



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 News and Volunteer Opportunities

February & March 2014

National Invasive Species Awareness Week February 23-28th, 2014



It may be easy for thoughts of green plants to slip from our minds during the winter months, but the National Invasive Species Awareness Week is aimed at rallying citizens, agencies, local officials, and non-profits alike to strategize solutions to address invasive plants (and animals) during these cold days. Taking action at both a local and nationwide level is important - non-native plants, animals and pathogens can harm humans, damage the environment, and impact the local and national economy (to the tune of an estimated \$34.7 billion dollars a year in damage by invasive plants alone). There are important steps that every person can take to help prevent the spread of invasive species – but it all begins with awareness. Below are eight ways that you can help in the effort to prevent the spread of invasive species.

1. Learn about invasive species, especially those found in your region or area. Explore Wisconsin and Door County's invasive species on the web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/> or <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/>.
2. Clean hiking boots, waders, boats and trailers, off-road vehicles and other gear to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location.
3. Avoid dumping aquariums or live bait into waterways.
4. Use forage, hay, mulch and soil that are certified as "weed free".
5. Plant only non-invasive plants in your garden, and remove any known invaders.
6. Report any new or expanded invasive plant outbreaks to the Door County Invasive Species Team or other local authority like the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department or the DNR.
7. Volunteer to help remove invasive species from public land and natural areas (see following page for opportunities in Door County).
8. Ask your political representatives at the local, state, and national level to support invasive species control efforts and the funding initiatives that support them.

Preventing the spread of invasive species begins at the smallest level possible – the individual person. Whether it's thinking twice before moving firewood or choosing native plants for your garden, I hope that each of us will make a choice to make a difference during Invasive Species Awareness Week and all year long.

DCIST is available with the tools or technical advice you need to treat your invasive species problems - Leave a message for us today at dcist1@gmail.com or 920-746-5955.



Volunteers needed! Ground-truth locations of the invasive grass Phragmites to help us gear up for our 2014 control work!

This year DCIST and partners will again be working to control Phragmites on our Door County shorelines. Contractors will be completing most of the treatment work, but before they can tackle the invasive grass in late summer, we need help double checking that we know all the locations where the grass is found. Volunteer tasks will include walking the shoreline areas with maps showing where Phragmites has been found –and identifying any new areas that we yet have mapped. For more information about this opportunity and locations, contact the DCIST coordinator at 920-743-8695 ext.306 or dcist1@gmail.com. Also, you can view our current Phragmites inventory 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 layers by checking the boxes next to each layer's name.



Door Stewardship Alliance continues invasive species and land management work through winter



Don't let the cold weather get your down! Spend a morning outdoors with The Door Stewardship Alliance (DSA), made up of Door County Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy volunteers. DSA organizers and volunteers continue 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 from 9:00-12:00pm, 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).

The Rushes on Kangaroo Lake – 2014 Invasive Species Workdays

April 29 & 30, May 1 (Primarily tree planting with some invasives control on trails)

May 27, 28 & 29 (Japanese barberry control)

October 21, 22 & 23 (Primarily work on invasives, some trail maintenance)

Those interested in volunteering can pick 1, 2, or 3 of the days to help. The hours will be approximately 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. the first and second days, and 9:00 A.M. to noon on the third day. The Rushes will provide lunch on the second day and snacks & drinks after work on the first and second days.



If you can help, please contact JC Pfeiffer (Pfeiffer@hbc.com, 507-452-4048) or the Rushes Front Desk ASAP so arrangements can be made. The Rushes Wilderness Foundation will provide lodging for those who wish to participate at the Maritime Inn Best Western in Sturgeon Bay (you will need to mention the Rushes Wilderness Foundation when you make your reservation and have them bill the foundation direct).

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council announces 10th annual Invader Crusader Awards Nominate a Door County volunteer or group today!



As it has been in the past, June will again be designated as Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM). Invasive Species Awareness Month includes workshops, events and field trips, and the annual Invader Crusader Awards. In preparation for ISAM, The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council has announced a call for Invader Crusader nominations. The Invader Crusader Awards honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species that harm Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wetlands. 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 for both volunteer and professional categories. Recipients of an Invader Crusader Award will be recognized on June 5th at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison.

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 18th**. Email is preferred, but if not possible please call Jennifer Feyerherm at 608-266-6437 for mailing instructions. Winners will be notified by mid-May.

Emerald Ash Borer Updates: Mixed opinions on the impacts of cold weather & more

A number of articles emerged this winter regarding the cold temperatures and the emerald ash borer (EAB), a serious threat to Wisconsin's ash trees. A recent study by the forest service in Minnesota found that EAB larvae have a natural 'anti-freeze' that works until temperatures dip below -13F at which the majority of larvae freeze. In a January article published by the Wisconsin DNR, forest health experts say that the ongoing frigid air is not enough to eliminate the emerald ash borer. Though some larvae may die due to the cold, the pest is adapted to cold winters that it experiences in its native range of eastern Asia. In addition, the larvae are somewhat protected beneath the tree bark, trees warm considerably on sunny days through radiant heating, and some larvae may be low enough on the tree that they are insulated by the snow pack. A single surviving female that emerges this summer will lay 50-100 eggs making it easy for the pest populations to persist and grow - though cold temperatures may help keep populations from building as quickly and may give ash trees some time to recover from initial attacks.



