



Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the
INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 30, November 2010

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**Through Awareness
Comes
Positive Change!**

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Building Greener Bridges

by Mark Horn, Owner of Monarda, LLC, and President of the SWWMA

Time was that homeowners in Wisconsin had few choices for trees and shrubs that would dependably survive our hot summers and bitterly cold winters. Unfortunately, some of those early species turned out to not be very good neighbors. In their new ecosystems, the hearty imports became invasive pests. Over the past twenty years, the selection of horticultural species that will thrive in Wisconsin has grown steadily. Where the urban and suburban landscape was dominated by a handful of shrub species in the 1970s, the variety of choices today is truly remarkable. Most will turn out to be well behaved, though a few will emerge as real problems.

Those of us active in habitat restoration know all too well that a single bad actor can devastate an ecosystem. Finger wagging and confrontation is, however, seldom productive. It wastes valuable time and money while burning bridges with those who should be our allies. We should encourage growers to test for invasiveness before marketing new cultivars, quit planting proven invasives and phase out their inventories. There are things we can do to reach out with a message that is likely to get through.

Tom Buechel of McKay Nursery pointed out that they have quit selling columnar buckthorn in Wisconsin, where it is invasive, but continue to market it in Colorado where it does not behave in the same way. McKay is working on sterile cultivars of Norway maple and Alder that they intend to bring to market in Wisconsin. Growers are also working on protocols to determine whether new varieties are likely to be invasive before they are brought to market. The aim is to reach the point where they are confident that the plant material they are selling is well behaved.

Scott Johnson, owner of Johnson Nursery and president of the Wisconsin Nursery Association believes that, "native plants are an important part of the landscaping industry." They have stopped selling invasive shrubs, and actively promote native plants to homeowners and landscapers. They sell local genotypes whenever possible. Johnson's nursery has sponsored joint events with the WildOnes to promote sales of local plants. Several of Johnson Nursery staff speak to organizations about the use of native plants.

Building good working relationships has another important advantage. Our interests will not coincide every time. We will have disagreements, sometimes irreconcilable differences, about specific species. At those times, having a good working relationship is most crucial. When people know each other and trust in their good intentions, it is possible to disagree at the same time that we continue to work together, and advocate for those things we believe in.

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During 2010, President Obama announced \$475 million in new funding for his Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. The Initiative targets some of the most serious threats to the Great Lakes: invasive species, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment. The US Forest Service requested \$1 million for creating and supporting Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs).

- Prior to the President's Initiative, the Midwest Natural Resources Group (MNRG), a collaboration of 17 federal natural resource agencies created a Great Lakes Terrestrial Invasive Species Committee. With their assistance MNRG adopted a Memorandum of Agreement on Invasive Species and provided recommendations for terrestrial invasive management to the Great Lakes Collaboration in 2007.
- This Committee identified 10 existing CWMA projects in key Great Lakes shoreline areas. The US Forest Service requested funds for these GLRI projects. Most were adjacent to National Forests; one was hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and another by the National Park Service. Together, they involve projects in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Work

on this initial round of funding continues through Fiscal Year 2011. In addition, \$750,000 in new 2011 funds for CWMAs was approved. This will be used to continue the work of the original group of CWMAs and create several new ones.

- One of the projects involved establishing a Participating Agreement between the US Forest Service and Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC). This agreement adds critically needed capacity to enhance the CWMA that includes five counties adjacent to Lake Michigan. The agreement was signed in September 2010 and work is underway to hire staff and expand project work.
- An Interagency Agreement between the US Forest Service and National Park Service will support a Lake Michigan Coastal Zone Cooperative Weed Management Area in three Indiana counties. The National Park Service is planning to continue this work and also create another CWMA in northern Wisconsin in 2011.
- Since these agreements were just executed in the fall of 2010, the initial focus has been on setting up agreements with partners to establish the CWMAs. Later in 2011, there will be results to report as the invasive species activities are implemented.

Donna L. Hepp, Regional Special Projects and Programs Coordinator, USDA Forest Service Eastern Region, Milwaukee, WI, (414) 297-3538, E-mail: dhepp@fs.fed.us

Building Greener Bridges, concluded from page 1

The vast majority of growers want to do the right thing and are committed to good land stewardship. Opportunities exist for local organizations concerned about invasive species to work with growers and retailers to educate the public and promote replacement of problem landscaping material with safer alternatives. That is why the Southwestern Wisconsin Weed Management Association will start publicizing success stories, so that we can learn to partner with growers and other stakeholders to reduce the impact of invasive plants in Wisconsin. Look for this when the SWWMA launches their web site.

