Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the

INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 13, April 2006

Layout of Newsletter by:
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Through Awareness Comes Positive Change!

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month

by Lori Artiomow, 2006 ISAM Coordinator

Who needs awareness about invasive species more than our legislators and local elected officials and decision makers? Individuals in these positions can institute much needed changes throughout the state to help control the spread of invasive species. Without them on our side, we can be pulling up garlic mustard, cutting down buckthorn, scrubbing boat bottoms, lethally infecting gypsy moths, and siccing beetles on purple loosestrife until the cows come home—probably longer, since cows do come home and invasives won't go away.

Last year, during Wisconsin's first annual Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM), you, our partners, helped get the message out to the public. This year we need your help to get the word out to your legislators and local decision makers. Tell them about the time and effort it takes to manage invasive species

Plan an ISAM event. Many of you are involved with invasive species removal every year. Let your community know. The State's invasive species website, invasivespecies.wi.gov, is filled with educational resources to help you publicize your work parties and other events related to invasive species. You can also learn how to develop educational materials such as creating visual displays, planning field trips, setting up a lecture or demonstration, coordinating radio or television interviews, and more.

Register your invasive species events at invasivespecies.wi.gov. By registering your event, we will have a record of the invasive species work and education that took place throughout Wisconsin during the spring, summer, fall, and winter months. Documenting the work that is being done to reduce invasive species invasions throughout the state will help get the message across to decision makers. This is a tool we can use to implement change.

As coordinator of the 2006 Invasive Species Awareness Month, I would also like to know your stories and struggles related to invasive species. What volume have you removed? How often? How successful are your efforts? How many volunteers or paid staff are involved each year, just on invasive species control? How much does it cost your organization?

Send your stories to me, Lori Artiomow, artiomow@tds.net. I look forward to hearing from you and helping you develop a successful ISAM 2006 event!

Please pull out, dust off, and USE your invasive plant reporting form!

The July 2005 "*Plants out of Place*" (Issue 11) included a request for volunteers to collect voucher specimens and records of invasive plants. A wide range of detail is possible for information regarding the distribution and abundance of invasive plants. On the one hand is the level of detail that many of us dream of, we zoom in with our, almost magic, interactive Geographic Information System and obtain accurate estimates of the density and distribution of our invasive nemesis at an ever finer scale –

> "There's the woodlot down the road – There's my back yard – Good! – The map's been updated to show that I eradicated that garlic mustard."

On the other hand we have the county presence-absence maps, available on the Wisconsin State Herbarium website, that we can access for every invasive plant that grows in Wisconsin. Here we can "*learn*" that the bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) is not found in Ozaukee and Washington Counties in southeastern Wisconsin, or in Columbia County, just north of Madison; its sister, *Lonicera morrowii* doesn't grow in Milwaukee and Kenosha Counties! Even more surprising is the fact that garlic mustard doesn't grow in Dodge or Fond du Lac Counties. I found out that I must have had the wrong plant all these years when I thought I was killing glossy buckthorn in the Cedarburg Bog, because it apparently has not been found in the county. – **HERBARIA DON'T ADD RECORDS JUST BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW A PLANT GROWS IN A COUNTY!** They can, according to the ancient law of herbariums, only add records if they have proof – a specimen.

The field season is coming soon; we will be spending more time out and about in our home county, noticing those invasive plants. Let's all make 2006 the year that we update the county records of invasive plants for our Wisconsin State Herbarium. It's as easy as, 1) review the IPAW working lists of invasive and potentially invasive plants; 2) check the herbarium website (http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora) and find out if they have a specimen from the county; 3) if there is no record from your county, follow the instructions in "How to Make Voucher Specimens of Plants" and send a specimen to the herbarium. For many species they will accept good photographic "specimens."

The "Invasive Plant Report Form" and "How to Make Voucher Specimens of Plants" are both available on the IPAW website (www.ipaw.org). On the left-hand banner go to "Report Form" or "Voucher Instructions" for PDF versions; or click on "Mapping" and you will find links to both Word and PDF versions of the form and instructions. If you need a paper copy of the form, write to: Wisconsin State Herbarium, 160 Birge Hall, 430 Lincoln Dr., Madison, WI 53706-1381. The county presence-absence maps will be very useful for invasive species management and planning if we work to make them more nearly complete.

