



Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the
INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 21, May 2008

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*Through Awareness
Comes Positive Change!*

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Mark Your Calendars!

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month

This is the 4th year that Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed the month of June to be Invasive Species Awareness Month, and we are excited about the theme for ISAM this year – **Aquatic Invasives**.

Wisconsin is incredibly rich in aquatic resources with the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, and a network of 15,000 lakes and countless streams. This wealth of water makes aquatic invasive species a crucial issue facing our state. Education to increase awareness of how to identify these aquatic invaders, how they spread, and how their spread can be prevented is extremely important if we hope to protect the quality of Wisconsin's waterways. It will require very wide participation among the users of our aquatic resources to stop the spread of invaders. We need strong support from the general public.

One of the main reasons that ISAM has been so successful over the past three years is the tremendous help and support it has received from a wide range of partners. Wisconsin is full of energized people with a passion for taking care of our natural resources. Let's band together once again this June and see how many events we will be able to organize and sponsor in order to raise awareness about some of the major threats to Wisconsin's waterways! This is a wonderful role for members of IPAW.

Some highlights of the 2008 ISAM:

- ❖ The **Invader Crusader Award Winners** are announced in this newsletter and will be honored at the June meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species.
- ❖ **Stop the Aquatic Invasion – Poster Contest.** ISAM is hosting a poster contest open to 4th and 5th graders around the state who are encouraged to display their creativity while learning about invasive species. The winning posters and a sampling of the posters submitted will be on display in the capitol rotunda the first two weeks in June.
- ❖ **Field trips and events** – Check the website: invasivespecies.wi.gov for a calendar of events happening near you, or create and register an event of your own!

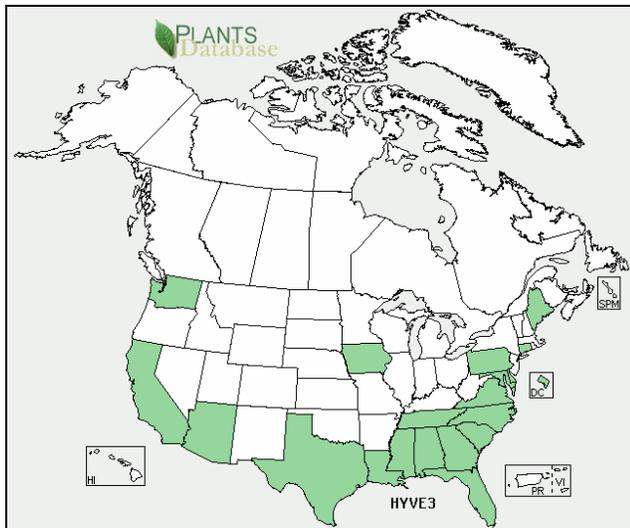
invasivespecies.wi.gov

The Battle Continues Against a New Aquatic Invasive Plant

by Jane Larson, Public Information Officer,
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
jane.larson@wisconsin.gov

Hydrilla or *Hydrilla verticillata* is an aquatic plant that grows into dense mats near the water's surface. Federal officials confirmed its existence in a Marinette County pond last summer, making this the first documented occurrence of Hydrilla in Wisconsin. Other states have spent millions trying to control this aggressive native of Asia, which is classified as a federal noxious weed. Hydrilla can choke out native vegetation, tangle boat motors and interfere with other water recreation.

The pond was professionally treated with a contact-type herbicide in late August to kill the Hydrilla vegetation above the pond sediment and possibly some of the root system. "It appears that the herbicide worked. Unfortunately, we still needed to deal with the reproductive structures called tubers that were buried in the bottom of the pond," explained Bob Dahl, Plant Regulation Section Chief with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. "We drained the pond in late 2007 so we could reach the tubers."



