



# 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

March 2013



The gypsy moth and emerald ash borer – two invaders of Wisconsin forests

Calling all forest landowners!  
**“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

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 (and will continue to affect) our trees and forests. This includes a discussion on insect pests that caused problems last year, the impacts of weather on forest pests and when we can expect going into the future. 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](mailto:dcist1@gmail.com).

## National Invasive Species Awareness Week March 3-8th, 2013

During the first week in March, state, federal, local and tribal officials met with stakeholder groups to examine laws, policies and creative approaches to prevent and reduce invasive species threats to our health, economy, environment and natural resources. These groups were participating in National Invasive Species Awareness week in Washington D.C., a program that features briefings, workshops and events focused on strategizing solutions to address invasive species prevention, monitoring, and management issues at local, state, tribal, regional, national and international scales.



Though the week has passed, being aware of currently and newly-arriving invasive species is crucial to DCIST’s year-round efforts. You can become more involved in the efforts associated with National Invasive Species Awareness Week by exploring Wisconsin and Door County’s invasive species on the web (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/> or <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive>), attending a public meeting or presentation, volunteering in a local work party or writing a letter to our representatives asking for their support of invasive species initiatives. For more information on National Invasive Species Awareness Week visit [www.nisaw.org](http://www.nisaw.org).

## Think Spring!

**Now is the time to begin preparing for early invaders such as garlic mustard.** Garlic mustard will appear before nearly all of our native herbaceous plants. It can be controlled hand pulling or herbicide treatment. Early spring is an ideal time for herbicide use as the plants are small and other native plants have not yet emerged.

**Many other invasive species can be treated in the spring and early summer, including dame's rocket, exotic thistles, tansy, common and cut-leaf teasel, wild parsnip, crown vetch and spotted knapweed.**

If these plants are found in your neighborhood or on your property, now is the time of prepare! **Talk to neighbors to form a coordinated effort against these invaders and contact DCIST to organize a training session or work party.** Remember – Invasive species don't recognize parcel lines or man-made boundaries!

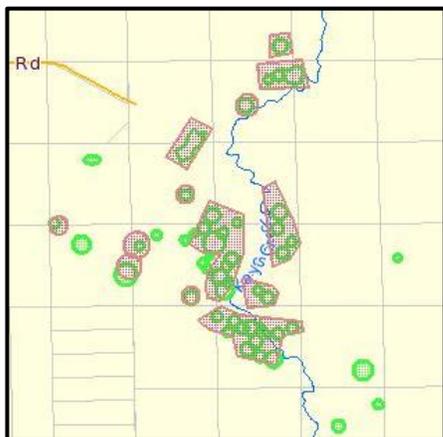


For more information on the appropriate timing for control of different invasive plants, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/control.html> and scroll down to chemical control.

### View More Invasive Plants on the Door County Web Map

In February of 2013 the Door County Web Map was updated with additional invasive species plant layers. The map now displays four layers of **wild parsnip inventory** including 2010 through 2012. The **Phragmites inventory** was also expanded to include newly mapped areas and some of the 2012 control efforts. Please note that 2012 treatments conducted as part of the Wisconsin DNR's project are not represented.

The inventory can be found at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/map/>. To view the information, click on 'conservation' followed by 'invasive plants' in the pane on the left side of the screen. You can then select to view different Phragmites and wild parsnip layers by checking the boxes next to each layer's name. The inventory is best viewed by zooming into the area you are interested in and then turning the invasive species layers on.



Occurrences and treatment of the invasive grass *Phragmites australis* in Gardner Swamp Wildlife Area

### Don't have the right equipment to battle that invasive plant problem? We do! Door County Invasive Species Team Equipment Loan Program

DCIST has a variety of tools available ranging from safety equipment to backpack sprayers. Loan packages can be customized depending on the number of people and the plant species being controlled – perfect for neighborhood associations and other interested groups. DCIST will also provide training on how to use these tools safely and effectively. Contact us at (920) 746-5955 or visit <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/> to learn more about the equipment loan program.