Thanks for your help with this simple, but important, project!

Wisconsin Wetlands Association Field Trips in June

Mark your Calendars

Monona Wetlands Bike Tour
Dane County
Saturday, June 3, 10:00 am - 12 noon

Invasion of Phragmites, the Giant Reed
Green Bay area (exact location to be announced)
Thursday, June 22, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

More details will be in the next newsletter, or go to www.wiscwetlands.org

Revising the IPAW Working List of the Invasive Plants of Wisconsin

by Jim Reinartz, UW – Milwaukee Field Station

The IPAW working lists of the invasive plants and the potentially invasive plants of Wisconsin were published exactly three years ago in the March 2003 issue of *PooP*. IPAW distributes copies of the lists on request, they are available as a printable PDF version of *PooP* – Issue 4 on the website, and they are also available as a sortable table at www.ipaw.org/list/index.htm. If you study the "official", very long, title, you will see that it goes out of its way to do two things, 1) make it clear that IPAW intended these to be "working lists", that is works in progress – meant to change as we get smarter, and 2) to call for more information so that we could get smarter. It is time for us to both update, and improve, the lists.

Publication of the working lists in 2003 did not generate the controversy that some thought it might, but neither did it generate the spontaneous contributions of information to improve the database that we all hoped it would. In 2002 and 2003, IPAW and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) received a total of 60 completed invasive plant surveys, which provided 2993 observations on plants listed on the survey form. It is the surveys completed by these 60 individuals, providing information on an average of nearly 50 species each, upon which the current working lists are based.

The IPAW Science Committee believes that it is time to revise the working lists for three reasons:

1) Since the original list was based on surveys completed by only 60 observers, we feel that the quality and authority of the information can be improved by gathering more observations.
2) The status and/or the understanding of some species may have changed in over three years, especially some of those species that would be considered potentially invasive in Wisconsin.
3) Conducting a new survey will allow a redesign of the survey to gather some information not included in the 2002 survey results.

The IPAW Science Committee has received very few comments or suggestions as the result of the original survey. One intriguing suggestion, which we hope to somehow incorporate into the new survey process, is to obtain a collection of typical sites where a species can be observed being invasive in a natural plant community. IPAW has carefully defined ***Invasive Plants*** as ***"non-indigenous species or strains that become established in natural plant communities and wild areas and replace native vegetation."*** People who volunteered information were asked to answer questions and complete the survey only about those species with which they had personal experience. This implies that if an observer gave responses that indicated that a species is invasive, he will be able to provide the location of at least one site where the species is established in a natural plant community or wild area and is replacing native vegetation. A collection of locations of typical, or perhaps most extreme, sites of invasion could be very useful both for education and research. If I make the statement, "You say Norway maple is invasive, but I have never seen any natural plant community in Wisconsin being substantially impacted by Norway maple", using the IPAW database you could point me to the best known example of Norway maple being invasive. This could be very useful, not only for my education, but the ability to observe the most extreme (or advanced) examples of invasiveness may give researchers and managers some ability to presage likely impacts as the species continues to spread.

The idea of reference sites is **one interesting suggestion; we are looking for more**. The IPAW Science Committee is just beginning the process of redesigning the survey and planning for the distribution and "advertising" effort that will be required to obtain a good response from potential observers. **We can use you help!** If you have ideas or suggestions, or can contribute to planning or conducting round two of the IPAW invasive plant survey, **please contact**:

Jim Reinartz, Director,
UW – Milwaukee Field Station
3095 Blue Goose Road, Saukville, WI 53080
Phone: (262) 675-6844;
Email: jimr@uwm.edu

Educating Farmers about Woodland Invasive Plants

by Katie Marshall, Community Forestry Resource Center

Most family farms in southwestern Wisconsin include forested acres. It used to be that a farmer could count on the trees just getting bigger and replacing themselves over the years, and the woods would "take care of itself." That's not the case anymore; in the past decade, invasive plants such as honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard have changed the natural forest plant communities and are interfering with natural forest ecosystems.

