

Plants Out of Place



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President's Notes: Keep an eye out!

As winter winds itself down and we come out of a deep freeze, IPAW churns on. We have been busy since our last communication. We have continued moving forward with our strategic planning, the revised website is up and running and we have had our presence at a few events with our exhibit.

We started the New Year releasing our new and improved website on New Year's Day. I want to give a special thanks to our one and only program assistant, Michele Jasik, for working so hard on getting the new website live for all to enjoy. She has tackled this project with great enthusiasm and effort. If you haven't been to the new website, I encourage you to take a look, you will find it to be much more user friendly and pleasing to look at. We have come a long way bringing the information from the old site to the new one, but the work is not done. So please recognize the website is not complete. We will continue to improve it over the next

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A new study led by University of Minnesota researchers demonstrates that fertilization of natural grasslands -- either intentionally or unintentionally as a side effect of global farming and industry -- is having a destabilizing effect on global grassland ecosystems.

"What we find is that the stabilizing effect [of species diversity] is lost, and we have less stable ecosystems when we have more nutrients coming into that system," says Elizabeth Borer, U of MN associate professor. This, the researchers found, was due to more synchronized growth of plants, eliminating the "portfolio effect."

For more information go to: http://www1.umn.edu/news/news-releases/2014/UR_CONTENT_471021.html

Presidents Notes Continued



couple months. We have formed a small committee to review the new website but we need more help. Mostly, we need volunteers to review the content for mistakes and other edits. We also are looking for some folks to write new content for some newly created pages. Please contact Michele if you are interested at all in helping us perfect our website.

IPAW recently took part as an exhibitor at the Garden Expo in Madison – which had almost 19,000 visitors! IPAW also partnered up with Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) and Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA) as an exhibitor at the National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic held in Milwaukee. Here’s what Diane Schauer of LISMA said about Pheasant Fest, “We had many great contacts with folks. A number of the people from Illinois were impressed with all the

publications and materials that Wisconsin has produced. Some of the Illinois and Iowa folks said they have places in northern Wisconsin and in da U.P. So they’re coming in from other states, bringing equipment, ATV’s, boots, dogs, boats and campers and certainly weed seeds to Wisconsin.” IPAW is planning on attending The Prairie Enthusiast Conference on March 1st. If you are aware of any other conferences or events that you think we should have a presence at, let us know and we will try to make it happen.

The strategic planning meeting we had last fall has given us direction for the near future. The projects the board will be taking on include having a more active role with Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), including quarterly conference calls, along with much more. We will be engaging with our elected officials to better understand how we can make a difference working through them. We also agreed to have at least one field day, location and date to be determined.

Lastly, I think a good number of people forget that it is easy to identify and control invasive plants in the winter. In fact, now is an easier time to see some species. SO I ask that you keep an eye open for such things as teasel, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. See the article that follows for more detail. Help us locate new populations of early detection species and report them to us or the DNR at invasive.species@wi.gov

I know I speak for many that I look forward to warmer weather to get out pulling garlic mustard and conducting prescribed burns, but until then, stay warm and educated. Many thanks to the volunteers at IPAW’s exhibits ([see below for a listing](#)).

Your Appreciative President,

Thomas M. Boos II

Call for 2014 Invader Crusaders!

Do you know an individual or an organization that has worked diligently to stop the spread of invasive species?

If so, the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council would like to recognize them for their efforts. Please nominate them for the 2014 Invader Crusader awards.

For more information, contact isamcoordinator@gmail.com

Winter Weeds Watch

By: Nisa Karimi, Wisconsin DNR Early Detection Coordinator



Inner Bark of Buckthorn
(*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Shredding Bark of
Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*
spp.)



Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*
spp.)



Oriental Bittersweet
(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Winter. Shortened daylight hours and lack of photosynthesizing vegetation often helps us forget the battle of invasive species. However, watching a hungry bird feed on **buckthorn** (*Rhamnus cathartica*) berries reminds us that even in winter invasive plant identification and management planning is possible.

Practice recognizing **buckthorn** in winter; keep an eye out for the black shriveled berries on mature female trees. Male trees do not produce fruit, so instead look for the smooth dark bark with large raised lenticels. Bark becomes rough and scaly as the tree ages so examine the branches for stout, sharp thorns. Dried leaves can sometimes be seen hanging on the branches into January. If you are uncertain, knick into the bark with a knife – buckthorn will reveal a bright orange inner bark.

