



Door County Invasive Species Team

Empowering citizens with the education, tools and skills necessary to control invasive species

Invasive species updates for Door County and beyond

April 2013

A reminder: April Public Presentation

“Insect and Disease Issues from 2012 –

What did it bring us and what should we expect?”

Wednesday April 17th, 2:00pm

Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay

A Nymph of the beech scale insect and a tree infested with beech scales. In combination with *Neonectria* fungi, the scale causes Beech Bark Disease.



DCIST is pleased to host Linda Williams, a Forest Health Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR, for our April public meeting. Linda’s presentation will focus on last year’s weather events, specifically the drought and heat, and how it has impacted our trees and forests. Specifically, insect pests that caused problems last year, the impacts of weather on forest pests and what we can expect to see in the future will be discussed. Updates on invasive, exotic insects including the emerald ash borer and beech bark disease will also be provided.

Linda has been in her position with the WDNR for 13 years. She helps foresters and landowners in 13 Wisconsin counties identify insect and disease problems as well as abiotic (non-living) problems. She earned her BS in Forestry and MS in Entomology from Michigan State University. If you have any questions regarding this presentation, contact the DCIST coordinator at 920-746-5955 or dcist1@gmail.com.

Compost with Care! Dispose of invasive plants responsibly



Any relocated piece of Japanese Knotweed, which spreads primarily by rhizomes, has the potential to start a new population.

As we begin our spring cleaning routines, remember that composting certain invasive plants with other yard waste can aid in the spread of these destructive invaders. **Invasive plants that are flowering (or have flowered) OR are dispersed by plant parts (stems, roots, rhizomes, bulbs, root fragments or buds, tubers) should never be added to a compost pile** or brush pile because they may take root and sprout either in the pile or, in the case of compost, in the location where the compost is spread. This can occur because compost piles may not generate enough heat for a long enough period of time to destroy weed seeds and other viable plant parts.

An alternative to composting is to seal plants and plant parts in a garbage bag labeled “invasive species” and set out for garbage pick-up. While landfilling of yard waste is generally prohibited in Wisconsin, the DNR is using its enforcement discretion to allow invasive plants to be landfilled as it represents the best available option for disposing of them. For more information on how to identify invasive plants, please visit the DCIST webpage at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/>. Some of the plants which are spread by roots, shoots and rhizomes include: Japanese knotweed, Phragmites or common reed grass, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, and oriental bittersweet among others.

Would you like to plan an invasive species workshop in your neighborhood? Contact DCIST for training and tools!



Its bright red, oval berries and spiny stems help identify Japanese barberry. The berries will persist through the winter and are readily dispersed by birds.

The Rushes Barberry Workdays

The Rushes Wilderness Foundation will be battling invasive species this spring at The Rushes in Bailey's Harbor. Volunteers plan to tackle Japanese barberry on May 28th, 29th, and 30th. If you are interested in helping and would like more information, please contact JC Pfeiffer or the Rushes Front Desk (Pfeiffer@hbc.com or frontdesk@therushes.com). Japanese barberry is widely used as an ornamental shrub but can escape and proliferate in natural areas. Barberry has been shown to shade out native plants and alter the foraging habits of wildlife. It is also allelopathic, meaning it produces chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plant species. While it prefers well drained soils and sunny habitats, it has been found to produce fruit in heavily shaded environments as well.

Door County Festival of Nature – exploring wildflowers, birds and conservation

Registration is now open for the Door County Festival of Nature taking place May 24th-25th at The Ridges Sanctuary. Now in its eleventh year, the Festival is an opportunity to learn about wildflowers, geology, birds, and other Door County wildlife through field trips and hands-on programs. Field trips offer walks through some of the most pristine and unique natural areas in the County. Many of these hikes are led by members of DCIST's partner organizations and offer ideal opportunities to learn about Door County's diverse resources and natural heritage – the same resources DCIST strives to protect through our invasive species work.

You can register online or print a registration booklet at <http://ridgessanctuary.org/2013/03/door-county-festival-of-nature/>



Need tools or have input to provide regarding Door County Invasive Species Team's equipment loan program?

DCIST has a variety of tools ranging from safety equipment to backpack sprayers available for loan to local landowners and neighborhood organizations. Loan packages can be customized depending on the number of people and the plant species being controlled. If you haven't used the program before, give it a try! **If you have borrowed equipment in the past or have suggestions on how we can improve our program, we want to hear from you!** Contact us at (920) 746-5955 or email dcist1@gmail.com. For more information on available equipment and how to check it out, visit the DCIST webpage at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/>.



