



# Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the  
INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 34, November 2011

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*Through Awareness Comes  
Positive Change!*

Layout of Newsletter by:

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## **Regulated Invasive Plants – Weeding the Nursery Trade**

by Mindy Wilkinson, Invasive Species Coordinator WDNR

Plants aren't just what I do for my job. I like plants. I visit botanical gardens, I discuss my own garden over the fence with my neighbors, I worry that I haven't pulled out and replaced the *Lonicera x bella* in my front yard and I stop in at nurseries to see what's new.

If you do this as well, you may occasionally find a species that's regulated under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule offered for sale. With any new regulation like the Invasive Species Rule (NR 40) it takes a while for the word to get out, and education is the current focus.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff, including Kelly Kearns, Courtney LeClair, Tom Boos, Chrystal Schreck, myself, and many others, has been providing workshops on the Invasive Species Rule to state agency staff and partners to get the word out about the list of plants that are now regulated invasive species. Because names change, a list of the synonyms and common names for regulated plants and their cultivars has been created to help reduce confusion about which species are and are not legal to sell in Wisconsin. (See the list of resources at the end of the article.)

In January, 2011 the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), in partnership with WDNR, sent a letter to all of the licensed nurseries that they regulate. There are seven DATCP Nursery Inspectors who each work within a region to inspect licensed nurseries for plant pests and diseases and are now checking for regulated plants. This staff is the "regulatory point of contact for nurseries" which means, that reports of invasive plants, official visits to nurseries to check on what is being sold, and any official contacts are being coordinated with these folks. However, many venues that sell plants aren't necessarily licensed nurseries.

If you see regulated species for sale, be it at a nursery, farmer's market or garden club sale, we need you to report it. To keep track of what our partners are finding for sale and to consolidate reports to the Nursery Inspectors, we're asking that all reports be sent to **Invasive.Species@Wisconsin.gov** or call Mindy Wilkinson at **608-266-6437**. If you make a report of an invasive plant being sold, we're happy to report back on what action was taken. The cooperation that has been shown by plant enthusiasts, nursery owners and the public to help weed out regulated invasive plants for sale in Wisconsin has been encouraging!

### **Resources:**

- List of regulated plants  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/pdfs/NR40plantlist.pdf>
- Synonyms for regulated plants  
[http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/pdfs/Nursery\\_plantlist.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/pdfs/Nursery_plantlist.pdf)
- State Nursery Inspectors (map with phone numbers)  
[http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Plants/pdf/Inspector\\_map\\_2010.pdf](http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Plants/pdf/Inspector_map_2010.pdf)

## An Introduction from New IPAW Board Member, Greg Bunker



My name is Greg Bunker and I was asked to be on IPAW's Board a few months back and accepted. The first I heard of IPAW was at the seeds of its beginning, at the *Plants Out of Place, Invasive Plant Conference for the Upper Midwest*, in Eau Claire, March of 2001. Fighting invasive plants is part of my job as manager of the Environmental Department at the Stockbridge Munsee Community, which is a federally recognized band of Mohican Indians. And yes, their name, Stockbridge, comes from the town in Massachusetts that is within their original homeland, and the tribe also left that name on a town at their former reservation on the east shores of Lake Winnebago. I have worked for the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe for 20 years and for the Menominee Indian tribe for 2 years before that.

The tribe currently cares for about 21,000 acres of forest lands, adjacent to the Menominee Reservation, that are managed for wildlife and timber harvest, in that order. Invasive plants are not a problem in the interior of the reservation; however on the margins where homes and farmland are adjacent to the forest, the usual players are present. Buckthorn and bush honeysuckle are abundant in the margins

of the forest. We are lucky not to have problems with purple loosestrife or garlic mustard with only one small isolated infestation of each.

In the fight against invasive plants the many tribes use revenues from a casino or other economic enterprises. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has *Noxious Weed* funding for tribes to fight invasive weeds. Tribes can also tap into Circle of Flight funds, special monies allocated by Congress for tribes to restore wetlands for waterfowl habitat. A number of tribes also use Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding in order to restore wetlands of the Great Lakes Basin. If a group or municipality is seeking funds to fight invasive plants and they are adjacent to or nearby an Indian reservation, or within Ojibwa ceded territories, they should consult with the tribal officials to see if they can work together to stop the infestation. Federal and state agencies look with more favor on proposals if there are a number of partners working toward a common goal. This is a good method of leveraging funds for projects within a watershed or specific area with multiple jurisdictions.