North American range of *Hydrilla verticillata*.
USDA Plants Database, www.plants.usda.gov

Since the fast-growing, invasive, Hydrilla was first identified in the pond in August 2007, state, local and federal officials have been working closely with the pond owners to eliminate this aquatic weed. The 1.5-acre, man-made pond does not connect to other water bodies. Because waterfowl could carry pieces of the plant to other locations where it could take root, area waters were surveyed to determine if the Hydrilla had spread. Fortunately, none was found during the search.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Marinette County, and the USDA worked together to develop a response plan to eliminate Hydrilla from this particular pond. The pond owners have been very cooperative and have assisted in the project to eradicate Hydrilla from their private pond.

The pond was drained in October to allow the bottom sediment to dry so that it would freeze solid through the winter months. If the pond sediment froze below the depth of the tubers the hope was that the tubers would be incapable of producing new plants. Tubers are not impacted by chemical treatment.

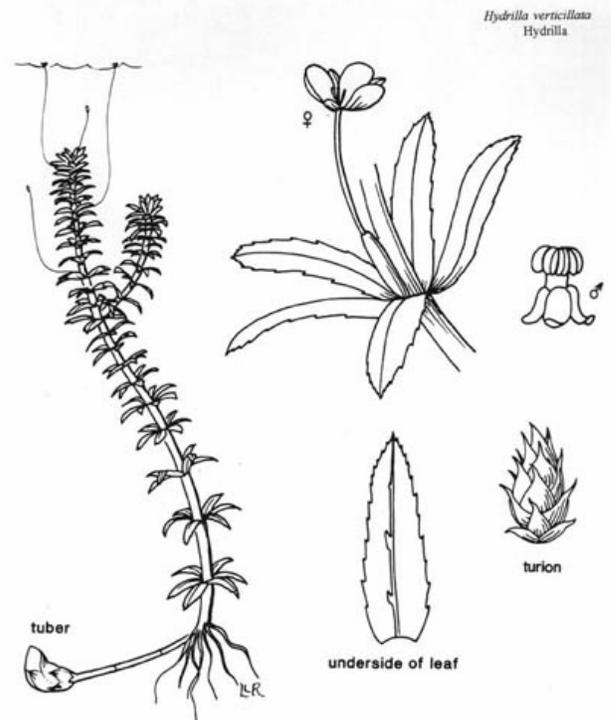


Illustration provided by:
IFAS, Center for Aquatic Plants
University of Florida, Gainesville, 1996

Identifying *Hydrilla verticillata*.

Greg Sevener, a DNR aquatic plant manager in Peshigo, removed some of the tubers from the drained pond. As an experiment, he put some tubers into a freezer for a month. "We tried to get the tubers that

had been frozen to sprout, and none did, so that was good news”, Sevenser said.

“The pond owner is also a weather-spotter so she tracked the frost depth which got down to deeper than 10 inches over the winter. The tubers are about 4 to 6 inches deep so the winter weather may have killed them. We’ll find out once we refill the pond this spring.” Sevenser has recently collected tubers from the pond bottom to test if they are still viable.

After the pond is refilled, the owner and agency biologists will watch to see if any Hydrilla returns. If the tubers sprout, the pond will be treated once again with an herbicide called Sonar. If this second application is needed, it will take place in May or June.

Dahl suspects the Hydrilla came to Wisconsin on some aquatic plants that were purchased from an out of state supplier.

Hydrilla can be confused with a similar looking native water plant called elodea (ee-lo-DEE-ah.) Hydrilla stems are slender, branched and up to 25 feet long with saw-toothed leaf margins and sharp teeth



Photo of Hydrilla by Elizabeth Czarapata

on the midrib. Hydrilla also produces tiny white flowers.

If you suspect that an aquatic plant might be Hydrilla, check photos on the DNR web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/hydrilla.htm>. You can also contact your local DNR service center, listed in the government pages of your phone book, and on the DNR web site.

Comments from IPAW's President

This month I want to focus on the state of our **membership!** In the last newsletter we gave you a glimpse of the IPAW membership via some trivia questions. To refresh your memory, we are a very small group of "card carrying" members (just over 100 at the moment). Yet we know that many others use the IPAW website and list serve and contact us by email or phone to learn about their "favorite" invasive plant, to find out what new invaders are on the horizon, to learn about invasive plant programs in the state, and to benefit from many other information services that we provide.

