

Plants Out of Place



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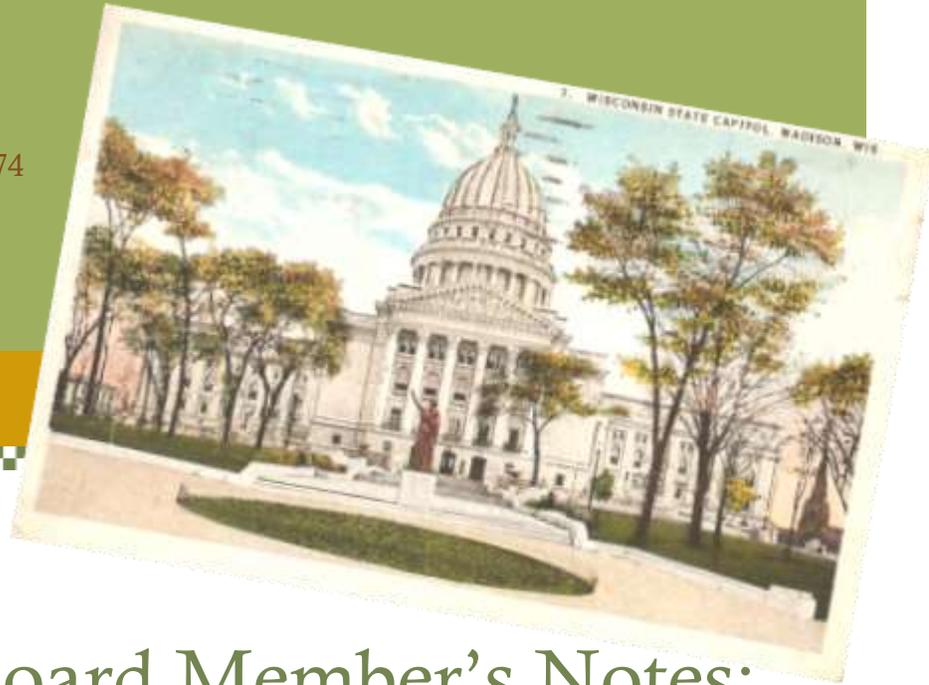


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A Board Member's Notes: Legislative Efforts

Most recently, if you read or watch the national news, you hear of a city in Michigan being designated as a natural disaster area after heavy metals had been detected in the municipal water supply. State and national emergency response agencies are mobilized to respond. Numerous examples of public health threats from ground and surface water contamination are being addressed through both state and federally funded cleanup efforts. These we know about because they make good headlines in papers or good news clips on television.

If we knew of a treatment for human cancers, would we not focus a national effort to eradicate this disease? Fortunately, there have been many recent medical breakthroughs in cancer research, giving hope for the future.

But what doesn't seem to make media headlines and news reports is the insidious and

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"Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

Vince Lombardi

Board Member's Notes Continued

virtually unnoticed spread of a “cancer” – the pervasive invasion of our croplands, forests, waterways and natural areas by the “cancer” of invasive plants! The “cancer” of invasive plants is currently attacking human health, economic wellbeing, ecological degradation, loss of land, and other ecosystem services.

As most of us can attest, this issue is “out of sight and out of mind;” lacking in broad public awareness and seriously lacking in adequate public and private funding to assist in eradication and management efforts.

The Legislative Committee of the IPAW Board is on a mission to identify new funding sources for terrestrial invasive plant work in Wisconsin. Funds are needed for a wide range of efforts from; invasive plant surveys, early detection and rapid response to assistance for Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas to conduct the work at the local level. Developing the strategy will take many months, requiring the development of partnerships with many other groups in the state that are impacted by invasive plants. It is likely any long term funding will need to be the result of a legislative or budget initiative.

We need your help!

1. We are looking for potential partners
2. Need your ideas on funding sources.
3. Do you know the people with connections to legislators?
4. Need your ideas to assist us.

If you are interested in sharing your ideas or know someone who might be an asset to IPAW's effort, please share your thoughts with us. Send me an [email](#).

Be sure to check future editions of your IPAW newsletter for current updates on our progress.