**“If you see regulated species for sale, be it at a nursery, farmer’s market or garden club sale, we need you to report it.”** *Mindy Wilkinson*  
(*Invasive.Species @Wisconsin.gov* )

## INVASIVE PLANTS SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

### December 14-15, 2011, Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, WI

This year, IPAW has teamed-up with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) and the North Central Weed Science Society to hold our conference at the NCWSS Conference in Milwaukee on 14 and 15 December. This conference will bring together weed scientists, invasive species biologists, and natural resource professionals to discuss common problems and solutions. The NCWSS conference runs from 12 – 15 December, in the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. As a contribution to the NCWSS conference, IPAW worked with MIPN to plan a two-day meeting

(14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>) on the ecology, policy, and management of invasive plants. We have a fantastic program planned, and we hope that you will join us. See the invasive plant conference schedule below.

Registration rates are \$150 for both days or \$100 for one day. For more information on the conference and to register, visit <http://www.ncwss.org/meeting-page2.php> and find the registration for the invasive plant symposium at the bottom of the page.

### Plenary Session, Wednesday AM, Dec. 14

8:30-8:40	Welcome & North Central Weed Science Society Update
8:40-8:50	Midwest Invasive Plant Network Update
8:50-9:00	Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin Update
9:00-9:30	Invasive plants; a little here, a lot there: Can we stop them from going everywhere? – SEWISC Roadside Survey—Jim Reinartz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
9:30-10:00	Building a national early detection and rapid response network using Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) and Exotic Pest Plant Councils (EPPCs)—Chuck Barger, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, University of Georgia
10:00-10:15	BREAK
10:15-11:00	Current and future trends in national policies involving invasive plants—Gordon Brown, U.S. Department of the Interior
11:00-11:30	What's new at USDA-APHIS: Weed screening with uncertainty analysis and the proposed NAPPRA list—Barney Caton, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
11:30-12:15	Warmer and weedier? The fate of invasive plants in a changing world— Jeffrey Dukes, Purdue University
<b>12:15-1:30</b>	<b>LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</b>

### Concurrent Sessions, Wednesday PM, Dec. 14

#### Session A: Contributed Papers

1:30-1:45	Variable success of biological control agents for <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> in Minnesota wetlands: Understanding landscape patterns in plant evolution and management efficacy—Gina Quiram, University of Minnesota
1:45-2:00	Spread rate of <i>Phragmites australis</i> under different disturbance events—Stephen Young, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2:00-2:15	Building weed risk assessments—Mindy Wilkinson, Wisconsin DNR
2:15-2:30	Native grass establishment after invasive weed control with Aminopyralid—Mary Halstvedt, Dow AgroSciences
2:30-2:45	An overview of Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for invasive species—Thomas Boos, Wisconsin DNR
2:45-3:00	Urban invasive species management- engaging a community—Brian Russart, Milwaukee County Dept. of Parks
3:00-3:15	BREAK
3:15-3:30	Eradication of <i>Phragmites australis</i> with grazing and herbicides—Stephen Young, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
3:30-3:45	Working with highway departments to minimize the spread of invasive plants—Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin DNR
3:45-4:00	Invasive species best management practice implementation on utility rights-of-way—Crystal Koles, American Transmission Company
4:00-4:15	Native forb and shrub tolerance to Aminopyralid applications for invasive weed control—Mary Halstvedt, Dow AgroSciences
4:15-4:30	Wildflower establishment after herbicide applications—Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Madison
4:30-4:45	Native and invasive plant responses to EAB-induced ash mortality—Wendy Klooster, Ohio State University
4:45-5:00	Genetic and age patterns of distribution to reconstruct the invasion history of privet ( <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> )—Wanying Zhao, Ohio State University
5:00-5:15	Invasive earthworms and their relationship with the spread of terrestrial invasives—Bernadette Williams, Wisconsin DNR

