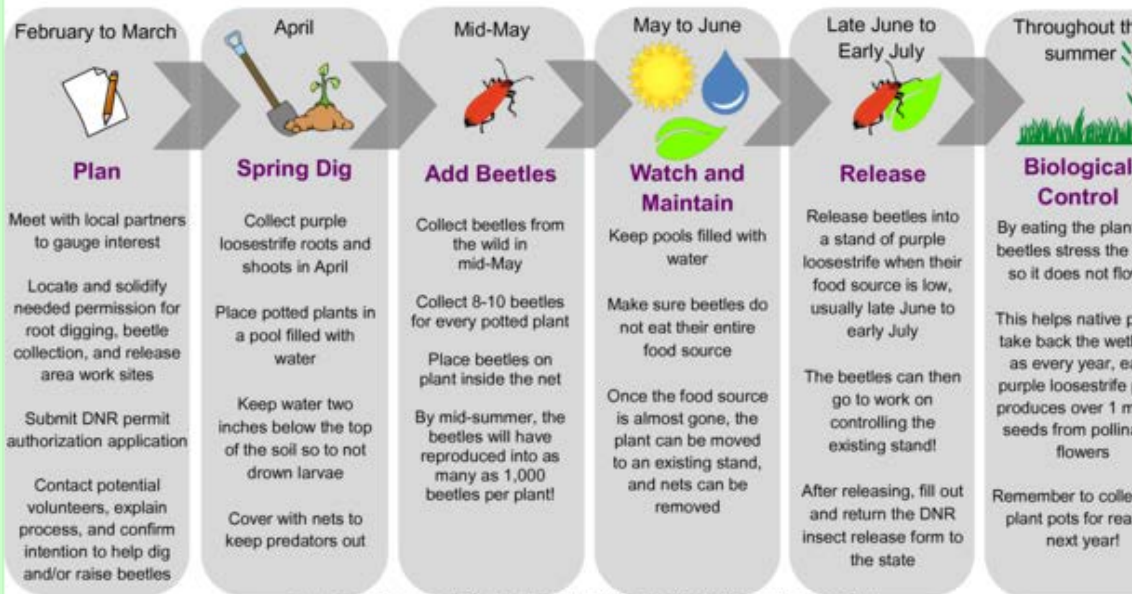
Galerucella spp. beetles, AKA "cella beetles" or "purple loosestrife beetles" act as a biological control. They eat up the invasive purple loosestrife plants that are rampant in local wetlands, and help restore wetlands to historic plant communities. See the timeline below.

Purple Loosestrife Biological Control

Helping Native Plants Battle Invasive Species



Golden Sands
Resource Conservation
& Development Council, Inc.



Forms and addresses can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/loosestrife.html>



To learn more, find and contact your local Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/topics.aspx>

Purple loosestrife beetle timeline. Credit: Krista Kamke

You can sign up [HERE for a free webinar](#) put on by the Wisconsin First Detector Network on Friday, April 21st. Brad Steckart, the AIS Coordinator for Washington and Waukesha Counties will explain the purple loosestrife biocontrol program and how to get involved.



Galerucella beetles love to munch on the leaves, flowers, and stems of purple loosestrife. Photo: Brad Steckart

Interested in joining and growing some Purple Loosestrife Beetles? Community members are welcome to join a group from Carroll University in this effort to help dig up roots and plant purple loosestrife into pots on Sunday, April 23rd. The sites and times are to be determined, but if you're interested, you can [Sign Up for Purple Loosestrife Rootstock Collection and Planting Day HERE!](#)



4H Volunteers plant purple loosestrife into pots and get ready to take them home to grow and eventually add beetles. Photo: Brad Steckart



Lythrum salicaria
Purple loosestrife
© Paul Skawinski 2010

Flowering purple loosestrife. Photo: Paul Skawinski

If you have any questions about this program, call Brad Steckart at 262-335-4806 or email ais@waukeshacounty.gov. Stay updated with our AIS E-News by subscribing [HERE!](#)

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Training

Clean Boats Clean Waters Training Dates are here!

Clean Boats, Clean Waters certified boat inspectors perform boat and trailer checks, disseminate informational brochures and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. To become certified, attend a two-hour training.

If you are interested in volunteering at a boat launch this summer, or are hired through a Lake Association, Lake District, or municipality please feel free to attend one of these trainings.



Washington County:

April 22: Ackerman's Grove County Park, West Bend 2-4pm

May 6: Germantown Library, Germantown 9-11am

May 20: West Bend Police Dept Training Rm 9-11am

May 21: Big Cedar Lake PRD Building (Gonring Dr.) 12-2pm

Waukesha County:

April 22: Oconomowoc Community Center 9-11am

May 6: Idle Isle Launch, Little Muskego Lake 2-4pm

May 13: Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha 9-11am

May 20: Idle Isle Launch, Little Muskego Lake 2-4pm



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

Information about more trainings can be found at the [UW-Extension Lakes Website!](#)

Highlights from the Past Month. . .

Wonderful World of Water Day: The Waukesha County AIS Team has been busy in the past month! on February 25th, the AIS Coordinator presented at the Wonderful World of Water Day at Retzer Nature Center. Brad and some other Waukesha County employees had some fun being "[LIVE](#)" on the news that day promoting the Wonderful World of Water Day.





*Above: Jayne Jenks, Brad Steckart, and Luke Trudel prepare for the Wonderful World of Water Day.
Photo: Kelly Mehring*

Below: Brad Steckart interviews on Real Milwaukee with Brian Kramp. Photo: Kelly Mehring

Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting: February 27th and 28th, the AIS Coordinator attended the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference in Milwaukee. Brad Spoke on the current status of Starry Stonewort in Silver Lake, Washington County, and learned a lot about different plant management techniques.

Classroom Education and Outreach: On Thursday, March 2nd the AIS Coordinator met with an Aquatic Ecology class at Carroll University led by Dr. Todd Levine. Students learned about the importance of aquatic invasive species, the life cycles of different AIS, as well as career choices and paths to take to get involved with water resources.

Fox River Summit Presentation: Friday March 10th, Brad presented on starry stonewort identification, life and invasion history, and treatment options at the Fox River Summit in Burlington, WI.



*AIS Coordinator speaks on starry stonewort life history, and treatment options.
Photo: SEWRPC*

AIS Partnership: The Quarterly AIS Partnership Meeting took place on March 14th and 15th at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. The AIS Coordinator was in attendance and had the chance to take note of some major updates to the AIS Program this field season. There will be updates in a few areas including Citizen Lakes Monitoring Network, Clean Boats Clean Waters, and the AIS Snapshot Day, which is taking place on August 5th, 2017.

AIS Intern Update: Since then the team has been hard at work preparing for the AIS Strategic Plan and interviewing candidates for the AIS Intern position! We've had some amazing candidates and are getting closer to finding the perfect intern!



Searching for the summer AIS Intern. Photo: Abbie Repinski

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