Public servants, politicians and scouts team up to battle invasive shrubs

Over 50 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts along with their families and Scout Leaders teamed with Washington County Conservationist, Jill Hapner, and County Board Supervisor, Lee Krueger, to remove buckthorn, honeysuckle and Russian olive in October. They worked on a former farm in West Bend, Wisconsin, now owned by Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc. The property was purchased to preserve The Ice Age Trail, which runs through the area, and added almost 40 acres to contiguous

preserved land in the mid-kettle moraine region.

The invasive species removal event qualified toward Scout service hours and the Conservation Good Turn Award, as well as one of the requirements for the Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badge. There are plans to expand this new partnership by involving all Washington County Scout organizations in the county-wide effort to manage invasive species.



Moms, Dads, Scouts and Dogs Pitch In

They worked on a former farm in West Bend, Wisconsin, now owned by Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc.

The Minnesota–Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference (MNWIISC), November 8 – 10, 2010



The MNWIISC, with a theme of “Working Together to Control Invasive Species”, was a wonderfully successful conference that covered a great diversity of topics. IPAW was a major sponsor of the conference. Here are some conference statistics: 582 attendees, 342 from Minnesota, 213 from Wisconsin, and 27 from other Midwestern states, and Florida, Massachusetts, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Montana, and California. There were a total of 48 concurrent sessions (not including the plenary talks), 180 oral presentations, 50 poster

presentations, and over 70 gallons of coffee and tea consumed! In short, there was a lot going on!

New approaches to invasives management and control were presented, as well as research that confirmed the efficacy of some old tried-and-true methods. The concurrent sessions were managed very well so that people in attendance could easily move from one session to another. “The conference was well-run, fun, informational; three days well-spent”, was a typical comment on the conference.

Invasive species problems and programs in Minnesota and Wisconsin are in many ways very similar. The conference provided abundant opportunities to meet colleagues and compare programs and learn from successful approaches in each state. In a session on “Invasive Species Laws”, Tony Cortilet, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, described how they were recently able to revise their noxious weed law to be more responsive to current needs. Each Minnesota



MNWIISC Poster Reception



MNWII SC Plenary Talks

County has a County Ag Inspector and municipalities have agents authorized to do inspections and enforcement. The Minnesota Agriculture Department has recently expanded a grant program to cover not only "noxious weeds", but also "invasive plants". (For more information: <http://mnnnoxiousweeds.wikispaces.com/>)

Along with their new weed law, the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Committee is developing a comprehensive State Management Plan for Invasive Species. In order to be eligible for federal funding for aquatic invasives, this plan is modeled after the Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan and a Forest Service Plan. In addition to lists of ranked species, the plan includes ongoing activities, new strategies and actions, and limiting factors. They have also developed a

template for local or regional groups to customize the plan for their own area.

An innovative program by some northwestern Minnesota counties is a "Weed-Free Gravel Pit Certification" program. Participation by gravel pits is voluntary, but provides local government agencies with a certified-clean source of gravel for highways and trails. Government agencies are encouraged to sign a resolution to use only certified gravel, thereby guaranteeing a demand for participating gravel pits. The pits are inspected by the County, and Becker County, Minnesota already has a total of 19 certified gravel pits. (More details can be found at: http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/soil_water/PDFs/Gravel%20Pit%20Certification.pdf)

"Working Together to Control Invasive Species"

(See page 9, bottom, for a photo of the IPAW information display.)

IPAW FIELD-DAY, 28 September 2010

by Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Weed Scientist



Over sixty people gathered at Horicon Marsh to participate in training on invasive plant identification and management co-sponsored by IPAW and Dow AgroSciences. Morning presentations discussed a range of topics, including the impacts of invasive plants, identification, and herbicide use. The presenters included members of the IPAW Board and committees (Jerry Doll, Courtney LeClair, Kelly Kearns, Mark Renz) and Dow Agrosiences' field scientist Byron Sleugh.

