



# *Plants out of Place*

The newsletter of the  
**INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN**

Issue 7 May 2004

## **IPAW Board of Directors**

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Professor of Agronomy  
University of Wisconsin  
1575 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 263-5070  
Djunders@facstaff.wisc.edu

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P.O. Box 1092, Eau Claire, WI 54702  
(715) 834-0065  
bigute-hort@prodigy.net

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The Nature Conservancy  
107 Walnut Street  
Baraboo WI 53913  
608-356-5300  
nbraker@tnc.org

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Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921  
(608) 267-2770  
Thomas.Boos@dnr.state.wi.us

### **Jen Baker**

W8181 Hwy E, Oxford, WI 53952  
(608) 369-0150  
java@maqs.net

### **Lauren Ebbecke**

440 Frederick Street, Apt C  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 342-2672  
lebbecke@dwave.net

### **Patrick Goggin**

Vilas County Conservationist  
Land & Water Cons. Dept.  
Vilas Co. Court House  
330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521  
(715) 479-3648  
pagogg@co.vilas.wi.us

### **David Hamel**

N8973 4th Ave., Westfield, WI 54521  
(608) 296-2866  
sdhamel@maQs.net

### **Jim Reinartz, Director**

UW - Milwaukee Field Station  
3095 Blue Goose Road, Saukville, WI 53080  
(262) 675-6844  
jimr@uwm.edu

### **Gene Roark**

16 Grand Ave., Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 238-5349

### **Steven Strachota, Dairyland Seed Corp.**

P.O. Box 958, West Bend, WI 53095-0958  
(262) 338-0163  
sstrachota@dairylandseed.com

### **Donna Van Buecken,**

Executive Director The Wild Ones  
2801E. Hietpas, Appleton, WI 54911  
(920) 730-3986  
IPAWmbrshp@aol.com

## ***NIPPING 'EM IN THE BUD: A PROGRAM TO STOP NEW INVASIVE PLANTS IN WISCONSIN***

*by David J. Eagan*

In case you haven't heard, Wisconsin has its own early detection & rapid response program underway. The Wisconsin Invasive Plants Reporting and Prevention Project is targeting "invasive plants of the future" – both terrestrial and aquatic weeds -- that have the potential of becoming major problems in the state. The idea is to develop a model prevention program for identifying, reporting, controlling and monitoring occurrences, and whose methods and materials can be adopted by other states in the region. This joint initiative of the WI DNR and Wisconsin State Herbarium (at UW-Madison) is funded by the EPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO).

Some of these new invasives - such as common teasel and black swallow-wort -- are already here, but in modest numbers or in limited areas. Others - such as giant hogweed and water chestnut -- are not known to have crossed our borders but are causing serious trouble elsewhere, in climate zones similar to Wisconsin's. Both categories of plants are on the Target List for 2004 (see below) and more species will be added in the future.

An illustrated brochure will be ready by late spring that features the target species, with photos, descriptions and information on reporting and control methods. Web-based resources will also be developed to help get the word out about these plants. Over the spring and summer, volunteer cooperators around the state will help identify the weeds, collect and press voucher specimens, report sightings to the UW Herbarium, and initiate control efforts. A mapping database is being developed to track occurrences, and a long-term control and monitoring strategy for each population will help determine if containment and eradication efforts are working.

A special invitation is extended to IPAW members and friends to join the statewide volunteer effort to be on the lookout for the project's target species (while watching for your old weedy favorites). Your perspectives on how to make this initiative successful are also welcome anytime. Questions? Ideas? Need more information? Please contact project coordinator David Eagan in Madison at [djeagan@wisc.edu](mailto:djeagan@wisc.edu) or at (608) 267-7612.

### ***TARGET SPECIES LIST FOR 2004***

[WI] = Already present in Wisc.

Wineberry or Wine Raspberry (*Rubus phoenicolasias*)  
Japanese Hops (*Humulus japonicus*) [WI]  
Black Swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*) [WI]  
Pale Swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*)  
European Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) [WI]  
Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum* subsp. *sylvestris*) [WI]  
Cut-leaved Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) [WI]  
Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)  
Japanese Hedge Parsley (*Torilis japonica*) [WI]  
Field Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*)  
Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*)  
Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) [WI]  
Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)  
European Frog-Bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)  
Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)

## ***Invasive Plant Mapping in Wisconsin: a workshop held on 25 February 2004***

There are at least 22 invasive plant mapping projects currently being conducted, and another 7 planned to start soon, on various species and spatial scales in the state of Wisconsin. On 25 February the IPAW Science Committee in collaboration with the Wisconsin DNR held an invasive plant mapping workshop in Stevens Point. The goals of the workshop were, 1) to share information on current or proposed invasive plant inventory, mapping, database and monitoring projects in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest, and 2) to discuss whether and how it might be possible to coordinate the various projects, and increase sharing of data and information. Fifty-seven people interested or involved in invasive plant mapping in Wisconsin and adjacent states attended the workshop. Participants represented a wide variety of governmental agencies, universities, and conservation organizations.