At first, invasive plants often go unnoticed, but as their numbers increase, they can significantly alter the composition and structure of the forest and displace native plants and wildlife. In severe infestations, they can inhibit tree growth and regeneration, as well as cause problems with timber harvests. In southern Wisconsin non-native invasive species not only create long-term biological impacts, they also threaten the promise of long-term economic returns for private forest landowners.

The nature of invasive species requires a cooperative effort among adjoining landowners to slow the spread and reduce the impact of these species in the forest. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; while late-stage, heavy infestations are difficult and costly to get rid of, invasive control is feasible with early detection of potential problems. That's where Gigi La Budde, ecologist and environmental educator from the Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC), comes in. CFRC is a non-profit organization that promotes responsible forest management by encouraging the long-term health and prosperity of privately owned woodlands, their owners, and their communities. La Budde works with forest landowner groups, resource managers, loggers, and farmers in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Through a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), La Budde has been taking her knowledge of invasive species to farmers with forested land throughout southwestern Wisconsin. The forests in this region are heavily impacted by non-native invasive plants. In many parts of the state, farms and forests intermix in the landscape, requiring multiple education strategies to reach the wide variety of private forestland owners who may have different goals for their land. Each must be equipped with an awareness of the problem, knowledge about the species involved, and an understanding of the costs of ignoring the problem. They must then act to control the spread and manage the damage from these plants, and be provided with positive connections to other landowners and organizations working on this issue in their region.

Farmers have plenty to do just keeping the farm afloat without having to worry about threats to the surrounding ecosystem. But for those who count on their woods to provide income for their retirement and appreciate the role that forests play in the mixed landscape of the region, the growing threat of invasive species can't be ignored. With cooperation and continued education on ways to manage and control non-native invasive species, farmers and other landowners can continue to reap the benefits of a healthy forest. Anyone interested in learning more about this project can contact Gigi La Budde at (608) 588-2048, or bbf.gigi@earthlink.net

"The nature of invasive species requires a cooperative effort…"

Invasive Plants in Wisconsin's Forests

by Mariquita Sheehan, Wisconsin DNR, Division of Forestry

As invasive plants spread across Wisconsin, the forestry community has become concerned about the possible negative effects of non-native invasive plants on forest regeneration and productivity. Those concerns have come to the attention of the WDNR's Forestry Division from stakeholders, and from observations and reports from field staff that invasive plants are widespread in Wisconsin's forests. Unfortunately, there is little quantitative information on the distribution of the invasives.

It is known that woody shrub species may be the most widespread and problematic invasive plants currently affecting our forests. The two buckthorn species and four bush honeysuckle species already cover large acreages of forest understory. Autumn olive and multiflora rose are common in agricultural areas, in old fields and pastures, and Japanese barberry is gaining a hold in the southeast and south central parts of the state. The nonwoody shrub Japanese knotweed is becoming more common in riparian areas and mesic uplands. Reed canary grass is widespread in forested wetlands and also occupies moist upland sites. Few herbaceous species become aggressive in the shade of a forest understory, but garlic mustard is an exception and is fast spreading across the state. Dame's rocket has a similar growth habit, but does not appear to be as competitive. Leafy spurge and spotted knapweed are other herbaceous species of concern that are mainly invading barrens and semi-open forests. Oriental bittersweet is widespread and becoming locally abundant at scattered locations around the state, draping trees like the southern kudzu. Black locust, a native tree of the Appalachians that was planted in Wisconsin for erosion control, is widely distributed and spreading in the state.

A large number of additional invasive plants are expected to be problems in the future. Some of these are already in Wisconsin, but have not yet become widespread and abundant. Others are not present at this time but are almost certain to arrive eventually; these are species already established in nearby states, or in northeastern North America where climate and soils are similar. New vines are of particular concern; some of these species are extremely difficult to control and can cause heavy damage to established forests. Invasive tree species, such as Siberian elm and tree-of-heaven, are already present and are likely to be very competitive. Additional shrubs and herbaceous species will compete with tree seedlings and native plants, and, presumably, with invasives already present.

There is not much quantitative information on the ecological effects of invasive plants on forests, and there has been little money available to researchers to study this issue. It appears that direct competition for resources is the main mechanism by which invasive plants impact native trees and other desirable species. Allelopathy is also implicated as a factor in the success of several invasive species. Finally, vines can overwhelm mature trees by shading the canopy, girdling branches or stems, and sometimes pulling them down with added weight.

