Invasive Species Awareness Month 2011
by Belle Bergner / Tom Boos

June 2011 will be Wisconsin’s seventh annual Invasive Species Awareness Month, and the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species is again highlighting invasive species activities around the state. The Council will confer Invader Crusader Awards to recognize excellence in invasive species research, management, and education throughout Wisconsin.

This year, the Invader Crusader Awards will be presented at IPAW’s 10th Anniversary Event on Saturday, June 18 at the Swamplovers Foundation property in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, just West of Madison. Awards will be given in different categories: individuals and organizations, businesses, or agencies. Nominees can work at any scale – from neighborhoods to statewide parks, lakes, and forests.

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species in 2001. The Council is charged with providing recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on invasive species classification and allocation of funds for invasive species control, and conducting studies of issues related to controlling invasive species. “It is important that we recognize all of the different individuals and organizations that are working tirelessly to keep Wisconsin’s special places free of invasive species that choke out native plants and animals – both on land and water,” said Paul Schumacher, Chair of the Council and Wisconsin Association of Lakes Board member.

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As someone who cares about and understands the impact of invasive plants, you are key to identifying new populations and preventing their spread. This field season your help is needed on two fronts. The first is to report new invasives or new infestations of invasives not common in the area. Many plants could fit into this category, but at a minimum, it includes ALL NR 40 Prohibited Species and any unknown plants you find acting invasive, but seem to be relatively new to the area. The list of Prohibited plants can be found on the DNR’s website at: http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp?filterBy=Classification. A few of the plants that should be reported include: giant hogweed, Japanese stilt grass, perennial pepperweed, and in the areas where they are prohibited: Japanese hops, poison hemlock, hedge parsley, Hill mustard and tall manna grass.

The second group of plants for which reports are needed are those that may be considered invasive in all or part of Wisconsin, but are not yet on the NR 40 list. Many of these plants will likely be assessed in the near future. Any additional information that can be obtained about the distribution, abundance and invasiveness of these plants in the state would be very helpful. A draft list is available, but in general, if you know of infestations of non-native plants not currently on the NR 40 list, please send in that information.

Please collect all important information, including: plant name, location, habitat, estimated size of population, landowner’s name (if known) and date observed. If possible, send in a voucher specimen or good photograph to verify the identification. Send your report to invasive.species@wi.gov, or contact Courtney LeClair at (608) 267-7438.

Please join us at IPAW’s 10th Anniversary Celebration on June 18! (See the flier and registration form insert to this newsletter.) Registration will begin at 9am. The morning will be filled with educational workshops and activities, followed by lunch at noon and the ISAM awards ceremony at 12:45pm. The morning educational programs will feature Craig Annen of Integrated Restoration, LLC, who has extensive experience managing reed canary grass and is a great resource regarding herbicide use and effectiveness. The IPAW annual meeting will commence around 1:15pm and the day will wrap up with tours of the Swamplovers property.

First envisioned in 1986, Swamplovers, Inc. has grown and evolved both as a concept and as a reality. Now entering its 25th year, Swamplovers and its ever-growing list of formal and informal partners cooperatively manage the 460-acre Swamplovers Nature Preserve, a mosaic of the ecological and biological heritage of prairie, savanna, oak woodland, mesic forest, and wetlands in southwestern Wisconsin’s Driftless Area. This permanently-protected landscape is a biodiversity hotspot and is home to more than 1,000 species, 68 of which have at-risk conservation status. The property also contains a portion of the Ice Age Trail. Swamplovers are conducting many ecological restoration projects, several of which involve invasive plant management.
In April, the Northwoods CWMA carried out a series of workshops for right-of-way managers in northern Wisconsin. The workshops were similar to those hosted in 2010, with the agenda updated based on feedback from last year’s participants. County and town road crews learned to identify roadside invasive plants in their area, as well as some early detection species. They received an overview of Chapter NR 40 as it pertains to right-of-way maintenance, and learned about ways to modify their maintenance activities, such as mowing, seeding, and ditching, in order to slow the spread of invasive plants along rights-of-way. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with several participants requesting a field session to further hone their identification skills. This is something the NCWMA is considering in 2012.