Stay Warm,

Mark Feider

IPAW, Vice President

Invasive Species Management within the Forests of the Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation

By: Greg Bunker, Stockbridge-Munsee Community
& IPAW Board Member



The Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohican Indians are originally from what is present-day New York and Massachusetts along the Hudson River, which was called the Mahicannituck River before European settlement. These people called themselves the Muh-he-con-neok, meaning the People of the Waters That are Never Still. The name evolved through several spellings, including Mahikan. Today, however, they are known as the Mohicans. The Tribes English name comes from the town of Stockbridge Massachusetts, the last area they lived before relocation. Their current reservation was established in 1856 after they were moved from a reservation on the eastern shores of Lake Winnebago, where the town of Stockbridge still bears their name. The current reservation

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Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation Continued

was originally two full townships, and located between Green Bay and Wausau, adjacent to the Menominee Reservation, of which it had formerly been a part.

Despite the efforts of the United States government to make the tribal people farmers, they remained lovers of the forest and that continues to this day. The tribe currently has a forested area of 20,653 acres in size and a tribal land base of 23,741 acres. It is rich and varied with a wide variety of tree species occupying a glaciated landscape of both uplands and lowlands.

The Stockbridge-Munsee forest is young; healing from the turn-of-the-century when Wisconsin was first clear-cut and burned. Currently, thirty-one species of trees comprise many forest cover types. Eastern hemlock is the most abundant tree. The northern hardwood forest type covers more than 50% of the land base. Forested and non-forested swamps occupy about 20% of the land base. The remaining acreage is mixed with aspen, white birch, red oak and white pine.

The forest is considered to be among the finest in Northeastern Wisconsin. One hundred and twenty year old stands of red oak and other timber show the size and depth of the forest and hold promise for future generations to use and enjoy. The Stockbridge-Munsee forest and Forest Management Plan (FMP) is certified as “sustainable” through the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) certified through the Rainforest Alliance. The FMP states, “This management plan covers the 20,817.9 acres of commercial forested land broken into harvestable forest (15,647.9 acres) and High Conservation Value Forest reserve (HCVFs) (5,170 acres).



Within the FMP it states: “The greatest threat to the natural ecosystem is not poor forest management activities; but the invasion of wild lands by residential and commercial development and the future threat of non-native invasive species and diseases. The inclusion of this plan into the social network of the Tribe along with the Land Use Code and Plan will prevent further unplanned loss of wild acres. Invasive species have already infested small areas of the reservation and if left uncontrolled will become a major issue in the future. The Tribe has already implemented a plan of eradication on a number of sites and will continue to coordinate its efforts to keep these threats in check.” Continuing within the Forest Management Plan we read: “Non-native invasive species are a major threat to the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation lands. With the fragmentation of the surrounding landscape and differing management techniques on private lands, invasive species management is becoming more and more important. For this reason the Tribe has developed an Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) with a Pesticide Use Protocol. This FMP will abide by the ISMP and take all necessary precautions to prevent the introduction and infestation of non-native invasive species. In special cases, determined by Conservation, Forestry or Environmental staff, logging roads or portions thereof may be closed to motor vehicle traffic.” Other tribal plans that relate to this include the Oak Wilt Management Plan and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan.

The Tribal Environmental Department, Land Use Department, Ecology Department and the Forestry Department all work together to control pockets of invasive species. An additional invasive species crew of three persons is hired in the summer to fight invasive plants. Buckthorn and invasive honeysuckle are the two most prevalent invasive plants. There are a few small areas of garlic mustard, which we have been fighting, none of these on tribal lands are a monoculture, and we feel these can be contained. Only employees who are certified pesticide applicators may use herbicide to control invasive plants. Due to the limited size of the garlic mustard infestations, we can still

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Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation Continued

accomplish a lot through individual pulling of plants before they go to seed. One of these garlic mustard infestations was clearly begun by a wood chipper, used to chip brush cleared from the ditches along a township road. The major part of the infestation began at the wood chip pile, and then ATVs appeared to spread the seeds along the ditch, and up a logging road into the 80-acre woodland parcel that the tribe purchased. At another site where the tribe purchased 160 acres of private woodland, we see where ATVs from an adjacent deer camp had brought in the invasive seed. These roads have been closed to all vehicle traffic, and chained off. Snowmobiling is allowed after a good base of snow is established.



