



# Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the  
INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 14, May 2006

## IPAW Board of Directors

**Patrick Goggin**, President  
Vilas County Conservationist  
Land & Water Cons. Dept.  
Vilas Co. Court House  
330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521  
(715) 479-3648; pagogg@co.vilas.wi.us

**Rolf Utegaard**, Vice President  
Land Manager and Director  
Eau Claire County Exposition Center  
P.O.Box 1092, Eau Claire, WI 54702  
(715) 834-0065; bigute-hort@prodigy.net

**Amy Staffen**, Secretary  
3813 Euclid Avenue  
Madison, WI 53711  
(608) 238-0450; astaffen@tds.net

**Thomas Boos**, Treasurer  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921  
(608) 267-2770  
Thomas.Boos@dnr.state.wi.us

**John Exo**  
UW – Extension, Lower Wisconsin River Basin  
505 Broadway St., Baraboo, WI 53913  
(608) 355-3554; john.exo@ces.uwex.edu

**Mark Feider**  
Milwaukee Audubon Society  
2125 W. Brantwood Ave., Glendale, WI 53209  
(414) 228-7425; feider@wi.rr.com

**David Hamel**  
N8973 4th Ave., Westfield, WI 54521  
(608) 296-2866; sdhamel@maQs.net

**Tom Hunt**  
UW – Platteville, Reclamation Program  
207 Pioneer Tower, Platteville, WI 53818  
(608) 342-1898; huntt@uwplatt.edu

**Jim Reinartz**  
UW - Milwaukee Field Station  
3095 Blue Goose Road, Saukville, WI 53080  
(262) 675-6844; jimr@uwmm.edu

**Gene Roark**  
16 Grand Ave., Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 238-5349

**Steven Strachota**, Dairyland Seed Corp.  
P.O. Box 958, West Bend, WI 53095-0958  
(262) 338-0163  
sstrachota@dairylandseed.com

Layout of Newsletter by:  
Susan Slapnick - [slapnick@wisc.edu](mailto:slapnick@wisc.edu)

**Through Awareness Comes  
Positive Change!**

## June is Invasive Species Awareness Month!

(For the list of events see page 2)

Attend field trips, workshops, presentations, and work parties throughout the state this June during Invasive Species Awareness Month. To learn more about each event, visit [www.invasivespecies.wi.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.wi.gov), where you can find events listed by county or by date. Events are added daily, so check back regularly for new events. If you are hosting an event that you would like to have listed, register it at [www.invasivespecies.wi.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.wi.gov), or contact Lori Artiomow at [artiomow@tds.net](mailto:artiomow@tds.net). (Events are listed on page 2.)

## 2006 Invader Crusaders

In conjunction with Invasive Species Awareness Month, the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species is pleased to announce the 2006 recipients of the **Invader Crusader Awards**.

The awards honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for exemplary efforts at addressing issues surrounding terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, as well as forest pests. The Invader Crusader is being awarded for two categories: exceptional voluntary and exceptional professional efforts. There were 35 nominations of 29 individuals and groups.

### The 2006 Invader Crusaders are:

#### For Voluntary Efforts:

**Mike Fort, Wales:** Mike is a volunteer at Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, where he has been volunteering since 1995 and has become the park's expert on invasive species. He founded and runs the invasive species control program at the park. Mike has literally changed the face of Lapham Peak. He works with school and youth groups, conservation organizations, and volunteers to control the invasive species in the park and to restore impacted areas.

**Amy Staffen, Madison:** Amy was largely responsible for making last year's First Annual Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) a success. She is also a very active board member for the Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) where as Education Committee Chair she has worked hard to spread the word about invasives and ISAM. Amy has been a primary link between the Governors Council on Invasive Species and IPAW.