After an excellent lunch the group heard a riveting history of the Horicon marsh by Bill Volkert, local Horicon Marsh expert. Bill detailed how the Marsh's vegetation has changed over-time and how USFWS and DNR are currently managing the marsh to maintain conservation objectives. I learned that the Marsh has been heavily disturbed ever since Wisconsin was settled by Europeans, but that despite these disturbances it still provides critical habitat for many native animals and plants.

The group then spent the afternoon visiting various research and demonstration plots that highlighted the integration of herbicides into restoration and re-

vegetation, the tools available, and the expected results. These demonstrations resulted in several good discussions. A special thanks to Wade Oehmichen and Jim Lutes for organizing the field tours.

A follow-up survey of attendees showed that over 90% increased their knowledge of invasive plants and how to manage them. After this first field-day sponsored by IPAW, we polled the participants to find out what topics they would like covered in future field-day programs. The most frequently mentioned needs were training on invasive plant management (82%), proper use of adjuvants/surfactants with herbicides (65%), integration of restoration into management (58%), identification of new invasive plants (50%), and field demonstrations of these various aspects of management (65%).

Our hope is that this is the first of many field-days that can improve understanding of invasive plant management. If you have ideas or are interested in hosting a future field-day, please contact IPAW (Info@IPAW.org) and we can start planning the second IPAW field-day!

The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC)

WRISC is a cooperative weed management area (CWMA) that began in March 2008 with 3 individuals in Florence County discussing the need for a collaborative effort to manage invasive species. WRISC now includes stakeholders in Florence, Forest, and Marinette Counties in Wisconsin and Dickinson and Menominee Counties in Michigan which makes WRISC one of the first CWMA's to cross state lines. Current coalition cooperators include the Dickinson Conservation District, Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association, Florence County Land Conservation Department, Florence County UW-Cooperative Extension, Forest County Potawatomi, Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc., Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department, Shakey Lakes Association, U.S. Forest Service, and Wisconsin DNR. In two and a half years, these stakeholders have been building an impressive list of accomplishments.

With assistance from the U.S. Forest Service Agreement Specialist, WRISC obtained the first round of Memorandum of Understanding signatories and completed a Participating Agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and Dickinson Conservation District, WRISC's fiscal administrator.

This spring, WRISC received funding from Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc. to promote the organization and create invasive species awareness, and hired a WRISC Coordinator, Alexandra Wrobel. Alex and a volunteer designed a WRISC logo, now featured on a range of educational materials. She also participated in over 20 events, published news articles, interviewed on local radio stations, and expanded the WRISC website (www.wrisc.org). An estimated 3,500 direct contacts, 48,500 mass media contacts, and 300 website contacts have been made.

WRISC has begun a community tool shed to provide landowners with the tools they need, has developed educational displays and billboards, hosted a spotted knapweed workday, and helped implement the second annual purple loosestrife biological control rearing station at the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center in Florence, Wisconsin. Looking ahead, WRISC will complete a management plan, develop a 2011 operating plan, continue educational outreach, and seek funding sources. WRISC partners have benefited from this cooperative approach and look forward to continue building a regional invasive species program.

IPAW Welcomes the Southwestern Wisconsin Weed Management Association

A new cooperative weed management area, The Southwestern Wisconsin Weed Management Association, formed in late August as a coalition of private landowners, public land managers, highway commissioners, contractors and conservation groups in Grant, Lafayette, Iowa, Dane, Crawford, Richland and Sauk Counties. At their September 2010 meeting the IPAW Board approved SWWMA's request to be affiliated with IPAW.

Under terms of a Fiscal Agency Agreement signed by IPAW President Jerry Doll and SWWMA President Mark Horn, IPAW will serve as the fiscal agent for SWWMA for their application to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation for a Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) grant. As an affiliate, SWWMA will be able to apply for grants and solicit

tax-exempt contributions, and the funds will be managed by IPAW with its tax-exempt status.

The PTI grant funds would allow SWWMA to launch its planned Highway Weed Watchers program. Volunteers will be recruited and trained to monitor sections of county highways and map invasive plant species listed as "Prohibited" and "Restricted" under Wisconsin DNR rule NR 40. Location information will be entered into a database and shared with highway commissioners. SWWMA will work with local conservation groups to provide rapid response where potentially catastrophic outbreaks are found. Funds from the PTI grant would pay for up to 50% of the Highway Weed Watchers program during its first two years. For more information contact Mark Horn at (608) 836-0054.