As a follow-up to the workshops, the NCWMA will hire two interns to inventory and control roadside invasive plants this summer for ten municipalities. After the summer, each municipality will receive a map of invasives on their roads, as well as a management plan outlining practical and affordable options for each species. This project was funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The right-of-way workshops were a great example of what can be achieved through partnerships such as the NCWMA and IPAW. Planning was carried out by a local team of five NCWMA members, each from a different county or agency. Volunteer speakers - many of them IPAW members - came from throughout the state to lend their expertise. With so many individuals doing their part, we were able to reach nearly 60 right-of-way managers from at least 7 counties! Special thanks to our outstanding speakers and organizers: Isaiah Messerly, Nick Danz, Jeremy Bates, Colleen Matula, Heather Palmquist, Brendon Panke, Kelly Kearns, Rick Schulte, Steve Spickerman, Mark Renz, and Bernadette Williams.

“The right-of-way workshops were a great example of what can be achieved through partnerships such as the NCWMA and IPAW.”
Porcelain berry
by Courtney LeClair, Wisconsin DNR Invasive Plant Specialist

This highly attractive ornamental vine is sneaking its way into natural areas across the southern counties of Wisconsin. It is known to be in a few locations in Wisconsin, but is likely under reported, since it is very similar to native grape species and has been commonly sold at nurseries, garden centers, and farmer’s markets. Since Wisconsin’s Invasive Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule (NR 40) went into effect in 2009, this is a Prohibited species and it is illegal to purchase, sell, transport, or possess porcelain berry. To find out more about NR 40, please visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification.

Porcelain berry (Ampelopsis brevipedunculata) is a perennial woody vine that produces wonderful pastel berries in September to October, ranging in color from light green to blue to purple. The more sunlight it receives the more fruit it produces, although it grows well in shade. From June to August, the subtle flowers attract loads of pollinators and the alternate leaves range in shape (heart shaped, partly lobed, three lobes, and irregular lobes all on one plant) and also come in a variegated form (‘Elegans’), which adds to its appeal.

Seedlings are often found near the base of the plant, which tricks landowners into thinking this plant does not have a “spreading” problem even though nearby plants and trees are likely being smothered. However, since the berries attract birds and other small mammals, seeds can be spread miles away from the original plant where they readily germinate and smother anything that is near.

Native grape vines can also become a problem in woodland areas when climbing into canopies and pulling down trees so it is important to know how to tell this Prohibited species from the native grapes. Since most grape vines have variable leaf shapes, the best way I have found to distinguish species is to cut the stem or a branch of the vine. If the center of the cross section you just made is brown, it is a grape species; if it is white, you have happened upon some porcelain berry. Also, older grape vines have bark that shreds and peels off, while porcelain berry has bark that does not peel and has white spots called lenticels. The tendrils of porcelain berry are different as well, in that they branch and grape species do not.

To control porcelain berry or grape vines since they can also be problematic at times, simply find the base of the vine and either do a cut stump or basal bark treatment. Cut stump treatments involve cutting the vine and applying herbicide (glyphosate or triclopyr) directly on the cut surface. For a basal bark treatment, apply 20-30% triclopyr ester with methylated seed oil (MSO) or other basal bark oil, to 2-3 foot long sections of stem near the base of the vines. If the population is smaller, a foliar application using triclopyr amine can be applied from summer to fall being carefully to avoid desirable plants. Cutting the vines back earlier in the summer and allowing the plant to respout before applying herbicide can add to the effectiveness of control. If you resolve to only cut the vine without herbicide follow-up, porcelain berry will aggressively respout.
Book Review by Amy Staffen

“Aquatic Plants of Wisconsin: A photographic field guide to submerged and floating-leaf aquatic plants.” By Paul M. Skawinski. 150 pages, including 280 full-color photographs by the author.

This is a guide to 120 aquatic plants of Wisconsin, including what the author labels as two “introduced” species, five “invasive” species, and four “possible future invasive” species. The guide is designed to be user-friendly and serve the needs of both professionals and non-professionals. Each species account includes: an overview photo, inset photos highlighting key diagnostic features that can be discerned with a 10X hand lens, a written description of the plant’s features, statewide distribution and status, habitat, form, and similar species. The accounts and photographs are organized into eight different groups based on leaf shape and configuration. Classical written dichotomous keys for *Myriophyllum*, *Sparganium* and *Utricularia* are also provided. A detailed introduction and glossary clarify all terms and concepts.

