



Monday December 19th, 2pm

Crossroads at Big Creek

## DCIST VOLUNTEER AWARDS



At the end of the year we like to bring some of our stewards forward and highlight their hard work in invasive species management. Nine individuals will be awarded for their coordination, collaboration, and dedication to suppressing the further expansion of local invasive species populations. One of DCIST's former coordinators will present on the history of our program before we recognize those who are still working toward those same goals.



Join us to learn about some of the outstanding control projects going on in Door County and those leaders who have enabled their success. Stay for holiday snacks, socializing, and give DCIST some feedback on the "weed needs" for 2012!

### Phragmites Mapping

December is a wonderful time to head outside! No bugs and after the hunting season, it makes for a wonderful jaunt. DCIST is in need of volunteer help in documenting phragmites in the right-of-ways of Southern Door County. This can be done on your own time, alone or with company. Also, we want to re-inventory some of our interior wetlands for invasive species. This is a great excuse for a hiking adventure!

If you are interested in gathering data and exploring new or old areas, please contact **Marne Kaeske** to set up an equipment training date: 920-839-2802



DCIST is always interested in knowing what invasive species you have identified and where you are concentrating your efforts. Please complete a *Volunteer Log Sheet* at submit to us!



**"Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree...."**

### **Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)**

Consider a non-native Christmas tree this year. Scotch pines grow very fast, and are prolific reproducers.



### **Feathered Foes,** *Marne Kaeske-DCIST Coordinator*

Just two weeks ago, a bugling of sorts could be heard echoing across Moonlight Bay. An unfamiliar sound to me, I learned that it was Trumpeter swans gathering before their flight south. Three different types of swans can be seen in Wisconsin; the Trumpeter, Tundra and Mute swan. These big white birds are very similar in appearance unless distinguished between using a pair of binoculars. Over the last two decades Mute swans have become a problem and although not listed on NR40 as an invasive species, they are discussed and managed as one.



Trumpeter Swan

**TRUMPETER SWANS** are the largest waterfowl native to North America and have a wingspan of over seven feet in length. Bills are solid black, and often a red border or stripe along the edge of the lower bill. They hold their heads with a semi-curve or strait up while swimming and straight out while flying. Trumpeters are a Wisconsin native and endangered species, listed as part of a reintroduction act of 1989. Populations are now on the rise.



Mute Swan

Native to Eurasia, **MUTE SWANS** were brought to the US as ornamental birds for parks and zoos. In the 1970s Mute swans established a resident population that has been growing. They have orange bills with a fleshy black knob at the base. They hold their neck in an "S" curve with bill usually pointed down. Mute swans are not actually mute, and they do vocalize a bit especially when upset. While in flight, their wings beat a particular "flap" that can be heard long distances. Mutes don't generally flock or migrate at all.

**TUNDRA SWANS** are only seen in Wisconsin from March to May and mid-October to December during their migration. Tundra's can often be seen flying in "Vs" while migrating, and unlike other swans may fly inland to feed on tilled fields. They are smaller than Trumpeters and Mutes. Tundra's have black bills and a distinct yellow spot in front of the eye. They hold their long necks very strait while flying and sometimes curved when swimming. A Tundra swan call is high and similar to that of a dog barking.



Tundra Swan

Mutes and Trumpeters prefer similar breeding habitats, and Mute swan establishment interferes with Trumpeter swan restoration. Mute swans concentrate in a condensed manner and often overgraze aquatic plant food sources. These submergent aquatic plant communities are sometimes depleted to a level where they cannot recover, which has negative impacts to the food web, diminishes the nutritional value of the area to local and migratory waterfowl, and reduces the overall biodiversity of an area. Mute swans also stir up lake bed sediments which degrades the water quality. Mute swans have become extremely aggressive toward humans and domestic animals. In many cases mute swans have threatened and attacked people, and caused bruises, sprains, and bone fractures.

Growing numbers of feral Mute swans exist on the northern Atlantic Coast and in the Midwest. State and Federal initiatives support the control of these birds. In 1997 the WDNR established a management policy of mute swan population stabilization and control measures are still in effect. Door County is the area of greatest concern for Mute swans. Please [inform the DNR](#) of Mute swan locations and nest sites as it is very important to document and monitor the size of the populations.