The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership

The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP), a multi-agency invasive species cooperative serving Oneida and Vilas Counties of north central Wisconsin, has recently accomplished two important milestones in its development. After having been officially accepted for sponsorship by the Lumberjack Resource & Conservation Development Council, Inc. (Lumberjack RC&D) in October of 2009, WHIP began formalizing relationships among its partners.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has recently been signed by 13 Federal, State, County and local partners: USDA Forest Service, Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Lumberjack RC&D, Oneida County, Vilas County, Partners in Forestry Co-op, Conserve School, and Trees For Tomorrow. The MOU encourages the cooperative relationship necessary for effective management, coordination and implementation of invasive species programs among the partners.

The next step was to create a formal agreement between Lumberjack RC&D and the Che-

quamegon – Nicolet National Forest so that U.S. Forest Service funding for local invasive species projects could be passed to Lumberjack RC&D for use by WHIP. The Forest Service supports local invasive species co-ops as they help prevent the spread of invasive species onto Federal forest land. With the Master Participating Agreement between USFS and Lumberjack RC&D now in place, WHIP projects are being considered for funding through the agreement.

The activities of WHIP are currently being guided by an ad hoc steering committee which will eventually be replaced by a board of directors. In the meantime, WHIP has placed a priority on increasing public awareness of terrestrial invasive plants such as garlic mustard, buckthorn, non-native bush honeysuckles and Japanese knotweed, all of which are spreading across the two county region more rapidly each year.

For more information about WHIP and its objectives, contact the Land & Water Conservation Departments at either the Oneida or Vilas County Courthouses:

Oneida: Jean Hansen,
(715) 369-7837 jhansen@co.oneida.wi.us

Vilas: Ted Ritter,
(715) 479-3738 teritt@co.vilas.wi.us

The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP) has placed a priority on increasing public awareness of terrestrial invasive plants such as garlic mustard, buckthorn, non-native bush honeysuckles and Japanese knotweed, all of which are spreading across the two county region more rapidly each year.

Chicago Wilderness Launches the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP)

The Chicago Wilderness alliance

(www.chicagowilderness.org) recently received \$96,000 from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (USDA Forest Service) to establish the **Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP)** for the 18 counties in the Chicago Wilderness Region within Illinois.

In August, Cathy McGlynn was named coordinator for the partnership. McGlynn has since worked with 15 partner agencies to complete a **Pulling Together Initiative** grant proposal to fund treatment of eight new invasive plant species, including Oriental bitter-sweet and Japanese knotweed, across more than 80 acres. This proposal would also fund training for the **New Invaders Watch Program** (Chicago Wilderness' regional version of an Early Detection Rapid Response program). The proposal has received the support of the Indiana Coastal Cooperative Weed Management Area (IC CWMA) and Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC).

Meanwhile, the NIIPP Steering Committee is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding, which they

plan to distribute to partners by mid-November. Chicago Wilderness will have information on NIIPP available online in November as well, and will be distributing an RFP for its first small grant initiative in late October.

NIIPP would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with organizations in Wisconsin and other neighboring states. If you are interested, contact Cathy at (847) 242-6423 or cathy.mcglynn@chicagowilderness.org.

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. More than 250 public, private and corporate organizations work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. The four key initiatives of Chicago Wilderness—to restore the health of local nature, promote green infrastructure, combat climate change, and leave no child inside—reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, as well as a collaborative approach to conservation, to benefit all the region's residents.



IPAW Display at the MNWII SC Conference

Fall is good time for invasive plant control

by Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin DNR

Don't put away those garden gloves and pruning saws yet! Fall is the perfect time to find and control many of the invasive plants that thrived during this hot wet summer. The summer of 2010 was a banner year for many weedy and invasive plants. Early warming got most plants off to a fast start; crops, native plants and invasives all emerged, flowered and set fruits about two weeks early across the state. Consistent rains and warm temperatures grew many invasive species larger and with heavier seed loads than normal.

