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IPAW and The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Collaborate to Conduct an Invasive Plant Survey

Volunteers are needed to complete the survey!

The Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) and The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) have developed a survey to gather observations from people working in the field, on the impact and ecology of invasive plants. One of the immediate goals of IPAW is to develop official working lists of *Invasive* and *Potentially Invasive* plants of Wisconsin. Based on this working list of *Invasive Plants*, some of IPAW's primary efforts will be to, 1) develop educational materials and programs, 2) work to help formulate and influence public policy, 3) support and encourage control and management, and 4) help foster research on invasive plants. An initial step for these efforts is development of a working list of invasive plants.

Creation of a list of invasive plants can sometimes become controversial or politically charged, because of the commercial (agricultural and horticultural) value of some invasive species. It is important that IPAW's working list of invasives be developed based on as much quantitative data as is available, and based on the observations and experience of as many naturalists and land managers as possible. The credibility of the list will depend, in part, on the involvement of a large number of people who have experience with Wisconsin's native plant communities. Since direct studies of the effects of invasive species on native communities are often lacking, the collective observations of a wide variety of naturalists is essential to support the validity of the list.

GLIFWC has been working to develop a database of the published characteristics of plants that might be considered invasive. Some of the characteristics currently in the GLIFWC database when they are available for individual species, include: 1) North American distribution, 2) presence on state invasives lists and availability of published fact sheets, 3) life history and longevity, 4) growth form and growth rate, 5) fire tolerance, 6) minimum length of growing season, 7) shade tolerance, 8) seed longevity, and 9) ability to spread vegetatively, etc. The results of the direct observations of invasiveness gathered through the IPAW/GLIFWC survey will be added to the database to generate a score that summarizes the relative invasiveness of the species. The approach is adapted from the *Alien Plant Ranking System* (Hiebert, R.D. and J. Stubbendieck, 1993. Handbook for ranking exotic plants for management and control. USDI National Park Service Natural Resources Report NPS/NRMWRO/NRR-93/08).

(Continued from page 1)

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

Summary of the questions you will be asked when you complete the IPAW/GLIFWC survey.

Ecoregion -

Record the ecoregions of occurrence from the map provided.

Habitat -

Community (s) most often invaded:

- A - aquatic
- B - barrens
- G - grasslands
- F - forests
- W - wetlands
- D - disturbed ground

Disturbance -

- 0 - only in sites disturbed within the last 3 years
- 5 - in sites disturbed within the last 10 years
- 10 - in mid-successional sites disturbed 11-50 years ago
- 15 - in late-successional sites disturbed 51-100 years ago
- 20 - in high-quality natural areas with no known major disturbance in the last 100 years

Abundance -

The species occurs in what percentage of vulnerable sites:

- 0 - <10%
- 5 - 10-25%
- 10 - 25-50%
- 15 - >50% of vulnerable sites

Impact -

At sites where it occurs, the species:

- 0 - has little or no ecological impact
- 5 - modifies native communities
- 10 - replaces native communities

Competition -

Observed competitive ability:

- 0 - poor competitor
- 5 - moderate competitor
- 10 - highly competitive

Rate of Spread -

Within the last 5 years, abundance has:

- 0 - decreased
- 5 - remained the same
- 10 - increased slightly
- 15 - more than doubled

Control -

Feasibility of effective long term control:

- 0 - None required, plant loses vigor as succession proceeds
- 5 - Only one time management required
- 10 - Periodic management required (every 5-10 years)
- 15 - Requires annual management
- 20 - No feasible control option

Many of you are familiar with the concept of developing an "index of conservatism" for native plants by averaging the opinions of a panel of experts. Similarly, the median responses from this survey will be calculated and combined with data derived from published literature and plant databases to develop an "index of invasiveness" of the invasive plants of Wisconsin. People who volunteer to complete the survey will be asked to answer questions only about those species with which they have personal experience, and will constitute a large "panel of experts" on the invasive plants of the state. **The questions that the survey asks for each species are summarized in the column on the left side of this page.**

