Plants Out of Place

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President's Notes:

Resiliency!

I just recently moved to a new neighborhood in Madison (not that you really care) and as I explore the area walking my dogs and botanizing, as I am sure many of you would do, I discovered something wonderful. There is a small patch of oaks in a city park that clearly has been managed by brush mowing in the recent past. Most of the unmanaged areas in Madison are a thicket of buckthorn and honeysuckle with a border matrix of our friend, garlic mustard; kudos to the park managers for taking this management on. As I explored this site, I was amazed to see several large, and I mean large, dense patches of prairie trilliums (*Trillium recurvatum*) - thousands of them. It got me to thinking about resiliency. As an old mentor used to say, "ma nature" can handle a lot of abuse and still come out looking strong and vibrant. Other nice spring ephemerals I found were huge patches of trout lily and Dutchman's breeches, to name a few.

We are all resilient in our battle against invasive plants and it makes me proud to be the President of IPAW and support and represent the many dedicated invasive plant crusaders across the state. As invasive plants spread across the landscape and new ones come into the state, we must adapt our management strategies to address the threats facing us from your

"Planting native species in our gardens and communities is increasingly important, because indigenous insects, birds and wildlife rely on them. Over thousands, and sometimes millions, of years they have co-evolved to live in local climate and soil conditions."

David Suzuki

Presidents Notes Continued

backyard to statewide. We are resilient and must be, because we all know invasive plants are as well.

With that said, spring is here and I am happy as can be to see green again. I look forward to seeing how the winter has impacted invasive plants, if at all. Garlic mustard is flowering already in the south and it seems like it just warmed up!

As you should all know by now, June is Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM), which features the Invader Crusader Award winners, a new video contest and many events across the state. Visit the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council website for more details. This year's theme is "protect the places we play."

I have two challenges for you as we approach ISAM.

First, submit a video of your favorite place you play by getting your grandmother, child or dog in the movie business. It is a super fun way to provide outreach for all ages.

Second, I challenge each of you to reach out to at least **two** people in June and educate them about the impacts invasive plants have on our states resources and tell them how they can help us fulfill the mission of IPAW. If you have any good stories to share from your encounters, we would love to hear them.

Lastly, for ISAM, we are going to be posting an invasive plant fun fact each day on our Facebook account, so "like" us on Facebook and learn some interesting factoids all through June.

Thank you all,

Thomas M. Boos II
IPAW President

Food Plots: Considerations Before Planting

By: Greg Bunker, IPAW Board Member

The deer hunting public who own or lease land on which to hunt commonly use food plots for white tailed deer. Read any hunting magazine and you will see numerous advertisements for small scale farming equipment designed to prepare and plant food plots within forest openings. These can be used behind all-terrain vehicles, another common tool for the deer hunter. Also sold are many varieties of seed mixtures and plants, which can be placed into these food plots.

I began this article expecting to find studies on how some of these food plot mixtures and recommended plantings purposely or potentially contain invasive plants, but quickly came to the realization that the issue is much larger than the simple addition of potential invasive plants. There are dozens of studies on the impacts of deer browse on native plants, which in turn reduces the native plant competition with the invasive plants. Many studies have established this to be true with garlic mustard, which is avoided by deer, and how the garlic mustard will thrive far better with the reduced competition of the native forbs preferred by deer.

On the national Park Service website there is a reprint of an article titled *Potential Synergy of White-tailed Deer and Invasive Plants*

Food Plots Continued

for Impacting Forest Plant Diversity. The problem they describe is as follows: "White-tailed deer prefer browsing native vegetation rather than exotic and invasive species, so native plant species not only have to compete with invasive species, they have to survive herbivory by deer. It is unknown if these two factors are additive or compensatory."[1]

I believe we can agree that there is an artificially high deer population due to many reasons; landscape use; landscape manipulation or hunting manipulation. If this high concentration of deer on the landscape were accelerating the spread of invasive plants through high browse on native plants, it would seem that the only way to correct the problem is to take the pressure off the browse of the native plants by lowering the deer herd. A landowner adjacent to my home had a state forester look at his 260 acres of land, much of it upland hardwood, which was selectively thinned about 15 years ago and still doesn't show regeneration of native trees above the snow line. He was advised that perhaps planting some open acreage to corn or other forage for deer would reduce the pressure on the upland woodland regeneration. However, wouldn't this help in keeping the population of deer healthy and alive in otherwise difficult winters and weather patterns, thus keeping the herd population high, and eventually applying pressure on the native landscape?