Continued on page 3

## List of Events for June: Invasive Species Awareness Month

County	Date	Event title
Ashland	6/24/06	Not in my backyard?! Homeowners guide to invasive species in the Northland
Bayfield	6/26/06	Weed Control At Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
	6/29/06	Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Training
	6/29/06	Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop
	6/29/06	2006 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Pre-conference Workshops
	6/30/06	2006 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference
Brown	6/22/06	Invasion of Phragmites, the Giant Reed
Dane	6/3/06	Bike Tour of Nine Springs E-Way Wetlands
	6/7/06	Pheasant Branch Creek Conservancy Walk
	6/14/06	Governor Nelson State Park Walk
	6/15/06	Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie - Tour
	6/21/06	Starkweather Creek Walk
Door	6/4/06	Invader Information Tent
	6/10/06	Natural Landscaping Class
	6/17/06	Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop
	6/17/06	Invader Information Tent
Fond du lac	6/17/06	Alien Attack – Program on the Beach
	6/18/06	Alien Attack – Program on the Beach
Forest	6/17/06	AIS - Aquatic Invasive Species & Our Lakes
Grant	6/24/06	Gary Eldred Prairie Preserve
Iowa	6/10/06	Firepink In Bloom
	6/25/06	Kalscheur Savanna Tour
Kenosha	6/17/06	Chiwaukee Prairie Breakfast & Work Party
Milwaukee	6/17/06	Join the Weed Busters
Oneida	6/1/06	Purple Loosestrife Wetland Field Trips
Ozaukee	6/1/06	Kurtz Woods Work Party
	6/14/06	Woodland Ephemeral Ponds
	6/21/06	Summer Solstice Walk
Racine	6/24/06	Colonial Park Invasives Work Party
Rock	6/1/06	Beckman Mill Park Invaders
Vernon	6/3/06	Aliens at the Doorstep
Vilas	6/6/06	Clean Boats, Clean Water Workshop
	6/22/06	Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop
Washington	6/7/06	Fellenz Woods Restoration Work Party
	6/21/06	Fellenz Woods Restoration Work Party
Wood	6/16/06	June Business/Informational Meeting

## 2006 Invader Crusader Awards (continued from page 1)

**Jane Swenson, Iron River:** Jane has worked tirelessly to educate everyone she meets about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the Pike Chain and the Delta Chain of Lakes. Her leadership in the AIS campaign made a significant difference by limiting the spread Eurasian water milfoil in the Pike Chain and controlling purple loosestrife along a 1000 ft section of Lake Millicent & Buskey Bay shoreline. Jane has contributed to local groups, assisting them with grant writing, and attending town meetings to encourage the boards to sponsor AIS grants.

**Co-Winners: Vilas County Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership, and Vilas County Lakes Association, Vilas County:** The Vilas County AIS Partnership, a group of over 200 volunteers, has dramatically increased local awareness of the risks of AIS. Nine of Vilas County's 14 town boards have created Town Lakes Committees and AIS action teams have been formed at the county level as the result of their efforts. The Vilas County Lakes Association has worked to keep Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) out of 90% of the more than 1300 lakes in Vilas County. This has been accomplished by means of a wide variety of creative educational outreach, and identification, monitoring, and management programs.

### Professional Efforts:

**Fred Clark, Clark Forestry, Baraboo:** Fred has taken a true leadership role in the fight against invasive species. He serves on the Wisconsin Council on Forestry, and chairs the Forestry Invasives Leadership Team. He is leading an effort to de-

velop Best Management Practices for invasive species prevention and control in four areas: forestry, recreation, urban forestry, and rights-of-way. Fred's expertise, energy and initiative has been the catalyst for this innovative effort, which is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

**Gigi La Budde, Community Forestry Resource Center, Spring Green:** Gigi spends countless hours working with landowners, foresters, loggers and others teaching the identification and management of woodland invasive species. She is an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher who has motivated many private landowners to manage the invasive species on their property.

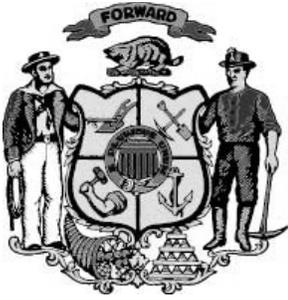
**Rhonda Reisenbuechler, L. B. Clarke Middle School, Manitowoc:** As a middle school teacher, Rhonda has created a new elective course that teaches students about invasive species and provides them hands-on experience. In this popular class, her eight-grade students have had the opportunity to raise and release the purple loosestrife-eating beetles, and to learn about many other invasive species.

**South Central Region State Natural Area Crew, Wisconsin DNR, Fitchburg:** This crew is known as the group that 'gets things done on the landscape'. They are dedicated, knowledgeable, persistent, and effective, and deserve recognition for the work they do. This group is on the forefront of controlling the invasive plants that threaten our State Natural Areas, our best remaining examples of native communities in southern Wisconsin. The crew also plays a key role in educating the public.

### Invader Crusaders Recognized at June 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

The Invader Crusaders will be recognized at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species in the Governor's Conference Room at the State Capitol. Arrangements will also be made to recognize the winners at a meeting of their own organization, industry or other forum of their peers.