Within the logging contracts, we have a clause which reads: “All equipment must be pressure washed and inspected by a Tribal Forester **prior** to Contractor delivering forestry equipment to the harvest site.” This includes all logging processors and any equipment that will be going through the forest. This equipment is checked behind our roads department, and any dirt and seeds on the equipment are washed onto the paved parking lot and we monitor the edges of the lot for any invasive

plants cropping up. There are no woodlands nearby this site. It would be impossible to clean all the logging trucks which go on numerous trips a day from the logging landings (where logs are sorted and piled prior to pick-up), to the mills, however, we inspect the forest roads, and the landings themselves, for at least 3 years after a logging job. All of the tribal employees who go on logging roads as part of their jobs are trained in recognition of invasive plants as part of their job. There are protocols to follow after a logging job to insure that the roads are taken care of, not rutted as well as the close out of the logging contracts, to insure that the proper trees were taken and the leave-trees are still there. Invasive plants would be picked up in these surveys as well. There are many eyes looking out for invasive plants within the forest.

The Stockbridge Tribe will continue to use these procedures and improve on them as needed to insure the sustainability of their forest.

IPAW Membership Survey Results

As you probably know, IPAW conducted a membership survey last November. IPAW emailed the surveys to our members – past and present, plus put it on our Listserve and our Facebook page. We had approximately a 25% response rate. Thank you to those that responded!

The good news is that 91% of our members who responded are satisfied with IPAW. The bad news is that it seems many of you do not know who we are or what we really do. We would like to change this and we are discussing how to do so. Some of our thoughts are more workshops, updating our website with more valuable information, and perhaps putting a regular invasive species control article in our newsletter.

Our most popular resources are our newsletter and our website. However, we realized that many of our supporters do not find the IPAW Listserve very useful. We were surprised to hear this because this is the place to find timely information about invasive species (from job openings, to grants available to help to eradicate invasive species, to all of the current research that is being done on invasive species, among others.) We highly recommend that you join our [Listserve](#) if you would like to keep up-to-date.

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Membership Survey Results Continued

In the survey, we had asked what are the top three invasive plants that concern you the most and the winner by far was garlic mustard. Buckthorn came in second and wild parsnip came in third. Although many of you gave us great organizations to get involved in, we again realized that you do not know how we are involved with many of these organizations already.

IPAW chose three winners (one from each survey group) to win a free membership for one year. Congratulations to David Eagan, Joanne Kline and Alex Wenthe! Thank you ALL for participating in our survey and giving IPAW your feedback.

Who's Who on the IPAW Board

Our membership survey indicated that our members do not know much about the IPAW Board. The IPAW Board is a diverse group, representing various organizations and companies involved in the control of invasive plants, from around the entire state of Wisconsin. In order to get to know our board members, we thought we would ask them a few questions and here are their responses:

Mic Armstrong: *Where are you from?* Sparta, Monroe County. *Where do you work?* Owner, Armstrong Landscaping. *What is your specialty?* The right plants in the right space. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* Because of thirty plus years in the nursery industry and natural resource conservation.

Thomas Boos: *Where are you from?* Currently live in Helena, MT. *Where do you work?* Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks as the AIS Coordinator. I am still a board member as I have been lucky enough to be involved since it began and believe I still offer historic value. *What is your specialty?* Forest invasive plants. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Probably parsnip because I have been burned so many times, but I really abhor goutweed as a more urban invader. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* I am on the board because I wanted to make a difference. IPAW filled a desperately needed niche in Wisconsin years ago to address invasive plants statewide. I have a passion for invasive plants and really just wanted to help make IPAW a productive and successful organization. I have been involved with IPAW from its beginning as an active member, then as a board member where I was treasurer and then honored to be president.