By keeping the deer at artificially high populations, the browse issue will forever be a problem. In the past few weeks, I have seen deer so small as to almost be mistaken for fawns, yet the winter was the coldest ever recorded in the Central Wisconsin area, with a thick snow cover. One would think that there would be a very high mortality of last years' fawns, yet here they are. I can point to a lot of supplemental feeding in the area, legal or not. The deer in my backyard are so hungry they have browsed the buckthorn, (that which I have not gotten around to eradicating as of this time). Every native tree has had every bud browsed within the height of a standing deer. In the spring I am afraid of what the fate of the few spring flowers will be, with the pressure from such a large herd.

This issue of food plots, for deer or other wildlife, and potential invasive plants is obviously a very complex issue, going far beyond the seed mixture, which is used. All I can recommend for a short awareness article like this one is; if you are considering a food plot: define a goal for what you wish to accomplish, research the native habitat, existing soils, and surrounding area and what is within the range of the target species of animals which you hope to attract or assist. Then before you place one seed in the ground, check with the lists of invasive plants, such as the one at http://www.ipaw.org/TheProblem/IPAWsPlantList.aspx and be prepared to work a number of years to make it a success and combat unexpected or unwanted results of the effort.

[1]William J. McShea, Norman A. Bourg and Chad M. Stewart.

Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker Partner in Action

By: Diane Schauer, IPAW Board Member

In 2013, Wildlife Forever began a Partner in Action program, honoring individuals or groups who spread the message "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers." In March 2014, the recipient of this honor was Wisconsin's own Greg Karch. Greg is a professional tournament angler and director of the organization "Learn 2 Fish with Us." Greg created his own "Fishing Basics" seminar, which covers the basic of water safety, casting, fish identification and always includes the Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker message of "Clean, Drain, Dry."

Greg has been giving his "Fishing Basics" seminar throughout Wisconsin, logging two dozen clinics with thousands of people educated last year alone. Preventing the spread of invasive species to protect our water resources is a

Aquatic Hitchhiker Continued

component of all of Greg's clinics. I know. I've been to about a dozen of them!

Greg also teaches instructors to do the "Fishing Basics" seminar, always including "Clean, Drain, Dry." As a Co-Chair of the Future Angler Committee for the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) Greg trains "Fishing Basics" instructors at their National Convention.

Greg's commitment to including the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers prevention steps at every seminar, and sharing it will scores of future instructors, earned him his Partner in Action award. Greg's 100th "Fishing Basics" clinic will be held June 7th at High Cliff State Park, right here in my own Calumet County. For more information on Greg Karch and his clinics, visit www.Learn2FishWithUs.com

Controlling Invasive Honeysuckle Species on the Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Easement

By: Jeremy Chiamulera, IPAW Board Member

Background

In late 2012, Wisconsin Northern Highlands New Market Tax Credit, LP (WNHNMTC) acquired a large timberland tract in Sawyer County, Wisconsin with an existing Forest Legacy conservation easement. Shortly after acquisition, representatives from WNHNMTC, Compass Land Consultants (CLC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) had a meeting to discuss property management. At that meeting, the WDNR informed WNHNMTC of a significant population of non-native, invasive honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp*.) on the property and discussed the possibility of controlling the population.

During field inspections in late fall of 2012, CLC discovered two population centers and observed the invasive plants had also spread along several roadsides throughout the property. An initial inventory of the population centers revealed an average of approximately 1,500 stems per acre covering nearly 88 acres.

