



Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the
INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 12, December 2005

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*Through Awareness Comes
Positive Change!*

Invasive plant curriculum materials available for educators

by Kelly Kearns

Who is an invasive plant educator? They are teachers, naturalists, scout and 4-H leaders, grandparents – in short, anyone who wants to teach about invasive plants and their impacts on the environment. Thanks to grants from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), materials will soon be available to help you and others to clarify what can be complex messages relating to invasive plants. Milwaukee County Park People cooperated with the Wisconsin DNR, UW Extension, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to obtain a WEEB grant to develop an activity guide to accompany Betty Czarapata's book, *"Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest"*. The companion guide, *"Invaders in the Forest"*, was written by Beth Mittermaier, a very creative state parks naturalist with a tremendous skill for developing educational materials that are both interesting and entertaining.

"Invaders in the Forest" provides educators with 25 activities that range widely in subject matter. Some activities help define the problem and build an understanding of the impacts of invasive plants (and earthworms) to forest ecosystems. Others help students to inventory or monitor plants such as garlic mustard, or to develop research projects. For anyone employing volunteers to do control work, several activities help participants look at the available control methods and tools, and

educators continued on page 2

IPAW Planning a Conference – Way Ahead!

Mark your new 2006 calendars for the December 2006 Invasive Plants Conference. IPAW will be co-hosting a conference in Milwaukee, 12-14 December 2006, with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network and the North Central Weed Science Society. The first day of the conference will focus on agricultural weeds; the last day will focus on plants that invade natural habitats. Planning is just beginning for this conference. If you have ideas for talks or workshops, or you would like to help with the planning, please contact Kelly Kearns at, kearns@dnr.state.wi.us; (608) 267-5066.

IPAW Fundraising Committee has been Busy!

The fundraising committee has been busy identifying potential grants and contributors who would be interested in supporting our work. If you have suggestions for individuals, companies, or foundations that might be interested in learning more about IPAW please let a member of the committee know. Former board member Nancy Braker (nbraker@tnc.org) is chairing the committee. Other committee members include current board members Tom Hunt, Tom Boos and David Hamel. If you would like to serve on the fundraising committee your help would be welcome!

We would like to thank We Energies for a grant IPAW received through the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation. The foundation has been a supporter of IPAW since we were founded, and we appreciate their interest in our work.

educators continued from page 1

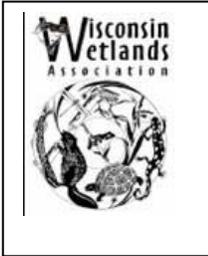
choose the best methods for their sites. There are activities in the guide that are appropriate for students from kindergarten through high school; and each activity identifies the appropriate age group. Many of the lessons and activities will also work well for adults – in both indoor and outdoor settings. For teachers, each activity identifies the state academic standards met by the activity. Each lesson guide includes a list of materials needed, length of time required, ideal setting and group size, and project objectives.

As part of the WEEB grant, Beth Mittermaier and David Eagan have been conducting workshops around the state, showing educators how to use the activities and the book, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*. Thanks to a cost-share grant from the America's Outdoors program of the BLM, workshop participants also received a free copy of Czarapata's book. Although the workshops are no longer being held, the activity guides will be available in paper or CD copies by January of 2006. It will also be downloadable from the WDNR's Environmental Education webpage – EEK! (<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/eeek!/teacher>). Anyone wanting a free paper or CD version of the activity guide may contact the WDNR's Endangered Resources Program at bureau.endangeredresources@dnr.state.wi.us or by calling (608) 266-7012.

In addition to the *Invaders of the Forest* activity guide, WEEB has also funded several other recent projects to develop educational materials regarding invasive plants. WDNR recently completed an activity guide called *Go Wild with Wisconsin Wildcards!* This activity guide was also developed by Beth Mittermaier, and has educational activities that use some of the 184 different wild cards that WDNR and partners have developed over the last few years. These cards include series on Alien Invaders (plants, forest pests, aquatic invasives), fish, mammals, rare species, special places, fire prevention and other topics. As with the *Invaders of the Forest* guide, activities in *Go Wild with Wisconsin Wildcards!* are sorted by subject matter and grade level, and are correlated with Wisconsin Academic Standards, scout badges and Project WILD and Project Learning Tree activities. The activity guide is available on line at www.dnr.wi.gov/eeek!/teacher/wildcardguide.htm. To get the entire set of cards needed to play all of the games and activities, educators can place an order for \$12, payable to WDNR Wildcards, and send it to: Publications – CE 8, WDNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

The Madison Metropolitan School District was also recently awarded a WEEB grant to develop curricula specifically for teachers and youth group leaders using the Madison School Forest. It will use garlic mustard as a focus for teaching science, stewardship and service to students in fourth through eighth grades. Once developed, these materials will be applicable for teaching anywhere where garlic mustard grows. By the end of 2006, this curriculum will be available on the Madison School Forest website at www.madison.K12.wi.us/forest.