The survey includes a list of over 300 non-native species, and almost 30 native species that may be considered invasive in some situations. This initial comprehensive list was formed by combining the U.S. Forest Service's list of invasive plants for the Eastern Region, and the University of Wisconsin Herbarium's list of ecologically invasive plants. Many of the species on the list may not occur in the state, but may be considered *Potentially Invasive in Wisconsin*. Other species on the comprehensive list will be shown by the survey to be *Weeds*, but not *Invasive Plants* (see definitions below). The results of the completed survey will produce a ranked or categorized list of *Invasive* and *Potentially Invasive Plants* of Wisconsin. Species will be categorized based on the severity of their impact, and the threat they pose to our native plant communities. The results of the survey and the database that catalogues the properties of the invasive species will be made available this spring on GLIFWC's web site, which can be accessed through a link on the IPAW website (www.uwex.edu/ces/ipaw).

If you can volunteer to complete the survey, a printable survey form can be downloaded from the IPAW website (www.uwex.edu/ces/ipaw). You will need the Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded for free, to print out the survey. Printed and completed surveys should be mailed directly to GLIFWC at an address printed on the survey form. IPAW hopes to receive all completed surveys by 30 March 2002. If you would like more information about the survey, after reading the information on the website, contact: Miles Falck at (715) 682-6619 or miles@glifwc.org.

IPAW Working Definitions

Invasive Plants are non-indigenous species or strains that become established in natural plant communities and wild areas and replace native vegetation.

Weeds are undesirable and troublesome plants growing in disturbed areas, especially cultivated ground.

Potentially Invasive Plants (for Wisconsin) are species that are invasive in parts of North America having similar climates and plant communities, and that are thought to have the potential to colonize and become invasive in Wisconsin.

Sometimes Invasive Natives are native plants that can become overly abundant in a plant community to which they are indigenous, often in response to a change in the disturbance regime.

Indigenous means occurring naturally in a specific area or plant community; not introduced.

Regional Focus

Invasive Species Control Hits The Road in Sauk County

John Exo, Lower Wisconsin River Basin Educator, UW-Extension
505 Broadway Blvd., Baraboo, WI 53913 email: john.exo@ces.uwex.edu

A unique partnership between conservationists and road managers is aimed at controlling the spread of invasive species in the greater Sauk County area. The Invasives Control Network is a pilot project of the Greater Sauk County Invasive Plant Team.

Invasive plants threaten natural communities in Sauk County, causing loss of species diversity and reduced hardwood (including oak and hickory) regeneration on both public and private property. Exotic species of particular concern in the Sauk County area include garlic mustard, wild parsnip, buckthorn and purple loosestrife. Many organizations and individuals were attempting to address these threats, often in an uncoordinated fashion. To better coordinate invasive plant control efforts, numerous groups came together to form the Greater Sauk County Invasive Plant Team, or GSCIPT. GSCIPT has three primary strategies: 1) education, 2) inventory and mapping, and, 3) coordination of invasive plant control efforts.

Shortly after its formation, GSCIPT began working on an education strategy to reach people who could have immediate impacts on invasive species. We recognized that county and town patrolmen (highway department employees responsible for road right-of-way maintenance) were one audience with potentially significant impact, both positive and negative. Recognizing the potential for patrolmen to reduce the spread of invasives, a GSCIPT education sub-team planned and hosted a seminar for highway patrolmen from Sauk County and nine townships in May, 2001. Forty-three patrolmen attended the workshop, where they learned why invasives are a problem, learned how to identify several species, and brainstormed ways to work together to control specific infestations.

The brainstorming portion of the workshop lead to the creation of the Invasives Control Network. The network consists of patrolmen and conservationists assigned to specific State, County and Town roadway segments, where they work together to locate and find solutions to invasive species control. The Network is resulting in control measures and other collaboration that could become a model for other groups' efforts. **If you would like more information about the Sauk County Invasives Control Network, please contact the author.**

Several factors were key to the formation of the Network, including 1) the support of the Sauk County Highway Commissioner, 2) involving patrolmen in discussions about strategies to control roadside invasives, and, most importantly, 3) matching each patrolman with a land manager or conservationist who knows specific locations of invasive populations and who has knowledge of invasive species control methods. The underpinning of the network is the assumption that pairing a patrolman and conservationist, one of whom knows roadsides intimately, the other of whom knows plants intimately, will result in a trusting personal relationship that can lead to control of invasive plants and other benefits, such as the protection of remnant plant populations.