Our newsletter is one of our most valuable resources and it is read by two categories of people: active IPAW members who receive a copy in the U.S. mail and non-members who read it on-line or print their own copy. If you are not an IPAW member and are reading these comments, I encourage you to go to our home page (www.ipaw.org), click on the "join IPAW today" link at the top of the page – **Become an active member!** For anyone with a serious concern about invasive plants, our membership rates should not be much of a deterrent to joining. By becoming an active member and supporting IPAW, you will ensure that we have the resources needed to meet and even expand our mission.

If you are already an IPAW member, **please invite others to join.** There is nothing like a personal invitation and a story or two about what we do to stimulate others to give serious consideration to becoming a member. To assist you in making the invitation, I suggest you print and distribute our brochure. It is available as a PDF file from our home page; look under "educational resources" on the left side of the page, or contact us for printed copies. Having brochures might be particularly helpful for those of you who will lead or participate in any of the varied activities coming up during our June, Invasive Species Awareness Month.

Another way to help IPAW remain solvent and continue to do our work is to simply make a donation. As a 501(c)(3), your gift is deductible for federal tax purposes. Thanks for reading these comments. And an even bigger thanks if you recruit an IPAW member or two!

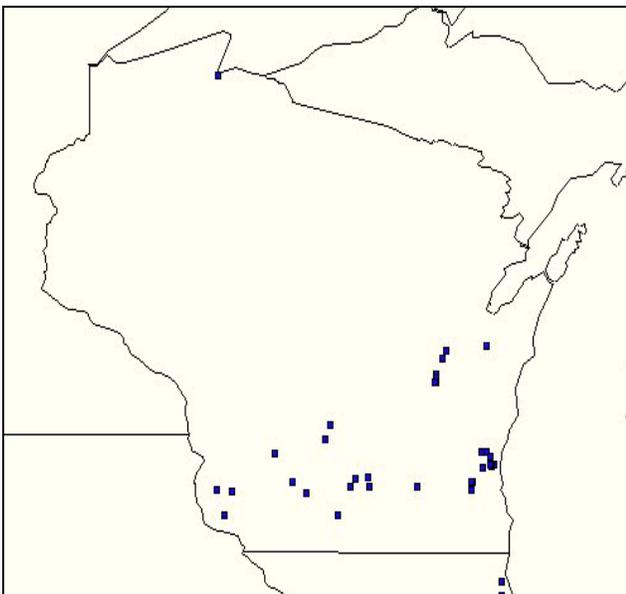
Jerry Doll, *IPAW President*

The Wisconsin Weed Watchers Program

by *Brendon Panke, Invasive Plant Education, Early Detection, and Mapping Specialist
Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin DNR*

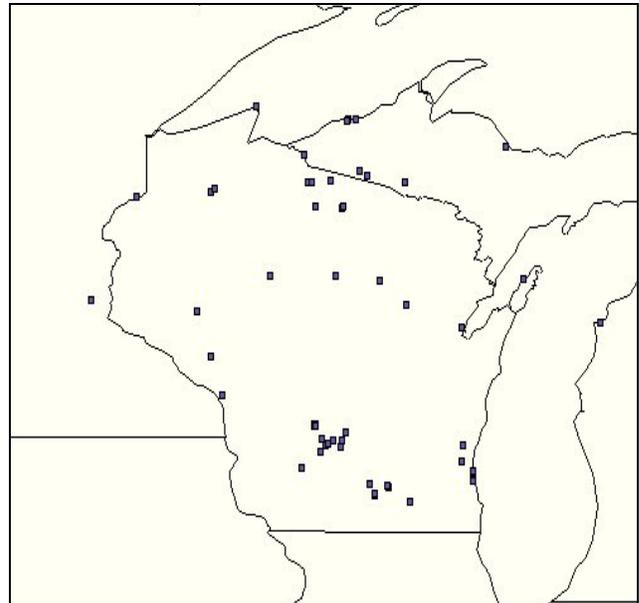
The *Wisconsin Weed Watchers* program has had a busy fall and winter. I am a recent graduate from the Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development masters program at UW-Madison, and I have been hired as the program coordinator. Over the winter, I mapped all of the invasive plant reports that have been received to-date using the National Institute of Invasive Species Science (NIISS) online mapping database (NIISS.org). NIISS provides database and mapping capabilities and support on its website free of charge. Four of the maps that have been produced are shown here as examples. NIISS is partnering with a number of organizations in Wisconsin to provide training for citizen based invasive species monitoring efforts. NIISS has not been operating in the Midwest for very long, but the partnerships that it is building should quickly improve the Midwest data that NIISS houses.