TWO CONFERENCES TO ADDRESS THREATS TO WISCONSIN'S WETLANDS FEBRUARY 2006, MADISON



Wisconsin's Wetlands: Biodiversity & Threats

Wisconsin Wetland Association's 11th Annual Wetland Science Forum
February 2-3, 2006, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, WI
www.wiscwetlands.org

Invasive Plants of WI Wetlands: Identification and Management

Invasive Plants Assoc. of Wisconsin Biannual Conference & Annual Meeting
February 4, 2006, Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison, WI
www.ipaw.org

Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) are pleased to be partnering on some programmatic connections between our consecutive conferences in 2006. Along with sessions on other topics related to the theme, *Biodiversity & Threats*, WWA will highlight the latest academic research on wetland invasives. The IPAW forum will offer practical information for wetland managers on identification and control techniques of wetland invasives. Joint field trips will also be offered.

February 3: FIELD TRIPS (jointly sponsored by IPAW and Wisconsin Wetlands Association)

Lake Wingra Wetlands: Invasive Species Management Planning and Control Efforts, with Friends of Lake Wingra

Leaders: Jim Lorman, Steve Glass, Katy Wallace, Dick Lathrop, and Kelly Kearns

Lake Wingra is a spectacular urban lake in the heart of Madison yet invasions of aggressive, non-native species into the lake and adjacent wetlands have reduced the ecological health of Wingra's native communities. Friends of Lake Wingra (FOLW), a watershed stakeholders group, has developed a comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan for the lake and the watershed and is implementing site-specific invasive species control efforts. This trip will include several stops along the Wingra shoreline to learn about FOLW's invasive species work in Wingra's wetlands. We will also visit a macrophyte restoration experiment led by WDNR in which invasive carp have been excluded from 2.5 acres of the lake and a length of shoreline along the Edgewood Marsh.

Pheasant Branch Conservancy: A Case Study of Wetland Threats, with Friends of Pheasant Branch

Leaders: Tom Bernthal and Pat Trochlell

Pheasant Branch Creek meanders through this 500+ acre Conservancy, which contains a marsh with open water, natural springs and seeps, sedge meadows, restored prairies and savanna, lowland forests and wooded hills. However, urban development that surrounds the property on three sides and agricultural runoff are sources of threats to the hydrology, biodiversity, and overall health of the Conservancy's wetland habitats. Trip leaders will present the site as a case study of wetland threats and will discuss efforts to maintain the health of the land through management, restoration, and research efforts that have been conducted by the City of Middleton, Dane County, U.S. Geological Survey and Friends of Pheasant Branch.

Joint Conference continued from page 3

Mitigation and Restoration: A Tale of Two Cherokee Marsh Projects

Leaders: Perry Rossa, Cathy Bleser, Quentin Carpenter, and Russ Hefty

This trip will highlight two wetland projects that are close in proximity but very different in terms of historical impacts, hydrology, ecology, regulatory issues and restoration approaches. Participants will view restoration efforts at Cherokee Marsh, which provides a unique habitat for a diversity of species. This project is using innovative structures to restore some of the 600+ acres of “floating mat” shoreline wetlands lost in the past 150 years due to artificially high lake water levels. Participants will also visit a nearby wetland mitigation project that was constructed to offset impacts on Cherokee Marsh from expansion of the Dane County Regional airport. This project has involved filling two miles of ditches to restore wetland hydrology as well as invasive species management.



Invasive Plants of Wisconsin's Wetlands: Identification and Management - February 4, 2006 Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison, WI
 ~ A Conference of the **Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin** ~
 Co-Sponsored by *Dane County Parks & Lussier Family Heritage Center*



This conference will feature practical information for wetland managers of Wisconsin who are combating invasive plants. Apart from species-specific presentations emphasizing identification and control, participants can also attend one of two workshops, join field trips, visit multiple displays and vendors, and attend the Annual IPAW Meeting. Field trips take place on February 3.