Poster contest for 4th and 5th grade students

As part of Invasive Species Awareness Month in Wisconsin (June) 4th and 5th grade students are being asked to showcase their artistic skills through a poster contest being sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). To raise awareness of plants and animals that invade our favorite areas to play (and how we can prevent their spread), students are being challenged to create a **full-color or black-and-white, original poster** of these invaders. The poster should be related to one or more invasive species or ways we can “**Protect the Places Where We Play**” from them. You can visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> (search ‘isam posters’ OR ‘invasive species’) to learn more about the habits of plants and animals that invade Wisconsin’s wetlands, shorelines, and other habitats. Teachers and students can also visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/isamcontest.htm> for contest rules and resources. **Entries must be postmarked by April 29th**. The first-prize winner will receive a free family membership to the Natural Resources Foundation (www.wisconservation.org) and a free field trip for them and their family.

Alongside other “Invader Crusaders”, the first-, second- and third-prize winners will be honored at the Invasive Species Awareness Month awards ceremony at Olbrich Gardens in Madison on June 11th. If you have any questions about this contest or invasive species awareness month activities, please contact the ISAM Coordinator, Caitlin Kohlbeck, at isamcoordinator@gmail.com. To learn more about Invasive Species Awareness Month, visit <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness/>.

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council announces 9th annual Invader Crusader Awards Nominate a Door County volunteer or group today!

Not only does Invasive Species Awareness Month include workshops, events and field trips, but also the annual Invader Crusader Awards being presented by the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council. The Council is accepting nominations for individuals, groups, or organizations for their exemplary efforts at addressing issues surrounding terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. The Award will be presented in both ‘volunteer’ and ‘professional’ categories. Recipients of an Invader Crusader Award will be recognized on June 11th at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin.

The nomination form can be found at <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness/> by clicking on “Awards” on the left-hand menu. Completed forms should be emailed to isamcoordinator@gmail.com and **nominations must be received by Friday, April 26th**. Email is preferred, but if not possible please call Chrystal Schreck at 608.264.8590 for mailing instructions. Winners will be notified by mid-May. If you have additional questions, please contact Caitlin Kohlbeck at isamcoordinator@gmail.com.



Grand prize poster from 2012's "Slow the Spread by Boat and Tread" poster contest. Created by Clara Montes, Grade 5, Kohler Elementary School, Kohler, WI.

The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative “Linking people, information and action”

The Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey recently launched www.greatlakesphragmites.net, a central hub for information on the invasive grass Phragmites and an interactive forum for stakeholders to share. The new website will be used to identify gaps in information on the species, discuss challenges, share success stories, and strengthen the ties between those managing and researching Phragmites across the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative as it is called will also serve as a resource center for information on biology and management, regional events, webinars, videos, and contractor information. *Phragmites australis* (or common reed) has become prevalent in Great Lakes wetlands and is putting our native biodiversity at risk.



April Plant Profile: Garlic Mustard



Garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*) is non-native, biennial plant. It starts from seed and grows close to the ground as a rosette during its first season of growth (top picture).

These first-year plants overwinter and begin to grow again the following spring, generally before many of our native plants emerge. The second-year plants (lower picture) flower in May or early June and produce large numbers of seed that can remain alive in the soil for years. The sticky seeds attach themselves to animal fur, shoes, tires, etc. and can be readily spread by both animals and humans. Both the first- and second-year plants smell strongly of garlic when the leaves are crushed between one's fingers.



Within a few years, garlic mustard can become dominant in the forest understory, making it major threat to woodlands. This aggressive plant displaces our native vegetation and is known to adversely affect native insects and other wildlife. Our spring wildflowers complete their life cycles in the same habitat as garlic mustard. In its presence we not only lose the intrinsic beauty of our trilliums, orchids and other exceptional flora, but wildlife species that depend on these early plants for their foliage, pollen, nectar, fruits, seeds and roots are deprived of essential food sources when garlic mustard replaces them.

In Wisconsin, this plant is classified as “restricted” by Chapter NR 40, meaning it is already established throughout the state but still has the potential to cause significant environmental or economic harm. If you suspect you have garlic mustard on your property, contact DCIST for identification or for more information on what you can do to halt invasion of exotic plants on your land.



The Door County Invasive Species Team – Kari Hagenow, Coordinator

DCIST Message Line: 920-746-5955; Email: dcist1@gmail.com

<http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/default.htm>