Management Action

Given the extent of the honeysuckle infestation in the two core stands, it was immediately recognized that monitoring and control would be a multi-year, ongoing project. The first priority was to further identify the reach of the species outside of the core areas and begin efforts to significantly slow or stop the spread throughout the property. During the management planning portion of the project the following decision matrix was developed to aid in evaluating the appropriate management direction.

Action	Effort	Effectiveness	Comment
Do Nothing	None	Poor	*Slow spread in core areas and new satellite populations are likely.*
Mechanical Treatment	Labor Intensive	Poor	*Sprouts aggressively. May stop spread of fruit/seed by birds for a period of time until re-sprouts mature.*
Chemical Treatment	Moderate - Foliar Spray	Good / late summer, early fall	*Difficult to get effective control on large plants.*
Cut-Stump & Chemical Treatment	Labor intensive in combination with chemical treatment	Good / late summer, fall and into winter	*Effective results shown. Avoid spring season.*
Prescribed Fire	Significant management oversight and labor intensive	Unknown if fuel loads and timing of prescribed fire would be effective	*Concerns over damage to residual trees and liability outside of ownership.*

Controlling Honeysuckle Continued

After searching available literature and evaluating options, it was determined that cutting the plants and following with an herbicide treatment of the stumps would be the most effective control method for the established honeysuckle. Most sources recommended a solution of glyphosate (Roundup, Accord, Rodeo) or triclopyr3 (Garlon 3A, Garlon 4) applied directly to cut surfaces. The application is not recommended until after spring leaf-out and tends to be the most effective in late summer through early winter as the plants are actively preparing for dormancy.

Non-native honeysuckle prefers sunlight (edges and openings) for seedling establishment, so maintaining an intact forest canopy can be one of the best methods for limiting the interior spread of the species. This knowledge will be of significant consideration when making forest management decisions relating to harvesting and stand regeneration.