In addition to the NIISS database, all of the reports gathered through the Weed Watchers have also been added to the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) database (www.glifwc.org/invasives). Both of these databases are excellent resources for invasive species information.



Locations of Teasel (*Dipsacus* spp.) in Wisconsin.

In the February issue of *Plants out of Place*, there was an article about new invasive plants found in Wisconsin in 2007. The first new invasive plant recorded in Wisconsin in 2008 has been found in Iowa County, Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*). It is unfortunate that there is yet another new invasive species in Wisconsin; but the good news is that Brazilian elodea was found and reported early, we know where it is, and we have a good chance to control it.



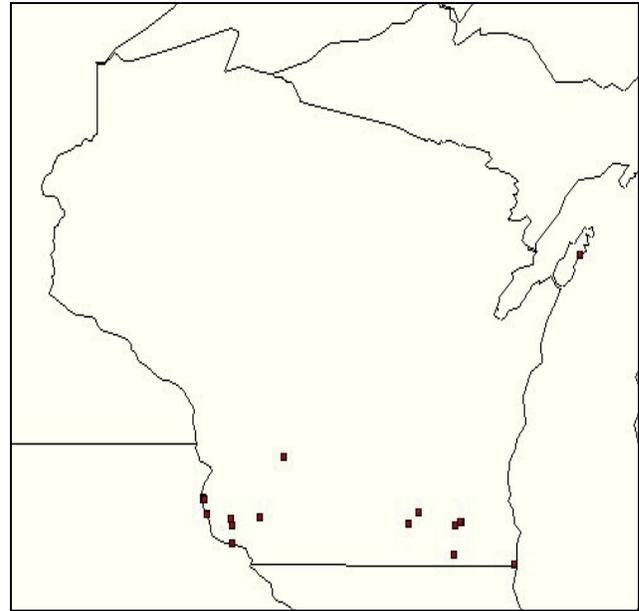
Locations of Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) in Wisconsin.

In addition to finding new species, the Weed Watchers are helping us track species that are not yet widespread in the state. This fall *Wisconsin Weed Watchers* reported two populations of giant hogweed. One of these populations, in Manitowoc County, has been confirmed; the other report from Dodge County has not yet been confirmed. Thanks to these sharp-eyed members of the Weed Watchers we continue to stay on top of hogweed in Wisconsin.

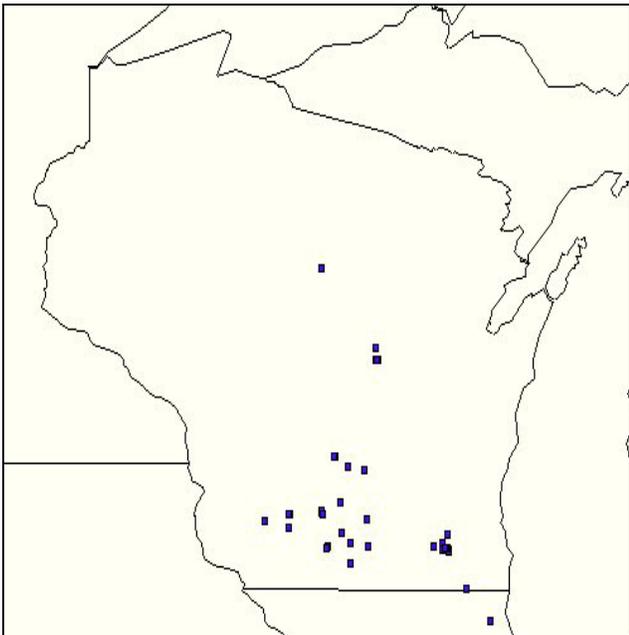
If you have an early detection species to report, or have any questions about the *Wisconsin Weed Watchers* program, please contact me:
Brendon Panke, (608) 267-7438, Brendon.Panke@wisconsin.gov