GSCIPT members include UW-Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Sauk County DNR Forester, DNR staff from Devil's Lake and Mirror Lake State Parks and the Bureau of Endangered Resources, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Sauk County Land Conservation and Parks Departments, Baraboo Range Preservation Association, restoration consultants and several individuals.

Get Involved in Regional and County Groups!

The following groups are actively working at invasive species control around Wisconsin. They can use your help! Contacts are listed.

Central – Mike Engel

Mike_Engel@fws.gov
(608) 221-1206 ext 21

Western – Rolf Utegaard

bigute-hort@prodigy.net
(715) 834-0065

Northwoods Weed Initiative --

Quita Sheehan
msheehan01@fs.fed.us
(715) 479-2827

Northeastern -- Gene Tiser

tiserg@dnr.state.wi.us
(920) 492-5836

Southern – Coordinator needed

Southeast – Coordinator needed

Milwaukee County Weed Out -

Ken Solis
ksolis@drjump.com
(414) 423-1709

Southwest – Coordinator needed

Door County -- Jamie Corbiser

jcorbisi@co.door.wi.us
(920) 746-2214

Greater Sauk County -- Jim Welsh

jwelsh@tnc.org
(608) 251-8140

Monroe County -- Kim Mello

kim.mello@emh2.mccoey.army.mil
(608) 388-5766

Brown County -- Paul Hartman

paul.hartman@ces.uwex.edu
(920) 391-4610



Purple Loosestrife Beetle

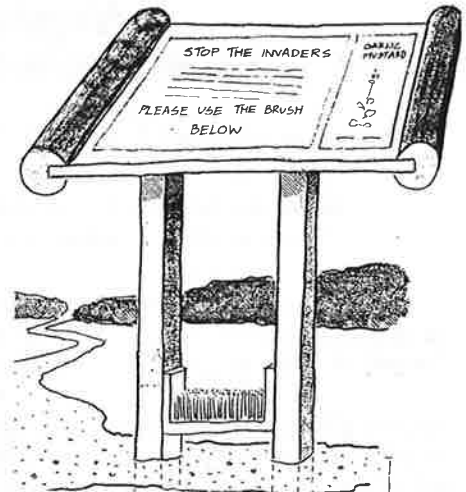
Photo: Bryce Richardson

Sauk County Boot Brush and Signs

The boots of park and nature preserve visitors are vectors for the spread of invasive non-native plant species like garlic mustard. Park visitors are also a large group of people whose interest in the out-of-doors might be tapped for education about the problem of invasives, and put to use to help control their spread. Preserve visitors are the target of an initiative of the Greater Sauk County Invasive Plants Team (GSCIPT) to install boot brushes and educational signs at trail heads at up to 15 state parks, county parks, and nature preserves in Sauk County this summer and fall. The goals of the project are to encourage hikers to clean their shoes before and/or after they hike, and to raise their awareness about invasive species while they brush.

The brushes and signs will be mounted on sturdy metal podiums planted in the ground on 4x4's. The signs will contain a simple message and illustrations printed on a weather-resistant surface with a replaceable Plexiglas cover.

IPAW is sponsoring a grant application to help fund the project on behalf of GSCIPT, an IPAW member. The expected cost of an individual unit is between \$250 and \$300. GSCIPT would be glad to make the boot brush and sign units available at cost for use elsewhere. If you are interested in learning more about the boot brush and sign, or would like to discuss ordering a sign, please contact Jay Walters. GSCIPT expects to place a sign order before the end of this winter, so if you are interested in ordering one, please contact them soon.



