

Plants Out of Place



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Table of Contents

President's Notes	1-3
<u>Farm Technology Days 2016</u>	3
<u>If it's Not One Weed, it's Another</u>	4-5
<u>Giant Hogweed – A New Invader</u>	6
<u>UMISC 2016</u>	7
<u>In Memory of Roy Lukes</u>	7
<u>Invasive Plant Monitoring Workshops</u>	8

President's Notes: 2016 Invader Crusader Awards

In our May edition of *Plants Out of Place*, I mentioned to watch for the 2015 IPAW annual report to be posted on the website. If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet here's a link [2015 Annual Report](#). See all the great things IPAW accomplished in 2015! Also in the May newsletter, we briefly announced the 2016 Invader Crusader Award winners. Below is a more in depth look at the newest Invader Crusaders. Keep up the great work Invader Crusaders!

On June 9th the 12th annual Invader Crusader Awards ceremony was held at the Horicon Marsh visitor center. The Invader Crusader Awards is a joint effort between the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council (WISC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The awards honor citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species that harm Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wetlands. Every year they are looking for nominations. Watch for the 2017 nominations.

Introducing the 2016 Invader Crusaders...

Continued on Page 2

"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

President's Notes Continued



Awards to Volunteer Individuals:

Debra Feirer – A biology teacher at Wrightstown High School. The focus of Debbie's invasive species control efforts is Chambers Island, an island in the middle of the bay of Green Bay and a 7-mile boat ride from Fish Creek. Chambers Island has one of the last and largest stands of relatively untouched forest in Door County.

Fred and Mary Kueffer – They have been active in the area of aquatic invasive species (AIS) control since 2005. At that time they began a lake monitoring program to enlist volunteers to cover the Spider Chain of Lakes (SCLA) searching for signs of invasives such as purple loosestrife, curly leaf pondweed, and Eurasian water milfoil. As coordinators for this program over the past 11 years, Fred and Mary have logged hundreds of individual hours in lake monitoring as well as coordinated thousands of hours of volunteer time.

Valerie Stabenow – Valerie was instrumental in the discovery and removal of water hyacinth from Lake Winneconne in Winnebago County last year. She is a Master Gardener and past volunteer in the Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day organized by the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Fritz Funk – Prohibited species water lettuce and water hyacinth were discovered in Lake Onalaska. Fritz was instrumental in responding to the infestation of both species in Lake Onalaska. After receiving the report of the infestation, Funk played an essential role in mobilizing concerned citizens to collect and contain the invasive plants. Over 40 citizen volunteers converged on Lake Onalaska to collect, bag and dispose of the invasive plants that had escaped from a residential garden pond and multiplied at an alarming rate.

Awards to Volunteer groups:

Lower Chippewa Invasive Species Partnership – This is a broad alliance established to control invasive plants by fostering partner cooperation and community action. The partnership has been consistently active in conducting outreach, prioritizing and then implementing important projects, and hosting regular workshops and field work days. The partnership has struck on an effective leadership structure with co-chairs and a board representing the wide range of partners.

Mequon Nature Preserve's Restoration Rangers – The program's goal is create awareness in people of all ages to advocate for invasive plant removal and replacement of those non-natives with native species. Ranging in age from 7 years old to senior citizens, the Rangers carry out a comprehensive program that supports Mequon Nature Preserve's mission: to restore the land to its natural state that existed prior to European settlement that started in the early 1800s.

Continued on Page 3

President's Notes Continued

Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance – The volunteers who are active in the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's restoration program devote their time to stewardship of the lands of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Most of this work has occurred within the boundaries of what is now the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

Awards to Professional individuals:

Tim Campbell – An invasive species outreach specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Tim engages communities, organizations, local government officials and other stakeholders and helps them incorporate aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention actions into their existing activities. Tim also works closely with the numerous professionals working on AIS issues in Wisconsin to coordinate education and outreach efforts.

Michelle Nault – A water resources management specialist working for the DNR in Green Bay. Michelle's work over the past decade has had a deep impact on Wisconsin's battle against aquatic invasive species. She is currently in charge of developing and initiating rapid response plans for faucet snails in part of the Wolf River and round gobies in parts of the Lake Winnebago System.

Brock Woods – The Purple Loosestrife & Wetland Invasive Plant program coordinator for the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the DNR. He has the ability to motivate citizens around the state to get involved in a program that needed an army of volunteers to be successful – and it has been! Starting as a DNR employee, Brock grew the program with dedication to volunteers, providing them with unparalleled service by traveling across the state to provide volunteers with training, equipment and encouragement.

