



# Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the  
INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 35, February 2012

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*Through Awareness  
Comes  
Positive Change!*

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## Changing of the Guard

by Jerry Doll, IPAW Past-president

IPAW will have new leaders to guide us into the next decade of our future. After five years as president, I have passed the gavel to our newly elected president, Tom Boos. Tom is well known to you already as he has ably served as our treasurer for many years. As such, he was on the Executive Committee and fully understands the workings of IPAW and has already proven his leadership skills in many ways. Board member Willis Brown was elected as our new treasurer. Clarissa Hammond is our newly elected secretary, replacing Amy Staffen who served in that role for many years. Amy also was a valued member of the Executive Committee and contributed to IPAW in many ways, in particular as chair of the Education committee, giving valuable leadership and creativity to our strategic planning efforts, and by leading with her exemplary volunteer spirit. Amy has decided to leave the Board and we wish her well in all future activities.

My tenure as a Board member began in 2006, a year after I retired from the UW-Madison Agronomy Department as an Extension weed scientist. I went from the frying pan into the fire quickly as I was elected President at my first Board meeting! It was fortuitous timing as 2006 was the first time IPAW teamed up with the North Central Weed Science Society to co-sponsor an invasive plants conference in Milwaukee. That event was highly successful in terms of meeting content, presenters, and attendance. However, it was essentially a "meeting within a meeting" in that the IPAW folks were in the invasives sessions and the NCWSS folks in their sessions. Those who attended the 2011 IPAW/MIPN/NCWSS conference in Milwaukee may say the same was true this time. On the surface, it did seem to be a "meeting within a meeting." However, behind the scenes, the event was a true partnership between the three organizations as we shared the organizational, planning and programming duties very effectively. Special thanks go to Kate Howe (MIPN) and Mark Renz (IPAW and NCWSS,) and Phil Banks (NCWSS Executive Secretary) who provided the needed leadership. And kudos to Mick Holm who chaired the NCWSS local arrangements committee that provided a flawless environment and great accommodations in all aspects of the conference.

So the Milwaukee meetings serve as bookends to my time as President. There are significant and memorable volumes between those two events on my IPAW bookshelf. A few examples are these:

- Strategic planning sessions to chart the future of IPAW
- Partnering with various groups to have professional meetings, field days, etc.
- Developing our manual of Standard Operating Procedures
- Helping bring ISAM into existence and working closely with selecting and honoring the Invader Crusaders
- Our annual meetings
- Securing new board members and Program Assistants
- Promoting and seeing fruition in CWMA's becoming affiliated with IPAW
- and last but certainly not least, the grand celebration of our 10-year anniversary.

## Changing of the Guard...Part 2

by Thomas Boos, New IPAW President

As Jerry mentioned, I have been elected to steer this great organization into the future, and am incredibly honored to be elected President of IPAW. I attended the first "Plants Out of Place Conference" in Eau Claire in 2001 where IPAW essentially began. I have been active in many roles ever since, mainly as IPAW Treasurer. I can't say that I will miss those duties, but it has allowed me to take the pulse of IPAW's many activities.

It is important that we acknowledge those that have served IPAW so well over the last few years. Jerry has been our longest-tenured President and will be greatly missed. His skills have allowed IPAW to grow in so many ways. My role as President will certainly be influenced by his calm demeanor and passion. I am very glad he will remain on the board for guidance. Thank you Jerry, from all of IPAW.

Amy Staffen will also be missed as she has been a leader for IPAW in very important ways; for one, taking our minutes at the meetings is not always fun or easy. She has been a main player in providing IPAW with direction and focusing our educational efforts. Amy does plan to stay active in IPAW and help us out where her skills are most suited. Thanks to you as well Amy.

It is important to thank and recognize Willis Brown and Clarissa Hammond for being willing to step into the Treasurer and Secretary roles. I understand we are all busy and their dedication to IPAW is exemplified through their willingness to help out.