**Session B: Cooperative Weed Management Areas**

- 1:30-1:45 Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the Midwest: An overview—Katherine Howe, Midwest Invasive Plant Network, Purdue University
- 1:45-2:00 Northwoods CWMA: Doing a lot with a little—Darienne McNamara
- 2:00-2:15 The River to River CWMA's invasive plant intern program—Chris Evans, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area
- 2:15-2:30 Beyond boundaries: Various techniques for mapping invasives in Southern Ohio—Cheryl Coon, U.S. Forest Service
- 2:30-2:45 Partnerships for invasive species management: Examples from Minnesota's twenty Cooperative Weed Management Areas—Daniel Shaw, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- 2:45-3:00 Getting ahead of the invasion: Establishing a Cooperative Weed Management Group on Lake Superior's North Shore to manage invasive plants in an area with relatively few invasive species—Michael Lynch, Cook County Invasive Team
- 3:00-3:15 BREAK
- 3:15-3:30 Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST): Educating land stewards—Marne Kaeske, The Ridges Sanctuary
- 3:30-3:45 Lake Erie CWMA: 1,700 acres of invasives controlled in the first year—Michael Libben, Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area
- 3:45-4:00 Taking It to the streets, the trails, the nurseries, and the boat launches: Education and outreach in a regional CWMA—Cathy McGlynn, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership
- 4:00-4:15 The Indiana Coastal Cooperative Weed Management Area: Planning and prioritizing invasive plant control projects—Maggie Byrne, The Nature Conservancy
- 4:15-5:00 Panel Discussion

**Concurrent Sessions, Thursday AM, Dec. 15****Session A: Early Detection and Rapid Response Initiatives**

- 8:30-8:45 Developing cost effective early detection networks for invasions—Alycia Crall, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 8:45-9:00 New invaders watch program: Implementing EDRR at a local scale—Debbie Maurer, Lake County Forest Preserve District
- 9:00-9:15 Proof of concept for using habitat suitability models to prioritize invasive species monitoring—Brendon Panke, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 9:15-9:30 State-wide to regional ED/RR: Updating the efforts of Michigan and the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network—Amos Ziegler, Michigan State University
- 9:30-9:45 Developing the Great Lakes Early Detection Network: Integrating local, state, and regional systems—Greg Newman, Colorado State University
- 9:45-10:00 Question & Answer Session
- 10:00-10:15 BREAK
- 10:15-10:30 Invasive species... there is an app and a map for that—Chuck Barger, University of Georgia
- 10:30-10:45 The journey from early detection to rapid response—Monika Chandler, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- 10:45-11:00 Strategic management of priority invasive plants: Coordinated control through the Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team—Kevin Rohling, The Nature Conservancy
- 11:00-11:15 Early detection and rapid response efforts for aquatic and riparian invasive plants along the Lower Ohio River Valley—Chris Evans, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area
- 11:15-12:00 Panel discussion

**Session B: Control of Woody Invasive Plants**

- 8:00-8:30 Prescribed grazing: are herbivores the natural "choice"?—Jesse Bennett, Driftless Land Stewardship
- 8:30-9:00 Buckthorn ecology and eradication—Thomas Brock, Savanna Oak Foundation
- 9:00-9:15 The silent strangler-- Oriental bittersweet identification, biology, and risk assessment—Monika Chandler, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
- 9:15-9:30 History and management of Oriental bittersweet at Giant City State Park, Illinois—Chris Evans, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area
- 9:30-9:45 What Oriental bittersweet can teach us about pest species management—Stephen Glass, UW-Madison Arboretum
- 9:45-10:00 Panel Discussion
- 10:00-10:15 BREAK

**Session C: Planning and Prioritization of Invasive Plant Management**

- 10:15-10:45 Planning for invasive control success—Ellen Jacquart, The Nature Conservancy  
 10:45-11:15 Connecting the dots: Creating a network for communication, collaboration, and control—Cathy McGlynn, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership  
 11:15-11:30 A comparison of invasive plant prioritization methods—Jennifer Hillmer, Cleveland MetroParks  
 11:30-11:45 Adaptive management of invasive forest plants—Sean Blomquist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 11:45-12:00 Panel Discussion