Award to Sustaining Crusader:

Mike Fort – Since 1996, Mike has volunteered at Lapham Peak State Park in Delafield, including the Ice Age Trail. Mike has focused his efforts on restoring native prairie grassland habitat on approximately 200 acres of the property by planting native grasses and flowers. He began by removing all invasive species and then planted and maintained the restored native communities. Mike has been a leader, educator and mentor for decades. He has a very large group of loyal and dedicated volunteers that assist him frequently. Mike is often sought out by individuals from around the state for advice on invasive removal and native species restoration including DNR staff, other experts and trade professionals.

Farm Technology Days 2016 – By Jerry Doll, IPAW Board Member



Walworth County hosted the largest farm show in Wisconsin this year and Tent City was filled with exhibits and displays both in and out of the tents. IPAW was in the Education Station Conservation Tent that contained 25 other exhibits and a 50-foot long soil pit showing the soil profile to a depth of 4 feet. Our display drew attention because of the live invasive plant specimens at our booth, especially the 6-foot tall cutleaf teasel plant. Many stopped to ask what it was and often that led to further discussions on invasive plants. Some people had specific questions on how to identify or control specific invasive plants. Others simply came by and looked at all the plants, picked up a handout or two and continued on their way.

While attendance at Farm Tech Days was less than last year's event, we certainly helped people identify invasive plants and answered many specific questions, and heard their laments about the lack of management for roadside weeds.

The effort to be part of Farm Technology Days was well worth it. However, we struggled to have enough people to staff the booth for the three days. Next year's event will be in Kewaunee County on July 11-13. Our participation will depend upon having sufficient interest from members to make it feasible. We will "test the waters" well in advance of next July to see if we can again be part of this one-of-a-kind event.

If it's Not One Weed, it's Another

By Bonnie Harper-Lore, IPAW Member

In 2003 my brother restored an old Buffalo County farmhouse on a hill overlooking the Mississippi River Valley. On visiting the project, I noticed garlic mustard along the narrow road to his place. Hiking the hillside, we found a lot more, a couple acres more! He asked my husband and me if we could spray it and we gave him the bad news. If we did, we would harm the native ground cover. More importantly research comparing control methods in Wisconsin, had concluded neither spraying nor other combinations would do the job. I contacted the Wisconsin DNR the next day!

For almost 10 years, my brother and I monitored transects installed by the DNR and kept records of garlic mustard numbers, aches per plant, new seedlings, and other plant species. We did so with the hope of releasing a garlic mustard biocontrol as soon as it became available. It still has not been permitted for release.

After all that effort to protect his 25-acre woods, I did not have the heart to point out the 4' tall burning bush on the edge of the driveway a couple years ago. I knew burning bush, *Euonymus alatus*, to be invasive out East, but not in Wisconsin. So I said nothing. The following year, 2015, I did alert my brother and suggested he remove it.

He emailed his efforts the following morning! He had cut down the shrub and treated it with triclopyr. Then out of curiosity and garlic mustard experience, he decided to walk up the slope. It was fall and the burning bush fall color would be easy to spot. He located and pulled some 200 burning bush seedlings! I reported the population with his photos to the DNR the next day!

My brother no longer believed the DNR could help but he wanted to do something. We drove around his small town and easily spotted 13 burning bush specimens in front yard plantings. He asked me to put together a flyer for homeowners to explain why these invasive plants were a threat to the natural environment around the town. I put together a two-sided flyer to both explain the problem and suggest alternative native shrubs homeowners could use as replacements.

Because I serve as advisor to the Minnesota Noxious Weed Advisory Committee who determines the State's noxious weed list, I reported the western Wisconsin population of burning bush to the Minnesota Departments of Ag (MDA) and Natural Resources (MnDNR). The MDA now has an early detection unit to eradicate new invasives. They will be ready if the plant crosses the Mississippi. Together we tried to add burning bush to the MN list for risk assessment this year. Against the MN nursery industry, we failed! We will try again next year when we know more about its spread and locations. Unfortunately, invasive plants typically do not make the MN noxious weed list until they are already doing harm. For example, we just added black locust this year.

However, the major obstacle in Minnesota is a lack of funding for enforcement of the noxious weed law. Our on-the-ground statewide network of inspectors was defunded by the legislature. Consequently, there are no full-time weed inspectors at the County, Township or City levels anywhere in the State. Without eyes and efforts on the ground, we are in trouble. Later this year we will be rewriting the MN Noxious Weed Law, with the support of MDA. Any insights from the Wisconsin experience are welcome. As you all know well, weeds do not respect political boundaries, so we need to work together!