Potential bio-control? Minnesota Department of Agriculture has confirmed that stingless wasps released in biological control experiments in 2011 are surviving and reproducing in their new environment and are indeed attacking EAB. Since EAB does not have any enemies in North America, scientists went to the native range of the insect, and found stingless wasps that feed on and kill ash borer eggs and larvae. The wasps have been introduced at three locations in Minnesota – the larvae found this fall marked the first time the wasp species has been recovered in Minnesota since their release.



Emerald Ash Borer Updates, cont.

Continued Spread in Wisconsin: During the final month of 2013 alone, one new Wisconsin county was quarantined for Emerald ash borer (Dane County, found on the north side of Madison) and four new finds were reported in already quarantined counties. New finds included the Town of Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac County), City of Onalaska (La Crosse County), City of Wauwatosa (Milwaukee County), and the Town of La Prairie (Rock County).

EAB: Bad for ash, good for birds? An analysis of bird abundance data collected from the citizen science Project Feederwatch has showed that some bird species might be benefitting from the growing EAB population. After the beetle's introduction, red-bellied woodpeckers and white-breasted nuthatches increased in areas close to the epicenter. It is believed that the surplus food source helped increase rates of adult survival and reproduction, but the direct link between foraging birds and beetle mortality was still missing until biologists in Ohio made a discovery in an infected ash tree. After removing the bark and following galleries chewed through the tree's cambium, they were able to determine how many beetles exited alive or via a bird's gut. On average, 37% were consumed, and in some trees up to 85% were snapped up. The results, published in *Forest Ecology and Management*, indicate a beetle population with exponential growth could be limited by foraging birds.

Still want more info about the EAB? – Check out this short animation of their lifecycle at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G-0eG632OI>.



New State Record: European Chafer collected in Door County

The November Forest Update from the Wisconsin DNR featured information about the European Chafer (*Rhizotrogus majalis*), a beetle that is native to western and central Europe. Adult beetles were collected within Door County in July 2013 - marking the first record of the insect within the State of Wisconsin. The European Chafer looks like a smaller, paler version of a June beetle. It is reported to be a more serious pest of home lawns than Japanese beetles because the European Chafer begins to feed very early in the spring and continues late into the fall. The grubs feed most heavily on grass roots from March to early May and from August to November and even during the winter months the grubs may resume feeding during warmer spells. Adult European Chafer beetles emerge from the soil between the middle of June and early July. They fly on warm evenings for several hours just before and after sunset. The insect was first discovered in the United States in 1940 when a grub was found in a nursery-growing area near Rochester, New York. It has been reported in a number of eastern states and is now common throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula. For more information on the European Chafer, check out www.turf.msu.edu/european-chafer. To report locations where the European Chafer has been found contact DCIST or the Wisconsin DNR.



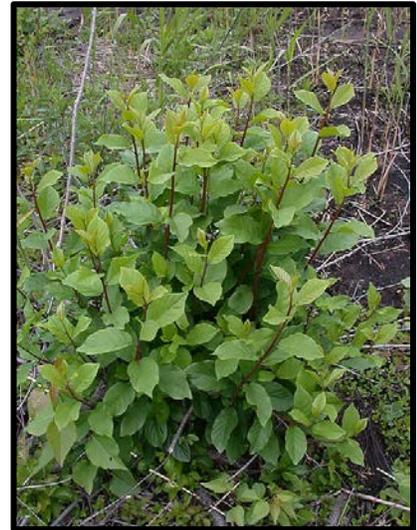
Glossy buckthorn

Glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), also known as alder buckthorn, is a deciduous, understory shrub that was introduced from Europe as an ornamental plant. It aggressively invades wetlands including swamps, bogs, fens and sedge meadows. While it prefers wetlands, Glossy buckthorn has a wide habitat tolerance that can include upland areas with full sun or deep shade as well. It exhibits a rapid growth rate, extensive root system, and abundant production of flowers and fruits throughout the growing season. Impacts of glossy buckthorn invasion include a loss of native plant diversity, inhibition of tree and shrub regeneration, and limited recreational opportunities due to dense thickets that can form.

Glossy buckthorn can be identified as a small tree or shrub up to 20' tall with gray-brown bark and lightly colored lenticels that give the bark a speckled appearance (Note: native plums and cherries have a similar bark). Cutting the stems of this plant reveals a distinctive yellow sapwood and bright orange heartwood. Leaves are oval-shaped and slightly wavy, 2-3 inches long and shiny on the upper surface. They have prominent veins that come straight out from the midrib and curve slightly toward the tip. The leaves emerge early in the growing season and remain late into the fall which aids in identification of the species.

Mechanical methods such as hand-pulling and digging can be effective on small populations/plants if care is taken to remove the as much of the root system as possible. Larger plants can be removed using a leverage tool such as a weed wrench. You can also girdle larger trees by stripping the bark to expose the inner heartwood at a minimum of six inches. For more dense or established populations, chemical control in the form of a cut-stump or basal bark treatment may be most effective.

In Wisconsin, glossy buckthorn is listed as 'restricted' by Chapter NR40 (Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule). 'Restricted' means the plant is widely established across the state and that high environmental and/or economic impacts from the species are evident.



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