Willis Brown: *Where are you from?* The Madison area. *Where do you work?* Recently retired from an ecological restoration company. *What is your specialty?* Ecological restoration - invasive species removal. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* 1) buckthorn, 2) buckthorn, 3) buckthorn *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* Advise on removing invasives and to help the organization in any way I can.

Greg Bunker: *Where are you from?* Wittenberg, WI. *Where do you work?* I am the Environmental Programs Manager for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, a Federally recognized band of Mohican Indians. We work within the reservation, of which about 24,000 acres are in tribal ownership. *What is your specialty?* I work mostly in management and administration of the program, and at this time I am doing programs promoting sustainability and food and energy sovereignty. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Garlic mustard or buckthorn, both of which can grow in the shade of mature forest and destroy the lower layer of that forest, effectively destroying the forest itself. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* To represent Indian Country, which controls many hundreds of square miles of land within the state of Wisconsin, and the tribes who have devoted much money, time and effort

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Who's Who Continued



The dots represent where IPAW Board members are from

into the control of invasive plants within their reservations, positively benefitting many adjacent landowners as well.

Jeremy Chiamulera: *Where are you from?* Rhinelander, WI. *Where do you work?* Compass Land Consultants, Inc., working throughout the state. *What is your specialty?* Forestry. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Japanese knotweed and the non-native bush honeysuckle species. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* In a nutshell, to assist in the fight against invasive plants in Wisconsin.

Jerry Doll: *Where are you from?* I live in Dane County; as I'm retired, I probably best represent a concerned senior citizen. *Where do you work?* I was an extension weed scientist at UW-Madison. *What is your specialty?* Invasive terrestrial species, especially perennial herbaceous and woody plants. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Multiflora rose and Canada thistle. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* I believe in the IPAW

mission and want to do what I can to help us fulfill it.

Mark Feider: *Where are you from?* Glendale, in Southeastern WI. *Where do you work?* Advisor and Land Manager, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust. *What is your specialty?* Environmental Education & Land Management with a focus on Natural Heritage & Birds and Native Plants of Wisconsin. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Cut-leaved teasel - it is difficult to eliminate and has been spreading exponentially from north of Chicago to north of Milwaukee! *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* I enjoy sharing ideas with IPAW; hopefully, I make a difference by helping guide and support some of our outreach efforts to improve and maintain an ecologically healthy community.

John Lunz: *Where are you from?* Milwaukee County. *Where do you work?* Retired electrical engineer. *What is your specialty?* Industrial product development as well as teaching in a university. Weed control and land restoration came late in life through volunteer activities with several NGOs in Milwaukee County Parks and a local nature center. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Those that people deliberately plant, tolerate, or don't want removed such as dame's rocket are right up there. Tree of Heaven is also high on my hate list because of the health hazard associated with removal. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* Although I am not a professional practitioner, I've worked with groups of volunteers through the years and come to realize we will not be successful without strong support from volunteers. I hope to represent their perspective.

Jamie Nuthals: *Where are you from?* Green Bay, WI. *Where do you work?* Integrity's Energy Group. *What is your specialty?* Environmental compliance associated with utility linear natural gas and electric projects and various generation facilities. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Phragmites – I can think of no other that is more destructive to where I live. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* I enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing and hunting. I enjoy the company of my family while doing these outdoor activities. I want to ensure that my son and daughter can enjoy the same quality outdoor experience my Father had passed down to me. One major threat I see to this not being possible is the spread of invasive plant species. I see my participation on the IPAW Board as an opportunity to assist with controlling the spread of invasive species and, hopefully, doing my part to ensure outdoor experiences can be shared for many future generations.

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Who's Who Continued

Diane Schauer: *Where are you from?* I currently reside in Calumet County. *Where do you work?* Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department, position funded by a DNR aquatic invasive species grant. *What is your specialty?* Aquatic and wetland invasive species, primarily in education and outreach. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plant(s)?* "Cutleaf teasel and phragmites. Honorable mention to buckthorn because it gouges me when I cut it and kill it. I don't like plants that fight back. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* Tom Boos asked me and I said, yes.