8:00 Registration; Displays and Vendors Open
 9:00 Concurrent Sessions

See Registration Form on Page 5

1-hour per species. Multiple authorities will highlight identification, control tools and techniques. Audience can participate during panel discussion at end of each session.

- ❖ Giant Reed (*Phragmites australis*)
- ❖ Cattails
- ❖ Reed Canary Grass
- ❖ Glossy Buckthorn
- ❖ Future Wetland Invasives

12:00 Lunch and IPAW Annual Meeting

1:00 Workshops

- ❖ Herbicide Selection and Usage in Wetlands

UW-Extension experts provide detailed information on safe and effective herbicide usage, with a special focus on wetland applications.

- ❖ Cooperative Weed Management Areas

Future success lies in the creation of these local organizations that integrate all weed management resources across jurisdictional boundaries.

4:00 Displays and Vendors Open

For more conference details, see www.ipaw.org

IPAW Conference Registration Form
Invasive Plants of Wisconsin's Wetlands:
Identification and Management
 February 4, 2006
 Lussier Family Heritage Center
 Madison, WI

Name _____

Address _____

Affiliation _____

Email/Phone *(this information will not be shared with others)*

Field Trips: Friday, February 3, 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Trips are concurrent. Please choose one of the following.

- Pheasant Branch Conservancy
- Lake Wingra Wetlands
- Cherokee Marsh Mitigation Project

REGISTRATION FEES: IPAW CONFERENCE, FEB. 4		Amount
<i>Join Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin now and pay less for the conference! Individual: \$20; Organization/Agency: \$100.</i>		\$
Member	\$30	\$
Non-Member	\$40	\$
Student*	\$20	\$
Make check payable to Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin Mail to: Wisconsin Wetlands Association** 222 S. Hamilton St., #1 Madison, WI 53703		TOTAL
		\$

Lunch is included in all fees.

*Volunteer and pay further reduced rate. Contact info@ipaw.org for more information.

**For your convenience, registrations for both conferences can be sent to the same place!

Representative Meyer has Introduced an Aquatic Invasive Species Bill, AB757

by Patrick Goggin - Vilas County Conservationist/IPAW President

MADISON State Representative Dan Meyer (R-Eagle River Rep.Meyer@legis.state.wi.us) announced on October 10, 2005 a \$5 million per year initiative to bolster the fight against aquatic invasive species.

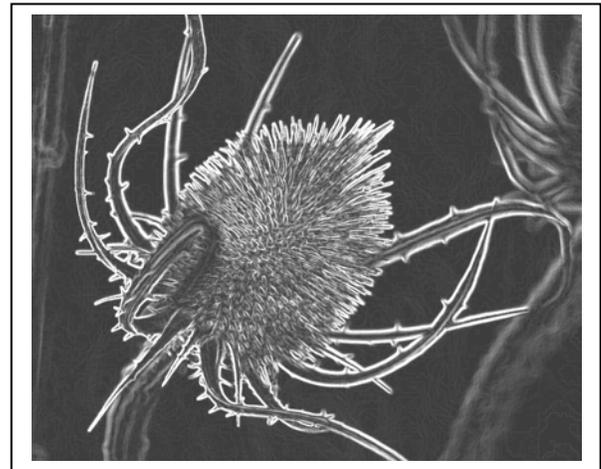
“It is time for the State of Wisconsin to get serious about treating aquatic invasive species,” said Meyer. “It is my hope that providing \$5 million per year in grants to counties to fight invasive species will allow us to finally start to get a handle on controlling this stuff.”

Rep. Meyer’s proposal would create a \$5 million per year grant program administered by the Department of Natural Resources to provide grants to counties for projects to treat infestations of aquatic invasive species. Priority will be given to counties that have a full-time position dedicated for invasive species management. The funding source outlined in the plan is Indian Gaming revenues. Take a look at the bill yourself and provide input to the discussion by contacting your local legislator about invasive species.

A hearing on the bill was convened by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Rep. Gunderson, on 16 November 2005. A copy of the bill, and the current status of AB757 can be found by going to www.legis.state.wi.us and clicking on "Legislation" and then on "Bill Search". Type in the bill # 757.