The way these Presidential notes usually go is some envisioned pontification about where IPAW is going, so here it is. Jerry chose the Title

"*Changing of the Guard*" which I find quite appropriate. If one looks up the definition of guard, you come up with many analogies to what we all do at IPAW:

- *to keep safe from harm or danger; protect; watch over-* a common goal of ours is to protect our rich native plant communities in Wisconsin.
- *to keep under close watch in order to prevent escape-* early detection/rapid response!
- *to keep under control or restraint as a matter of caution or prudence – **invasive control to keep our plant communities intact.***

As President, I will do what I can to carry on the mission of IPAW and lead us towards growth. Education and outreach is such an important aspect of IPAW. There is movement afoot to revamp our website to make it more user-friendly and informative. We will continue to have a productive listserv. Planning is already underway for our 2012 Conference in La Crosse. I aim to increase our membership so IPAW is more capable of taking on the many other things we believe can truly make a difference. ...and there are many, many more.

It humbles me to be a part of an organization that is filled with such motivated and enthusiastic people. If any of you have any thoughts about IPAW and where we can go, please feel free to contact me.

Here's to 2012!

"Thanks for the opportunity to serve as President. IPAW is in very good hands and the future is bright for continued growth, activity and creativity in our efforts to prevent, contain and manage invasive plants."

*Jerry Doll, IPAW Past-president*

## Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) [www.gledn.org](http://www.gledn.org)

by Brendon Panke, Alycia Crall, and Mark Renz

The Renz lab at the UW-Madison Department of Agronomy, in collaboration with Colorado State University (CSU) and the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN), is pleased to announce the launch of the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN). GLEDN is an invasive species early detection and warning system for the Great Lakes region developed through funding provided by the National Park Service as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Focus groups held throughout the Great Lakes region in 2011 indicated that potential users wanted a tool that would allow for easy online data entry and management (allowing casual observers to use this resource), and the ability to create email alerts from new verified invasive plant reports. Focus groups also emphasized the need for networks that currently exist to share data for enhanced effectiveness.

Thus the major features of GLEDN are:

- 1) It provides a tool that allows easy reporting of invasive populations, targeting casual observers since many of the existing systems do not capture this group. GLEDN does not require observers to register to the site, and provides the ability to report locations using an online map (no GPS required). The reports will be verified by experts.
- 2) It provides an online, customizable, alert system. This feature allows the user to select the species they would like to receive alerts about, and from which geographic areas.
- 3) It provides a framework for data sharing across existing systems.

Our hope is that these efforts will increase awareness of invasive species issues and facilitate rapid response and management efforts for newly-reported populations of invasive plants.

### What is GLEDN?

GLEDN is an online system that collects invasive species reports from observers, verifies these reports, and integrates them with other networks. The system then uses this integrated information to send customized early detection email alerts.

### How do I report an invasive species?

Anyone can go to the site by visiting [www.gledn.org](http://www.gledn.org) to report an invasive plant location by simply clicking [Report an invasive species!]. After submission of species, location, and date information, reports are queued for verification to a large network of experts.

**Home page of GLEDN.** Note the large button in the upper right-hand corner for reporting an invasive species location.

Great Lakes Early Detection Network

Home Members Alerts Maps In Depth Contact Us

We are an invasive species network offering ...

- A communication and alert system
- Mapping solutions
- Data services

Report an invasive species!

Supported by ...