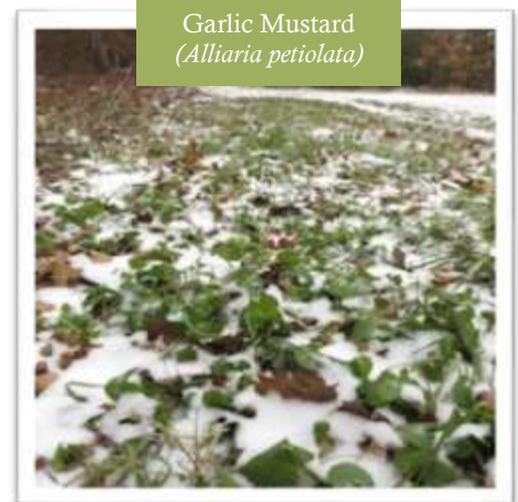
The robust stature of exotic **honeysuckle** shrubs (*Lonicera spp.*) can also be easily spotted when surrounding vegetation goes dormant. Look for shrubs with a large spreading habit and shredding bark. For positive identification, snapping a twig or branch in half will reveal a dark-brown hollow inner pith unmistakable for any look-alike shrubs. Native honeysuckle shrubs have solid white inner pith.

Certain herbaceous invasive plants, including **garlic mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*) and **Japanese hedgeparsley** (*Torilis japonica*), can remain green under a dusting of snow and even survive under dense insulating snow. Garlic mustard and Japanese hedgeparsley both over-winter as rosettes so keep an eye out for them now till spring.

Japanese knotweed's (*Fallopia japonica*) dried bamboo-like canes stand tall through the winter season; they can be seen standing even after the heaviest of snow. Look for these remains along forest edges, waterways, and any disturbed area. **Oriental**

bittersweet's (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) bright colored berries are still hanging on their vines, but the native American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) persists as well so be sure to review identification tips. Bittersweet is found throughout wooded areas and along fence lines. **Teasel** (*Dipsacus spp.*) might be seen easiest this time of year; as five-foot tall stalks with the spiked remains of tiny clustered flowers. Keep an eye out for teasel plants along roadsides, forest edges, prairies and other open disturbed areas.

Winter too can be a great time to observe invasive species on the landscape. As DNR Invasive Species Specialist Bernie Williams says, “Don’t be seasonally challenged!”



Garlic Mustard
(*Alliaria petiolata*)

A Warm Welcome to Our New Board Members, Christa and Mic!



Christa and Her Girls

Christa Wollenzien

As one of the newest members of the IPAW Board of Directors, I bring a unique background and enthusiasm. As a landscape architect, my involvement with invasive species has traditionally been from a design perspective and involvement with environmental coordination for land development. With my current position in the Bureau of Highway Maintenance (BHM) at the Department of Transportation my involvement with invasive species is development of roadside maintenance policies.

Prior to my position with WisDOT my professional career included working in both consulting and private arenas that has included large scale planning, small site design, environmental coordination and wetland delineation. I also had some time as an instructor of sustainable design at ITT Technical Institute in Greenfield.

I was born and currently live in Waukesha, Wisconsin with my family and have two little girls, Elise (6 years) and Clara (3 years), and like to spend as much time outdoors as possible. This also gives me a unique tie and passion for the Southeast part of the state. However, my position with WisDOT has me working out of the central office in Madison and my job duties cover the entire state. Providing me with plenty of opportunity to see and get a feel for how the rest of the state is being affected by invasive species.

I'm the current president of the Wisconsin Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects (WI ASLA) and have been involved in this professional organization in various positions for the past nine years. My involvement with this nonprofit organization has helped me develop an understanding of how nonprofits work. I hope to provide any insights I can to IPAW and learn from IPAW as well. I believe these two organizations can develop a synergy.

Invasive plants inherently affect our outdoor experience. Everything we do involves a spatial experience. As we ride our bikes, walk trails, enjoy our parks and drive our roads, the vegetation affects our experience. These experiences define our lives and memories, which define our well being. Invasive plant species are changing that experience. They are affecting our health, welfare and in some instance our safety.

This is why organizations like IPAW are extremely important to expanding stewardship of Wisconsin's natural resources. I carry a strong environmental ethic personally and professionally. One of the core values of environmental ethics is being a steward of the land, I look forward to being a part of IPAW in being a land steward of Wisconsin by advancing the understanding of invasive plants and encouraging the control of their spread.