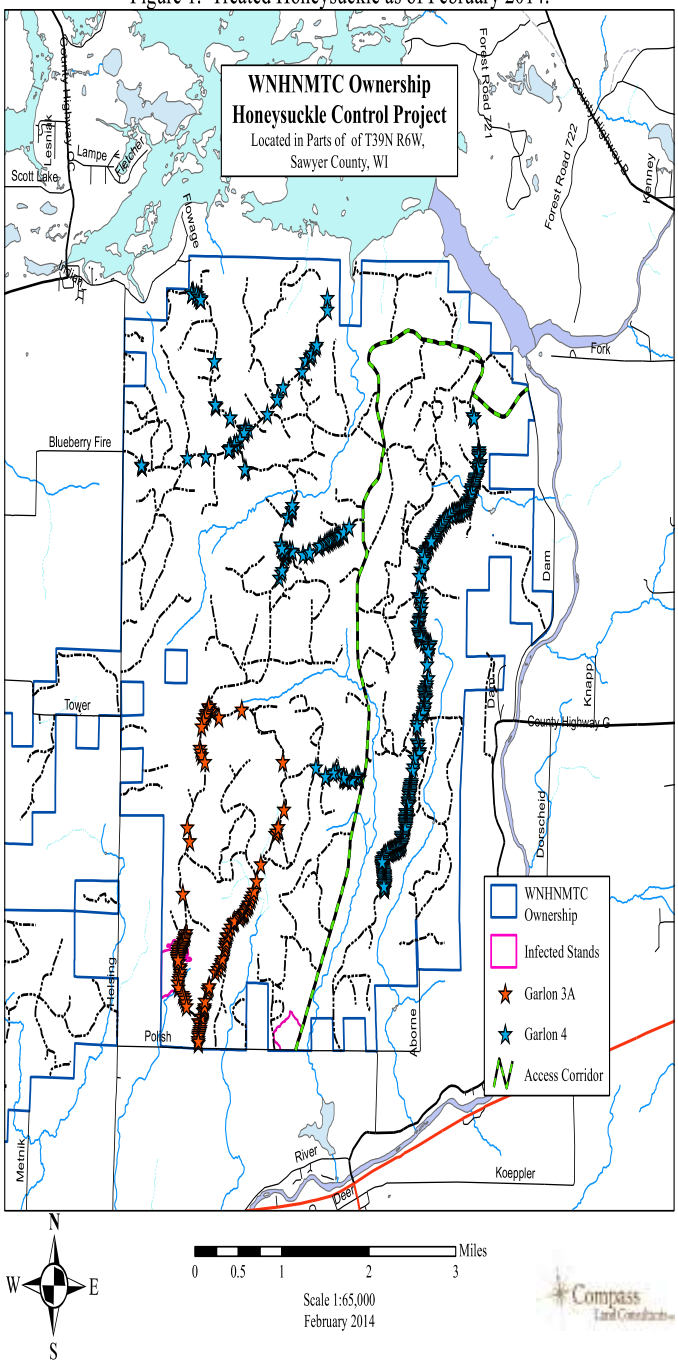
Treatment, Control, and Monitoring

Beginning in the summer of 2013, CLC's trained and licensed staff began the control efforts with a focus on individual plants and small groups of plants outside of the core areas. Work in following years will target the core populations. With the spread of the plants mostly confined to roadsides, a systematic process of traversing every road on the property was developed. As the team encountered honeysuckle plants, each stem was cut and treated with Garlon 3A or Garlon 4 via the cut-stump method and the location was recorded with a GPS for future monitoring of control efficacy.

As with many invasive species, honeysuckle will retain green leaves much longer in the fall than most native species and typically green up earlier in the spring. During the fall season, the roadsides and any of the core infestation areas that were treated will be monitored for living stems. Missed stems will be treated with similar methods and their locations will be recorded with a GPS. Portions of the core areas not treated in 2013 will be a priority for subsequent years (2014-2017).

With control and monitoring efforts spread out over several years, this project may continue to evolve as new science or control techniques become available, or as control successes or failures become apparent. Additionally, knowledge gained through regular observation or thorough analysis may be used in evaluating similar sites in the future for such things as costs, feasibility of eradication, or the expansion of native species on the sites.

Figure 1. Treated Honeysuckle as of February 2014.



Forest Legacy Information:

http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/legacy.html

Honeysuckle (*Lonciera spp.*) Information:

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/photos/index.asp?mode=detail&spec=310

Springtime for Invasive Species Contractors

By: Willis Brown, IPAW Treasurer

Like many people, most ecological restoration contractors look forward to spring. No longer do we have to get up in total darkness, put on multiple layers, trudge through knee-deep snow in below zero wind chills. However, it is also a time where there seems to be too much to do and not enough time to do it. For us, it means getting all the prescribed burns done. Burns suffer from a Goldilocks complex – fuel is not too wet and not too dry, the winds not too light and not too strong (in addition to the right direction) and before the vegetation turns too green.

Likewise, we need to treat garlic mustard and reed canary grass when they are dry and before they set seed. Some contractors focus on one or two of these activities, but we try to do all three and pay for it with long days and often working on weekends. Burns are often exhilarating, although writing burn plans and being responsible for the burn (i.e. making sure is stays "controlled"), takes a lot of the pleasure out of this activity. Of course, having the burn get out of control takes even more pleasure out of the activity. Personally, I enjoy garlic mustard time especially in areas where we have worked for a few years and can notice the progress that is being made. We get to spend time in the woods looking for the native spring ephemerals and forbs (and morels). It is also a great time to be in the woods since birds have returned and are fully active in their mating calls that are not drowned out by the sound of chains saws and brush cutters. It is also before the mosquitoes are out but unfortunately not before ticks emerge. The same goes for reed canary grass, although we hear/see a different cadre of birds (and also frogs).