The images are crystal clear in their high-resolution format, and Skawinski aptly selects the simplest key features to magnify for positive identification under typical field survey conditions. This is currently the most comprehensive, photo-based guide to submerged and floating-leaf aquatic plants for Wisconsin and, in its 9” x 6” format, is perfectly handy to take into the field.

Paul Skawinski is the Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Education Specialist and Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Wood, Portage, Waushara and Marathon Counties, and is employed by Golden Sands RC&D Council, Inc.

Self-published. Available from the author for $30.00 + $4.00 Shipping and Handling: Paul Skawinski, PO Box 1021, Stevens Point, WI 54481; lakeplants@yahoo.com

The book is also available through the UW-Extension Lakes website: http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications

US Department of Agriculture and IPAW Collaborate on a Volunteer Forest Pest Survey

America’s trees are under attack. Help us track down the killer beetles.

The USDA and IPAW are partnering to ask members of IPAW to participate in the Volunteer EAB Forest Pest Survey. We need your help to determine if this damaging forest pest is in your community. The EAB most likely arrived in the United States inside solid wood packing material from Asia. Since its discovery, EAB infestations have been reported in 13 states and there could also be other undetected infestations in the country.

See the “Beetle Detective” fact sheet and form (next two pages) to get involved in this project. Find more information at BeetleDetectives.com.
America’s neighborhoods and forests are under attack. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle has destroyed tens of millions of ash trees. Help the USDA protect our trees — and stop the beetle. Look for signs of the EAB in your community and report both positive and negative findings at BeetleDetectives.com on behalf of your organization. Then watch your organization rise through the ranks of top beetle detectives.

Identifying the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB)

From May to August, adult EAB emerge from under the bark of ash trees and mate. Females lay their eggs in bark crevices and the eggs hatch into wormlike larvae. The larvae tunnel under the bark to feed and grow throughout the fall and winter. It is this tunneling and feeding that eventually kills the tree. You should capture the insects you think are EAB, place them in a jar and freeze them — this will preserve the insect for easy identification. You can also search for signs of infestation.

- Bright, metallic green
- 1/2” long, flattened back
- Purple abdominal segments beneath wing covers

SIGNS OF INFESTATION

Canopy dieback at the top of the tree
Sprouts grow from the trunk after the upper portions of the tree die
D-shaped exit holes (1/8” in diameter)
S-shaped galleries made by EAB larvae eventually kill the tree

IDENTIFYING ASH TREES

Ash trees have compound leaves composed of 5 to 11 leaflets.
Ash trees branches mirror each other (opposite branching)
In older trees, ash bark displays diamond-shaped patterns
Ash seeds are oar-shaped and can be found in clusters

Learn more about the EAB at StoptheBeetle.info.
Be an ace beetle detective. Start searching today!

Print out this fact sheet and use it for reference while you search. Locate at least 10 ash trees on your property or public property near your residence. Carefully examine each tree for signs of EAB infestation. Use the survey card below to record your observations and then enter your report online at BeetleDetectives.com. Here are a few tips for recording your observations and submitting your report:

• **Area searched** — use the nearest cross streets to identify the scope of the location searched.

• **If you detect the beetle or signs, describe the beetle and/or damage (size, shape and color) and take a photo if possible. You can upload your photos on the online report form at BeetleDetectives.com.**

• **If possible, collect a specimen of the insect, place it in a jar and freeze it — this will preserve the insect for easy identification.**

**Observations for Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB)**

Date(s) of search (dd/mm/yy):

Location of search (street address or closest intersection, city, zip code):

Total number of ash trees examined:

Did you find any signs of EAB? **Yes** **No**

If yes, please describe the beetle and/or damage (size, shape and color):

Did you collect a specimen of an EAB? **Yes** **No**

Did you take a photograph of the insect or damage? **Yes** **No**

If you observe beetles or signs of infestation, immediately contact your USDA/APHIS State Plant Health Director. Go to BeetleDetectives.com to find your State Plant Health Director. Report both positive and negative sightings at BeetleDetectives.com to help your organization become top-ranked beetle detectives. Negative sightings indicate that the beetle has not yet been detected in your area.
If you’re in Southeastern Wisconsin this spring, you might want to map it. As part of a project coordinated by the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc. (SEWISC), a dedicated corps of volunteers will be putting rubber to the road and boots on the ground this spring in an effort to locate and map the location of three high priority invasives. SEWISC’s 2011 Invasive Survey will cover all roads with lane markings within the eight county SEWISC region including Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha Counties. Teams will also perform surveys focusing on areas in or near primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. The three invasives SEWISC has targeted for mapping in 2011 are Common & Cut-leaved Teasel (Dipsacus spp.), Common Reed Grass (Phragmites australis) and Japanese Knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum).