***Congratulations, Invader Crusaders!***



## WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

Jim Doyle, Governor

One Point Place, Suite 101  
Madison, WI 53719-2809  
Office: 608/ 662-0923  
Fax: 608/ 833-7179  
[www.invasivespecies.wi.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.wi.gov)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2006

Contact: Becky Sapper, The Nature Conservancy  
(715) 682-5789, [rsapper@tnc.org](mailto:rsapper@tnc.org)

### Invasive Species...Should I care?

*What is an invasive species?* An invasive species is a non-native species that has a negative effect on our economy, environment, or human health. The term is reserved for the most aggressive species that spread rapidly in natural or wild areas, and cause major changes to the communities in which they become established.

*Should you care?* Yes, and here are a few reasons why. Invasive species have a direct impact on those who recreate outdoors in Wisconsin. Have you ever tried to swim through Eurasian water milfoil? Tried wrestling your way through buckthorn while hunting or hiking? Invasive species can decrease your enjoyment of hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, sightseeing – your enjoyment of nature!

But even if you never spend time in Wisconsin's woods, prairies, rivers and lakes, the impact of invasive species is costing YOU a tremendous amount of money. A 2000 study estimated that the economic cost of invasives to the U.S. was \$137 BILLION per year. Since that estimate, a new invasive native to Asia, the emerald ash borer, has established in Michigan, where it is killing native ash trees. Ash is an important and valuable tree for both lumber and landscaping, and there are an estimated 717 million ash trees in Wisconsin. Tens of millions of dollars are being spent on detection and management in infested areas. If, or when, the emerald ash borer becomes established in Wisconsin, the ecological and economic costs of this pest alone will be measured in billions of dollars.

Each new invasive species will cost millions, or billions! Zebra mussels, originally from Europe, now flourish in the Great Lakes, where they clog water intake pipes and cause many other problems. The economic damage caused by this one invasive species to communities, industries, public utilities, navigation, and boating in the Great Lakes was estimated at over \$5 billion between 1993 and 1999. It is vastly cheaper to prevent establishment than to control invasive species.

*What can you do?* Learn about the problem. Even your landscaping could be a source of invasive plants. Seeds can be carried from your yard in many ways – by birds eating fruits, by wind, by water carrying seeds to sewers that lead to streams, or by dirt on your shoes when you visit parks. The best way to prevent the spread of invasive plants is to not plant them in the first place.

*You can help* by becoming more aware of the problem and by learning which species are invasive. **June is Invasive Species Awareness Month.** During June, field trips, workshops, presentations and work parties will be held throughout the state to teach citizens about invasive species and what they can do to stop the spread. To learn about events taking place near you, or to register an event you are sponsoring, visit [www.invasivespecies.wi.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.wi.gov).

*To download a booklet* entitled "Why Should I Care about Invasive Plants?" visit <http://www.mipn.org/education.html>. The booklet shows how invasive plants affect recreational activities, expels myths regarding invasives, and suggests ways you can help.

*This news release is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The Wisconsin State Legislature created the Council, to which Governor Doyle appointed 13 members. The Council's mission is to prevent and reduce the harmful impacts of invasive species on Wisconsin's environment and economy, as well as human well-being.*

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Madison

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University of Wisconsin  
Madison

**James Reinartz**

University of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Field Station  
Saukville

**Dennis SeEVERS**

Private Member  
Arpin

**Richard Stark**

Department of Transportation  
Madison

## 19 More New Invaders to Watch for in 2006, Brings the Total to 34

by Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

For two years the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin State Herbarium have targeted 15 species with the **Invasive Plant Reporting and Prevention Program**; teaching people to identify the species, and to report and control these new invaders. The key to preventing infestations is to recognize and remove the species before they spread. Thanks to many observant people trained by the program, we now know of several new populations of **Japanese hedge parsley, common and cut-leaf teasel, European marsh thistle, flowering rush, giant hogweed, Japanese hops and black swallow-wort**. Fortunately the other seven targeted species, **Japanese stilt grass, spreading hedge parsley, pale swallow-wort, wineberry, European frog-bit, hydrilla, and water chestnut** have still not been reported in Wisconsin. A US Forest Service grant will be used to control several of the reported populations of new invaders in 2006. Please keep reporting populations of these 15 originally targeted species.