Once this flurry of activities is finished we can take a deep breath and relax because then all we have to worry about is trying to control yellow sweet clover, wild parsnip, wild chervil, white sweet clover, crown vetch, hedge parsley, musk thistle, nodding thistle, Canada thistle, burdock, spotted knapweed, birdsfoot trefoil, mullien, purple loosestrife, porcelin berry, phragmites... Is it winter yet?

Clean Boats Clean Waters Refresher

By: Diane Schauer, IPAW Board Member

The Clean Boat Clean Waters (CBCW) program in Wisconsin has been helping to prevent the spread of invasive species for more than a decade. The program consists of volunteers and interns chatting with boaters and anglers about the need to remove all vegetation from their equipment, drain all water from boats, live wells and motors, and never move live fish away from a launch. The volunteers and interns also show boaters and anglers where to look for hidden vegetation and the places weeds hide to become aquatic hitchhikers.

This has been a tremendously successful program with increasing numbers of boaters and anglers learning what to do to stop aquatic hitchhikers. But this year it's going to be even better!

After months of conference calls, meetings, revisions, and much hand wringing, a new and improved CBCW approach has been developed. Most of the folks we talk with at the launches know what to do to prevent the spread of invasive species, but not as many understand why these steps are so important. This year we're focusing on the "Why." The CBCW watercraft inspectors will help the boaters and anglers understand why it's important to remove every shred of vegetation and why draining all their water really does make a difference. We'll be out there in force to educate our lake users about the importance of taking the prevention steps.

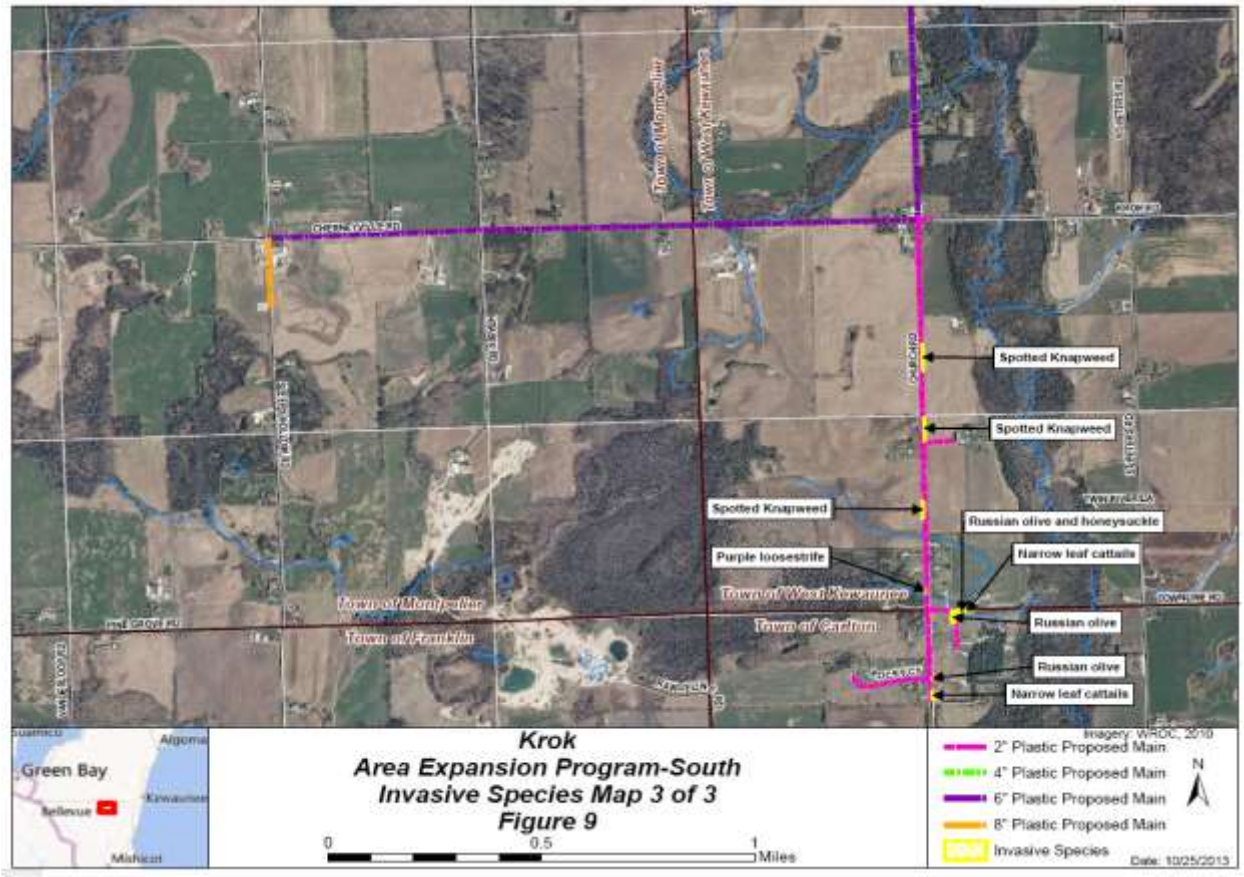
The new version of CBCW is being rolled out this spring and should make the program fun and fresh. If anyone has done CBCW before, please visit a refresher class. If you would like to join the army of volunteers, spend a few days on a boat launch enjoying the sunshine and birds, while helping spread the word about preventing the spread of invasive species, find a CBCW workshop near your favorite lake.