Artist's rendition; design not final

Contact:
Jay Walters, Baraboo Hills Land Steward
The Nature Conservancy
107 Walnut Street, Baraboo, WI 53913
(608) 356-5300; jwalters@tnc.org

HELP NEEDED NOW

for Planning the 2003 Plants out of Place Conference

Do you have some good ideas for topics that you would like see addressed at the conference? Do you have some experience organizing conferences, or have ideas that will help make PooP – 2003 a success? Now is your chance to provide your ideas and assistance with planning of the next invasive plant conference for the Upper Midwest. The PooP – 2003 conference will be held on Saturday, 27 September 2003, in Madison, Wisconsin. The PooP conference will be held in conjunction with the 2003 Natural Areas Conference. IPAW will be the primary host of the PooP Conference.

The Conference Planning Committee needs people to help now with the early planning of the conference, and, closer to the conference date, will need volunteers to help with details.

If you are interested in helping or have ideas for topics that you would like to see covered at the PooP – 2003 conference, please **contact Kelly Kearns**, DNR Endangered Resources Program, kearns@dnr.state.wi.us, or (608) 267-5066.



Control Crew Preparing for Work
Photo: Kelly Kearns

Notes ... Announcements ... Meetings ...

Meetings:

9 March 2002 - IPAW Annual Membership Meeting, LaCrosse, Wisconsin (See last page for details.)

16 March 2002 - Native Landscaping Conference, "Sustainability—Seeking an ECO – Balance", Alliant Center, Madison. Hosted by The UW Arboretum and the Madison Chapter of the Wild Ones. For a brochure, contact the UW Arboretum (608) 263-7888, or for more information contact:
Nancy Schlimgen, at (608) 265-5872, njschlim@facstaff.wisc.edu

12 & 13 April 2002 - Evolutionary Consequences of Invasions by Exotic Species, A Symposium of The Minnesota Center for Community Genetics. While the ecology of invasions has begun to receive considerable attention, there has been little attention paid to the evolutionary dimensions of the problem. In this symposium evolutionary issues related to invasions by exotics will be explored.
For electronic registration, or for more information, visit:
www.ima.umn.edu/geoscience/spring/bio_invasion.html

27- 30 October 2002 - Invasive Plants—Global Issues, Local Challenges, Janet Meakin Poor Research Symposium, Chicago Botanic Garden, Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. The website with more information, including a contact for submission of papers is:
www.chicagobotanic.org/symposia/jmpsymp.html

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Events:

25 February – 1 March 2002 - National Invasive Weed Awareness Week

Each year, the Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition sponsors National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Washington, DC. This year's events take place February 25-March 1, 2002. The coalition is composed of private, state, and federal representatives whose main purpose is to raise awareness and educate both the public and Congress about noxious and invasive weeds, and the challenges they cause on refuges, parks, forests, and private lands.

Visit the web site: www.nawma.org/niwaw.htm to get meeting and event details. Interested in becoming part of this event? Contact National Invasive Species Coordinator Mike Ielmini, (703) 358-2340.

11 May, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Native Plant Sale

UW-Madison Arboretum, in a Wildflower Tent near the Visitor Center.

Sponsored by The Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum.

Volunteers to work at the event are welcome.

Please call (608) 263-7760 to learn more about volunteering.

Notes ... Announcements ... Meetings ...

Notes:

The Dirty Dozen, 12 Pasture Weeds with Special Attention to Southwest Wisconsin, is a new booklet that contains descriptions and color pictures of Wisconsin's most common pasture weeds. Some of the weeds included, such as spotted knapweed and wild parsnip, are common invasive plants in grassland habits other than pastures. While the focus is on the southwestern part of the state, many of "The Dirty Dozen" occur in much of Wisconsin. The booklet is coauthored by Rhonda Gildersleeve, UW Extension Agricultural Educator for Iowa Co., and Peggy Compton, UW Extension Basin Educator for southwestern Wisconsin. To obtain a copy of "The Dirty Dozen", contact Peggy at:

Lancaster Ag. Research Station, 7396 State Hwy. 35/81, Lancaster, WI 53813;

Phone: (608) 723-6243; FAX (608) 723-2607;

e-mail: peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu

IPAW Call for Photos - IPAW is still seeking the donation of photographs of invasive plants, their effects on native plant communities, invasive species control, and other related topics. If you are willing to share your best photographs of an invasive plant problem, please send them to Jim Reinartz, PooP Editor (full contact information on the first page).