There is a new group of plants that have the potential to start spreading in Wisconsin very soon. Detailed fact sheets for these species are not yet available on the WDNR Invasives website, but all of these plants can be found by typing their name into Google Images. If you find any of these species, please take a photo, collect a voucher specimen and report the find to the DNR (address below). An "Invasive Plant Report Form" and "How to Make Voucher Specimens of Plants" are both available on the IPAW website ([www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)).

### 19 New Invasive Plants to watch for:

#### Species Already Present in Wisconsin

##### **Tree of heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Tree-of-heaven, native to Eastern and Central Asia, is a fast growing weedy tree, reaching up to 80'. It is currently found primarily in urban areas in southern Wisconsin. However, this tree is rapidly spreading in forests in states to our south and east. It quickly reaches the forest canopy and shades out mature trees! Leaves and flowers may cause contact dermatitis in some individuals. It also produces toxins that can prevent the establishment of other plant species. When cut, it can produce suckers and stump sprouts. It also is able to disperse quite effectively; a single tree can produce 325,000 wind-dispersed seeds a year. *Please report any Ailanthus found in forested areas, including urban parks.*

##### **Amur honeysuckle** (*Lonicera maackii*)

So you thought infestations of European bush honeysuckles were old news? Another, and possibly more aggressive, species is on it's way. In central Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and farther south, Amur honeysuckle is by far the dominant invasive *Lonicera*. In recent years, possibly in response to warmer and shorter winters, it has been expanding its range northward. We already have a few dozen reported occurrences in Wisconsin, and several of these seem to be spreading. Look for the shiny leaves with the long tapered tip and dark red fruits.

##### **Oriental bittersweet** (*Celastrus orbiculata*)

Oriental bittersweet is a rapidly spreading woody vine native to eastern China, Japan, and Korea. It invades forests, forest edges and grasslands, climbing trees and making them susceptible to wind damage. The leaves are more rounded than the native American bittersweet (*C. scandens*) and the fruits are produced in small clusters in the leaf axils, as opposed to clustered at the end of stems as in American bittersweet.

##### **Porcelain-berry\*** (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)

\*This listing is for the green-leaved variety only, not the variegated cultivar.

Porcelain berry, native to northeast Asia and Japan, is a deciduous, woody perennial vine in the Grape Family. Its colorful fruits are edible. In forests in the mid-Atlantic states it is extremely aggressive, shading out native vegetation by blanketing the ground, trees and shrubs. We currently know of only a few Wisconsin infestations; it is much more abundant to our south.

##### **Japanese knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum* syn. *Fallopia japonica*)

This semi-woody perennial in the Buckwheat Family is commonly found in urban areas where it was planted years ago. It spreads rapidly by rhizomes forming large, dense thickets that eliminate native vegetation and wildlife habitat. Although it is already somewhat widespread in much of the state, it is generally not yet in the riparian habitats where it is likely to become extremely invasive. Once it gets established on the shore of a river, stream or lake, knotweed can spread by root fragments, forming thickets lining the shores for miles and causing extensive shoreline erosion. Large dense stands are very difficult to eradicate. Thick bamboo-like stems, reaching 6-8', with large heart-shaped leaves and terminal clus-

(New invasives continued from page 5)

ters of white flowers make the plant very easy to identify. Note, **Giant knotweed** (*Polygonum sachalinensis* syn. *Fallopia sachalinensis*) is a larger cousin of Japanese knotweed with much larger leaves and reaching heights over 10'. It can also be invasive.

*Please report (and control) any infestations of either of these plants along waterways.*

**Poison hemlock** (*Conium maculatum*)

Poison Hemlock, native to Europe, is a biennial forb in the Parsley Family. It is one of the most poisonous plants in the world, and all plant parts contain the poison. In Indiana and Illinois it is abundant along roadsides, from which it spreads into moist sites such as stream banks, wet meadows and ditches, although it can thrive in drier sites. Only a few patches have been reported in Wisconsin, but it is spreading and is likely to soon become more abundant. Poison hemlock can reach over 7' tall and has pinnately compound leaves, green stems with purple or black spots and multiple umbels of white flowers.