For further information, visit the UW Extension Lakes website or contact Erin McFarlane at Erin.McFarlane@uwsp.edu

Six years later: BMPs for controlling the Spread of Invasive Species

By: Jamie Nuthals, IPAW Board Member

In the spring of 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) introduced the Proposed Rule IS-34-06 Chapter 40 Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control - today known as the Chapter NR 40 rule. At that time, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) and other utilities, highway departments and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) were very concerned with how to comply with the proposed rule and the financial impact this rule could have on day to day activities. No parties questioned the need for such a rule or questioned whether or not utility or road projects spread terrestrial invasive species in their corridors and just how to comply with such a rule.



To address this issue, and based on past positive working relationships, the utilities, WDNR and WDOT came together to form the Wisconsin Utility and Transportation Corridor and Best Management for Invasive Species Committee (Group) in May of 2008. The Group was formed to come up with best management practices (BMPs) to avoid the spread of terrestrial invasive species while completing generally routine utility and road corridor work. These activities included; vegetation management and ground disturbance activities amongst others. The group met on several occasions over the next year and a half and successfully agreed upon and created the Wisconsin Utility and Transportation Corridor BMPs for implementation when the rule went into law on September 1, 2009.

Each utility and highway department was now able to choose from a list of BMPs that were applicable in controlling the spread of invasive species in their corridors. The BMPs development was so successful, that the Group was awarded the Invader Crusader award in 2010.

Six years later, a standard part of every utility project is to identify terrestrial invasive species prior to the beginning of work. The measures implemented to control the spread of terrestrial invasive species can trace its roots to a small group of individuals from the utilities, WDOT and WDNR.

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month!

June will be Wisconsin's 10th Annual Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM), offering us the opportunity to broaden concern and spur action to slow the spread of invasive species – and protect the places we play. There are lots of ways you can get involved (details below):

- Make a video – **by May 27**
- Register **by June 3** for the **2014 Invasive Species Education Summit** on **June 10**
- Participate in on-line chats – **May 29, June 3 and June 5**
- Celebrate an Invader Crusader – **June 5**
- Check out events all month long on the Invasive Species Awareness Month Calendar

For More information, contact isamcoordinator@gmail.com or 608-266-6437.

IPAW Board Members

Newsletter Information:

Plants Out of Place is a periodic newsletter distributed to Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin members.

Send comments, suggestions, and articles that you think may be of interest to IPAW at Lmn8xotx@gmail.com

Don't forget to Like IPAW on Facebook!

IPAW's Mission:

"To promote better stewardship of the natural resources of Wisconsin by advancing the understanding of invasive plants and encouraging the control of their spread."