

Class of 2018: Beetle Mania



Leadership Charlevoix County Class of 2018 partnered with the Tip of Mitt Watershed Council to bring attention to the problem Purple Loosestrife is creating and beginning to try to manage it in Charlevoix County. They worked with the Friends of the Boyne River, The Lake Charlevoix Association, and several other local waterway associations to determine the release sites.

Managing Purple Loosestrife is important, notes members of the Leadership Charlevoix County class. Once established, loosestrife stands are difficult and costly to remove by mechanical and chemical means. The LCC class of 2018 opted for the biological control method—the introduction of its natural predator, Galerucella beetles, or Purple Loosestrife beetle. Releasing these beetles establishes a long-term population of beetles at the infestation site. Rather than replacing one invasive species with another, the beetles feed almost exclusively on Purple Loosestrife and once their food source is gone, the beetles will die off as well.