There is even less information on economic impacts of invasive plants on forests, since this issue has not been studied to any great extent by economists. There are no models for predicting the economic impacts of the damage done by invasive species. One estimate for the entire U.S. is that the harm done by all invasive species, including pests, causes damages of $138 billion each year. It is easier to calculate the costs of controlling invasive plants, which are known to be very high. According to a WDNR estimate, if the state had attempted the eradication of common buckthorn infestations across all ownerships in 1996, the first-year treatments alone would have cost an estimated $2.85 million.

Both the Forestry and Lands Divisions have been taking part in invasive species management activates without the benefit of a formally designated program. Considerable activity during the past two years has focused on tasks identified in the Invasive Species Statute (s. 23.22 Wis. Stats.). The WDNR provides staff support to the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species, currently developing a regulatory classification system and criteria and processes for placing species in regulatory categories. The Forestry Division has also

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IPAW Thanks Jerry Doll for a Career Fighting Weeds

by Dan Undersander, UW-Madison Department of Agronomy

Jerry Doll retired from the University of Wisconsin this year. His research in perennial weed management and biology provided a basis for understanding how to control a number of invasive plants. He worked extensively on control of multiflora rose, and conducted trials on control of leafy spurge with treatments that included biocontrol with insects as a component of the management strategy.

His primary appointment was with UW-Extension where he worked tirelessly to keep those involved in controlling perennial weeds well trained on all aspects of perennial weed identification, biology and management. He operated the Weeds Garden at the UW Arlington Research Station to allow visitors to see and identify weeds. Jerry was also coordinator of the Wisconsin Crop Manager newsletter for Ag Professionals. Jerry frequently participated in statewide and local meetings and field days across the state. He also taught an undergraduate short course on weeds at UW-Madison.

Jerry was President of the North Central Weeds Science Society, and editor of the newsletter of the International Weed Science Society. He was a member of the education committee of IPAW, a member of the WDNR Technical Advisory Committee to the Noxious Weed Program. He was involved in writing the Wisconsin weed law being proposed.

The Board of Directors of IPAW sincerely thanks Jerry Doll for his service to the people of Wisconsin.

Nominate an Invader Crusader for an Award!

The Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species is accepting nominations for the 2006 Invader Crusader Awards, honoring Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to the prevention or eradication of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's lands and waters. Invader Crusader awards will be made for exceptional voluntary and exceptional professional efforts.

As part of Invasive Species Awareness Month in June, the Council will be recognizing these deserving individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond to protect Wisconsin's land and water by crusading against invasives. Please help us by nominating the Invader Crusaders that you know. Nominations are due by April 22, 2006. **Send your nominations to:**

Invader Crusader Awards
c/o The Nature Conservancy
707 Main Street West
Ashland, WI 54806
or by email to: invadercrusader@tnc.org

Winners will be notified by mid-May, 2006.
Visit invasivespecies.wi.gov for more details and to see a list of last year's winners.

IPAW Science Committee Projects in Need of Volunteer Coordinators

The IPAW Science Committee has identified two important and valuable educational and database development projects that are each in need of a coordinator. These projects will require the efforts of more than one person to be successful, and a coordinator is required to help bring a team together and to focus the work. The main function of the coordinator will be to push the project ahead by encouraging the work of other volunteers. The IPAW Science Committee will support these coordinators by providing the names and contact information of potential participants, specifying the project goals, assisting with organization and distribution of the information generated by the project, and other resources required by the coordinators. The two projects are described briefly here.

Invasive Plant Phenology Calendar

IPAW would like to develop a calendar that describes the phenology of the major invasive plants of the state. Observers throughout the state will record key phenological events for invasive plants, especially those related to reproductive biology of the plant and the appropriate timing for the application of various control methods. The collected data will describe year-to-year variation as well as the phenological differences between individuals of the same species growing in the northern and southern parts of the state. Theory predicts that events will occur 22 days later on the northern border of Wisconsin than at the southern boundary of the state. The coordinator of this project will organize the people who will make and collect the phenological observations. The observations may include written and photographic records, and the phenological calendar will be published in *Plants out of Place* and on the IPAW website.