### ***Ongoing Mapping Projects***

The workshop began with descriptions of a wide variety of invasive plant mapping projects in our state, from the low-tech mapping of garlic mustard, honeysuckle, and buckthorn on paper maps of the Milwaukee County Parks (Ken Solis), to the very sophisticated GIS database that the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission has developed ([www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org)) for their purple loosestrife mapping and control project (Miles Falk). Jill Rosenberg and Erin Craine described another volunteer mapping project, the *Wisconsin Nature Mapping* website ([www.wisnatmap.com](http://www.wisnatmap.com)), where volunteer observers report wildlife sightings, and the *WDNR Aquatic and Terrestrial Resource Inventory* mapping project, and they discussed how each of these website reporting approaches might be expanded to report the locations of invasive plants. Glen Barry of the Wisconsin State Herbarium described their *Wisconsin Biomapper* project which makes maps of the locations of all herbarium specimens from Wisconsin, including invasives, available on their website ([www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/](http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/)). David Eagan reported on the Wisconsin DNR and University of Wisconsin project to design an early detection and rapid response system for invasive plants in the state. Kelly Kearns presented the *Invasive Plant Atlas of New England* ([invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/](http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/)) as one model for a regional invasive plant database and mapping system.

### ***Mapping Standards***

The North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) has developed a detailed and precise set of standards for mapping, inventory, and monitoring of invasive plants ([www.nawma.org](http://www.nawma.org)). The standards include definitions, recommended data fields to collect for adequate descriptions of invasive plant populations, and standards for data accuracy. Workshop participants discussed the NAWMA mapping standards and whether they should and could be applied to standardize the methodology of projects in Wisconsin. In general the discussion groups agreed that adoption of the NAWMA standards as a uniform guideline for mapping projects in Wisconsin would increase the utility of the data collected and promote the ability to share information from various projects in a statewide database. Some modifications to the required and optional data fields were suggested.

### ***A Unified Statewide Database?***

Workshop participants also discussed at length whether a statewide database and website for reporting the locations of invasive plant populations would contribute substantially to control efforts, or to our understanding of invasives in the state. What benefits would be derived from a single uniform database for the state? What form would this database or website take? Is there an existing database and reporting system elsewhere that would work for Wisconsin? How much would a project to develop a statewide database cost, and what efforts would be required? Would observations or data be accepted only with voucher specimens or from approved observers, or could anyone contribute to the database? What would ensure the accuracy of reports and identifications of species?

The workshop generated many good ideas and observations (and probably most importantly, good questions) about the form and utility of a statewide invasive plant database / website. A summary of the discussion indicated that the workshop participants were split concerning whether development of a statewide database would have sufficient benefits to justify the cost and effort required for its development and maintenance. As a result of these discussions the IPAW Science Committee determined to coordinate three workgroups that will further explore the potential for development of a statewide invasive plant mapping website or data clearinghouse. One group will focus on developing links on the IPAW website to all available mapping projects. A second group will clarify a statement of, 1) what the purpose and goals of a statewide database would be, 2) different options for formats that this database might have, and 3) a conceptual

*Mapping continued from page 2*

cost/benefit analysis of the development and maintenance of this project. A third group will consider practical aspects such as, how to ensure the usefulness and accuracy of a statewide database, and how to promote contribution to, and use of, the data.

### ***You can help!***

If you are interested in contributing to the further exploration of development of a statewide invasive plant mapping information clearinghouse, IPAW can use your help. Please contact Jim Reinartz ([jimr@uwm.edu](mailto:jimr@uwm.edu); (262) 675-6844) to find out how you can help. To receive a list, compiled by the IPAW Science Committee and the WDNR Endangered Resources, of all known invasive plant mapping projects in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest contact IPAW ([info@IPAW.org](mailto:info@IPAW.org)) to receive a copy. The list contains a brief description of each project and contact information.