WEED WARNING - Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

An ornamental shrub known for its showy red fall color and corky, winged bark produces many berries. Because birds enjoy the berries, this shrub spreads through many local woodlands. Now it is harming natural areas including local parklands we all enjoy. Please remove and plant an alternative. Burning bush is an invasive species!

Invasive Species: The news tells you about zebra mussels and water milfoil - all troublesome to water recreation and more; but invasive species also include many plants that have been accidentally



Continued on Page 5

If It's Not One Weed... Continued

or purposefully introduced. Ornamental plants like burning bush are imported from other countries and leave their natural enemies behind. Some become invasive over time like purple loosestrife, which is still spreading.

Why You Should Care: Invasives are now costing taxpayers billions of dollars annually by: degrading forage crops, pastures, forest and fishing industries; replacing valuable wildlife habitat (including pollinator habitat); degrading our favorite parks, natural areas and recreational waterways; costing landowners and state lands millions to control or eliminate invaders, while increasing erosion on many hillsides.

What You Can Do:

1. Clean your boats and boots after fishing, hunting and/or hiking.
2. Take your kids camping and/or hiking to enjoy and learn about nature.
3. Replace invasive plants in your yard with alternative plants.
4. Report aquatic or terrestrial invasives - (www.dnr.wi.gov/report invasive species)

Methods of Controlling Invasive Plants Like Burning bush:

- Hand-pulling small plants after a rain to disturb soils as little as possible.
- Mowing repeatedly where accessible.
- Cutting and treating stumps of larger plants with glyphosate or other appropriate herbicide.
- Bagging the berries in plastic bags before disposal.

For More Information - (Fact Sheets, Video, How to Identify and Control):

- Chapter NR40: The Invasive Species Rule Summary/Reference Guide - (www.dnr.wi.gov)
- Terrestrial Invasive Plants List - (www.MinnesotaDNR)
- Easy plant identification website for both States - (www.minnesotawildflowers.info)
- Why you should care - ([www.dnr.wi.gov/Why should We Care](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/Why%20should%20We%20Care))
- "Defending Favorite Places" a video - (www.fs.fed.us)

PLANT ALTERNATIVE SHRUBS

Be sure to ask your garden center for plants by name to get what you pay for!



Black chokeberry

(Aronia melanocarpa)

3-6' for medium to moist soils - sun to partial shade. Showy flowers late spring with black berries. Glossy green leaves that turn reds in the fall.



Isanti redosier dogwood

(Cornus sericea)

4-6' for medium to wet soils - full sun. Spring clusters of white flowers, followed by white berries. Stems stay red year round, pretty in snow.



Gray dogwood

(Cornus racemosa)

3-8' for medium to sandy soils - sun to partial shade. Clusters of ivory flowers and later white berries for birds. Fall leaf color is burgundy red.



Regent serviceberry/ Juneberry

(Amelanchier alnifolia)

4-6' for dry to medium soils - sun to partial shade. Spring white flowers, purple fruit for jam and/or birds. Fall leaf color is orange-red.

And Remember AVOID PLANTING OTHER INVASIVE SHRUBS

Giant Hogweed

A New Invader to Southeastern Wisconsin



Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) was positively identified for the first time in southeastern Wisconsin during the summer months. Early detection of this Wisconsin Prohibited Species has resulted in rapid control with the vital help of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and local homeowners. Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) immediately contracted with Applied Ecological Services who treated hundreds of plants with herbicide and followed-up with the removal of seed heads within a south Sheboygan neighborhood and along a nearby railroad right-of-way. SEWISC continues to work with the homeowners, railroad officials, and the WDNR to monitor the two populations. This hogweed monitoring and control work will continue over the next few years to ensure eradication of viable seed.

Giant hogweed was first recorded in Wisconsin in 2004 with confirmed reports in Iron, Waupaca, and Manitowoc Counties. A single plant produces thousands of seeds, which can be dispersed by flowing water or animals. The most common way the plant invades new territories, however, is humans who are attracted by its size and sheer novelty.

An herbaceous biennial or monocarpic perennial that grows as a lowing-laying bushy rosette for the first year, hogweed plants usually bolt during the second year and grow 8-20' tall. The hollow, ridged stems are covered in coarse white hairs and reddish-purple mottling. Leaves are compound, 1-5' wide, palmate, deeply lobed and pointed. The undersides of leaves are covered in coarse white hairs. Flowers are large flat-top umbels, up to 20" wide across, with many white, 5-petal flowers that bloom from May-July. The plant dies after seed dispersal.