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The bill transfers \$5 million annually from the Indian Gaming revenues to the Conservation Fund to fund a new grant program. Counties can apply for grants to chemically treat or mechanically harvest infestations of aquatic invasive species. It waives aquatic plant management permit fees for grant funded projects, and provides an exemption from emergency rule-making procedures. The Department of Natural Resources estimates the annual fiscal impact of this program to consist of \$77,500 in reduced permit revenue and \$27,300 in increased salary and fringe costs associated with grant processing.



Aquatic Invasive Species Education Handbook

www.uwex.edu/erc/invasives.html

Table of Contents

- Chapter 1 - Introduction
- Chapter 2 - National Perspective
- Chapter 3 - Wisconsin Statewide Programs
- Chapter 4 - Designing Educational Programs
- Chapter 5 - Case Studies-Citizens Taking Action
- Chapter 6 - Resources
- Chapter 7 - Species Specific Information
- Chapter 8 - Steps to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Introducing Wisconsin's New Aquatic Invasive Species Education Handbook

Are you involved with local aquatic invasive species education efforts? Would you like to learn more about the educational resources and programs that are available to you? If so, there is a new resource, "*Aquatic Invasive Species: A Handbook for Education Efforts*", that can help (Table of Contents on page 6).

Aquatic invasive species are plants and animals that are having negative economic, ecological, and recreational impacts on Wisconsin waters. Awareness of aquatic invasive species is growing, and increasing numbers of Wisconsin's citizens are looking for ways to get involved in helping to prevent their introduction and spread. Education is the basis for more effective citizen involvement, and state agencies are increasing their efforts to educate the public. However, this battle will not be won with a statewide education effort alone. Numerous local groups – schools, counties, towns, lake associations, and businesses – have recognized the role that they can play and are beginning to launch their own prevention education efforts. Local programs are en-

couraged to collaborate with, and capitalize on, statewide educational efforts.

The new education handbook was developed jointly by UW - Extension, Wisconsin Sea Grant, and the Department of Natural Resources. It includes a compilation of information on statewide programs, resources, contacts, case studies, and action strategies, along with a resource CD filled with articles, fact sheets, presentations, etc. It also provides some suggested approaches for designing successful local education efforts. The handbook was designed to serve as a resource for those who might be interested in taking on this issue but don't know where to begin, or for individuals working in communities statewide who might be called upon to provide support.

The handbook is available online at: www.uwex.edu/erc/invasives.html
For more information, contact Mandy Beall: mandy.beall@dnr.state.wi.us, (608) 267-3531.

Invasive Plant Workshops, Sponsored by the DNR Urban Forestry Program, Attended by Hundreds Across the State

by Amy Staffen

Community forestry, parks and public works employees; workers in the tree service, nursery and landscape industries; and restorationists and other professionals in the areas of urban forestry and horticulture attended one-day workshops throughout the state in September and October to learn about the identification, ecology and management of invasive plants. Attendees learned how to identify the most common invasive plants in their regions; discussed their ecology and the threats they pose to natural resources; and were introduced to a variety of control methods and strategies for limiting the spread of invasives. The workshops included classroom instruction, outdoor demonstrations, and field site tours. Almost 500 people attended 11 workshops, held in Oshkosh, Green Bay, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Fort Atkinson, Middleton, Ashland, Steven's Point, Menomonie, La Crosse and Muskego. The workshops were conducted for the DNR by Fred Clark (Clark Forestry, Baraboo) and Amy Staffen (independent contractor and IPAW Board Member). Attendees received a complementary copy of Betty Czarapata's new book "Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest."

Kudos to Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry for sponsoring these high quality workshops at a very reasonable cost!!!

"Aquatic Invasive Species in the Upper Great Lakes Region" Conference Summary
by Patrick Goggin - Vilas County Conservationist/IPAW President

On 19 & 20 October 2005 a conference on aquatic invasive species (AIS) impacting the Upper Great Lakes Region was held at the Lake of the Torches in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. The conference was funded by the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with other partners. The conference was designed for regional, state, and local land and water managers to enhance regional cooperation, and to foster additional collaboration on the issue of AIS. The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), an inter-tribal, co-management agency committed to the implementation of off-reservation treaty rights on behalf of its eleven Ojibwa member tribes, organized the conference in cooperation with partners including the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (www.wisconsinlakes.org).