Tony Summers: *Where are you from?* Black Earth, representing Madison, WI. *Where do you work?* University of Wisconsin. *What is your specialty?* Invasive species management and education. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Japanese knotweed. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* To advocate for one of the most important issues impacting Wisconsin's natural areas.

Pat Trochlell: *Where are you from?* The town of Vermont near Bluemounds State Park. *Where do you work?* Department of Natural Resources. My office is in Madison but I work throughout the state of Wisconsin. *What is your specialty?* I am a wetland ecologist, with a special interest in wetland and natural community restoration. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* On my property, it is garlic mustard – no matter how much you work to control it, it just keeps coming back. At work, it is reed canary grass – it dominates a quarter to the state's herbaceous wetlands and is one of the biggest threats to restoring and maintaining high quality wetlands. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* I strongly believe in the IPAW mission, which promotes natural resource stewardship through encouraging the control of invasive plants. Invasive plant control is a big part of what I do, both at work and at home. I hope this practical experience is useful to the mission of the organization.

Christa Wollenzien: *Where are you from?* Waukesha, but I work in Madison and my job duties require I oversee all state roadsides, giving me the opportunity to travel and learn much about our beautiful state. *Where do you work?* Department of Transportation in the Bureau of Highway Maintenance. I provide guidance and expertise, write policy, and oversee State highway roadsides. Roadsides are anything from the edge of the pavement out to the fence line. That encompasses an estimated 150,000 acres. *What is your specialty?* Landscape architecture, sustainable design, and policy development. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Phragmites and wild parsnip. *Why are you on the IPAW Board?* Being involved with IPAW helps me connect with other individuals that have a passion for invasive plant species and together we can educate and spread the knowledge.

Two very important people who help with how IPAW operates are:

Kelly Kearns: *Where are you from?* Madison. *Where do you work?* Natural Heritage Conservation Program of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *What is your specialty?* Terrestrial invasive plants. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Lesser celandine, Japanese stilt grass and Japanese hops. *Why are you associated with the IPAW Board?* I am the DNR Liaison to the (IPAW) board.

Mark Renz: *Where are you from?* I represent two areas: 1) I am the regional contact with other states in the Midwest with respect to invasive plants (MIPN) and 2) I represent Wisconsin agriculture. *Where do you work?* UW Extension - throughout the state and region. *What is your specialty?* Invasive plant management and research. *What are your most unfavorable invasive plants?* Too numerous to list. Species we are working on include Japanese knotweed, wild parsnip, crown vetch, leafy spurge, and perennial pepperweed. *Why are you associated with the IPAW Board?* To help in local, regional and statewide efforts to curb invasive plant impact in Wisconsin.

I wish to thank the IPAW Board for answering these questions. If anyone has questions for the board or IPAW, please feel free contact us at info@ipaw.org.

Life with Invasives in the West

By: Thomas Boos

I was lucky enough to land a really great job with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks as the statewide Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator. My heart is still in the terrestrial plant world, but I am really enjoying this position. Mainly because Montana is generally free of AIS and we are in full-blown prevention mode. Obviously, this is a nice change of pace.

The aspects of my program include supervising 5 staff who primarily implement three facets of the program: boat inspections, surveying and monitoring, and outreach. I am lucky in that all 5 have been around a long time, so I just keep the ship afloat and try to improve the program through strategic planning.

The boat inspection program is where I spend the majority of my time. We essentially have 17-20 stations set up across the state to inspect boats for the presence of AIS. If they are clean, we let them pass through to their destination with a simple “Clean. Drain. Dry. your boat and gear” message. If AIS are found, the vessel is decontaminated. The threat of zebra and quagga mussels drive this program from a funding and support standpoint, but most species are inspected for. It is a very political and highly organized program across the western US. I have my fair share of players that don’t like to play nicely, but it is a job after all.

The surveying and monitoring facet is done on a rotating 3-5 year schedule of most waterways, focusing on high use waterways first. There are two basic types of sampling: plankton and macrophytic. The plankton sampling is primarily done to detect zebra and quagga mussels, but also looks for Asian clams, spiny waterfleas and a few others. These samples are processed in our AIS Laboratory. On a side note, the lab technician accepts samples from 12 western states and processes them for free. This bodes well for Montana’s “we scratch your back, you scratch ours” adage. The macrophyte sampling looks for the species present in Montana, mainly Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, and a host of other early detection species like hydrilla and starry stonewort.

