Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin

Plants Out of Place

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President’s Notes: State Highways and Invasive Species Management

IPAW had a busy summer, but fall is here now. Most recently, IPAW just returned from the 2016 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC). It’s a great 2.5-day conference covering all things invasive in the Midwest. IPAW is one of the hosts for the conference and maintained a booth. If you haven’t been you should plan on it for 2018.

In this President’s Notes I wanted to take the opportunity to put on my other hat as the state transportation landscape architect for Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and remind invasive species enthusiasts to get a work on the right-of-way permit when on state roads. 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

“Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

Aldo Leopold, Author

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President’s Notes Continued

a permit, an access plan, and safety training. However, even if no highway fence is present a permit is still required.

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 inventory of invasive species, 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 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 myself if questions or concerns arise. Please see http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/real-estate/permits/work-on-hwy.aspx or contact Christa Schaefer at Christa.schaefer@dot.wi.gov or 608-266-3943.

CISMA Spotlight: The Door County Invasive Species Team
By: Kari Hagenow, DCIST Coordinator

The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) was organized in the early 2000s, with our first strategic plan being written in 2005. Since then, a DCIST coordinator has served to bring partners across the County together for regular meetings, conduct education and outreach, coordinate invasive species monitoring and management efforts, and keep up with the latest regulations, research and more. With so much public and preserved land in the county the DCIST Coordinator helps bridge the gap between the mission of the local natural resource groups and that of the landowner. DCIST is funded through grants and donations, most often directed through the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department (SWCD), as they were appointed as the fiscal managers for the group. Additional partners that participate on our steering committee consist of non-profit organizations (The Ridges Sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy, and the Door County Land Trust), the Door County Parks Department, the Wisconsin DNR, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service among others.

As many of you may already know, Door County is uniquely distinct among Wisconsin counties. With 300 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, 34 named islands, more than 23,000 acres of public and preserved land, approximately 28,000 year-round residents and 2 million visitors per year, our County boasts a special suite of opportunities and challenges when it comes to invasive species. Early detection species are constantly on our minds as visitors arrive from surrounding counties, states, and other regions of the Country. Our invasive species education and control efforts take place across a variety of exceptional forest and wetland habitats, including some of the most biologically diverse areas of the State, where we have to take the best interests of our threatened and endangered resources into mind.

And living on a super-spreader like Lake Michigan, we cannot say enough about prevention when it comes to aquatic invasive species – reaching out to anglers and boaters about the importance of inspect, remove, drain and never move whenever opportunity arises.

Since 2012, a significant portion of DCIST’s efforts have focused on the invasive grass Phragmites within the County. In January 2013, Lake Michigan hit a record-low water level that uncovered acres and acres of fertile lakebed. Waiting in the wings was Phragmites - present in the County, but unnoticed by many shoreline landowners. Once the lakebed was exposed Phragmites seized the opportunity and populations rapidly

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DCIST Continued

expanded. Early on DCIST recognized the growing problem and began a control program in southern Door County in 2012. The treatments continued each year on portions of the peninsula (Washington Island included) until 2015 at which time all of Door County’s shorelines (on which landowner permission was received) and road right-of-ways in southern Door had received two years of Phragmites management under the County program. Funding for this work was provided by federal grants, local townships, and private donations. Without the local townships and private donations, the funding to continue this work could not have been sustained.

Without grant funding to continue Phragmites control efforts, DCIST is now working on education and outreach through an AIS grant from the Wisconsin DNR. Monitoring is showing successful past management, but in many cases Phragmites requires more than two years of control to be eliminated from a landscape. That is why the Door County SWCD and DCIST are teaming up with local townships, landowner associations and concerned citizens to ramp up efforts to keep landowners engaged, informed, and active. Two townships in the county have now passed a Phragmites ordinance, four townships are adding the item to their agenda for passage, and others are considering the possibility. In 2015, the Shores of Jacksonport Association approached DCIST offering to fund and help coordinate the treatment of Phragmites along the Jacksonport shoreline after an ordinance was passed. The DCIST coordinator trained volunteers of the Association to identify and map the grass, to provide an inventory for the contractor, and based on the model used by Door County SWCD/DCIST in the past, members drafted and mailed informational packets and treatment permission letters to all shoreline landowners. In September, after locating Phragmites infestations and receiving signed permission, all remaining stands were successfully treated for a third year. Volunteers will continue to inventory shorelines and right of ways and provide it to the Town, however the town of Jacksonport will now take over the treatment costs and where permission isn’t received the cost of treatment will be applied to the landowners property tax bill. This is simply one example of how DCIST is working to ensure that past efforts on this invasive plant will not be squandered.