Great Lakes RESTORATION

**New Alerts**

November 7th, 2011	<a href="#">wild parsnip</a> ( <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> ) (45.6, -85.6)	GLEDN Guest	Not Verified	GLEDN
October 31st, 2011	<a href="#">Canadian thistle</a> ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) (46, -90)	GLEDN Guest	Not Verified	GLEDN
October 24th, 2011	<a href="#">Tamarix</a> ( <i>Tamarix</i> ) (42.6988, -90.9222)	Expert Tester	Not Verified	GLEDN
October 24th, 2011	<a href="#">Amur silvergrass</a> ( <i>Miscanthus sacchariflorus</i> ) (42, -89)	GLEDN Guest	Not Verified	GLEDN
October 24th, 2011	<a href="#">purple loosestrife</a> ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> ) (46.5948, -90.9669)	Expert Tester	Verified	GLEDN

[View all alerts](#)

Interested in learning more? [Read more](#) about our network today!

### How is an observation verified?

MIPN is currently recruiting a network of experts willing to verify new invasive species reports in their area, which is defined by the expert. As new sightings are reported within their specified area, automated emails are sent to the experts in the area for verification. Verifying experts can also access a list of reports that need verification on the GLEDN website. If an image is uploaded with the report, experts will first attempt photographic verification, but a site visit may be required. As you can see much of the verification will need to be done at the local level. If you are interested in becoming a verifier, please contact us!

### How are alerts created and how do I sign up for them?

Once verified, email alerts about the new sighting will be sent out to members that sign up for the alert. Each person can customize the alerts he or she receives by species and geographical area. For example, if you are only interested in alerts in Sauk County the site will only send you alerts of new reports for Sauk and adjacent counties. If you want to know when kudzu is first reported anywhere in Wisconsin, set your alerts to include any report of kudzu. Interested in an area that doesn't follow state or county boundaries? Send us a shapefile for the area you manage and we'll add it as an option (useful for CWMAs). The following figure is an example of what the alerts signup page looks like.

**Manage My Alerts page.** Alerts can be customized by species and location (county or state level).

### Why emphasize sharing data?

The real power of the system happens behind the scenes. GLEDN has a number of cooperating organizations, including the cattail volunteer monitoring project, EDDMaps, GISIN, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), iMap-invasives, MIPN, the National Institute of Invasive Species Science, New Invader Watch List, and Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS). These cooperators are sharing data so that alerts provided through GLEDN are triggered by data entered into any of these systems. So it doesn't matter who you share your invasive species location data with as long as they are registered affiliates of GLEDN. If your organization is interested in becoming an affiliate, please contact us so we can inform you of the steps to share data. Sharing data allows us to model and predict potential spread of these species and provides us with a better picture of invasive species and their spread in the Great Lakes Region. It is only through this kind of data sharing and cooperation that we will ever be able to get a handle on the problems caused by invasive species.

Go to [www.gledn.org](http://www.gledn.org). Sign up for alerts, and report invasive sightings so that the entire region can be informed. If you have questions or an interest in further training on how to use this website, contact our project coordinator, Alycia Crall, at [crall@wisc.edu](mailto:crall@wisc.edu); project staff member Brendon Panke [bjpanke@wisc.edu](mailto:bjpanke@wisc.edu), or principle investigator Mark Renz [mrenz@wisc.edu](mailto:mrenz@wisc.edu).

Great Lakes Early Detection Network

Home Members Alerts Maps In Depth Contact Us

Manage My Alerts

My Alerts		
Locations	Species	Options
Barry County, Michigan	cheatgrass ( <i>Bromus tectorum</i> )	Edit Remove
Charlevoix County, Michigan	Any species	Edit Remove
St. Croix County, Wisconsin	Any species	Edit Remove
Any Location	cutleaf teasel ( <i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i> )	Edit Remove

Create Alert

## First Annual Illinois “Invasive Species Awareness Month” Awards



In 2011 Governor Quinn signed a proclamation making May “Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month” ([http://niipp.net/?page\\_id=1016](http://niipp.net/?page_id=1016)), highlighting the importance of outreach and education and control efforts in decreasing the impacts that invasive species have had, and will continue to have, on the economy and ecology of Illinois. The Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) Planning Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2011 ISAM awards. These awards are given to volunteers, professionals, and organizations for their impressive contributions to the prevention, control, and management of invasive species in the state of Illinois.