I am privileged to represent FWP on the Governor’s Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council. It is a council similar to Wisconsin’s, but even more broad representation (21 members). The Council formed via the Governor’s Executive Order (EO) shortly after I arrived. The EO expires at the end of 2017, so we really have had a short time window to get a lot done and show the next Governor that the Council should be a permanent fixture on the landscape of Montana. We have decided to take on three tasks: 1) an all taxa all agency and organization gap assessment of invasive species management in the state; 2) host a statewide agency and public forum to discuss the gap assessment and frame out the basis of a strategic plan, which is the third item. The strategic plan process is essentially the same process as Wisconsin went through. Hmmm, how did that happen? Seriously, it has been an honor and with all my experience with IPAW, WDNR, and WISC, I have been able to have some very positive influence on the newly formed group.

The most interesting aspect of Montana state government is that I am able to engage with the Governor and legislators. We are so disconnected from that in Wisconsin, but here it is normal for me to get a call from the governor’s office or a legislator. I think it is a nice thing because I feel I can make more of a difference.

On the terrestrial side of things, the system they have out here is impressive with county weed coordinators and the amount of money they have to manage noxious weeds. I am slowly learning the plants out here, but I must say it is exciting to see a plant community and not immediately focus on the invasive plants! That time will come. Overall, Montana is an absolutely gorgeous state with wonderfully friendly people. I encourage you to visit it if you haven’t already. I have plenty of space.

Thanks for all your hard work, IPAW.

If you are planning on attending one of these events, stop by the IPAW booth!

- Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo, February 12-14, 2016, Madison
- The Prairie Enthusiasts' 28th Annual Conference and Banquet, February 20, 2016, Madison
- Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 21st Annual Conference, February 22-25, 2016, Green Bay
- Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, July 19-21, 2016, at the Snuddan Farm in Walworth County

You are also welcome to join us for our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Mead Wildlife Area Education Center on April 21, 2016. Watch your email for more information on this event.

Spotted Knapweed: Running out of Places to Hide!

By: Wade Oehmichen, UWGB Graduate Student

There is some good news in biological control of spotted knapweed. In a recent study put out by a University of Wisconsin Green Bay graduate student, Wade Oehmichen examined the dispersal rate of two important spotted knapweed biological control agents *Larinus obtusus* and *L. minutus* within Wisconsin. Oehmichen found that in Wisconsin there are few places where *Larinus spp.* couldn't be found, which compliments the 10-year release effort of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Rates of movement for these tiny weevils was impressive, around 6 miles a year for some populations.

These specialized bugs damage spotted knapweeds ability to produce viable seeds and overtime will aid in the reduction of the population, but can't do it all on their own. Helping in this control effort are a few other specialized bugs; *Urophora affinis* (seedhead fly), *U. quadrifasciata* (seedhead fly), *Agapeta zoegana* (root-mining moth), *Cyphocleonus achates* (root-mining weevil). "As populations of these biological control agents reach statewide distribution we will have a larger impact on spotted knapweed populations as a whole along our highways and prairies, there won't be any place for it to hide" claims Oehmichen.

Teaming together in this statewide effort is the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources over the past 4 years have released more biological control agents controlling spotted knapweed than in the previous 10 years. Achieving statewide distribution of the *Larinus* seedhead weevil is only the first step in controlling spotted knapweed populations around the state, increasing populations of *Cyphocleonus achates* the root-mining weevil is the second step, plans are already under way with releases scheduled all the way out to 2018.

So look out spotted knapweed, your days are numbered in Wisconsin...

For more information, contact: Wade Oehmichen, UWGB Graduate Student at spottedknapweed@gmail.com



Larinus obtusus adults on spotted knapweed flower

– photo credit: W.T. Oehmichen



Cyphocleonus achates adults on spotted knapweed flower

– photo credit W.T. Oehmichen



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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."