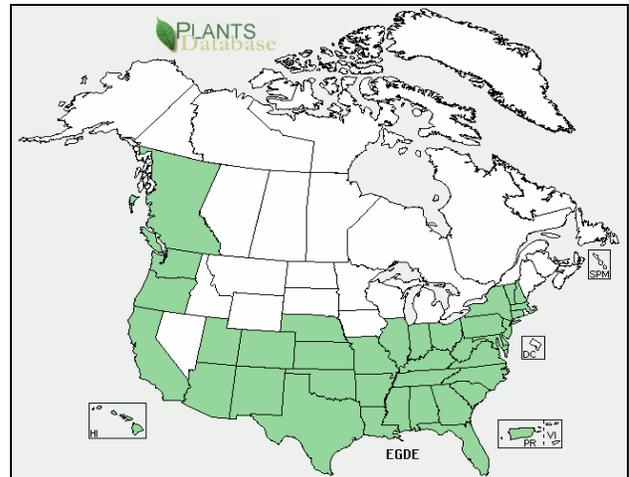
Polygonum cuspidatum, Source: Wisconsin State Herbarium,
Photographer: [Emmet J. Judziewicz](#)



Locations of Black swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*)
in Wisconsin.



Locations of Japanese hedge parsley (*Torilis japonica*) in
Wisconsin.



North American range of *Egeria densa*, National Plants Database

**Wisconsin Weed Watchers Program
contact:**

Brendon Panke (608) 267-7438
Brendon.Panke@wisconsin.gov



Egeria densa, © 2001 CDFA

Fourth Annual Invader Crusader Awards

The Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species is pleased to announce the 2008 recipients of Invader Crusader Awards. The award honors Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their contributions to the control of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's land and waters. The Invader Crusader is awarded in professional and volunteer categories. This year a special youth award will also be presented. Awardees will be recognized and will receive a plaque at the June meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species.

Crusader Awards for Professional Efforts:

Jerry Doll, UW Madison Agronomy Dept (recently retired), Madison

Professor Doll recently retired from the UW-Madison Agronomy Department, where he used his position to provide extensive research and outreach on invasive plants. He worked with partners and land owners to conduct control trials on numerous species. He led workshops for landowners and he became well known as the "Weed Doctor" at the annual Farm Progress Days. Jerry served on the board and helped coordinate several conferences for the North Central Weed Science Society, where he was the leading advocate for expanding the interests of the group beyond traditional agricultural weeds to include ecologically important weeds. For several years Jerry worked with IPAW and DNR to develop invasive plant outreach materials. Upon retirement Jerry accepted the invitation to become President of IPAW where he has helped to reorganize and energize the organization.

Greg Long, Needles and Leaves Nursery, New Berlin

When the DNR and partners began to revise state invasive plant policies, Greg Long joined the effort, representing the Wisconsin Nursery Association. In the six years that the Noxious Weed Technical Advisory Committee met, Greg was a consistent, always helpful, participant. He brought the industry perspective to ensure a realistic and pragmatic approach to invasive plant control. In 2001 Greg was appointed to the first Governor's Task Force on Invasive Species as the only industry representative. Again, Greg's experience helped to mold the legislation (23.22, WI Statutes) that created the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. When Governor Doyle appointed the Council in 2004, Greg was the only representative from the original task force that was appointed. His quiet leadership has been instrumental in obtaining broad review and support for the proposed invasive species classification rules. Greg has been an important liaison between the state agencies

and the nursery and green industries for over ten years. In that time he has helped to encourage those industries to become key partners in the control of invasive plants and in the effort to curb the sale and distribution of many invasive plants.

