

Planting Grounds Lake Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Beetle Release Summary

July 26th, 2022

Oneida County Staff in Attendance: Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Program Coordinator, and Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant

Report by: Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant

On July 26th, 2022, Stephanie and Madeline completed the final step of the Purple Loosestrife biocontrol project- releasing the beetles. We first went to collect the beetles with a team of volunteers at the beetle rearing tent outside the Petroleum Museum in Three Lakes. We gathered each Purple Loosestrife plant in a net to contain the beetles during transport. Stephanie vacuumed up the remaining beetles that were clinging to the side and top of the cage. We put a leg of a nylon stocking over the hose of the backpack vacuum to keep the beetles from getting sucked up inside. We were able to keep the beetles in the tied-off tights until we were ready to release them. We loaded up about 56 plants into Paul's truck. We then headed to our launching site on Planting Grounds Lake. At the lake, we placed all the pots on the pontoon boat belonging to the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. We headed out to the wetland area. Stephanie and I headed upstream across the southern shoreline, and two other volunteers went up the northern shoreline in their own canoe. The plants were less dense than in years past, and the ones along the northern shoreline were especially small. There are concerns of the mosquito spray killing off the purple loosestrife beetles on the southern side, but this is only a theory. Altogether, about 56 plants and about 1,200 beetles were placed in the wetland at various purple loosestrife sites.

Planting Ground Lake Map



Sites of Purple Loosestrife Pot and Beetle Release