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## ***GARLIC MUSTARD AND SPOTTED KNAPWEED WORKSHOP***

*submitted by David Hamel*

About 25 active volunteers and professionals attended a Garlic Mustard and Spotted Knapweed control workshop on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 at Fort McCoy. The day-long program, organized by Kim Mello, Dave Beckmann, and others from the Fort McCoy Wildlife Program, included 7 presentations and provoked stimulating discussions as participants shared their success stories and frustrations in the struggle to control these invasive species.

One promising point was that these species are biennials (sometimes short lived perennials) and their seeds are typically not spread over a wide area by wind or birds. Therefore eradication is possible if mature plants are prevented from adding to the seedbank for a number of consecutive years. Because seeds remain viable for a long time in the ground, and one mature plant can drop thousands of seeds, consistency is the key.

The IPAW web page [http://www.ipaw.org/invaders/garlic\\_mustard/gm.htm](http://www.ipaw.org/invaders/garlic_mustard/gm.htm) has a good write-up on control of Garlic Mustard.

Highlights of lessons learned at this workshop on Garlic Mustard included:

1. **Use a variety of techniques.** Spraying, backpack torching, prescribed burning, and hand pulling all work but have pros and cons. The best combination for a specific site depends on the quality of the site (species richness and what are you trying to protect), the native community, the size of the patch or population, and the availability of money, personnel, and time to work on the problem.
2. If labor is in short supply, concentrate on small patches that hopefully can be eradicated or at least treated every year. With larger populations/patches, start treating from the perimeter (outside). Don't worry about mature plants that will add seeds to an already saturated spot until you are ready to eradicate that spot every year.
3. **Check back again and again.** No technique gets 100% of the individual plants in one pass, so come back next week to find scattered individuals that escaped notice during the last attack. 100% is the goal.
4. Where desirable plants are mixed with invasives, torching of rosettes and hand pulling of second year Garlic Mustard (and Spotted Knapweed) is an effective, but labor intensive, way to prevent development of new seeds. If potentially viable seeds are present on pulled plants, plants must be removed from the site by bagging, or by piling in a spot where new seedlings can be easily controlled.
5. There is a window of opportunity for area spraying with glyphosate (Roundup) early spring and late fall if invasives are the only plants with green leaves. In mild winters (like 2003) the spray season can even last through December.
6. Keep looking for invasives spreading to new areas. If a single plant matures and drops seeds it will require years to undo the damage. Follow human and animal trails. Seed is spread by the feet of people, deer, and small animals, as well as by vehicle tires. To prevent long-distance spread by humans, encourage cleaning of everything from hiker's boots to logging equipment that may travel from infested areas to "clean" areas.

[Workshop on page 5](#)



### *A Tribute to Betty Czarapata*

*teacher, volunteer, photographer, writer and advocate for the protection of native plants from the ravages of invasives*

In the early 1990's, Elizabeth J. Czarapata started noticing the ecological hazards posed by garlic mustard, common buckthorn and other species as they replaced the native vegetation in the parks and other wild places she loved in southeastern Wisconsin. This quiet, meek environmental advocate saw a new purpose in her life – to do what she could to inform others about the problems of invasive plants and to help people to recognize and control them.

Frustrated at not being able to identify all of the invasive plants, Betty began taking photographs in order to study them further. She soon found others were just as eager to learn and began using her photographs when giving talks to teachers, landowners and other volunteers. She developed displays such as the one used each year at the Wisconsin State Fair. For several years Betty ran the annual Weed-out! where the Park People of Milwaukee County organize hundreds of volunteers to pull garlic mustard in county parks. Through the Park People she also developed a curriculum guide to help educators teach middle school students about plant invasions. She went to the local nurseries and asked them to stop selling invasive plants. Almost single-handedly, Betty got Governor Thompson to declare May of 2000 as Garlic Mustard Awareness month.

In 1999, Betty self-published *Invading Weeds: A Growing Threat to Wisconsin's Biodiversity*—a compilation of photographs and species information about invasive plants in Wisconsin. Then she set her sights higher and began to focus on a similar, but more detailed, guide for the entire region. What began as a simple quest for an educational tool grew into the most comprehensive guide to date on the identification and control of invasive plants in the Upper Midwest. Her new book, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: an Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control*, is currently being edited and will be coming out from the University of Wisconsin Press early in 2005.