Ron Martin, Dept of Natural Resources (recently retired), Madison

Ron began work with the DNR to control invasive species in 1992; he worked with the first Governor's Council to prepare and present *A Report on Zebra Mussels* which recommended statutory language and resources for prevention and control. Since then he has prepared and implemented biennial budget initiatives for invasive species working with both an internal team of DNR programs and interests from other agencies and conservation organizations. Invasive species laws and budgets adopted under his guidance over the last decade have provided over \$5,000,000 annually for awareness, education, monitoring and research as well as for grants to local units of government and management organizations for prevention and control. He forged partnerships among state and federal agencies in a coordinated effort for the Great Lakes Region. Ron is admired for his honesty, integrity, patience, commitment and professionalism.

Voluntary Efforts:

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, Ashland

The Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area is the first CWMA in Wisconsin, and one of the first east of the Missouri River. The group has worked for over four years to integrate all of the critical agencies and organizations in their 4-county area into a CWMA. The Northwoods CWMA provides a forum to share information, to collaborate on planning, and to cooperate on management activities in far northern Wisconsin. They have developed an excellent working relationship with the many partners in the area and have created comprehensive management and annual operational plans.

Northwoods CWMA has completed an impressive number of projects with only small inputs of grant funds by mobilizing and training volunteer work groups, being creative in finding funding sources, and picking high impact projects that didn't require large sums of money to complete successfully. They have also created a website describing how their group formed, who is involved, and what projects they have completed. This website is now an invaluable resource to nascent CWMA's in the Midwest seeking guidance on how to get their programs off the ground. At the recent National CWMA conference, the Northwoods CWMA was one of eight CWMA's to receive an award for outstanding achievement. They were recognized for their creativity and their ability to do a lot with a little.

Gene Roark, Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, Madison

Gene Roark has been volunteering his time to conservation efforts for well over 50 years. As a founding member of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, he is still actively involved there. He was also a founding board member of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin in 2001, and remains on the board. Throughout that time he has been the chair of the Legislative Committee, representing IPAW on many policy and regulatory issues. He has also chaired the Legislative Committee for the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association for many years. He served on the Weed Law Technical Advisory Committee that drafted legislation for a Wisconsin weed law. Since the formation of the Invasives Council in 2004 he has been involved with the Regulatory Committee and the development of the Invasive Species Classification Rule. Despite these commitments, Gene is always willing to take on addi-

tional work where he can contribute as a landowner representative. He is currently on the Forestry Invasives Best Management Practices Advisory Committee and the Forest Invasives Leadership Team. In addition to all of his policy work, Gene and his siblings own several parcels of land where he has been experimenting with invasive plant management efforts for several decades.

Special Youth Award:

Ryan Everson, Eagle Scout, Newbold Troop 697, Rhinelander

Ryan Everson, of Oneida County, volunteered to be a cooperator in the Wisconsin DNR Purple Loosestrife Bio-Control Program in 2005 as part of his Eagle Scout project. That year he successfully raised *Galerucella* beetles, by potting wild purple loosestrife plants as host plants, and setting up a beetle rearing pool with insect-net bags. He hatched 1,000 beetles, produced from his original supply of 10, and released them at a site near Rhinelander in Oneida County. Continuing with his Eagle Scout Project, in 2006 Ryan recruited other scouts to volunteer in the program and instructed them from start to finish on how to raise the beetles. This time they dug their own host plants and even collected their own initial stock of beetles from the wild. The group then released the 5,000 beetles they raised, into the Minocqua Thoroughfare, an area heavily infested with purple loosestrife. The battle to control purple loosestrife will continue for many years, but the beetles that Ryan introduced will continue to multiply. The change that Ryan's beetles have made around the Minocqua Thoroughfare is noticeable and best captured in a quote from a local resident: "The Thoroughfare is a little less pink these days".