**12:00-1:30 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

**Concurrent Sessions, Thursday PM, Dec. 15**

**Session A: Control of Invasive Aquatic Plants**

- 1:30-2:00 Short- and long-term strategies for exotic, invasive aquatic macrophyte control on Lulu Lake, Walworth Co., WI—Tim Gerber, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse  
 2:00-2:30 Creative responses to new invasive aquatic plant infestations—Susan Graham, Wisconsin DNR  
 2:30-3:00 Combining state and private efforts to control an unknown, but very aggressive, aquatic invasive plant—Susan Lehnhardt, Applied Ecological Services, Inc.  
 3:00-3:15 Panel Discussion  
 3:15-3:30 BREAK

**Session B: Innovative Approaches for Managing Invasive Plants Across Landownership Boundaries**

- 1:30-2:00 Mapping and management of invasive plants in transportation corridors: Using natural preserves to help prioritize—Tim Pollowy, Hey & Associates  
 2:00-2:30 Strategies for invasive plant management in the Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain—Debbie Maurer, Lake County Forest Preserve District  
 2:30-3:00 Managing invasive plants on private lands: A multi-partner, large-scale approach to control *Phragmites australis*—Joe Henry, Wisconsin DNR  
 3:00-3:15 Panel Discussion  
 3:15-3:30 BREAK

**Session C: Assessing Invasion Potential of Species in Trade**

- 3:30-4:00 Evaluation of *Miscanthus* cultivars for fecundity and potential invasiveness—Kayri Havens-Young, Chicago Botanic Garden  
 4:00-4:15 *Poa pratensis* invasiveness in prairies—Sabrina Ruis, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 4:15-4:45 Worldwide genetics of reed canarygrass: Is native North American reed canarygrass invading wetlands?—Andy Jakubowski, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 4:45-5:00 Comparison of seed production and viability of burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) cultivars in the Upper Midwest—Brendon Panke, University of Wisconsin-Madison

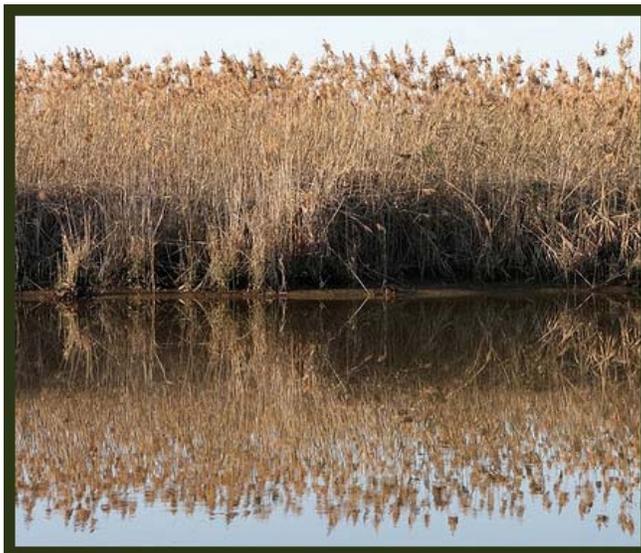
**Session D: Control of Herbaceous Invasive Plants**

- 3:30-4:00 Weed white umbel identification and control—Courtney LeClair, Wisconsin DNR  
 4:00-4:15 Long-term leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) management in an oak savanna ecosystem—Jerry Doll, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 4:15-4:30 Japanese hedge parsley ecology and use of mowing as a management tool—Rose Heflin, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 4:30-4:45 Identification of invasive ornamental grasses and their look-alikes—Courtney LeClair, Wisconsin DNR  
 4:45-5:00 Strategies for control based on life cycle of invasive plants—Courtney LeClair, Wisconsin DNR

**For more information on the conference and to register, visit  
<http://www.ncwss.org/meeting-page2.php> and find the registration for the invasive  
 plant symposium at the bottom of the page.**

## Phragmites Phight

Heidi Springborn, Conservation Biologist, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Joe Henry, Regional Ecologist, Bureau of Endangered Resources, and Mark Martin, Natural Area Specialist, Bureau of Endangered Resources



*Phragmites australis* is an invasive species that can sometimes grow over 15 feet tall, with their feathery plumes blocking views of Lake Michigan. They choke out native plants, making our coastal shorelines and wetlands unfit for wildlife. According to wetland experts, Wisconsin has lost approximately 70 percent of the original wetlands along Lake Michigan.

