



The Door County Invasive Species Team

as managed by the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department, empowers citizens with the education, tools and skills necessary to control invasive species.

Invasive Species Workshops, News, and Volunteer Opportunities

March/April 2018

Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department Initiates Municipal Cost-Share Program

The Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department (SWCD) has implemented a program to cover a portion the costs incurred by municipalities conducting invasive species control on four priority species in Door County. The cost share funds will be awarded to municipalities that have passed a noxious weed ordinance that includes one or more of the following species: Common reed (*Phragmites australis*), wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), or common/cut-leaved teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*).

Projects eligible for cost share funding must have a definite probability of significantly reducing the priority invasive species. Priority will be provided to first time applicants with no more than five municipalities selected in a calendar year. SWCD municipal cost sharing shall not exceed 50% of the total costs for the treatment of the invasive species. Municipalities may apply for the cost share funds at the SWCD office by completing and submitting a short proposal of the priority invasive species control program and a Request of Municipal Cost Share form. For more information, contact Krista Lutzke at the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department at 920-746-2363 or klutzke@co.door.wi.us.



Cut-leaf Teasel in flower near Ellison Bay.

Gibraltar Invasive Species Show-and-Tell – Saturday, April 28th 10:00am – 1:00pm at 4281 Cottage Row, Fish Creek



Join the Door County Invasive Species Team at the Ansley Property for a hands-on day of learning about invasive species found in the Town of Gibraltar. Drop by anytime between 10:00am-1:00pm on Saturday, April 28th, 2018 to check out our informational table, see plant samples (or bring your own for identification), and get hands-on training in the use of new smartphone apps to map invasive species. We'll also be offering 30-minute guided tours of the property at 10:30am and 12:00pm where we'll identify and learn to control common invasive plants in the landscape.

Peninsula State Park needs your help to pull garlic mustard during two workdays this spring! **The workdays will be held on Tuesday May 15th and Friday June 16th from 9:30-11:30am.** Volunteers should meet at the Park Headquarters where they will be given a courtesy pass that is valid while that are doing volunteer work in the park that day. We'll be working on hand-pulling garlic mustard near the road and trail along Sven's Bluff and Norway Bluff. Volunteers are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes as we may be walking and working on uneven terrain. Water and snacks will be provided by DCIST during the workdays. In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be the following Tuesday or Friday (one week later). For more information, contact Kathleen Harris at Peninsula State Park at 920-868-3258 or Kathleen.harris@wisconsin.gov.



Second-year garlic mustard plant in flower. Photo: J.F. Gaffard

DCIST and Peninsula State Park are also looking for volunteers to Adopt-a-Trail at the Park this summer – this is your chance to contribute to invasive species efforts on your own time, while exploring parts of the park that are off the beaten path! Volunteers would be provided training in invasive species identification and the use of a smartphone to record invasive plant locations. They will then work with the DCIST coordinator to select a section of trail in the park which the volunteer will walk at least twice throughout the summer looking for common invasive plants. Sections can be as short as a quarter-mile or up to four or five miles. For more information on this program, contact the DCIST coordinator, Kari Hagenow at dcist1@gmail.com or 920-746-5955.



Clean Boats, Clean Waters Training Opportunity & 2017 by the Numbers

With continued concern over the spread of aquatic invasive species to Wisconsin's inland lakes, many lake association members and concerned citizens are looking for ways to get involved. Since 2004, The Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspection program has been an opportunity to take a front-line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species. Throughout Wisconsin, lake residents, county board members, tribal community members, representatives from County Park and forest programs, boat marina operators, realtors, and concerned citizens have attended the workshops to learn how AIS threaten Wisconsin waters and volunteered their time at local boat launches.

2017 Clean Boats, Clean Waters by the Numbers (Door County)

- 387 boats inspected
- 798 people contacted about AIS prevention
- 163 hours conducting inspections
- 95% of boaters were willing to talk to inspectors
- 6% used their watercraft on a different waterbody within the last 5 days (high risk of spreading AIS)

The Door County Invasive Species Team will be holding a Clean Boats, Clean Waters training workshop on the afternoon of June 1, 2018. Workshop attendees will be trained to identify common aquatic invasive species that threaten our waters and how to prevent their spread. Participants will also learn how to conduct boater education at local landings and in their community-knowing where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride on a boat or trailer and what steps boaters should be taking. In addition, attendees will learn how to collect and report any new invasive species sighted. This workshop is free and open to the public; however, attendees should register through the following link to ensure that materials are available for all in attendance: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clean-boats-clean-waters-workshop-tickets-43619045740?aff=es2>.

The Rushes Wilderness Foundation 2018 Workdays May 1-3 and May 29-30 at The Rushes on Kangaroo Lake

The Rushes Wilderness Foundation will be holding spring workdays on The Rushes property near Kangaroo Lake, working on activities such as invasive species control, trail maintenance, and tree care. The workdays will be May 1, 2, & 3 (Tues, Wed, and Thurs) and May 29, 30, & 31 (Tues, Wed, and Thurs). Those interested in volunteering can pick one, two, or all three of the days to help. The workdays will begin at around 9:00am and will last until 5:00pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and 9:00am to noon on Thursday. Lunch will be provided and wine, beer, soda, cheese, etc. after work on the first and second days. If you'd like to volunteer or need lodging information, contact Margaret Pagels at margaret@therushes.com or 920-839-2730.



Rushes volunteer works to remove Japanese barberry in 2016.

Registration is Now Open for the 2018 Door County Festival of Nature May 24th through 27th – Baileys Harbor (and beyond!)