**Wild chervil** (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)

Although not currently widespread in the upper Midwest, wild chervil, native to Europe, is prolific where it is found. It has spread rapidly in the northeastern US in recent years. While reportedly not a problem in cultivated fields, this biennial or short-lived perennial forb in the parsley family competes aggressively with forage crops and shades out surrounding vegetation. It can also spread along roadsides into grasslands and open woods. Similar to related plants, it has finely compound leaves, white flowers in umbels and a taproot. It can be distinguished from wild parsnip by its green stem, which is only purple at the base. Although sometimes confused with Queen Anne's lace, wild chervil blooms earlier in the season, lacks the curved bracts found at the base of each Queen Anne's lace umbel, and lacks the distinctive carrot odor.

**Chinese Lespedeza or Sericea bush clover** (*Lespedeza cuneata*, syn. *Sericea lespedeza*)

Chinese Lespedeza, native to eastern Asia, is a perennial forb in the Legume Family. Initially planted in the plains states for bank stabilization, soil improvement, forage, and wildlife cover, it now out-competes other vegetation, especially in prairies, savannas and pastures. Similar to other bush clovers, Chinese Lespedeza has small trifoliolate leaves on long semi-woody stems. The abundant pea-like flowers are white with two purple splotches at the base.



**Wild Chervil**

Wisconsin State  
Herbarium, Emmet  
Judzewicz

**Lyme grass** (*Leymus arenarius*)

Lyme grass, native to Europe, has been present on the Lake Michigan beaches for at least thirty years. However, UW-Green Bay Botanist Gary Fewless has observed substantial spread in recent years with low lake levels. Land managers in Michigan have also witnessed it spreading and stabilizing open dunes. Identification of this grass is somewhat difficult, as there are several native dune grasses, including a few rare species.

**Pond water-starwort** (*Callitriche stagnalis*)

Native to both Europe and North Africa, this plant has been found in the states in the northeast, northwest, and a few sites in Wisconsin. Pond water-starwort is found in ponds, marshes and streams. It is capable of creating locally dense mats of vegetation that may crowd out native aquatic vegetation. The floating stems have small, densely packed oval leaves that form overlaid crosses, and have tiny inconspicuous flowers.

**Species with No Records of Naturalized Wisconsin Populations**

**Kudzu** (*Pueraria lobata*)

Everyone has heard of kudzu, and most people have seen it in the south, covering large trees, utility lines, billboards, abandoned houses, and anything in its path. This perennial legume originates from China and Japan but was planted extensively in the 1930's for fodder, erosion control, and shade. It now covers 7,000,000 acres in the Southeast. Illinois has embarked on an extensive interagency program to try to eradicate this weed from the state. It has just been reported that viable seeds are being produced at the furthest north population in Evanston, IL, about 30 miles south of Kenosha County.

(New invasives continued from page 6)

**Japanese honeysuckle** (*Lonicera japonica*)

Japanese honeysuckle is a woody vine native to eastern Asia and Japan that forms a dense blanket over trees, shrubs, and ground layer species. Besides limiting sunlight and nutrients to other vegetation; it also causes top-heavy trees to break off in windstorms. It is abundant in central Illinois and is expanding northward. Although Japanese honeysuckle is planted in Wisconsin, there are no reported naturally reproducing (naturalized) populations.

**Mile-a-minute vine** (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)

Mile-a-minute vine, native from India to eastern Asia, Japan, and the Philippines, is an annual trailing vine in Buckwheat Family. It grows rapidly, covering and eventually killing shrubs and other vegetation in its path. Preferring moist areas, it can move into open fields, woodland edges, wetlands and stream banks. Currently it is found from Ohio to New York and West Virginia, but it is not known if it is limited by cold weather. It has triangular leaves, and stems with small recurved thorns, which make moving through it almost impossible.

**Chinese yam or Cinnamon vine** (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*)

Chinese yam, native to Asia, is an herbaceous, perennial vine. Highly invasive, it forms mat-like colonies that blanket and shade-out nearby vegetation. It is spreading rapidly in southern Illinois, primarily along forested stream banks, where it produces bulbils that float downstream.

**Baby's breath** (*Gypsophila paniculata*)

One of the most commonly used plants in the floriculture industry, and native to Eastern Europe and Siberia, baby's breath is troublesome only when it gets into Great Lakes dunes, where it forms a root that stabilizes dunes that are naturally open. It is abundant on some of the eastern shores of Lake Michigan. Baby's breath is present in disturbed areas in Wisconsin, but is not yet known to occur on Wisconsin dunes. Please report any population found on a lake dune.