Giant hogweed invades roadsides, empty lots and woodland edges. Due to fast growth rates, populations can crowd out native vegetation. The species prefers moist areas with some shade, particularly along stream banks, where it can lead to soil erosion and can disperse seeds downstream. **Warning: Sap from leaves and stems can cause a phytophotodermatitic reaction on skin, when exposed to sunlight, consisting of severe burns and blisters.**

Don't confuse our native American cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) and other similar plants with giant hogweed. Use on-line resources, printed materials and great educational videos to differentiate between the species, carefully examine the plant and if you are still unsure, send photos to the WDNR. If you believe you have giant hogweed growing in your area, contact the WDNR.



Congratulations Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership!

Here's one example of a successful program being rewarded. LCIP recently received an anonymous donation of \$20,000, which will enable them to continue with projects, outreach, and education of invasive species in west central Wisconsin.



UMISC in La Crosse, Wisconsin October 16-19, 2016

**Bringing together regional and national experts
for comprehensive all-taxa invasive species
conference**

By Belle Bergner, UMISC Conference Administrator

The fifth biennial Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) will be one of the largest Midwest invasive species conferences ever. The conference starts on Sunday afternoon, with a special workshop, “*Improvistional Theatre for Science Communication*” that will teach effective communication strategies.

National and International invasive species experts will address the entire conference at the Monday morning Plenary.

Special Tuesday lunch plenary speaker Hilary Smith, Invasive Species Coordinator for the U.S. Department of the Interior, will provide an update about the Department’s invasive species program. Roger Fish, a motivational speaker who will inspire attendees to lead and communicate with positivity, will open Ms. Smith’s presentation.

The 3-day, all-taxa conference will cover major terrestrial, aquatic, and inter-taxa invasive species challenges with over 250 presentations, over 30 exhibitors, workshops, field trips, and many networking opportunities. Presentations will focus on integrated pest management, innovations in control techniques, and success stories among other topics. A special workshop for Attorneys General of the Mississippi River Basin will be held in conjunction with UMISC on Wednesday October 19. UMISC attendees are invited to attend the Wednesday morning portion of workshop.

Early registration will end September 1. Discounted rates are available for MIPN and IPAW members. Early registration, especially for field trips and workshops is recommended. Visit www.umisc.net for more information.



In Memory of an IPAW Founding Member



Sadly, Wisconsin lost an advocate for the environment and education. Roy Lukes died at the end of June in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin. He taught for more than 20 years, prior to becoming the first manager and naturalist at The Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin. Shortly after that, he started to write weekly articles for The Door County Advocate. Roy wrote over 3,000 nature articles and five books. He also included his own nature photography in his articles. Lawrence University presented Roy with a honorary Doctor of Science, UW-Oshkosh honored him with 50th alumni award and Chancellor’s Medallion. He also received lifetime achievement awards from The Gathering Waters Conservancy and Wisconsin Society of Ornithology. Roy loved to teach, and he lived by the saying, to be a good teacher, never stop learning.

Invasive Plant Monitoring Workshops Currently Taking Place

Invasive plants threaten the health of the Great Lakes Ecosystem and the native communities that thrive there. Learn how to identify and map invasive plant populations through the Great Lakes Early Detection (GLEDN) mobile applications. Hands-on training will be provided by Wisconsin Experts. Two remaining workshops will be offered at the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust properties. All ages welcome!

Riverbend Conservancy

Saturday, August 27, 10 am-2 pm

Phragmites, purple loostrike and Canada thistle

Meet at OWLT office: 200 Wisconsin Street, West Bend, WI 53095

Ville du Parc

Saturday, September 10, 10 am-2pm

Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry and Japanese knotweed

Meet at Rotary Pavilion: 4100 W Highland Road, Mequon, WI 53092

Mornings will be spent in classroom setting, then we hit the field to use the GLEDN app. and inventory sites for targeted invasive species. Minimal travel to sites may be required. Your efforts will help guide the fight against these noxious invaders! Free educational materials, snacks and refreshments!

Please register by contacting Christine Bohn at cbohn@owlt.org or (262) 338-1794.



Don't forget to Like
IPAW on Facebook!



Where Ecology Meets Economy: Season 4 September 21, 2016

A Forum for Land Managers and the Green Industry

8:00am - 3:30pm, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Join us by taking the opportunity to network with land managers, growers, arborists, landscape architects and many other professionals. This innovative event will focus on protecting pollinator habitat and feature presentations, panel discussions, plus guided tours discussing ways the green industry and land managers can benefit our native plant and animal habitat and each other. [Register now](#)

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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

For those times you
can't shop local,
support IPAW at
[AmazonSmile!](#)

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."