**Greg White** is the “volunteer of the year” who worked with the Southern Illinois Weed Watch Project and mapped invasive species at several natural areas. Greg also assisted with the hand pulling of Japanese stiltgrass along the Rocky Bluff Trail at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge and helped River to River CWMA in its survey of bush honeysuckle at Trail of Tears State Forest. He has donated countless hours towards these efforts over the last two years.

*“Greg can always be counted on to lend a helping hand when work is needed. His dedication and hard work have been a great help to invasive species efforts in Illinois.”* Chris Evans, Coordinator, River to River CWMA

**Karen Tharp** (The Nature Conservancy) has received the “professional of the year” award for her work as Volunteer Steward Network Coordinator and Supervisor of the Southern Illinois Invasive Plant Strike Team. Karen has greatly influenced invasive species efforts across the state of Illinois by organizing herbicide trainings for volunteers in the Chicago region, helping to start the New Invaders Watch Program, and working closely with the Illinois Department of Agriculture to develop the new amendment to the Illinois Pesticide Act, making it easier for volunteers to treat invasive plants.

*“Karen’s dedication to natural areas preservation through support of Volunteer Stewardship and increasing awareness of invasive species has helped improved our ability to manage and restore our most valuable, biologically important natural areas; Karen is an inspiring person, both professionally and personally, and her work will have enduring benefit for natural areas conservation in Illinois.”* Debbie Maurer, Assistant Natural Resources Manager and Ecologist, Lake County Forest Preserve District

**Illinois Department of Transportation Region 1, District 1** has received the “organization of the year” award for revolutionizing the working relationship between natural areas managers and transportation professionals. IDOT played a pivotal role in supporting the development and establishment of the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership. In summer 2010 IDOT began a multi-year invasive plant mapping, control, and monitoring project along its highways. In spring of 2011 IDOT began to coordinate invasive plant control efforts along its rights of way with the efforts of regional natural areas managers and soon after joined the New Invaders Watch Program Rapid Responder Network, allowing monitors to report new invasive plant populations along its roads.

*“IDOT Region 1, District 1 is very committed to preventing, controlling, and managing invasive plant infestations and protecting native biodiversity. The combination of their progressive view of invasive plant management and cooperative spirit has blazed a trail for other transportation agencies to follow.”* Cathy McGlynn, Coordinator, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership

The awards will be presented in May 2012. The ISAM Planning Committee, and no doubt many of the volunteers and professionals who work with invasive species, would like to extend congratulations to the recipients of this year’s awards. Thank you for all your efforts to protect and preserve the native biodiversity of Illinois!

Additional information about ISAM can be found at <http://www.invasive.org/illinois/>. Please contact the ISAM Planning Committee via Chris Evans, Coordinator, River to River CWMA, [rivotriver@gmail.com](mailto:rivotriver@gmail.com), (618) 998-5920 or Cathy McGlynn, Coordinator, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership, [cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net](mailto:cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net), (847) 242-6423