The Door County Festival of Nature is a celebration of the peninsula's unique natural history, flora and fauna. The 16th annual festival, based out of the Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor, will take place Thursday, May 24 through Sunday, May 27, 2018. The 2018 Festival of Nature offers a variety of field trips, classes and activities throughout Door County. The trips are designed to give us an understanding of and appreciation for the unique natural beauty that is all around us – and they remind us why preserving that beauty through our invasive species work is so important! To register, visit www.ridgessanctuary.org or call 920-839-2802. A confirmation email will be sent to you after registration. Many of the field trips and activities have a limited number of spots to be reserved, so sign up early to ensure yours today! Partners of the event include: The Ridges Sanctuary, Crossroads at Big Creek, Door County Land Trust, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. To learn more about the event and see the full list of activities that are offered, follow the link: http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/FestOfNatureBooklet_2018_FINAL.pdf.

Upcoming FREE Webinar – Seed-based Revegetation Following Phragmites Control March 28, 2018 – 1:00-2:00pm

Join presenters Emily Martin and Dr. Karin Kettenring (Utah State University), for an hour long invasive species webinar. Active native plant revegetation should be part of Phragmites restoration programs. This talk will discuss why revegetation is so essential and why seed-based revegetation is likely the most feasible approach. Furthermore, the presenters will address common challenges to seed-based revegetation and offer solutions and recommendations for those interested in pursuing seed-based revegetation. To register online for this webinar, visit <https://www.greatlakesphragmites.net/>.



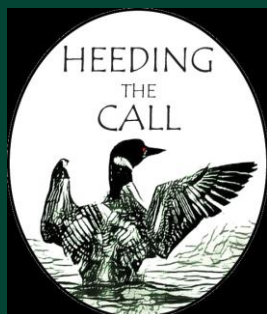
June 2018 marks Wisconsin's 14th Annual Invasive Species Action Month! In celebration, the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council is holding a video contest open to everyone. The goal of the Video Contest is to increase awareness of invasive species that invade our favorite areas to play and to teach people how to prevent the spread of invasive species in these habitats. People enjoy these outdoor areas by boat and canoe, while hunting, by walking the trails and shorelines, and much more. With these enjoyments comes the responsibility of everyone to protect our natural areas from invasive species. This is your opportunity to let your inner director out, showcase your acting skill, and create a short video illustrating why you care about invasive species and how easy, and even fun, invasive species prevention can be.



Submit your less-than-two-minute video showing how to protect the places you play to the Wisconsin DNR Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WIDNR>) between March 26 and April 30, 2018. Submitted videos will be available for Facebook users to vote on between May 1 and May 31, 2018. The video with the most votes wins and will be shown at the Invader Crusader Award Ceremony. The producer(s) of the winning video will receive a buckthorn plaque and be invited to attend the 15th annual Invader Crusader Awards ceremony.

In addition, you are invited to nominate an individual, group or organization to be recognized for their exemplary efforts at addressing issues surrounding terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, including plants, pests, animals and disease-causing organisms. Recipients of the awards will be recognized at an awards ceremony on Wednesday June 6, 2018 at Olbrich Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin. Completed applications should be emailed to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov. Nominations are due and must be received by Friday, April 27th, 2018. The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council will review the nomination materials and select award winners. Look for the nomination form attached to the email you received with this newsletter. It will also be posted at <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness-month/awards/>.

Upcoming Invasive Species & Stewardship-related Workshop and Conferences:



April 18-20, 2018 – Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, Stevens Point, WI

This convention will again join with the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Symposium to bring citizens and professionals together to work on not only lake matters, but expand these efforts into the watershed. Topics of presentations will include aquatic invasive species, research, waterway restorations, understanding watershed connections and water quality, policy as it relates to our water resources, and fisheries and restoration ecology. For more information:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes>.

October 15-18, 2018 - Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Rochester, MN

This biennial conference provides numerous opportunities to network with professionals, land managers, researchers, nonprofits, and others. The conference is open to any member of the public. Registration will be open April 2018 on <https://www.umisc.net/registration.html>. Follow the link for additional information. Early registration is due by August 15, 2018.



Invasive Plant Profile: *Hydrilla verticillata* An Early Detection Species in Door County

Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata) is a submerged perennial, non-native aquatic plant that has not yet been identified in Door or the surrounding counties. It invades freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers and reservoirs, growing entirely underwater. It can be seen from the water's surface when thick mats of the plant form. The mats can hinder recreational activities like fishing, boating, and swimming and prevent sunlight from penetrating to other native vegetation. This invasive species outcompetes native vegetation, acts as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and destroys fish and wildlife. It can also severely impact water intake and delivery systems.

You can identify this invasive by looking at several features. The leaves are in whorls of 3-10 around the stem and are 0.75" long and 0.25" wide. There are small spines that give leaf margins a toothed appearance and the midrib is often spiny below and reddish in color when new. The leaves are also rough to the touch. When flowering, you will see tiny flowers forming. Female flowers are white and male flowers are green. Be careful to not mix this up with similar species. There are similar characteristics to other aquatic plants, including the non-native Brazilian waterweed and the native Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*). *Hydrilla* can be distinguished from *Elodea* by the presence of tubers, leaves in whorls around the stem, serrations or small spines along the leaf edges, and the reddish midrib of a fresh leaf.

There are both chemical and mechanical control options available for *Hydrilla*. However, both methods can be timely and expensive, so early detection and prevention is important to ensure this species does not begin to take over a water body.

Hydrilla has not yet been detected in Wisconsin; however, it is listed as a prohibited species under the NR 40 Rule. Prohibited species are not currently found in Wisconsin or are found in very low density and few areas. If introduced, they are likely to cause significant environmental and economic harm or harm to human health. The NR 40 Rule makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce invasive species listed as prohibited in Wisconsin.