The astonishing four-foot water level increase in Lake Michigan since 2013 is now helping our Phragmites efforts as well, and DCIST members are currently working to update our decade-old strategic plan to address the ongoing and future invasive species challenges in our unique County. If you find yourself in Door County or would like to know more about our organization and on-going efforts, contact the DCIST coordinator, Kari Hagenow, at khagenow@tnc.org or 920-743-8695. You can also visit our website at http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive.

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference - 2016

IPAW, along with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network and the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council, hosted the fifth biennial Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC). The goal of the conference was to strengthen management of invasive species, especially prevention, control, and containment. UMISC took place in La Crosse, Wisconsin from October 16-19, 2016.

UMISC boasted more than 650 attendees, 47 exhibitors, 35 poster presentations, 47 sessions and more than 220 oral presentations. As one attendee commented: “It’s always hard to see everything I’d like to see – certainly never bored!”

According to Belle Bergner and Cassandra Krueger, Conference Coordinators, “Nearly 99 percent of attendees reported that their understanding of invasive species improved as a result of UMISC 2016. Attendees commented on the range of presentations offered, the tremendous knowledge shared by presenters, and the excellent discussions on practical challenges
UMISC Continued

such as communication and outreach.”

Highlights of the conference included field trips to nearby areas of invasive species research and management, presentations by internationally recognized scientists, federal agencies and national experts. UMISC attracted more individuals from the greater Upper Midwest region than in previous UMISCs including Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and beyond. The joint workshop with the Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species on Wednesday also brought new geographic representation and a broader policy discussion to the conference.

Plenary speakers including Matt Miller from The Nature Conservancy, Iris Cadwell from the University of Illinois, and Anthony Ricciardi from McGill University welcomed us to the conference. Hilary Smith from the US Department of the Interior, and Roger Fish, motivational speaker from La Crosse, Wisconsin were also keynote speakers. Attendees were entertained by watching K9 Brady, a golden retriever mix, sniff out zebra mussels.

There were several opportunities for members to volunteer either for free registration to the conference or at the IPAW booth. IPAW would like to take this time to thank Kelly Kearns, Kathy Stahl, Angelique Dahlberg, Christa Schaefer, Frankie Fuller, Kari Hagenow, Pat Trochlell, and Michele Jasik for helping out with staffing the IPAW booth.

In addition to a few sessions specifically for CISMAs, representatives from CISMAs had an opportunity to informally meet, mingle and discuss some of their issues.

If you were not able to attend the conference and would like to see the presentations, the program and Power Points from many of the presentations will be available on the Midwest Invasive Plant Network’s website at http://www.mipn.org/proceedings.html later this fall. IPAW is very grateful for the incredible organizational efforts put forth by Belle Bergner and her staff. Also major thanks go to Mark Renz and Doug Jensen, Conference Co-chairs; Tim Campbell, Chris Henze, Doug Jensen, Kelly Kearns, Kathryn Kromroy, Mark Renz, and Christa Schaefer for being on the executive committee. We would also like to thank Marte Kitson, Angela Grupta and Mark Renz for their work at being Program Co-Chairs. Thank you to Monika Chandler for her work being the Field Trip Chair. Thank you to Willis Brown and Michele Jasik for dealing with the finances of the conference and for all the presenters and people who volunteered at this event to make it a success!

Where Ecology Meets Economy: Season 4
By: John Lunz, IPAW Board Member


The South East Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) partnered with Johnsons Nursery in Menomonee Falls to present this fourth annual one-day seminar. WEME draws nursery people, landscapers, and others wanting to get a better understanding of what drives the business. Landscapers are seeing an increased demand for native plants, and growers need lead time to provide stock. This is particularly important for tree nurseries. The impact of weed laws, current and potential, also come into play. It's important to get everyone on the same page.