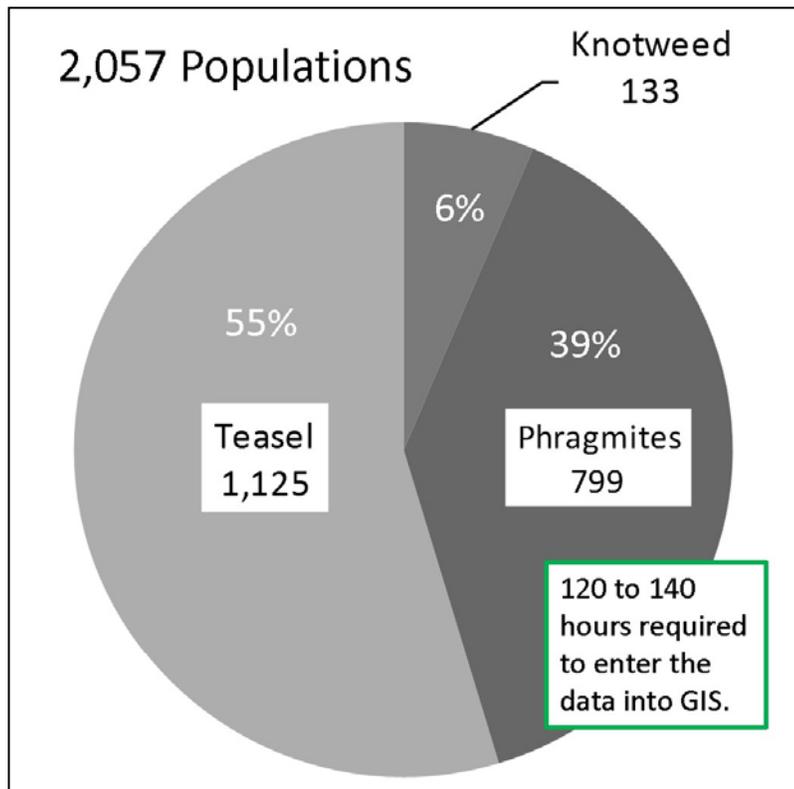
## Citizens Team-up to Map Invasive Plants through Roadside Survey

Jill A. Hapner, SEWISC Executive Director

James Reinartz, SEWISC Board and UW-Milwaukee Field Station

Nearly 150 volunteers collaborated to map four non-native invasive plant species in eight southeastern Wisconsin counties last summer, and the data keeps pouring in. Eight County Leaders were selected to recruit mapping teams of two for each township in the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc. (SEWISC) region. Team members received training, data sheets and maps which were provided by County GIS Departments and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee American Geographic Society Library. The volunteers collectively surveyed more than 11,000 miles of roadways, devoting over 1,200 hours to the project.

SEWISC's 2011 Invasive Plant Roadside Survey covered all roads with lane markings within Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha Counties. Township Mapping Teams also performed surveys focusing on areas in or near primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Giant reed grass (*Phragmites australis*) was mapped in 799 locations, common and cut-leaved teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris* and *D. laciniatus*) were mapped in 1,125 locations and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) was mapped in 133 locations. These species were selected because they are, 1) common, but still in early stages of infestation in our region, 2) not uniformly spread throughout the region, 3) spreading along roadways, and 4) easy to recognize throughout the year. Although these species have limited distribution in southeastern Wisconsin, each has the potential to spread rapidly along roadsides and rights-of-way. With training, these species were safely identified and mapped by teams of two or more travelling on foot, bicycle or by vehicle.



A very brief summary of the **survey instructions** is as follows:

1. Participants completed survey protocol training and submitted a liability release.
2. Survey teams of at least two were required for each township. One team member was charged with safely driving the car while the passenger navigated and recorded populations on the map and data form.
3. All populations visible from the road were recorded. A special effort to survey environmental corridors was made.
4. Populations were recorded with a dot on the map and labeled with a number. Species and population size codes corresponding to that number were recorded on the data sheet. Populations which were located within the right-of-way were noted.
5. All roads surveyed were marked with a highlighter on the map. Maps and data sheets were submitted to SEWISC and the survey data was entered into a digital geodatabase.



