

## Buffalo Lake: July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Purple Loosestrife Bio-Control Beetle Release Summary

Report by: Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant

Field Date: July 27, 2022

Oneida County Field Staff: Madeline Hetland and Aubrey Nycz

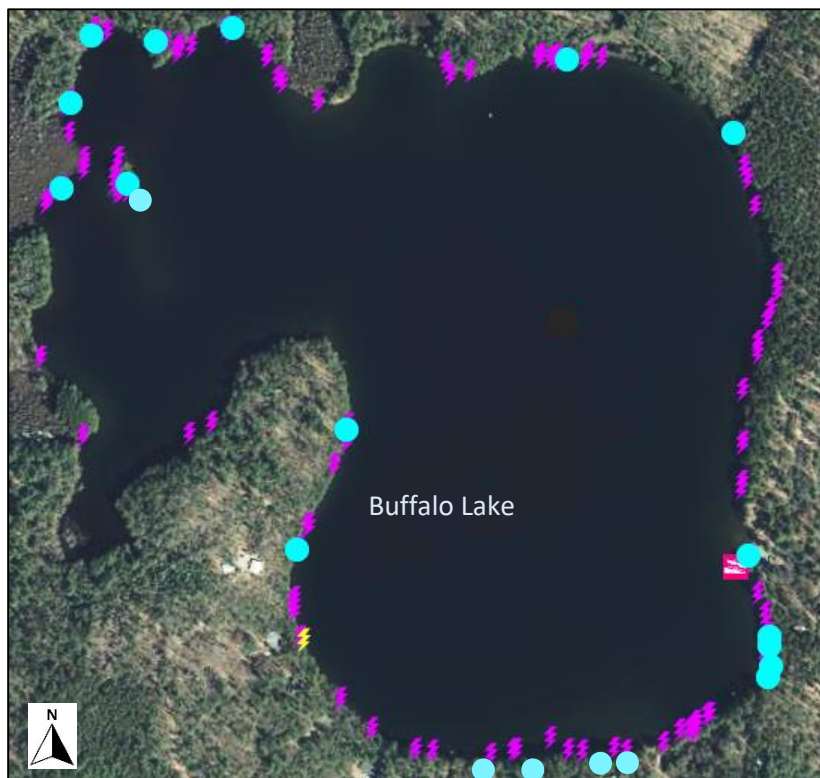
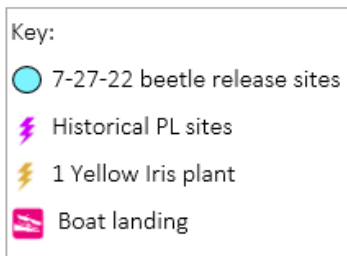
Volunteer: Andrea Billings

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Aubrey and I headed out to Buffalo Lake to release purple loosestrife beetles as part of the Oneida County Purple Loosestrife (PL) Bio-control project. First, we gathered 25 plants from our beetle rearing tent located at the McNaughton Correctional Facility. In a perfect world of PL Biocontrol, it is estimated that each pot should contain 5,000 beetles x 25 pots totaling 125,000 beetles to be release. We tied nets around the plants to keep the beetles inside during transport.

When we arrived at Buffalo Lake, PL volunteer Andrea Billings met us at the Buffalo Lake Campground boat landing to assist us for the day and share her knowledge of the PL sites around the lake. After we loaded up the county canoe with potted plants, Andrea led us to different PL sites and helped us decide the best sites to release beetles (Figure 1). She also took a few plants in her kayak to plop in locations that were more difficult for our canoe to fit in. We are grateful to have such a dedicated volunteer and appreciate her help and knowledge!

Many of the GPS coordinates of where we found PL and released beetles this year lined up with the site locations in years past. There was a large plant right at the landing. About 8 plants were scattered along the southern shoreline. There were only a few on the east side of the peninsula. The Purple Loosestrife was the densest in the wetland area behind and around the island in the northwest corner of the lake. There were about 6 plants on the island itself. There were few new sites, so the plants have not spread much, though the existing sites have continued to grow larger.

*Figure 1. Map of Buffalo Lake showing the 7-26-22 PL beetle release sites.*



## Buffalo Lake: August 4, 2022 Purple Loosestrife Bio-Control Beetle Release Summary

Report by: Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant

Field Date: August 4th, 2022

Oneida County Field Staff: Stephanie Boismenu and Madeline Hetland

On August 4, 2022, AIS Coordinator, Stephanie Boismenu, and I visited Buffalo Lake to release additional PL beetles. Due to the excessive amounts and densities of PL plants on the lake, Stephanie decided that the additional plants were necessary to help knock-back the PL around the wetlands. We obtained 15 plants (75,000 beetles) that were left at the McNaughton Correctional Facility, which were initially being held to be part of Stephanie's new PL beetle overwintering project. But, she decided that it was necessary to place them at Buffalo Lake, where they would be able to make a much needed impact on the PL problem.

We placed one plant on the south side of the boat landing and then focused on the northwest shoreline and around the island (Figure 1). We placed pots and released beetles near plants that were previously skipped or were of great density requiring extra control. Stephanie recognized some of the locations from years past, but also observed some new beds like the one on the island. It was great to revisit the lake so we can better ensure an actual, long-lasting impact. We hope the results will be noticeable by next summer.

Figure 1. Map of Buffalo Lake showing the 8-4-22 beetle release sites.