Although these species still have limited distribution in S.E. Wisconsin, all are spreading rapidly along roadsides and rights-of-way. With training, these species can be safely identified and mapped by teams of two or more travelling by car (or van).

Data from this survey will increase the effectiveness of SEWISC’s Invasive Species Workshops and provide guidance to park and right-of-way managers as they strive to control the establishment and spread of non-native invasive plants. This project will also help increase public awareness of the threats posed by invasive species and provide valuable information to guide the funding of control efforts. But perhaps even more importantly, this project will help SEWISC develop the network of dedicated volunteers needed to build a strong and sustainable invasive control program.

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The seeds of many invasive plants including Teasel are transported long distances on mowing equipment. Data from the SEWISC Invasive Survey will help right-of-way managers refine mowing schedules and implement control efforts.

The seeds of Japanese Knotweed can also be transported long distances on mowing equipment.

SEWISC’s 2011 Invasive Survey will be performed on foot, bicycle, or by car between Saturday May 14th and Sunday July 24th. All survey materials including township maps and data forms will be distributed during four regional training sessions on May 7th and 14th. Training materials will also be available on-line at www.ipaw.org/sewisc/ beginning May 7th, 2011.

If you’d like to learn more about this project or if you’re interested in helping out, send an email to Marc White, SEWISC Coordinator at info@sewisc.org. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number.

This project is funded by a USEPA/US Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Assistance Agreement.

### Outreach Materials developed for Urban Forestry and Recreation BMPs

After the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species were developed, many people have been involved in developing outreach materials to help spread the word (and not invasive species). The four tracks of BMPs include: Forestry, Recreation, Urban Forestry and Utility and Transportation Right-of-Way (ROW) Corridors. The Forestry and ROW audiences have been a focus of outreach for the past 2 years, while the Urban Forestry and Recreation tracks have such diverse audiences that one page handouts have been developed to act as an introduction to the BMPs.

Each handout addresses a specific audience in the hope that will increase their usefulness. The goal of the handouts is to get them in the hands of the people who can make a difference on the ground and slow the spread, and several groups have been using these handouts at annual meetings and conferences. The DNR has not been able to secure any funds to print the materials, but they will be located on the Council on Forestry website so you are able to download and print them as needed. There will also be links to them from IPAW, as well as the WDNR websites.

The Recreational Activities handout includes: Motorized Vehicles – ATVs, Jeeps, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, and Mobility Devices; Pedestrians; Animal-based Recreation; Camping; Bicycling; and Hunting/Trapping/Fishing.

The Urban Forestry handout includes information for: Arborist and Urban Foresters; Landscape Architects and Designers; Gardeners; Growers and Sellers; and Landscapers.

The outreach materials, much like the actual BMPs, were developed by the user groups and the WDNR. We are still in the process of completing some of them, so if the one you are interested in is not on the website, please be patient or contact thomas.boos@wi.gov if you have a specific need.
The Renz lab of the UW-Madison Agronomy Department received a grant from the North Central Integrated Pest Management Center (NCIPMC) to test the predictive capabilities of invasive plant models and to test an iterative sampling design for the improvement of predictive models. We will be coordinating volunteer groups to survey roadsides for three specific invasive species spreading throughout the state: spotted knapweed (Centaurea stoebe), poison hemlock (Conium maculatum), and wild parsnip (Pastinaca sativa). The three species selected for modeling have negative effects on agriculture, the economy, and public health. Spotted knapweed reduces livestock forage production. Poison Hemlock is a poisonous plant that has caused reproductive losses and death in livestock and poisoning in humans. Wild Parsnip can cause phytochemical burns on both humans and livestock. These species were also selected because the current data available for these species varies. We currently have over 1,500 records of spotted knapweed, nearly 400 records for wild parsnip, and only 29 records of poison hemlock. These varying levels of data will allow us to test for a threshold for prediction accuracy and to fill gaps in our dataset.