The theme this year was pollinators. IPAW was a sponsor of this event and made a presence with their booth. Speakers included Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and
**Introducing of Our Newest Board Member, Angelique Dahlberg**

Hello! My name is Angelique Dahlberg and I am very excited to join the IPAW Board. I currently work as the Invasive Species Coordinator for the St. Croix River Association out of St. Croix Falls, WI. We are a small non-profit working to protect, restore, and celebrate the St. Croix River and its watershed. As our invasive species program lead, I work with partners in both Wisconsin and Minnesota, and on issues both terrestrial and aquatic.

I have been in the St. Croix Valley for just over two years now, and in that time we have kicked off and greatly expanded our capacity to do invasive species work. During the summers, I manage invasive species interns who help serve as outreach and education ambassadors to our local communities and river-based businesses. We host workshops and trainings on invasive species identification, prevention, and management for the public, school groups, lake associations, and St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards, among other audiences. Throughout the year, I work to coordinate invasive species work regionally and fill any management gaps. In 2014, we assembled a regional workgroup that developed a watershed-wide AIS Strategic Management Plan. The workgroup meets regularly to discuss ongoing invasive species management, and ongoing work toward accomplishing the goals of the Strategic Plan.

I am also the newly appointed coordinator for the St. Croix – Red Cedar (SC-RC) Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). Our CWMA covers St. Croix, Polk, Burnett, Washburn, and Barron Counties. Prior to joining the St. Croix River Association, I formerly worked as the coordinator of another CWMA – the Minnesota Cook County Invasives Team.

In my free time, I enjoy hiking and kayaking with my husband. I spend many of my summer weekends paddling the St. Croix, with the goal of paddling the entire St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers (a goal which I am the better part of the way toward accomplishing!). I am active with the Osceola Rivertown Trails Coalition, and am developing a local blog promoting different hikes in the St. Croix Valley as a way of encouraging families and communities to get outside and explore the wonderful natural resources in their backyards.

We are happy to have Angelique on the IPAW Board!
Not all habitats are suitable for a given invasive plant, and not all invasive plants are suitable to a given environment. How then, besides common knowledge of a plant, can we know where to survey for species X, Y and Z, especially over an area such as the state of Wisconsin?

Fortunately, ecologists have been working on creating tools that assist in these endeavors. One such tool is called habitat suitability models (HSMs). These have been very effective and have been shown to help land managers hone their survey efforts to specific regions of their management units and/or to particular landscape attributes to reduce survey time and costs (Stohlgren and Schnase 2006; Crall et al. 2013). While HSMs are very complex, they utilize georeferenced locations of known invasive observations with a range of user-defined variables that are specific to the location of the observation (e.g. environmental, climatic, topographical variables). These models can then use this information to determine which factors drive suitable habitat of a species. The most valuable aspect is that they can then display the results on a map that allows for interpretation visually to the end user (see map of Phragmites australis left).

I have been working with Dr. Mark Renz at UW-Madison to create habitat suitability models for 21 invasive plant species (DNR regulated; table below) in Wisconsin. This past winter we created initial models of each of these species. Presence of invasive species was derived from a variety of outlets including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR), the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN), and the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS), among many other groups and individuals. Following initial model development, we identified areas where we lacked observations or areas that were highly suitable for invasion but had limited presence points. We combined these species into a priority list for Wisconsin’s counties and DNR regions and distributed it to individuals, interest groups, organizations and agencies around the state. We have summarized this information on an online, interactive ESRI Story Map (http://arcg.is/1TFjsdN) which you can view to see this information. Our goal is to incorporate additional occurrence records submitted this summer to improve the performance of the models. Previous research has shown this to be a successful approach (Crall et al. 2013; Wang et al. 2014).