"In every walk with nature one receives for more than he seeks" – John Muir

Mic Armstrong

I am the local McKay Nursery Design Pro, Sparta Wisconsin; this means I get to talk to people at Home shows, they find me through my marketing efforts or providence. I enjoy when people realize that they are not qualified to create landscape design around their home or business and they love the service we provide.

My education and general farm work experience is from England and Northern Ireland.

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Welcome Christa & Mic! Continued

Conservation work started in Northern England: hedge laying, tree planting and dry stone wall building with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

I enjoyed two decades of nursery management in Michigan, Oregon and Wisconsin (always a certified pesticide applicator). Enjoyed all aspects of plant propagation from seed, cuttings and tissue culture. Hard to decide which gave me more pleasure, the plants or the people I worked with over the years.

Conservation Technician and Office Automation Clerk for USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Sparta since 2002. Work with landowners and farmers to use available programs to preserve natural resources.

Wildlife and Invasive Species Technician with Fort McCoy since 2005. Learned the principals of land management in the current clime of invasive species domination of the landscape. Where biological control and other natural methods weren't enough, this team put in a managed system of herbicide and mechanical control methods, tracking all the data using GIS linked reports on over 60,000 acres. Winning? Not yet.

2007-2008: Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species-Woody and Vine Species Assessment Group (SAG) for the (Department of Natural Resources) DNR NR-40 Administrative Rule

2008-2009: Advisory Committee and Technical Writing Team for Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species in Wisconsin (Part of the Governor's Wisconsin Council on Forestry) 2008-2009

2013: Member of Board; IPAW

I love to fish, walk, ride bicycle and spend time with the family.

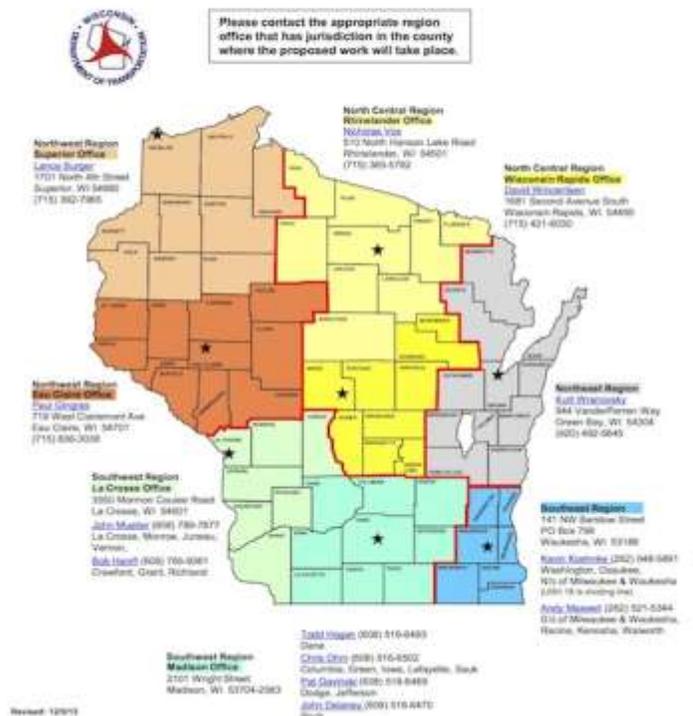


State Highways and Invasive Species

By Christa Wollenzien, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

As things warm and you begin to think about your next invasive plant management project stop to consider if it's on a State highway right of way. Any work on a State right of way requires a permit. How do you tell if it's a State Highway? Any "numbered" highway is a State highway. How do you know if the area you want to manage is within the right of way? There will be right of way markers or possibly a highway fence. The highway fence restricts access to the highway for safety reasons, requiring a permit, an access plan and safety training. However, even if no highway fence is present a permit is still required.

WisDOT Contacts for Work on Highway Right-of-Way Permits



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State Highways and Invasive Species Continued

The work on highway right of way permit is required for any state trunk highway right of way work that is not related to utilities, driveways or road/street connections. This work many include, but is not limited to, manual and mechanical management of invasive vegetation, herbicide application for invasive vegetation and landscaping. If herbicide application is going to be used, the permit requires the individual be a licensed and certified applicator.