IPAW Invasives Experts Project

IPAW seeks to develop a set of "experts", each of whom will be responsible for staying as current as possible on the status of a single invasive species in the state, and to keep abreast of the latest methods being tried for control and management. The IPAW Expert, who will act as the collector and clearinghouse for information, can be an individual or an organization willing to take on the task of assembling and disseminating information. IPAW will publicize the expert program in the newsletter and on the website to encourage this method of assembling and sharing information. One of the ways that the program can be publicized is with a *Correct the Experts* feature in *Plants out of Place* in which the expert will summarize aspects of the ecology and management of the species, and readers will be invited to submit corrections or other feedback to the published accounts, to "correct the experts." The coordinator will direct all aspects of this project, including working with the IPAW Experts to ensure that the project develops and maintains momentum. The IPAW Science Committee will support the Coordinator with necessary resources.

The Invasive Plant Phenology and Invasives Experts projects are both very important projects that will grow to play key roles in IPAW research and educational missions. These projects can potentially involve many participants across the state. If you are interested in learning more about becoming involved in these projects, **please contact** the Chair of the IPAW Science Committee,
Chris Reyes, chrisreyes@uwalumni.com,
Phone: (608) 233-5433.

Students from the Northwoods Community School in Rhinelander, Kirby Kohler's class (kohlekir@rhinelander.k12.wi.us), in a voyageur canoe participating in an aquatic invasive species education day. Photo by Patrick Goggin

Reed Canary Grass Task Force Armed and Ready To Go

by Art Kitchen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Thomas Boos, IPAW

Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is the most aggressive and destructive invader of Wisconsin's wet meadows, sedge meadows and low prairie wetlands throughout the agricultural regions of the state. A recent Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources study examined Landsat satellite imagery of a 180 km x 180 km region of southern Wisconsin and identified over 100,000 acres of monotypic reed canary grass, and another 86,000 acres of wetlands substantially impacted by the invader (Bernthal, T.W. and K.G. Willis. 2004. Using Landsat 7 imagery to map invasive reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*): a landscape level monitoring methodology. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. PUB-SS-992 2004). This acreage represents a major loss of wetland function since reed canary grass decreases wetland plant diversity and provides poor nesting and foraging habitat for many species of migratory birds and resident wildlife.

To help address this resource loss, a group of concerned biologists, research scientists, wetland restoration practitioners and others have formed a reed canary grass working group to review the history of reed canary grass control efforts and to summarize the current state of knowledge of effective treatment strategies. We hope to develop an adaptive restoration and control process that matches specific treatments to site conditions – a set of best management practices. With this adaptive approach, these tailored control practices would need to be carried out for a minimum of 2 to 3 years, after which a treatment evaluation would be conducted and additional practice recommendations would be developed.

The task force has created a table listing control techniques commonly used to battle this persistent grass. We encourage you to **visit the IPAW website to review the table.** The table is still in draft form and **your comments are welcome** (*http://www.ipaw.org/invaders/reed_canary_grass/index.htm*). The suite of options for treatment is enormous. The table will serve as a guide to the best way to treat a particular wetland based on existing physical conditions, restoration goals, and the resources and equipment available. The group is currently developing a list of species to plant and seed as part of integrated RCG management.

A major challenge is to develop an effective way to design and learn from management plans for RCG that use a combination of several control techniques based on the site conditions and available resources. The task force is identifying the key factors necessary to describe the range of conditions that exist in RCG stands, such as site hydrology, site heterogeneity, presence of remnant natives, or likely composition of the seedbank. We will develop a matrix in worksheet format that lists these site characteristics on one axis and the 11 known treatment methods on the other, creating a cross-reference that can be used to develop recommended management alternatives.

Concurrent with this committee's work to summarize current best management practices, we propose a field research study to evaluate the effectiveness of the recommended treatment protocols. In a few years we may be able to document a set of treatment strategies (matched to site conditions) that offer the greatest chance of success in controlling this persistent invasive.