In the course of compiling this work, Betty was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Between her chemotherapy treatments she labored on the book, writing and rewriting the species accounts, selecting the best photos out of her large collection, and gathering the most current information available on control methods. She sought out specialists to review various sections of the book in an attempt to make it as accurate as possible. By mid-December 2003 she had completed all the parts that were critical for her to finish. Unfortunately for all of us, especially those who knew her and worked with her, she died a few days after Christmas. She knew that her efforts would be successful, however, and the book and her photos would be carried on without her.

Betty's husband, Lee, is helping to ensure that her book is published, and that her photos are available for educational efforts. It was important for Betty to know that her remarkable efforts to work on invasive plants will help to protect some of our wild places for her children and grandchildren. Thanks Betty, from all of us.

*Workshop continued from page 3*

All is not lost. Cautious optimism was the prevailing attitude among those involved in control projects. **Bio control might be just around the corner for Garlic Mustard.**

Although there are more individuals dealing with Garlic Mustard than Spotted Knapweed, there was a lot of good information shared about control measures for Spotted Knapweed.

Taking an integrated weed management approach using some or all of the following was suggested: spraying (Glyphosate, 2,4-D, and Transline), mowing, handpulling (small patches/individual plants), prescribed burning, and bioagents. Bioagents are just starting to be used in WI. One presentation was given by MN Dept of Ag personnel on Spotted Knapweed bioagents.

In summary, the Garlic Mustard/Spotted Knapweed workshop was a success for learning and sharing information on these two invasive species.

### ***IPAW Board News***

Ballots cast by IPAW members earlier this spring re-elected current board members Donna Van Buecken and Gene Roark, and brought on new board member Jen Baker. We appreciate the assistance of these board members and their commitment to making IPAW a strong organization.

Outgoing board members are Jaime Corbisier, Susan Lehnhardt and Dave Spatcher. Their time on the board was very valuable to us, and we wish them well in their new endeavors. Susan expects to stay active with the Plant Industry Relations Committee, and Dave Spatcher will continue to assist us with making connections with the herbicide industry. Thank you Jaime, Susan and Dave for your service!

### ***Get Involved in Regional and County Groups!***

***The following groups are actively working at invasive species control around Wisconsin. They can use your help! Contacts are listed.***

**Central** - Mike Engel  
[Mike\\_Engel@fws.gov](mailto:Mike_Engel@fws.gov)  
 (608) 221-1206 ext 21

**Western** - Rolf Utegaard  
[bigute-hort@prodigy.net](mailto:bigute-hort@prodigy.net)  
 (715) 834-0065

**Northwoods Weed Initiative** - Quita Sheehan  
 (715) 479-2827

**Northeastern** – Coordinator needed  
[http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/invasive-species/invasive\\_plants01.htm](http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/invasive-species/invasive_plants01.htm)

**Southern** - Coordinator needed

**Southeast** - Coordinator needed

**Milwaukee County Weed Out** - Ken Solis  
[ksolis@drjump.com](mailto:ksolis@drjump.com)  
 (414) 423-1709  
<http://www.theparkpeople-milwaukee.org/>

**Southwest** - Coordinator needed

**Door County** - Carolyn Rock [rockc@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:rockc@dnr.state.wi.us)  
 920-823-2400  
<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/lakeshore/dcist/>

**Greater Sauk County** - Jen Stewart,  
[jstewart@co.sauk.wi.us](mailto:jstewart@co.sauk.wi.us)

**Monroe County** - Kim Mello  
[kim.mello@emh2.mccoys.army.mil](mailto:kim.mello@emh2.mccoys.army.mil)  
 (608) 388-5766

**Brown County** - Paul Hartman  
[paul.hartman@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:paul.hartman@ces.uwex.edu)  
 (920) 391-4610

### ***Mark your Calendars***

The IPAW Annual Members Meeting will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, in conjunction with the Wild Ones Native Landscaping Conference. The meeting will be in the UW Memorial Union, Beefeater Room (3rd Floor) from 12:30 - 1:30 on Saturday, August 7, 2004. Additional information will be sent as meeting details are finalized.

**Table of Contents**

Nipping 'em in the Bud .....	1
Invasive Plant Mapping in Wisconsin .....	2
Garlic Mustard and Spotted Knapweed Workshop....	3
A Tribute to Betty Czarapata .....	4
IPAW Board News .....	5
IPAW Annual Members Meeting .....	5

**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 members to:

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin  
P. O. Box 5274  
Madison, WI 53705-0274

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