## SEWISC Invasive Plant Survey

### 2011 DATA FORM

**Survey Area** (Includes name of county, township and any additional description)

**Survey Date**

**Total Volunteer Hours**

**Total Miles Travelled**

Please submit all data forms and maps by August 1, 2011 to:  
 Marc White, SEWISC Coordinator  
 P.O. Box 241842  
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223

**Survey Team Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Survey Data:**

Obs. #	Taxa code	Size code	Notes

Obs. #	Taxa code	Size code	Notes

**Taxa Codes**

**T = Teasel** Common teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*) and cut-leaved teasel (*D. laciniatus*)

**K = Knotweed** Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

**P = Phragmites** Common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*)

**Population Size Codes**

**1 = Small**, 1 too few stems - cut & dab control using clippers and hand sprayer - less than 30 minutes of work.

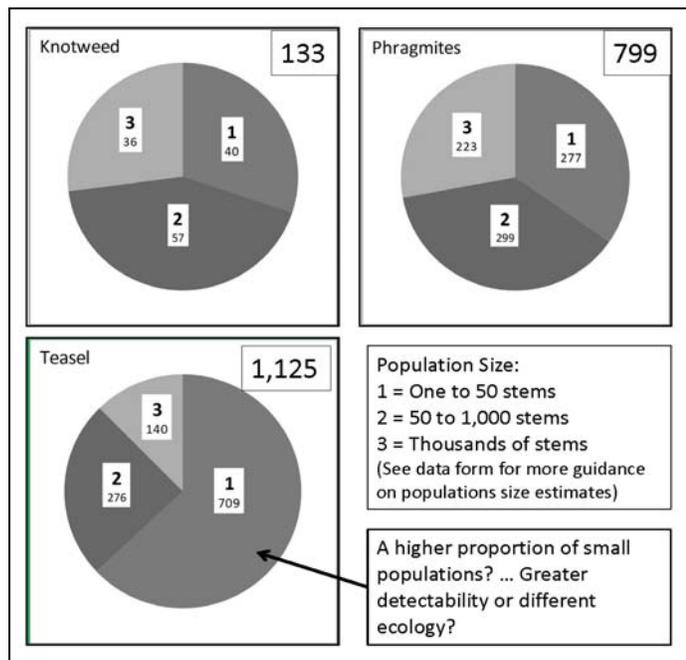
**2 = Medium**, Many stems - control using brush cutter and backpack sprayer - 30 minutes to 4 hours of work.