This process of encouraging stakeholders has been highly successful. As of the end of September, stakeholders from around the state have submitted over 1,500 occurrences through EDDMapS (where all GLEDN reports are held publicly), and shapefiles containing more than 2,000 points have been submitted. We are also working closely with WI DNR and will receive any data submitted to them at the end of the year. Additionally, more than 80 individuals have received custom priority lists for their locations, and the number of visits to the ESRI Story Map has exceeded 150. As I am physically unable to survey all locations...
A Community Based Approach Continued

in Wisconsin, volunteers across the state are a crucial component to this project and we predict their efforts will dramatically improve our models. Our improved models will be released late this winter and made publicly available so land managers can use them as a resource.

Our project doesn’t end here, however. Our next objective will take results from these final models to create and deliver improved prioritized lists of invasive species to our stakeholders. This should assist land managers and other groups determine which species to focus monitoring, and potentially even EDRR, efforts. In addition, we are going to test if using these models can improve monitoring efficiency when surveying for multiple invasive species. We will be conducting this research in 2017, so, if interested in participating, please contact me. Our final project objective will select at least five representative species and compare suitable habitat models under a variety of different climate change predictions for the year 2050. This will help us understand the potential spread of these species in Wisconsin’s future climate.

As you can see this project relies heavily on involvement of others. We have enjoyed an overwhelmingly successful response from invasive plant community already, but room is available for more involvement. If interested in submitting observations, helping with monitoring, or just want some more information please feel free to contact me directly (njorgensen@wisc.edu). Also, be on the lookout for several of our in-the-field training events we will be conducting throughout the state next year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Number of Presences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prohibited/Restricted Species (regulation varies depending on location in state)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild chervil</td>
<td>Anthriscus sylvestris</td>
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<td>European marsh thistle</td>
<td>Cirsium palustre</td>
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<td>Bush honeysuckles</td>
<td>Lonicera spp.</td>
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<td>Hedgeparsleys</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Japanese barberry</td>
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<td>Oriental bittersweet</td>
<td>Celastrus orbiculatus</td>
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<td>Centaurea stoebe</td>
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<td>Knotweeds</td>
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<td>Purple loosestrife</td>
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<td>Wild parsnip</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Phalaris arundinacea</td>
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Hunters & Hikers Unwanted Hitchhikers
Submitted by the Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership

It doesn’t take much imagination to realize that none of us want to go hunting or hiking with a clingy and destructive hitchhiker. The whole idea of that drains the pleasure of what may appear around the next corner and the beauty of enjoying nature’s best. Unbeknownst to many of us, several unwanted companions lurk along the path to that buck, that turkey, or that next scenic view. As quiet hitchhikers, invasive plant seeds are too frequently waiting for you to pick them up in the cleats of your shoes, the paws of your hunting dog, the tires of your ATV or the fabric of your warm wool pants and carry them somewhere to create a whole new self-serving landscape.

Self-serving is certainly not an overly harsh description of those small seeds we pick up and carry around. Let’s take spotted knapweed for example. It can...
Attention Hunters & Hikers Continued

produce 1,000 seeds per plant with each being less than 1/4 inch in length. They love disturbed soil including, trails that hikers and hunters follow and they can stick around for up to 8 years waiting to germinate. To make matters worse, let’s say you pick up two of these seeds in the cleats of your shoes or your ATV tires and then you walk or ride to a different area that has no spotted knapweed. For whatever reason the dirt drops off your shoes or your tires and the seeds drop in perfect deer forage or native plant vegetation. The spotted knapweed recognizes the new digs as a good place to grow so it has the audacity to impact the chemistry of the soil around it to make it uncomfortable for many types of deer browse and native plants to grow. Now that’s self-serving.

Spotted knapweed isn’t the only invasive non-native plant that looks out for only itself. Garlic mustard seeds have the same propensity to cling to shoes, clothing, animal fur, and vehicles. The plant’s small black seeds number up to 400 or more per plant and the seeds stay viable in soil up to 5 years. They don’t mind growing in the shade so your carrying and dropping them off into the woods is fine with them. Tansy, crown vetch and several other restricted plants also have small seeds that are easily spread by people, animals and our conveyances.