Developing a guide to best management practices for reed canary grass is an important step toward encouraging control. We are very encouraged by the production, participation and collaboration of the task force thus far, and look forward to continuing the effort. IPAW will keep you informed of the progress of the task force in this newsletter and on the IPAW website.

Anyone wishing to provide input to this working group can do so by contacting Art Kitchen at:
art_kitchen@fws.gov;
Phone: (608) 221-1206 ext 13.

Through Awareness Comes Positive Change!

IPAW 2006 Conference a Great Success!!

by Amy Staffen

On 4 February 2006, about 150 professionals and laypeople convened to share the latest information regarding the identification and control of invasive wetland plants. The Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison provided a perfect setting for the event.

Participants learned about cattails, reed canary grass, giant reed grass, purple loosestrife, glossy and common buckthorns, future invasives, cooperative weed management areas, and herbicide application. The IPAW annual meeting was held while people ate a tasty lunch catered by Kitchen Hearth.

This conference could not have succeeded without the efforts of energetic volunteers. These folks planned the content of the conference, coordinated speakers, arranged for food, designed the brochure, developed displays, invited vendors, served as presenters at the conference, and helped with registration, set-up and clean-up on the day of the event. Many thanks to the following people; IPAW could not have done this without you!!

Craig Annen
Tom Boos
Molly Campbell
Sarah Carter
Jerry Doll
David Eagan
Gail Epping-Overholt
David Fisher
Andy Hinickle
Kelly Kearns
Darcy Kind
Meghann Jarchow
Art Kitchen
Cindy Kottschade
Aaron Kubichka
Ron Kurowski
Terri Lyon
Mark Martin
Richard Nikolai
Dara Olson
Jim Reinartz
Chris Reyes
Marie Schmidt
Nancy Schlimgen
Galen Smith
Sophia's Bakery
Hannah Spaul
Amy Staffen
Rich Staffen
Eric Tarman-Ramcheck
Nathan Tucker
Rachel Veltman
Brock Woods
Wendy Woyczik

Special thanks also to Wisconsin Wetlands Association for agreeing to jointly promote our conferences, for planning the field trips, sharing their mailing list, arranging for brochure printing and mailing, and collecting our registration forms and checks. We are also grateful to Lussier Family Heritage Center and Dane County Parks for co-sponsoring the conference.

Watch the IPAW website for follow-up information on the conference, including notes on the different sessions and contact information for presenters.

Invasives of the Future workshop with David Eagan, June 2005. Photo by Patrick Goggin

IPAW[1] 2005 "*Year in Review*"

by Patrick Goggin-IPAW President/Vilas County Conservationist

Greetings! The following is a listing of some of the projects, accomplishments, and other work being done by the IPAW Board of Directors, and the committees, sponsors/partners, and members of the organization to combat invasive species statewide. It is by no means all encompassing, but is meant to highlight some of the terrific work IPAW folks achieved over this past year.

IPAW Committees

Education is of course at the heart of what IPAW attains as an organization. This is just a partial list highlighting the work of members involved with our IPAW Education Committee.

* Invasive Species Awareness Month: June 2005	The IPAW Education Committee (IPAW-EC) formulated a detailed outline of this concept. The WI Council on Invasive Species successfully submitted this outline for funding, with which they hired an Education Coordinator to do the planning. IPAW-EC members provided support to this coordinator, participated in planning , and contributed numerous outreach activities such as field trips, lectures and newsletter articles.
* Speaker's Bureau	30 speakers throughout the state can be contacted through the IPAW website.
* Power Point Presentations on Invasive Plant Topics	20 presentations that speakers can browse by title on the IPAW website, and have them mailed to them free of charge on CD-ROM.
* Invasive Species Resource List	A searchable database on invasive species information.

A big component of IPAW educational outreach continues to be our terrific web site, designed and maintained by Marsha Vomastic and the Website subcommittee. There have been a lot of exciting changes and additions to the web site recently and we encourage you to browse through the many updates and additions. Other educational activities include making available Betty Czarapata's book, "*Invasive Plants of the Midwest*", highlighting the availability of a new aquatic invasive species educator guide, "*Aquatic Invasive Species--A Handbook for Education Efforts*", and providing information and coordination to the Midwest Invasive Plant Network.