**3 = Large**, Thousands of stems - control involves equipment that needs to be steered - more than 4 hours of work.

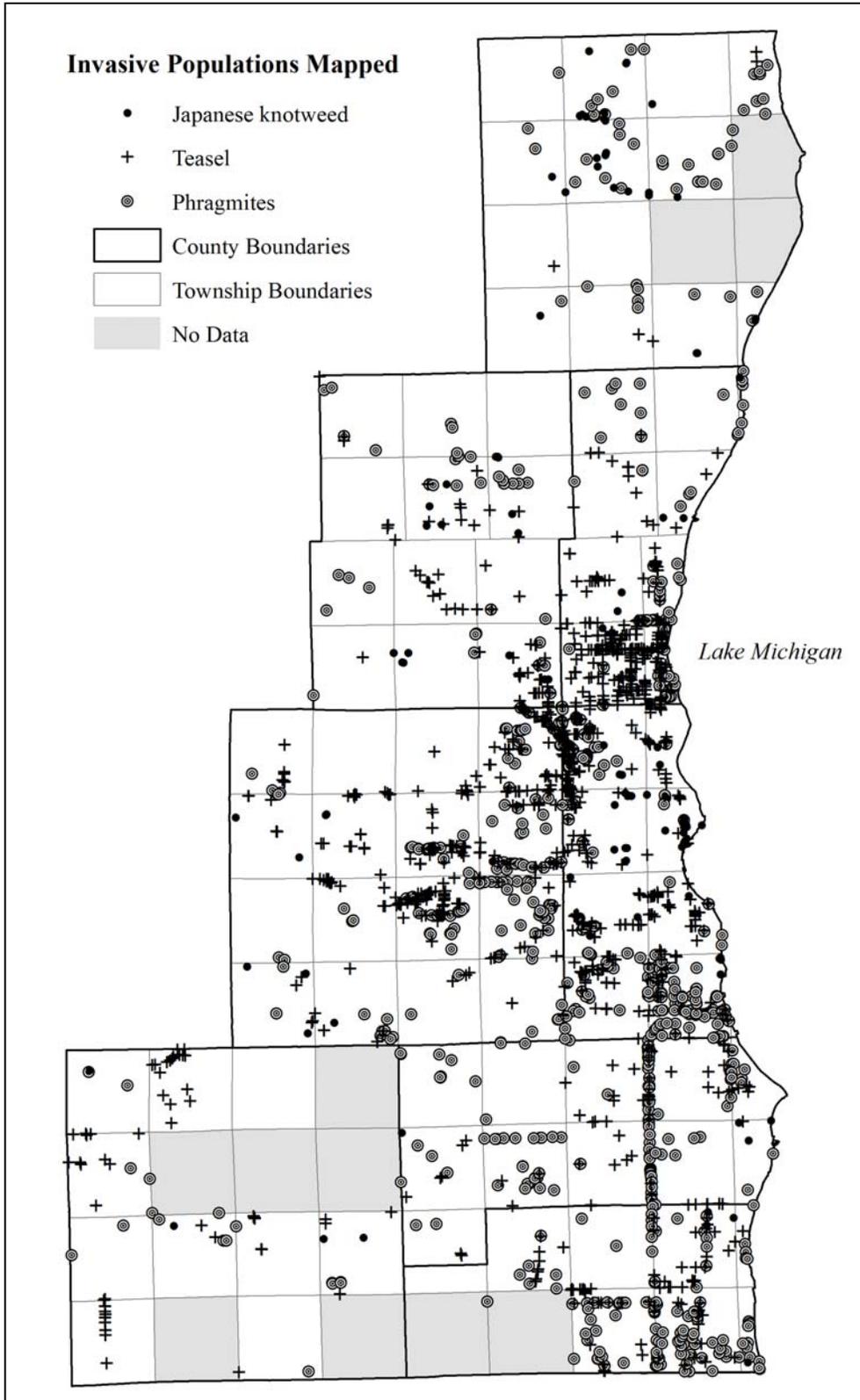


The majority of the mapped populations were relatively small, and teasel populations were, on average, smaller than either Japanese knotweed or Phragmites.