**Brazilian waterweed** (*Egeria densa*)

Brazilian waterweed, native to Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, is often sold commercially for aquariums and water gardens. Forming monotypic stands that crowd out native aquatic plants, it provides poor habitat for fish and waterfowl, interferes with recreational activities, and supports large populations of mosquitoes. It has been found in rivers, ponds, springs and lakes as far north as Oregon, Illinois and Vermont. It

is a submerged species that looks similar to our native *Elodea*, but with more showy emergent flowers having three white petals and a yellow center.

**Fanwort** (*Cabomba caroliniana*)

A submersed or sometimes floating aquatic perennial, fanwort is native to the subtropic-temperate regions of eastern North and South America. Sold for aquariums, it often finds its way into local ponds and streams. Considered weedy even in its native range, it has crowded out other vegetation, clogged streams, and interfered with recreational uses as far north as New York, Michigan, and Oregon. Fanwort is a rooted submersed plant, or it may have submersed and floating leaves of different shapes. The white flowers are held above the water on a stalk.

**Parrot feather** (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Parrot feather, commonly sold for aquariums, often under other names, is an aquatic perennial in the Milfoil family. Native to the Amazon River of South America, parrot feather has both submersed and emergent leaves, with the submersed form being easily mistaken for Eurasian water milfoil, a close relative. Parrot feather provides ideal mosquito larvae habitat, shades out algae that serve as the basis for the aquatic food chain, and can hinder water movement in lakes, ponds and streams. It has naturalized throughout southern states and northward as far as Idaho, Washington and New York.

**Yellow floating heart** (*Nymphoides peltata*)

Yellow Floating Heart, native to Eurasia and the Mediterranean, is a perennial, water lily-like plant. It is frequently planted in water gardens. It can form large floating mats in slow moving rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and swamps. Infestations occur in northern Indiana and northern Illinois, but have not yet been found in Wisconsin. It looks like a small yellow water lily, with floating leaves just over an inch across and flowers held above the water.

Voucher specimens or photos and location information for any of these plants should be sent to:  
**Invasive Plant Reporting**  
**Endangered Resources Program, WI DNR**  
 101 S. Webster St.  
 Madison, WI 53707-7921

or email information and photos to  
[kearns@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:kearns@dnr.state.wi.us)

For Invasive Plant Reporting Forms:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/futureplants/reporting.htm>

## Japanese Stilt Grass ALERT!!!



**You think garlic mustard is bad?** Just imagine an ANNUAL grass that grows in undisturbed forests, spreads rapidly, blankets the ground and is highly flammable! Japanese stilt grass, *Microstegium vimineum*, came to the eastern U.S. accidentally and has been spreading rapidly into the Midwest. There are now several hundred populations in Illinois and Indiana and it is highly likely to spread to Wisconsin. The only way we can keep it out is to have lots of people looking for it, reporting it, and immediately eradicating it.

**DESCRIPTION:** Stilt grass is weak-stemmed, has a sprawling habit, and looks like a miniature bamboo. It grows slowly through the summer months, ultimately reaching heights of 2 to 3 ½ feet. Leaves are pale green, relatively short and wide (1-3 inches long), and have a distinctive silvery stripe down the midrib created by reflective hairs. Slender stalks of tiny flowers are produced in late summer (August - September). The seeds ripen soon after flowering and the plant dies back completely by late fall. Patches of dried plants burn readily.

**LOOK-ALIKES:** Virginia cutgrass (*Leersia virginica*) looks similar and grows in forested areas. Cutgrass blooms earlier (August), has hairy nodes, and does not have the silvery stripe down the midrib.

**BIOLOGY & SPREAD:** Stilt grass reproduces exclusively by seed. It also spreads by rooting at stem nodes that touch the ground. Individual plants may produce 100 to 1,000 tiny seeds that fall close to the parent plant. Seeds are easily carried farther by water or moved in soil on shoes, camping gear and tires.

Stilt grass seed remains viable in the soil for five or more years and germinates readily.

**CONTROL:** This shallow-rooted grass can be pulled up any time in mid to late summer. If flowering has already occurred, bag the plants and remove them from the area. Herbicides may also be used before flowering or to kill germinated seedlings.