The volunteer surveys will be conducted with Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), Beaver Creek Reserve, and the Door County Invasive Species Team through The Ridges Sanctuary. The volunteer surveys will be augmented by sampling carried out by our lab. Volunteers have been shown to be effective in mapping invasive plants, but there has been no evaluation of whether volunteers and experts can work together to improve our prediction of invasive plants. This work builds on results of Alycia Crall’s dissertation. Dr. Crall’s efforts have provided us with a large data set of invasive plant locations. This data set is being used to create maps that predict the likelihood of invasion by different invasive species across the state. We will be creating maps of these species this spring and assigning specific locations (up to 1 hectare in size) for people to survey for our three target invasive plants. In May, these maps will be made available to the public on the UW-Extension Weed Science website (http://fyi.uwex.edu/weedsci/). Capabilities to make predictive maps will also be part of the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) when it is launched later this year.

If you are not a member of one of these volunteer groups, you can still help since one of our secondary goals is to determine if targeted sampling, as just described, will improve the predictive ability of our maps more than passive sampling. Once the GLEDN website is launched later this year you will be able to report any invasive species sightings in an easy to use online form. When the site is launched, it will be announced here and through other outlets.

At the end of the summer we hope to be able to answer these questions:

1) Did our initial maps predict locations of new infestations of three invasive plants?
   a. Do we find plants where the maps predict them to be?
   b. Do we not find plants where the maps predict they will be absent?

2) Does targeted sampling with experts and volunteers improve our ability to predict invasion?

If the answer to these questions is yes, we will have tested a new tool that can be used to prioritize future survey efforts. It is our hope that this tool will stimulate a region-wide approach to collecting and sharing invasive species information that could lead to predictive maps for the region and more robust collaboration locally, regionally, and nationally.
Once again IPAW will be coordinating with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) and the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) to host a regional invasive plant conference. The Hyatt Regency in downtown Milwaukee will be the location. The preliminary agenda includes:

- **Wednesday, 14 December**
  - Morning – Contributed papers in conjunction with the NCWSS Invasive Species Section
  - Afternoon – Plenary session with keynote speakers
  - Evening – Poster reception and social
- **Thursday, 15 December**
  - Morning – Concurrent sessions on topics specific to invasive plants
  - Afternoon – More concurrent sessions

As with previous conferences, attendees will be able to register for the entire conference or a single day. The planning committee is open to all ideas for sessions, speakers or workshops. If you have a topic you would like to hear about or want to share, or a speaker you would like to hear, please send your ideas to Kelly.Kearns@wi.gov or (608) 267-5066.

As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help with planning, moderating and helping during the conference. Contact Kelly if you are interested.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**
Midwest Invasive Plant Conference, 14-16 December 2011, Milwaukee

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**DATCP Plant Industry Bureau Invasive Plant Survey**

*by Clarissa Hammond, Plant Pest & Disease Specialist, WI Dept of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection*

The objectives of this survey are to determine distribution of these plants within Wisconsin and to assess movement or lack thereof within the nursery industry. An underlying benefit to this effort will be an increased awareness by both the inspectors and the nursery industry. DATCP keeps records of a number of economic and exotic plant pests for evaluation of historical distribution, documentation of change over time, for use in policy decision-making, and for background information for the biological control and export programs.

The plants will be listed on the official inspection form to help maintain focus on the survey and to produce consistent results across nurseries. Only three species were selected this season to minimize the increase in workload for the inspectors and maximize success of the effort.

The focused, checklist approach to monitoring for these species also allows for collection of absence data. Absence data provides a measure of confidence on where the plants are NOT found, which can be a key element in determining eligibility for export of plants and plant products. Export regulations change regularly and countries sometimes require that commodities only be shipped if grown in areas free from certain plant pests. As invasive species become increasingly prevalent in the global market, we expect export requirements to become more stringent. Export sales by Wisconsin firms totaled $19.8 billion for all commodities in 2010. So, in addition to helping to protect Wisconsin’s natural landscape, this survey will also help facilitate future economic growth.
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:

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