concluded on pages 8 & 9

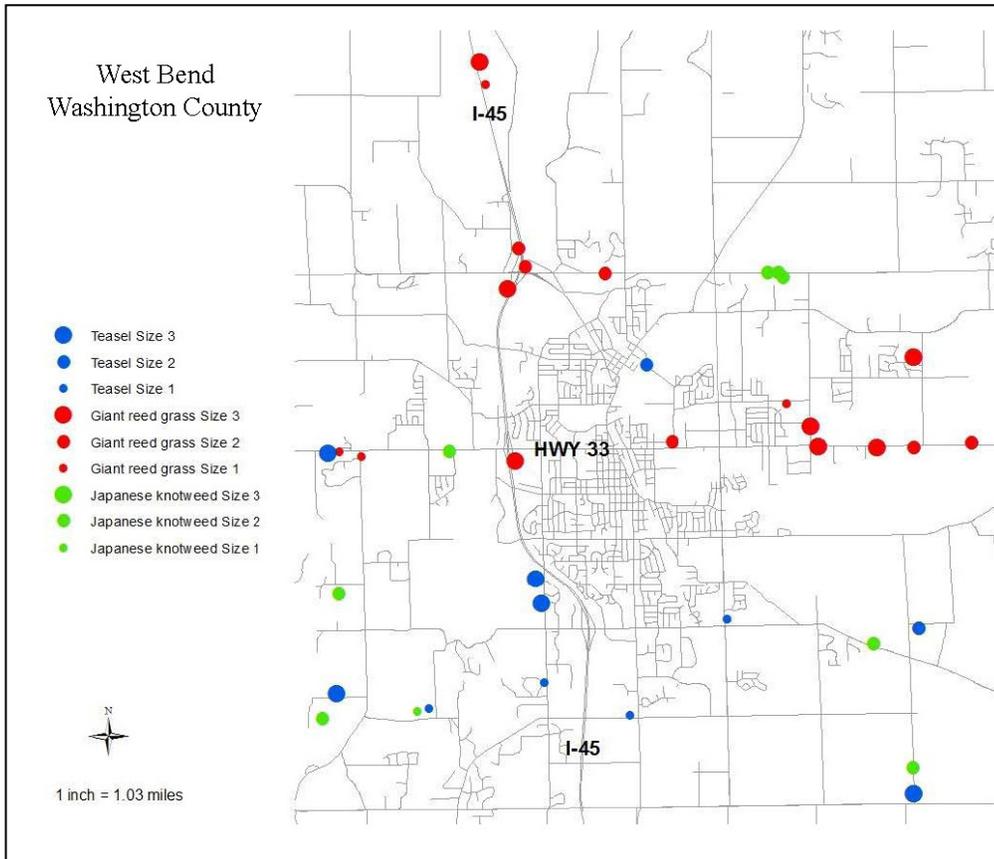


It was clear from the mapped populations of the species that they were not uniformly distributed throughout the eight-county region. Japanese knotweed was the least common of the species, but had a concentration of populations in north-central Sheboygan County in the northern part of our region. The teasels were very common, had a very high concentration in southern Ozaukee County, and were nearly absent from the northern part of the eight-county area. Timely eradication of small populations of teasel in the northern part of the region can still prevent teasels from becoming a major problem there. Phragmites was widely scattered, but tended to be found in concentrations where it must have first established, and from which it is spreading, including the I-94 highway corridor south of Milwaukee.



Data from this survey will increase the effectiveness of SEWISC's Invasive Species Mapping and Management Workshops. It will also provide the information park and right-of-way managers will need for planning efforts to control the establishment and spread of these species. This project served to increase public awareness of the threats posed by invasive species, and to provide valuable information to guide future funding of control efforts. Feedback from the volunteers also indicated that the survey was just plain fun!

Although an additional goal of the survey was to develop a network of dedicated volunteers needed to build a strong and sustainable invasive control program, an unexpected outcome was the subsequent formation of an "adopt-a-township" program. Township Team Members continue to submit new (or missed) populations in their assigned mapping areas as they go about their daily business. All four of the 2011 target survey species can be easily identified throughout the winter, making them difficult for a seasoned mapper to ignore.



Using the GIS database we can produce detailed maps of population locations for any specific area of interest. As surveyors and others transition from mapping to controlling populations, we will be able to provide them with detailed maps of the species that includes some information about population size. That information will enable them to first target small and isolated populations to prevent further spread and quarantine the species to where it is already well established.

The data submitted by our mapping teams are entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database, which was de-

veloped by two University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin student interns majoring in Geography. Initial inventory data were shared with two University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin students (one graduate and one undergraduate) for special geospatial class projects during the fall 2011 semester. A GLRI grant from USEPA/USFS allowed SEWISC to hire Marc White as SEWISC Coordinator to help manage the project.

The GIS database is continually updated as new populations are reported and the information is shared with government agencies. The SEWISC Board of Directors will soon choose one new species to map in 2012, so the teams will hit the road again this summer. If you'd like to learn more about this project or if you are interested in volunteering, **send an email to [info@sewisc.org](mailto:info@sewisc.org)**. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number. A full report on the project will be posted on the SEWISC website ([sewisc.org](http://sewisc.org)) as soon as it is available.

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

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### *Plants out of Place*

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

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Madison, WI 53705-0274

#### Membership Categories:

- \$20.00 individual
- \$30.00 family
- \$10.00 student
- \$100.00 organization/agency

For information about joining and a membership form, email: [Membership@IPAW.org](mailto:Membership@IPAW.org)

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go to [www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)

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