## Aquatic Invasive Species Control Just Got Easier

...or at least the grant application part of it did. If you are a Lake Association or other eligible group looking for funding to support a Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat landing inspection program, the Wisconsin DNR has developed a simplified application process. Visit their Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant Program website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/ais.html> to learn more.



Through their Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program, the WDNR also has funding available for:

- AIS education, prevention and planning projects
- AIS control projects
- Early detection and rapid response projects

AIS prevention and control grants are available for projects on eligible waters including inland lakes, great lakes, rivers, and wetlands. To find out if your group is eligible for AIS grants and for helpful tips to develop a successful project, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/cf/CF0020.pdf>.

### **Wisconsin's Invasive Species Council recommends additions to the list of regulated invasive species**

Since 2009, Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule (Chapter NR 40) has established consistent regulations for harmful invasive species across the state. The Wisconsin DNR worked with dozens of stakeholder groups and the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council to develop the rule, which classifies invasive plants and animals into two categories, "Prohibited" and "Restricted". Prohibited species are not yet widely established in the state and pose great economic or environmental threat. Without a permit, it is illegal to transport, buy or sell, possess or introduce species that are listed as prohibited. Restricted species pose the same great economic or environmental threat, but are already widely established in Wisconsin. These species cannot be transported, bought, sold, or introduced without a permit.

In 2012, the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council worked to develop recommendations for updating NR 40, including adding select invasive plants and animals to the list and clarifying language within the rule. The Council has now submitted these recommendations to the Wisconsin DNR for review. More than 50 species are proposed by the council for listing as prohibited, including the plants water lettuce and water hyacinth and animals including the nutria and Malaysian trumpet snail. Forty species are proposed by the council for listing as restricted, including the plants Japanese barberry, yellow iris, burning bush, and crown vetch. For more information on the recommended species additions and the timeline for revisions, please visit the Council's website <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/>.

The Wisconsin DNR will consider public comments provided by March 29<sup>th</sup> in the drafting of the rule revision proposal. **Members of the public with input on specific recommendations or the economic impacts of regulating or not regulating a species are encouraged to provide comments via email at [invasive.species@wi.gov](mailto:invasive.species@wi.gov).** Official public hearings will be held later this year once a formal revision proposal is drafted, offering another opportunity for public input.

## Door Stewardship Alliance continues work through winter

The Door Stewardship Alliance (DSA), made up of Door County Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy volunteers, continued meeting throughout the winter to tackle land management issues including invasive species. The winter months are a great time to treat woody shrubs including exotic honeysuckles and buckthorn. The DSA crew meets every Tuesday morning, alternating between preserves managed by the Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. To get weekly email updates with details of where they'll be working next, contact Bobbie Webster (bwebster@doorcountylandtrust.org) or Kari Hagenow (khagenow@tnc.org).



DSA volunteers treat invasive olive species at TNC's Mink River Preserve in Ellison Bay.

### March Plant Profile: Oriental Bittersweet



Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a woody vine that has been commonly used for landscaping and also goes by the common names Asian bittersweet, Japanese bittersweet, and round-leaf bittersweet. It grows rapidly and can establish in a range of habitats including forests, woodlands, fields, hedge-rows, and coastal areas. Once established, Oriental bittersweet can damage trees by girdling trunks, dominate tree canopies and shade out trees and understory plants. In Wisconsin, this plant is classified as "restricted", meaning it is already established throughout the state but still has the potential to cause significant environmental or economic harm.



Oriental bittersweet can be identified by its alternate, glossy, and round leaves with a pointing tip. The flowers, which are small, 5-petaled and greenish-yellow, develop in clusters of 3-7 at the leaf axils. It can be best recognized by the showy, round, yellow-orange fruit capsules which split open at maturity to reveal three red-orange fruits in fall. The fruits are dispersed by birds and small mammals.



There is a similar looking alternative to Oriental bittersweet - American bittersweet which is native and non-invasive. Fall and winter are the easiest seasons to distinguish between the two because fruits are clearly visible. American bittersweet fruits are at the ends of stems; versus Oriental bittersweet fruits, which are found all along stems and at leaf axils. In addition, the leaves of American bittersweet are less rounded and nearly twice as long as wide. If you suspect you have Oriental bittersweet 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](mailto:dcist1@gmail.com)

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