Both native and non-native vines had unusually high growth rates this year, as did many species of wetlands, floodplains, and shorelines. Frequent flooding allowed the very aggressive annual vine, Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*), to spread downstream, upstream, and 'up-bank' during the floods. Until recently, almost no one had heard of the tall manna grass (*Glyceria maxima*), but land managers have been reporting a very aggressive, shiny, bright green grass spreading in wetlands. Tall manna grass is now found in at least 7 counties where it is out-competing even cattails, Phragmites, and reed canary grass! Now is an excellent time to spot this grass which remains bright through the fall frosts.

Autumn can be a great time to locate many invasive plants. The leaves of some shrubs, like buckthorn and honeysuckle, remain green into late fall, after most native shrubs are leafless. Distinctive fruits, like those of Oriental bitter-sweet, can also stand out this time of year. The bamboo-like stems of Japanese knotweed turn a deep, distinctive, reddish-brown after frost.

Garlic mustard rosettes remain green even under the snow, making fall a good time to spot and pull or spray the overwintering plants. Teasel, dame's rocket, wild parsnip, hedge parsley and many others have rosettes that remain green and are easy to spot from fall through spring.

Be sure to use foliar herbicides on the green rosette plants only when they are actively growing, on warm days in the fall and spring. Both cold temperatures and long dry spells reduce the effectiveness of foliar-applied herbicides. Herbicide will be most effective if applied to leaves when temperatures are well above 40 C and the following night will remain above freezing.

Most of the woody species - trees, shrubs and vines - are best controlled in the fall. Cutting them down and applying a small amount of herbicide, labeled for killing brush, to the cut stump will prevent resprouting. Basal bark application of an herbicide in an oil carrier is also effective in the fall and winter, any time that you can keep the herbicide from freezing. Make sure you read up on these techniques to apply them properly. After a hard frost most native plants have gone dormant, making it easier to apply herbicide without impacting any non-target plants.

Fall is also a time when most plants are dispersing their seeds. Many can hitch a ride with animals and are easily spread by hunters, hikers and dogs. Try to inspect your clothing, shoes and dogs frequently when in the woods or field and avoid moving seeds from a weedy area to one that is still relatively un-infested. Have an enjoyable and productive fall-winter invasive spotting and control season!

“Garlic mustard rosettes remain green even under the snow, making fall a good time to spot and pull or spray the over wintering plants. Teasel, dame's rocket, wild parsnip, hedge parsley and many others have rosettes that remain green and are easy to spot from fall through spring.” K. Kearns

How are Wisconsin's utilities adhering to Invasive Species Rule NR 40? – The first year

*by Mike Grisar, Senior Ecologist, WE Energies, and
Crystal Koles, Environmental Project Manager, American Transmission Company*

Failure to effectively address the threat of invasive species will have permanent and wide-spread repercussions in the realms of biodiversity, recreation, economic growth, public health and safety, historic preservation, eco-tourism, silviculture, and wildlife management. Current invasive species management decisions are likely the single most important factor by which future generations will judge our resource stewardship.

Since Wisconsin NR 40, the Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule, was enacted in September of 2009, several Wisconsin utility companies including ATC, WE Energies, Enbridge, Xcel, Integrys, and Alliant are preparing employees and contractors for adhering to the rule through widespread training. Workshops and seminars have been organized and led by the utilities as well as the DNR, UW extension offices and Wisconsin DOT.

Steps involved in implementing a simple, brief plan could include:

1. Establish management goals and objectives for the site.
2. Identify invasive plants with potential to block attainment of the management goals.
3. Determine which methods are most appropriate to manage the invasives.

4. Develop and implement a management plan.
5. Monitor and assess the effectiveness of management actions.
6. Reevaluate, modify, and start the process again.

Ultimately managing invasive species is not optional; only timing and method of approach are discretionary. Natural resources must be managed whether it is to maintain ROW and utility corridors, or for recreation and forestry, or to protect public health or critical species.

Utilities recognize the need to address invasive species. The invasion of certain invasive species may create a significant increase in maintenance costs for both companies and land managers. In order to keep our roads and other infrastructure clear, a variety of costly procedures are needed. Cost of management is only expected to increase and spread geographically as more aggressive invasive species become widely established in Wisconsin.

Our goals are to implement NR40 as a means to enhance biodiversity and sensitive natural habitats on our land while maintaining our utility infrastructure. Sound management practices will also allow us to manage for multiple uses, including aesthetics, biodiversity, cultural resources, recreation, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

**“managing invasive species
is not optional”**

Mike Grisar and Crystal Koles

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

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