Phragmites has overtaken our state's public lands, and invaded backyards of over 1,200 Green Bay West Shores and Lake Michigan shoreline owners. A lot of those landowners have nothing to look at now, except Phragmites. For the past several years, shoreline owners have attempted to control infestations, and some have spent thousands of dollars in the fight against this biological bully.

The Department of Natural Resources was awarded \$805,600 from the Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for a large scale management effort to eliminate or reduce invasive Phragmites and Lyme grass from 3,600 acres of coastal wetlands along 118 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, in Brown, Door, Oconto, Manitowoc, Marinette, and Sheboygan Counties. Federal funds will support treatment of both public and private lands along the Lake Michigan shoreline. 2011 is the first year of a three-year grant.

Target areas for treatment include 25 State Natural Areas, 6 State Parks, 3 State Wildlife Areas, Point Beach State Forest and numerous private properties. Most of the Phragmites along the Green Bay west shore will be sprayed by helicopter because it is tall, dense, and contains areas that aren't accessible from the ground. Conditions are wet, and it's difficult to get vehicles access, or work with backpack sprayers. In Door, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties, the department will treat areas of Phragmites with several different control methods, including, both boom and backpack sprayers and the bundle, cut, and spray method.

During the summer of 2011, Department staff and DCIST (Door County Invasive Species Team) treated approximately 260 acres of Phragmites in Door County. Additionally, the ecological restoration firms Clean Kill (CK) Invasives and Michler & Brown treated 300 acres of Phragmites in various locations of the Northeast region. Skyline Helicopters was hired for large scale application to the Green Bay West Shores, from Seagull Bar in Marinette County to Duck Creek in Brown County. A helicopter equipped with a boom sprayer and GIS unit treated a total of 2,900 acres of Phragmites over a two-week period in September.

In 2012, treated areas will be monitored for the effectiveness of herbicide application, and spot treatments will take place to ensure long-term success. There are also several areas in Door County which will undergo initial treatments during the summer of 2012.

For more information on the project, contact Heidi Springborn, (920) 662-5447, or Heidi.Springborn@Wisconsin.gov.

**Helicopter Application – Skyline Helicopters**



**On the ground: Bundle – Cut – Treat**



**Backpack application**



## Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership Helps Communities with Invasive Plants and Celebrates their First Anniversary



Illinois DOT District 1 gives a presentation about their invasive plant mapping, monitoring, and control project at the NIIPP annual meeting in September.

The Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP), a regional organization, recently celebrated its one year anniversary. Partners in NIIPP prevent and detect new invasions, control and manage existing invasive plants, and educate people about how to reduce intentional introductions and unintentional transport of invasive plants. “NIIPP has fostered collaborations among organizations that have not worked together before and will continue to develop relationships that will promote control and management of invasive plants on both sides of property boundaries,” according to Cathy McGlynn, Coordinator of NIIPP.

At the first annual meeting held at Morton Arboretum in September, the Illinois Department of Transportation District 1 presented its plan for coordinated control and management of invasive plants in rights of way and the Illinois

Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR) provided information about its new Conservation Corps. These and additional presentations can be found at [http://niipp.net/?page\\_id=1315](http://niipp.net/?page_id=1315)

ILDNR Conservation Corps was trained by NIIPP to identify invasive plants that are listed on the New Invaders Watch List. NIIPP works in conjunction with the New Invaders Watch Program (NIWP), an early detection and rapid response program that trains natural areas managers, volunteer stewards, and other interested people to identify twenty-one invasive plants that are currently rare in this region ([www.NewInvaders.org](http://www.NewInvaders.org)). Many of these trainees register to become monitors for NIWP and report populations of new invaders so that landowners can be made aware of potential invaders in the vicinity of their properties. Since the beginning of this program in 2003 more than 1500

people have been trained. NIIPP also works with River to River CWMA ([www.rtrcwma.org](http://www.rtrcwma.org)) to send out statewide alerts about the arrival of new invaders and most recently sent out an alert about Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), a recent arrival to the Northeastern Illinois region  
[http://www.niipp.net/uploads/stiltgrass\\_alert.pdf](http://www.niipp.net/uploads/stiltgrass_alert.pdf).

