



Purple Loosestrife Bio-Control Project

"Beetle Mania"

Supporting Solutions through Community

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE CONTROL THROUGH "BEETLE MANIA"

The spread of invasive species like Purple Loosestrife is a growing crisis in Wisconsin. Awareness alone is not always enough to generate action. Three strategies for controlling Purple Loosestrife are hand-pulling, chemical treatment, and biological control with the Galenucella Beetle.

With this grant, INRP will help the Manitowoc County Lakes Association expand a program to educate, train and involve the public in the bio-control method, which has proven to be most efficient and least costly for larger infestations of loosestrife. Beetle Mania has three main project objectives: 1) increase public awareness through educational programs to schools, clubs, lake associations and other groups; 2) educate and train individuals and groups in eradication methods through workshops and hands-on clinics; and 3) establish local insectories to raise and release cella beetles for on-going control in loosestrife-infested areas.

Partnering with groups that include the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Viking Bow and Gun Club, the lakes association intends to mobilize ten new groups to rear and release beetles and establish two new insectories in the Lakeshore Basin.

MID PROJECT REPORT

Four site visit demonstrations have been accomplished to date which included Woodland Dunes, Wilke Lake Assoc., MCLA membership, and Camp Sinewa. Participation at the Manitowoc County Fair was also very successful for public awareness and for program information & distribution. 14 groups have committed to raise and release projects already by pre-registration to the April 2 workshop. The December issue of MCLA's Newsletter featured a story of the Town of Liberty Go-Getters 4-H Club accomplishment with their beetle project success with upcoming workshop information. Press releases have been sent to area newspapers announcing the April workshop as well. We will continue public awareness by arranging presentations for community interest. Press releases have been issued to local newspapers and Fox 11 has contacted us to received information for a story at our April 2nd workshop.

We will support continued awareness through publications, local news, and community & association newsletters. NBC 26 has put us on their schedule for future contact for a story. Press follow-up will be sent after the workshop.

At a Glance...

Project:

A grassroots opportunity to educate and train volunteer groups in the raising of beetles for biological control of purple loosestrife

Grant Recipient:

Manitowoc County Lakes Association

Amount Awarded: \$4,600

Funding Cycle: 2004



Large cages are set up holding pots of purple loosestrife. These are inoculated with about 30 beetles per cage and can produce many thousands of offspring.