Presentations offered on the first day provided a setting and laid a foundation for future coordination and cooperative efforts. Mike Hoff of the US Fish and Wildlife Service described ongoing efforts of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force (www.anstaskforce.gov), an intergovernmental organization dedicated to controlling aquatic nuisance species. State perspectives were offered by Michigan Sea Grant's Ron Kinnunen (www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ais/index.html), Minnesota's Jay Rendall (www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/invasives/index.html), and Wisconsin's Ron Martin (www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives). The morning session closed with tribal perspectives presented by Kristy Maki with the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and Miles Falck with GLIFWC (www.glifwc.org/invasives).

The afternoon of the first day began with Dr. Steve Carpenter, UW-Madison Center for Limnology, sharing his perspective as a researcher on the AIS issue (<http://limnology.wisc.edu>). Chip Welling, Minnesota DNR, gave an update on management and control efforts in Minnesota (www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/invasives/ewmprog.html). Doug Jensen of the Minnesota Sea Grant (www.seagrant.umn.edu/education/index.html) stressed the role of public education and its importance to effective prevention and management efforts. A county perspective was offered by Ted Ritter, AIS Partnership Project Coordinator for Vilas County (<http://co.vilas.wi.us/landconv>). Jane Swenson, a Bayfield County resident, spoke as a volunteer working on AIS prevention and control. The day ended with a lively panel discussion allowing everyone in attendance the opportunity to ask additional questions and get more in-depth on specific details related to AIS. A dinner and social followed the panel discussion.

The morning of the second day was devoted to organized, small breakout group, discussions designed to bolster existing cooperation between agencies, citizens, tribes, conservation groups, and others. The session was also seeking to build new collaborative projects and increase the communication between the conference attendees.

Because invasive species disperse widely across the landscape and administrative boundaries, it is surely advantageous to work collectively towards management and control objectives. The results of this conference are yet another step by partner groups heading in the right direction.

Through Awareness Comes Positive Change!

Northwoods Weed Group coming together to form a **Cooperative Weed Management Association (CWMA)**

by Patrick Goggin - Vilas County Conservationist/IPAW President



In early November 2005 partners involved in the Northwoods Weed Initiative participated in a meeting designed to begin establishing a Cooperative Weed Management Association (CWMA) for their area. CWMAs are grassroots organizations that include a collection of individuals, organizations, agencies, municipalities and others interested in working together on managing weeds in their communities. CWMAs are NOT a federal program or mandate. Information on CWMAs is listed at:

<http://www.idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/Documents/cwma/cookbook.pdf>.

Carmen Chapin presented the reasons why various partners gathered at the meeting care about invasive species control and management. These included: concern for natural habitat; property values; aesthetics in our communities; economic costs/impacts to forestry and agricultural sectors; quality of pasture for grazing; existing legal mandates pertaining to noxious species; and an executive order for federal agencies on the issue. This was followed by a discussion of what a CWMA could do to help battle invasive species in the communities. CWMAs assist partners with early detection and rapid response work; they provide a working agreement for sharing resources, equipment, and knowledge; they provide an avenue to formulate an organized plan for weed control; and they can help secure both federal and non-federal funding for special resources to combat invasive species in our communities. CWMAs are a little different than the current Northwoods Weed Initiative in that a Cooperative Weed Management Association is a legally documented agreement between partners that gives them power to work outside their organizations' normal boundaries such as a park, forest, or municipal line. CWMAs also can seek out grant funding and other financial resources. A successful CWMA includes many agencies and individuals all working towards a common goal.

Another focus of the meeting was to identify a "weed champion" for the evolving CWMA. This person serves as the initial leader of the group, helping coordinate the initial efforts and ensuring good communication between the partners. Dara Olson, an Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, agreed to take on this challenge for the group. She can be contacted at: dolson@glifwc.org.

The specifics of a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) between participating groups were also discussed at the meeting. This is a cooperative agreement between the various partners describing who they are and how they will be working together to fight invasive species. Folks interested in participating in the CWMA or in developing the MOU should contact Dara Olson.

We Energies, through the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation, donated \$6,000.00 to the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, Inc. on November 10, 2005, in support of our education and communications materials over the next three years. Thank you very much!

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Plants out of Place is a periodic newsletter distributed to the members of **IPAW**.

Send comments, suggestions, and articles that you think may be of interest to IPAW members to:

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
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Join IPAW Today!

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin

P.O. Box 5274
 Madison, WI 53705-0274

Membership Categories:

- \$20.00 individual
- \$100.00 organization/agency

For information on joining and a membership form, email: Membership@IPAW.org

**Check out what IPAW is working on!
 go to www.ipaw.org**



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