An interesting paper is available on the web: **Methods of Introduction of Non-Native Plants into New Habitats: A Review**, by Jennifer Forman, University of Massachusetts, Boston.

www.masssrb.org/epublications/fall2001/invasives.html

Weeds in the Wild: Weed Management in Natural Areas, a printable internet publication by The Nature Conservancy, is an excellent pamphlet for explaining to the general public why that "pretty flower" should be removed from a natural area. Check it out at: <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/outreach.html>

Completion of Betty Czarapata's Book, "*Invading Weeds*", Threatened by Illness

Many of you know Betty Czarapata for her tireless work battling invasives, including organizing "Weed Out" in the Milwaukee County park system for the past several years. Betty's book manuscript, *Invading Weeds*, is close to completion. Those who have reviewed the manuscript say that it is a very thorough treatment of the invasives of the Upper Midwest, and that it will be a valuable manual and reference for land owners and land managers, as well as a superb educational tool. Cancer threatens to prevent Betty from completing this important work unless sufficient funds can be raised to complete the book rapidly. To learn more about the book, and to find out how you can contribute to this effort, please contact:

The Park People

Phone: (414) 273-7275; Fax: (414) 273-7293; E-Mail: theparkpeople@core.com

750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Suite 301, Milwaukee, WI 53202

SAVE THIS DATE!!

The Park People of Milwaukee County are going to have a party to honor Betty Czarapata---

Friday, April 26, 2002 at 6:30PM

Mitchell Park Pavilion (In Mitchell Park, Milwaukee, behind The Domes)

Call The Park People at (414) 273-PARK to reserve your spot.

Join IPAW Today!

Please complete this application form and mail it to:

Invasive Plants Assn of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 5274
Madison, WI 53705-0274



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Membership Category:

- \$20.00 individual
- \$100.00 organization/agency
- Tax Deductible donations accepted in any amount

Check an area of interest if you want to learn about volunteer opportunities:

- Communications (newsletter, website)
- Education Committee
- Government Relations
- Fundraising
- Conference 2003
- Science Committee
- Regional Groups: Central; Western; Southern; Southeast;
- Southwest

Plants out of Place

is a periodic newsletter distributed to the members of IPAW.

Send comments, suggestions, and articles that you think may be of interest to IPAW to the newsletter **Editor**:

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UW-Milwaukee Field Station
3095 Blue Goose Road
Saukville, WI 53080

Phone: (262) 675-6844
Fax: (262) 675-0337
email: jimr@uwm.edu

**IPAW Annual Membership Meeting
9 March 2002 — LaCrosse, Wisconsin**

The first Annual Membership Meeting of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin will be held on 9 March 2002 during the Spring 2002 annual conference of The Prairie Enthusiasts to be held at the UW-LaCrosse campus. The annual IPAW meeting will take place during the lunch hour (12:00-1:30 on 9 March 2002). IPAW members are also encouraged to participate in the TPE conference, but it will not be necessary to register for the conference to attend our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of IPAW is prescribed in our by-laws.

The **agenda** for Annual Meeting is as follows:

Financial report, Membership report

Report of activities to date:

Incorporation

Committees: establishment and work

Communication with members

New Business:

Election of Directors

Next annual meeting and conference

Members input on future direction and efforts

More information is available on our website.

Visit the IPAW website:

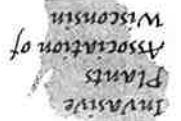
www.uwex.edu/ces/ipaw

If there is no membership expiration date on your address label, you are not yet a member - please join! This will be the last newsletter sent to non-members.

|||||
DAN UNDERSANDER EXP: 5/1/2002
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MADISON WI 53706-1514

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