The Generosity of IPAW Members

In addition to the funds generated through membership dues each year, several people make generous donations to help promote the mission of IPAW. Special thanks to those whose donations were recorded between March 2007 and March 2008. **Thanks to:**

Mike Anderson	George and Nancy Maze
Kate Barrett	Rich Peters
Tom Bernthal and Marge Wood	Chris Reyes
Paul D. Boyer	Jeff C. Saatkamp
Thomas Brock	Amy Staffen
Katherine Brock	Alice Thompson
Jerry Doll	Jon and Peggy Traver
Jim Elleson	Michael Vahldieck
Nick Faessler	Rhonda Volk
Deborah Frosch	Gary Werner
Susan Lehnhardt	Brock Woods
John and Martha Lunz	Laurie Yahr

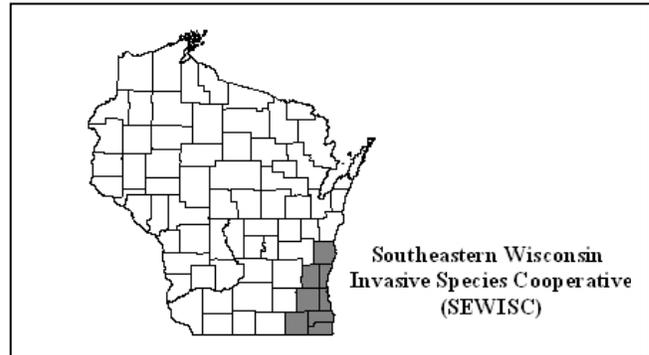
Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Cooperative (SEWISC) - The State's Newest Cooperative Weed Management Area

In June 2007 the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office and US Forest Service-Eastern Region organized a public meeting to establish a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) for southeastern Wisconsin. The event, hosted by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District, was attended by representatives from more than twenty federal, state, and local agencies. CWMA's help land managers and concerned citizens to mobilize communities to manage invasive plants and animals and to support healthy ecosystems. CWMA's are not a federal program or mandate. Additional information pertaining to CWMA's can be found at: <http://mipn.org/cwma.html>.

For the initial meeting, Kelly Kearns (WDNR) presented the "cookbook" guide to CWMA development and organization, and Nancy Berlin (USFS) facilitated a discussion to identify specific needs in southeastern Wisconsin. The group organized topics into separate sub-committee themes:

- Planning
- Early Detection/ Rapid Response & Control
- Ordinance Development/DNR Proposed Rule Implementation
- Education & Outreach
- Grants & Fundraising
- Geographic Information System (GIS)/Website Development & Management
- Rehabilitation & Restoration

The steering committee formed at the first meeting has met monthly to develop organizational documents including a strategic management plan, annual operational plan, and a memorandum of understanding. The steering committee



chose a name, **Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Cooperative (SEWISC)**, at its April meeting. SEWISC now needs a logo and would welcome the contribution of a graphic artist toward developing a draft!

Additional partners joined SEWISC during a second public meeting held in March 2008 and hosted by Havenwoods Environmental Awareness Center. Tom Boos (WDNR) presented the proposed State Invasive Species Rule, and the tremendous progress that the SEWISC steering committee has made over nine months was reviewed. SEWISC sub-committee members have been actively applying for grant funds and partnering with UW-Milwaukee students to develop a GIS baseline database for the eight-county area. They have also developed invasive plant and animal lists for the southeastern Wisconsin area.

If you live or work in the SEWISC area, please consider joining these efforts to prevent establishment and manage infestations of invasive plant and animal species. **For more information contact: Jill Hapner**, Washington County Conservationist, (262) 335-4802, SEWISC@townandcountryrcd.org



The First Minnesota Invasive Species Conference 26 – 28 October 2008, Duluth, MN

The Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (www.mda.state.mn.us/misac) is organizing the first Minnesota Invasive Species Conference to be held 26 – 28 October 2008 in Duluth, Minnesota. Details on the conference can be found at: <http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/Invasives.htm>. The conference theme is **Acting Locally to Protect Our Legendary Lands and Waters**, and it is being called the first *annual* statewide conference on invasive species. The expected audience for the conference includes researchers, land managers, natural resource professionals, university personnel, landscapers, nursery, agricultural or forestry employees, environmental specialists, lake association members, and agency and non-governmental organizations. In short, everyone concerned with invasive species. The conference will include concurrent sessions with topics on both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Sessions will be organized under five themes: 1) Invasive species; 2) prevention and containment; 3) early detection and rapid response; 4) control and management; and 5) restoration.