To acquire a permit a free and simple application form needs to be filled out and turned into the proper WisDOT representative. The following web link will provide you with application and directions of where to submit the form depending on your location. WisDOT is more than willing to permit individuals to perform invasive species management work on the right of way as long as safety of the individuals comes first and a permit is acquired. Contact me if questions or concerns arise!

<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/business/rules/property-permits.htm#work-on-highway>

Email Christa Wollenzien at Christa.wollenzien@dot.wi.gov or phone her at 608-266-3943.

New Flora of Wisconsin



Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

By: Nisa Karimi, Wisconsin DNR Early Detection Coordinator

Wisconsin is becoming more diverse, but unfortunately not in a good way. New exotic species are making their way into the state, threatening the integrity and biodiversity of our natural landscapes. As any botanist knows, practicing your plant identification skills doesn't have to stop when the snow falls. Winter provides a new canvas for observing

characteristics perhaps otherwise overlooked against the summer shades of green. As you are out exploring this winter, keep an eye out for a few "early detection" invasive species.

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

This plant attains impressive stature at maturity; a monocarpic perennial with dried stalks standing near 15 feet tall or more, and giant flat-topped umbels spreading several feet across. During the growing season, this plant is often confused with the native cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), native angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*) or another invasive species poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), but the impressive size of a mature giant hogweed is unmistakable.

In its native habitat of the Caucasus Mountain region, you find it growing along riverbanks and forest edges. In Wisconsin, you'll most likely find it invading fields and roadsides, forest edges, scattered in forest openings, or along waterways. This species known extent in Wisconsin is disjunct with populations in Iron, Portage, and Manitowoc counties, but its appeal as a curious ornamental suggests it could be found anywhere.

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New Flora Continued



Outer Bark of the Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*)



Inner Bark of the Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*)

Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*)

I hate to say it, but what a beautiful tree. A member of the Rutaceae family, this tree has a broad spreading crown and somewhat irregular, low-branching habit. As the common name suggests, deeply-furrowed, corky-spongy bark makes this tree quite distinct even in winter. Damage to the bark by a pocket knife reveals neon-yellow inner bark under the thick exterior. The **phytoconstituent** berberine gives this tree's bark its remarkable yellow color. An important compound in herbal medicine, it makes this species is one of the fundamental ingredients of herbal formulas in Traditional Chinese Medicine. This is also the same alkaloid that gives goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), its yellow roots as well as members of the genus *Berberis*.

Trees are dioecious, with female trees producing prolific amounts of fleshy clusters of drupes that turn from green to black as they age. These fruits can be seen hanging on trees well into winter months. Amazingly resilient, controlled experiments show that even with severe defoliation, seed-set remains consistently high. Additionally, seed germination rates have been found higher after cold stratification making this species potentially more concerning in Wisconsin than in more moderate climates.

Current distribution of this species is scattered with populations in Dunn, Adams, and Waukesha counties. At one site, trees of all sizes are found from scattered to dense across 50 acres. Preferring rich moist soils, they are also tolerant of urban stress, drought and all soil types from dense clay to sand. Male trees are used in urban landscaping across eastern United States; you may have seen this tree planted in your nearby town center. If you live in the Madison area and are interested in seeing a live specimen – stop by the State Capital building as there is currently a tree planted on the grounds.

Report Invasive Species

As fascinating and potentially useful these species may be, preventing them from further invading our natural areas is critical. If you find either of these species, take a photo and send the DNR a report. Submit reports online at, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/report.html>, or email Nisa Karimi, WDNR Early Detection Coordinator, at nisa.karimi@wisconsin.gov.

Invasive-Related Events You May Be Interested In

Make sure you check out our website for upcoming events.

There are several going on in which you may be interested in. For example, 4-Control will be having three Invasive Plant Update Meetings in February and March.

For theirs and other organization's upcoming events click here.

Thank You Volunteers!

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:

Michele Jasik, Program Assistant
IPAW
PO Box 5275
Madison, WI 53705-0274

Email: Lmn8xotx@gmail.com

IPAW wishes to thank all volunteers who helped with our exhibits. We could not have done it without you!

- Janet Batista
- Mary Bartkowiak
- Tom Bernthal
- Tom Boos
- Willis Brown
- Jerry Doll
- Laura Giese
- Julie Horner
- Michele Jasik
- Jeff Kante
- Nisa Karimi
- Lyn Kirschner
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- Ann Walker
- Bernie Williams
- Jerry Ziegler

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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."