**This is an ANNUAL weed – producing seed the first year of an infestation. Any suspected population should be accurately identified, reported (and vouchered), and immediately eradicated. Do not allow this plant to go to seed!**

For more, see:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/miv11.htm>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/japanstgrass.htm>

### IPAW Program Assistant – A Changing of the Guard

Katie Simonsen, IPAW Program Assistant since September of 2005, has had to leave IPAW to pursue a new job with the Y.M.C.A. IPAW thanks Katie for her services over the last eight months, and wishes her all the best in her career! As her replacement, IPAW welcomes Jessica Bolwahn. Jessica lives in southwestern Wisconsin, and works part time for Effigy Mounds National Monument. She has a strong background in ecological restoration and invasive species management, and will be a 'great fit' for this position.

## ***Emerald Ash Borer Threatens Wisconsin's Forests***

*By Bill McNee, DNR Division of Forestry – Green Bay*

The emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, was first identified in North America in the Detroit area in the summer of 2002, though scientists believe it arrived from Asia about a decade earlier in wood packing materials. Since its introduction, EAB has killed millions of ash trees in Lower Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Ontario. Last September, EAB was discovered at Brimley State Park in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Emerald ash borer has not been found in Wisconsin as of April 2006.

Foresters estimate that there are 717 million ash trees at risk in Wisconsin. Ash is an important member of both northern and southern forests, and is a major component of forests growing in wet areas. Ash is also a very common street and yard tree, comprising an estimated 30% of Wisconsin's street trees. Many urban ash trees were planted after Dutch Elm Disease killed the elms in the 1960s and 1970s, and are now at risk from another imported threat.

Emerald ash borer is very aggressive at attacking and killing all native ash species (*Fraxinus* spp.), and trees have little resistance. Larval tunneling cuts off transport to the tree's roots, and even healthy trees typically decline and die within a few years of infestation. Symptoms of EAB infestation include a declining canopy, epicormic (trunk) sprouting of leaves, bark cracks covering larval galleries, and 1/8" D-shaped holes made by emerging adults. Adult beetles, which are dark green and approximately 1/2" in length, are present from May to July.

To date, EAB detection efforts in Wisconsin have included visual surveys in campgrounds and in urban areas of southeastern Wisconsin, and the preparation of 'detection trees' (girdled ash that attract adult EAB) in State Parks, State Forests and National Forests. Foresters are looking for symptoms of EAB infestation as they walk through forestlands, and city foresters and arborists are on alert in Wisconsin's urban areas. It is inevitable that EAB will arrive in Wisconsin in the future, if it isn't already here at a low population level.

Planned eradication efforts will call for removing all ash within 1/2 mile of any infested trees in an attempt to eliminate the pest from Wisconsin. Early detection will be a key factor in determining the success of such efforts. In parts of Michigan, removing infested and nearby ash has

cost nearly \$1 million per acre. Should EAB become established in Wisconsin, the ecological and economic costs will run into the billions of dollars.



Emerald Ash Borer galleries in firewood

Natural spread of EAB is currently thought to be 1/2 to 2 miles per year. However, numerous 'outlier' populations have been established through the accidental transport of the insect in firewood, nursery stock, and unprocessed logs. Campgrounds and urban areas are thought to be at highest risk of EAB introduction due to accidental transport in firewood. Industries that use ash have taken steps to minimize the risk of additional EAB spread, but many people are unaware of the risks of transporting hitchhikers in firewood. Public awareness is a major key to preventing the spread of EAB and other threats such as the gypsy moth, beech bark disease, oak wilt, and hemlock woolly adelgid.

As of April 2006, out-of-state firewood can no longer be brought into Wisconsin's State Parks, Forests, and other state-owned properties. This restriction will reduce the risk of introducing EAB and other threats. These rules may be inconvenient for some visitors, but this is dwarfed by the impact that the introduction of EAB would have on Wisconsin's environment and economy. Beginning in June 2006, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will regulate the import of products that could spread infestations of emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, sudden oak death, and hemlock woolly adelgid.



Emerald Ash Borer adult

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer, visit [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/) or [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info). Suspected Emerald Ash Borer adults or infestations should be reported by contacting the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at (800) 462-2803.

## Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area Gaining Momentum



**Standing row (left to right):** Polly Edmunds (Douglas County Association of Lakes & Streams, Upper St. Croix Lake Association and The Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters), Leah Gibala (NCWMA Chairperson, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians), Marjy Brzeskiewicz (Chequamegon - Nicolet National Forest), Carmen Chapin (National Park Service, Great Lakes Network), Miles Falck (Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission), Steven Spickerman (Chequamegon - Nicolet National Forest), Laura Graf (US Geological Survey), Darienne McNamara (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Whittlesey Creek NWR). **Seated row (left to right):** Dara Olson (Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission), Ted Gostomski (Wisconsin DNR), Becky Sapper (The Nature Conservancy), and Terry Beirl (Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute).