The danger in all of this is these invasive plants change the very landscape we go out to enjoy. Their prolific seed bearing can help them outcompete plants deer like to eat, overshadow tree seedlings that turkeys ultimately roost and feed on, and damage the biodiversity hikers enjoy. It behooves those of us who walk in woods, grassland, prairies, and other outdoor sites to be savvy about these hitchhiking self-serving seeds.

It can take a while to learn to identify all of the problematic plants. And even if you do know how to identify them, their seeds can hide in their surroundings so you don’t even know they’re present. Sounds impossible to avoid these jerks when walking or hunting? In many places that’s true, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t something we can do to prevent these hitchhikers from sticking with us. When leaving an area where invasive plants are present or likely to be present, a boot brush or horse hoof pick will clean out boot cleats, and an inspection of clothing and pet’s paws and fur will go a long way to stopping the spread of invasive seeds.

It’s important to check the tires of ATVs and other vehicles we take in the brush or prairies. And it definitely pays to ask any commercial vehicles coming onto your land to clean their tires and equipment before visiting your property. Logging equipment, utility trucks, gravel or sand trucks have been known to carry seeds from an infested area to the middle of a pristine woods or prairie. Similarly if you purchase soil, sand or gravel for fill for your property it is important to check the source of your purchase. Many soil banks, sand and gravel pits grow multiple invasive plants that will appreciate the opportunity to live with you.

Being selective about what goes hiking and hunting with you or what hitchhikes onto your property can pay big benefits in keeping our woods, prairies, and grasslands a good place for our native vegetation and wildlife to thrive. It only takes a few moments to brush our boots, check our clothes and pets, and clean our vehicles. In short; Play, Clean, Go.

Third Annual Aquatic Invasive Species Bridge Snapshot Day
By: Amanda Perdzock, River Alliance of Wisconsin

September 10th, 2016, marked a third year for the River Alliance of Wisconsin’s Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Bridge Snapshot Day. Started by the River Alliance in 2014, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Bridge Snapshot Day was developed as a way to engage volunteers in the search for invasive species on streams across Wisconsin. On a typical snapshot day, volunteers meet in locations across the state called “rendezvous sites” where they are taught how to identify and monitor for invasive species by local coordinators. Volunteers then go out to local stream access points, such as bridge crossings and canoe launches, to look for invasives. Finally, data and species samples are collected and brought back to rendezvous sites where local coordinators confirm species identification with volunteers.

Continued on Page 9
AIS Snapshot Bridge Day Continued

This year’s event built upon the success of previous years’ Snapshot Days and saw the addition of three new partner organizations: Badgerland RC&D, Southwest Badger RC&D, and Waukesha County Land and Water Conservation Department. Overall, with the help of 17 partner organizations, Snapshot Day recruited 117 volunteers to 15 rendezvous sites, resulting in the collection of invasive species data at nearly 140 stream sites. Species results are still being compiled for this year’s event, however, species recorded during this year’s surveys included Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, Asian clam, and zebra mussels.

“Citizen monitoring data is an important component of Wisconsin’s AIS monitoring program and River Alliance’s Bridge Snapshot Day has proven to be an incredibly effective tool to train citizens and capture their reports,” says WI DNR AIS Monitoring Coordinator, Maureen Ferry, “With limited paid staff resources on both the state and county levels, volunteers can help fill gaps to increase early detection so that we can get a handle on new populations before they expand.”

With fall quickly bringing stream monitoring season to a close, plans are already underway for 2017 Snapshot Day activities. Next year’s event will see some exciting changes with the addition of partners from the University of Wisconsin Extension’s Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, as well as partners from Minnesota. Looking to expand upon the success of the River Alliance’s events on rivers in Wisconsin, 2017’s event will be a multi-state effort, which will look at lake access points as well as rivers.

To learn more about AIS Bridge Snapshot Day and find out how your organization can host a rendezvous site in 2017, please contact the River Alliance of Wisconsin’s AIS Program Director, Amanda Perdzock, at perdzock@wisconsin.gov, or check out www.wisconsinrivers.org.

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Diane Schauer, Calumet County
Tony Summers, Wisconsin First Detector Network
Patricia Trochlell, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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 info@ipaw.org

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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.”