In addition to its early detection and rapid response work, NIIPP is collaborating on several programs focused on already established invaders and aquatic and ornamental invasive species. In May of this year 18 NIIPP partners organized more than 31 garlic mustard pulls as part of the US Forest Service Garlic Mustard Challenge and handily won the challenge by pulling 52,000 lbs. (26 tons!) of garlic mustard and raising public awareness about invasive plants during Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month. IL-IN Sea Grant and NIIPP are working to establish a statewide Clean Boats, Clean Waters program ([http://niipp.net/?page\\_id=1176](http://niipp.net/?page_id=1176)) that educates boaters and anglers about aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their transport them from water body to water body. The Midwest Invasive Plant Network, Chicago Botanic Garden, The Nature Conservancy, Chicago De-

partment of the Environment, and NIIPP are collaborating on a campaign to prevent intentional introductions of ornamental plants that have the potential to escape from landscaped areas and invade natural areas. NIIPP's target audience is green industry (garden centers and nurseries) and its consumers.

Eight years in development, NIIPP took form in 2010 as a result of federal funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and began turning the dream of a regional coordinated effort to address the issue of invasive plants into a reality. NIIPP has already been joined by 46 partners including the United States Forest Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Transportation District 1, Fermilab Natural Areas, Forest Preserve Districts of Boone County, DuPage County, Kendall County, Lake County, Will County, and Winnebago County; Villages of Algonquin, Lincolnshire, and Glenview; Midwest Groundcovers, LLC., Integrated Lakes Management, and Tallgrass Restoration. These and many other partners, working with private landowners, have been instrumental in our success this year. They have controlled and managed thousands of acres of invasive plants and restored many native habitats. And they will continue their efforts to protect and preserve native biodiversity and habitats.

To learn more about NIIPP please visit our website at <http://www.niipp.net>



## Around the Thumb – Door County Invasive Species Team

Here in the Door, we design a program to use volunteers, educate them through control efforts, and ultimately train them as stewards of the land. Hosting workshops, community meetings, coordinating with special interest groups and friends groups, and communicating through a variety of media has allowed us to reach every community on the peninsula. The Ridges Sanctuary acted as DCIST coordinator again in 2011. DCIST's mission of education, outreach and research, aligns well with The Ridges mission. Thank you to all of our staff, members, volunteers, and project partners for supporting invasive species awareness in the county.

Our biggest challenge and success in 2011 has been Phragmites control and education. With 300 miles of Great Lakes frontage and low water levels in the last 15 years, over 200 acres of exotic Phragmites clones have established on our shorelines. Volunteer mapping projects have become a major tool in educating and identifying the ecological needs, allowing us to assess available resources. Over 500 hours of volunteer time in mapping Phragmites have assisted in the DNR's Phragmites and Lyme grass control program as well as individual control projects on private lands. (See the article "Phragmites Phight" in this newsletter, page 6.)

**"...it is likely that Japanese Hops may be more widespread than we are aware"**

If you find populations of Japanese hops, please contact Kelly Kearns ([Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov)).