Integrating Invasive Plant Species Data in the Midwest: Solutions for data collection and management

by *Alycia W. Crall, Graduate Research Assistant, UW-Madison,
and Citizen Science Program Coordinator, National Institute of Invasive Species Science*

The *Integrating Invasive Plant Species Data* workshop was held on January 24-25, 2008 at the Pyle Center in Madison. The primary goals of the workshop were to provide the resources that numerous diverse groups need to help manage and control invasive plant species throughout the region, while facilitating data sharing and cooperation. We also gave invasive plant species experts a forum to share information and approaches on data collection and management, and to alert local land managers of existing database resources and software tools that are available for data sharing.

Session titles included:

- *Status of invasive species data management in the Midwest*
- *Common field tools for automated data entry (PDAs)*
- *Review of common monitoring protocols (local, regional, and national)*
- *Establishment of state-wide monitoring protocols*
- *Identification of regional data gaps*
- *Opportunities for citizen science input and training*
- *Educating landowners on invasive plant species and vegetation sampling methods*

The closing session provided results from integrated data analyses, including models that have been produced for invasive plant species across the region. Dr. Thomas J. Stohlgren, research ecologist with the United States Geological Survey and Director of the National Institute of Invasive Species Science, provided the keynote address, “*Modeling Species Range Shifts in Response to Climate Change.*” The talk compared modeling techniques that are being applied to plants, animals, and pathogens using datasets from researchers on diverse taxa.

Needs Assessment:

Although many private and public groups have mobilized to collect data and begin control efforts, the workshop exposed multiple needs that should be addressed to efficiently and effectively control invasive plant species. Primarily, many of the states do not currently have a state-wide data management system available to land managers, and there is little communication to make people aware of existing data collection efforts. Data are being collected by multiple groups throughout the region, but collaborative efforts are in their preliminary stages and are highly uncoordinated.

Several Midwestern states have developed sophisticated web-based data management systems, and these were presented at the workshop.

For example:

- Invaders Watch Program database (www.NewInvaders.org)
- Southern Illinois database of exotic plants.
- Michigan State University – The Invasive Species Initiative
- Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (www.glifwc-maps.org)

All these databases currently exist in isolation from one another and lack the ability to combine data from other regions. Many of these existing systems also lack the capacity to support additional data contributors without increased staff or funding.

Annie Simpson, affiliated with the USGS and Global Invasive Species Information Network, was in attendance to discuss the potential of linking all existing state and regional databases, but the invasive plant species data exchange protocol is still in development. Her presentation was effective at demonstrating how multiple systems can be adapted to meet their specific goals while still providing the ability to share data across these systems. Two national database management systems were presented: the *National Institute of Invasive Species Science*, and *iMapInvasives*. Additional information on these systems can be found at www.niiss.org and imapinvasives.org.

Additional Information:

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) has placed materials from the workshop on their website (www.mipn.org). This includes presentations, other related workshop materials, and the final report. In addition, MIPN has begun a collaborative effort with IPAW, Michigan State University, the Nature Conservancy, the National Institute of Invasive Species Science, and the Global Invasive Species Information Network to develop a decision support tree for land managers and regional groups in need of an invasive species data management system. This decision tree will help groups evaluate the pros and cons of existing systems. MIPN has shown strong interest in becoming the primary facilitator of regional collaboration on these data management issues. In addition, the data-sharing network established during the workshop is searching for additional funding opportunities to address the needs and issues presented in this report. If you are interested in becoming part of this invasive species data management networking group, please contact Alycia Crall (crall@wisc.edu).

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Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin

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

Membership Categories:

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

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

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

Plants out of Place

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

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