When Linda Parker (U.S. Forest Service Ecologist, Park Falls) brought Rick VanBebber to Ashland in May of 2005 to talk about how to set up and manage a Cooperative Weed Management Area, land managers and concerned citizens in the region were ready for the type of guidance Rick came to give. The existing grassroots collective, the Northwoods Weeds Initiative, was poised to formalize their relationship. The CWMA “cookbook” brought the right recipe at the right time, and the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) has been working since then to establish itself in time for the 2006 field season.

NCWMA has been meeting monthly to refine its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and plan its 2006 work. The MOU is now ready for each of the 22 participating agency, tribal, and organizational members to sign. A ceremony to mark the official creation of the NCWMA was held on 11 May – one year, almost to the day, since Linda’s initial workshop.

Partner agencies and organizations have each committed resources such as staff time, educational materials, tools, and GIS layers to the collective effort, and a short list of projects is in place for the coming field season. A few of the projects being planned are:

1. An invasive species field trip on the Bad River Reservation in Ashland County aimed at raising awareness among tribal resource managers and community members.
2. An educational poster for the Northwest Wis-

consin Lakes Convention to be held at Telemark Lodge in Cable on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

3. Organizing a workshop, *Not in my backyard?! A homeowners guide to invasive species in the Northland*, to be held June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the campus of Northland College in Ashland. This workshop will help the northland homeowner and concerned citizen learn how to identify current and potential invasive species, and learn how to control unwanted species and prevent future invasions in their backyards and communities.

The group is researching funding opportunities that can be used to create a “community tool chest” of equipment for cutting and treating invasive plants wherever they may be. The NCWMA also created “job descriptions” for the officers and members of the Steering Committee, and elections for these positions were held in May. The group’s first Chairperson is Leah Gibala, Wetlands Specialist for the Bad River Natural Resources Department, and the Vice-Chair is Roger Dreher, President of the Bayfield County Lakes Forum. Each will serve a one-year term. NCWMA’s fiscal manager is the Ashland-Bayfield-Douglas-Iron County Land Conservation Department, and a Steering Committee will round out the group’s leadership.

For more information on the NCWMA please contact chairperson, Leah Gibala at (715) 682-7123, or by Email at [wetlands@badriver.com](mailto:wetlands@badriver.com). Other groups wishing to join as cooperators are welcome.

## Become a Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer!

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer watercraft inspection program trains volunteers to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species. During a training workshop, volunteers receive instructions on how to establish a watercraft inspection program, how to approach boaters, perform boat/trailer checks, and how to identify and report specimens that they suspect may be invasive species. Many volunteers return to their community to form a watercraft inspection program, and develop an educational program that extends far beyond the boat landing.

2006 marks the fourth year of recruiting and training volunteers to educate boaters at boat landings. Over 640 participants from 44 counties trained in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters protocol, attests to the tremendous effort volunteers are making to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin. Lake residents, county board members, tribal community members, representatives from county parks and forest programs, boat marina operators and realtors have all attended a workshop to learn how aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian water-milfoil and zebra mussels threaten Wisconsin waters.

To keep the momentum going, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension, and Wisconsin Associa-



tion of Lakes, is offering another series of training workshops across the state this year. These workshops provide an opportunity to learn how and why educational awareness is so important in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. New this year, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is collaborating with the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network to offer training in whole lake monitoring for invasive species, in addition to watercraft inspections at boat landings. In four designated workshops, volunteers will be able to attend both a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop and an advanced workshop to learn how to develop a monitoring protocol and monitor the entire shoreline of their lake for aquatic invasive species. Participants may choose to attend workshops on either or both of these topics.

**To register for a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop** or learn more about them, contact Laura Felda-Marquardt by e-mail, [Laura.Felda@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Laura.Felda@dnr.state.wi.us), or by telephone at DNR's Rhinelander office, (715) 365-2659, or visit the new website at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW).



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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 to the newsletter **Editor**:

**Jim Reinartz**

UW-Milwaukee Field Station  
3095 Blue Goose Road  
Saukville, WI 53080

Phone: (262) 675-6844  
Fax: (262) 675-0337  
email: jimr@uwm.edu

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**Production and distribution of this newsletter is made possible through a grant from *we energies*.**

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Madison, WI 53705-0274  
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