The Newsletter Committee is often engaged in helping generate the next edition of our IPAW newsletter, *Plants out of Place*. We thank our past newsletter editor David Beckman and are thrilled to have Susan Slapnick providing layout for the current editions. Thanks as well to Rolf Utegaard's hard work printing the newsletter and mailing it to our membership. The newsletter editor can always use your help with gathering and writing pertinent articles for the newsletter. The Communication Committee (read Rolf) was extremely active pounding the pavement for IPAW across the state at conferences and meetings in 2005.

The *List Server* continues to be a great avenue for communication among land managers, members, and anyone concerned with invasive plants. The questions posed to the list ask for assistance or assorted points of view on topics such as invasives management, plant ecology, and appropriate use of herbicides. Recent topics have included "windshield washer fluid as a carrier for herbicide" and "cord grass vs. reed canary grass". To join the list go to http://www.ipaw.org/index.htm, click on "*List Serv: Yahoo Groups - IPAW*".

The Science Committee has been working at better coordinating mapping and monitoring of invasive species statewide. This group also tracks evolving management and research on control of invasives, and shares that new information with IPAW mem-

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devoted some efforts toward educational activities and invasive plant control on State Forests. The Lands Division has played a large role in coordination among agencies and organizations, and has fostered many initiatives, including the early detection project.

The Forestry Division recently interviewed members of various customer groups to determine how to most productively address the issue of invasive plants and forest resources. Most respondents thought WDNR needed an invasive plants program, but did not want it to pull resources away from existing functions. Desired components of the program, in order of the largest number of responses, were: 1) education and training, 2) strategic planning, mapping, and monitoring, 3) research and field trials, 4) cost sharing, and 5) policy and regulation.

A number of interview respondents contributed suggestions, currently being considered by the Forestry Division, to develop an expanded invasive plants program. They also identified potential partnerships that could increase delivery of education and outreach to citizens, enhance public awareness, and facilitate early detection of invasive plants. Other potential benefits of such partnerships would be the pooling of resources to effectively work on important invasive species management projects.

This summer the Forestry Division will be performing invasive plant inventories on State Forests. The data collected will be used to develop invasive plant management plans and target future control and monitoring efforts. An invasive plants coordinator position is being created to oversee these programs. After the inventories the Forestry Division will have a clearer picture of the actual invasive plant situation on State Forests, and will be able to develop a more effective and responsive program to deal with invasive plants in Wisconsin Forests.

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bership. The Mapping Standards Working Group recently developed the Invasive Plant Report Form for use by people in Wisconsin who are in the field observing and controlling invasive species.

The Legislative Committee seeks to bolster the funding of invasive species in Wisconsin as well as encouraging implementation of sound policy decisions on invasive species management. Kelly Kearns has remained very active in the project to update and revise our state weed laws. Gene Roark actively participates in the Governors Council on Forestry's subcommittee on invasive species, and Jim Reinartz is IPAW's member on the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The Legislative Committee assisted the Council with their legislative field days this last year.

The Plant Industry Relations Committee is engaged in the development of Economic Impact Statements for specific species and working to enhance interaction between plant industry representatives and IPAW. The Fundraising Committee has had great success helping to bring sponsors and grants to IPAW for special projects and to fund our educational mission. The IPAW Conference subcommittee organized the very successful IPAW Conference and Annual Meeting on 4 February 2006 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison.

Thanks to all IPAW members for your continued support. Congratulations to all our committee chairs and each of the participating committee members for their fine work and contribution to conservation in Wisconsin. Your commitment to combating invasive species helps to sustain our quality of life, Wisconsin's biodiversity, and its ecological uniqueness.

The many accomplishments of IPAW are solely due to volunteer efforts by dedicated invasive plant enthusiasts like you. If you're not involved with an IPAW committee, local weed group, invasive species project in your area, or some other kind of educational effort, now's the time--please get involved and GIT-R-DONE!!!

[1] The Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) is an organization comprised of agencies, organizations, and individuals concerned with the spread of invasive plants and their impacts on natural ecosystems. IPAW is a membership organization and any individual or institution interested in membership may apply.

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

Send comments, suggestions, and articles that you think may be of interest to IPAW to the newsletter **Editor:**

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Fax: (262) 675-0337
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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!
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