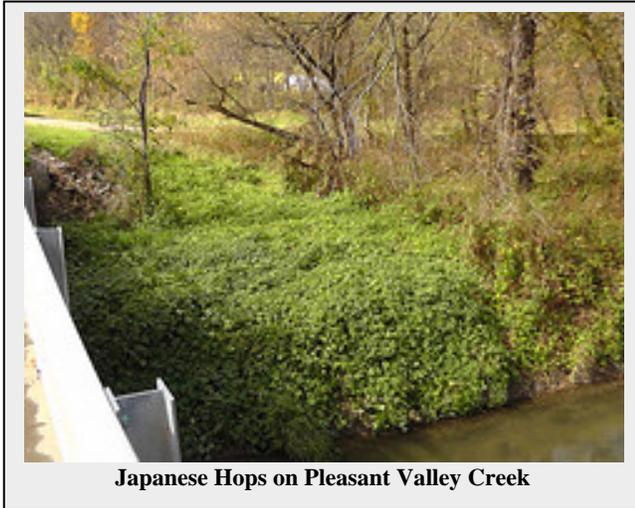


Japanese Hops blanketing a tributary to Pleasant Valley Creek

### Japanese Hops – Hopping Watersheds

by Laura MacFarland, Invasive Species Project Coordinator, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Japanese hops, an invasive, annual, shallow-rooted vine, is widespread in the Grant and Platte River watersheds in Grant County where it is evident that flowing water is the primary dispersal agent. It spreads rapidly down riparian corridors, and then migrates laterally up banks encroaching into pastures, croplands, and barnyards.



Japanese Hops on Pleasant Valley Creek

Recently several new populations have been discovered in small agrarian watersheds of tributaries to the Mississippi River and in the Lower Wisconsin River Watershed in northern Grant County and Crawford County. The most recent discovery is a large infestation on Pleasant Valley Creek, tributary to the Fennimore Branch of the Blue River. Evidence suggests that the hops were introduced to the watershed in hay bales transported for feed. From the bales that sit at

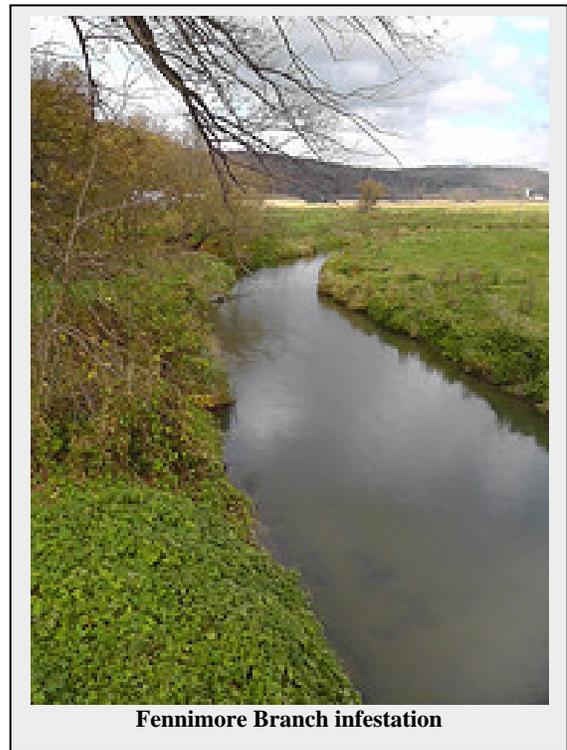


Japanese Hops covering hay bales

the watershed divide, Japanese hops have spread the entire length of the valley, 4 miles, to the confluence of Pleasant Valley and Fennimore Branch and be-

yond to the Blue River. If it continues to spread downstream with spring flows, it will eventually present itself in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. Visit <http://g.co/maps/eg9pe> to see a map and photographs of the infestation.

The Friends of the Platte River, with funding and technical support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, are currently conducting field studies along the Little Platte River to determine the most effective treatment for hops in riparian corridors. Herbicide applications (Garlon 3A, Escort, and Rodeo), hand-pulling, and tarping are being tested. The research began this year and will continue through 2013. For more information, contact Becky Trewartha, Research and Programs Coordinator for the Friends of the Platte River ([trewtraveler@yahoo.com](mailto:trewtraveler@yahoo.com)).



Fennimore Branch infestation

In 2012 the Wisconsin DNR and partners will continue to raise awareness and seek management alternatives, since it is likely that Japanese hops may be more widespread than we are aware. These new findings and others in adjacent states, warrant a more in-depth regional discussion regarding management options and the prevention of spread. If you find additional populations of Japanese hops, please contact Kelly Kearns ([Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov)).

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## *Plants out of Place*

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

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