



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

June 2014

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month in Wisconsin!

The 10th annual Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) in June offers us the opportunity to broaden concern and spur action to slow the spread of invasive species. The dedication also serves as a reminder of how important it is to be aware and take steps to prevent invasive species to help preserve the character and function of Wisconsin's land and water. We all have favorite 'places to play' in the State, and there are lots of ways that you can get involved to help protect them through ISAM. See the following page for local volunteer opportunities or check out events all month long at the ISAM Events Calendar:

<http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness/section.asp?linkid=1558&locid=63>



DCIST Receives Invader Crusader Award from the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council



The Door County Invasive Species Team is honored to be the recipient of a 2014 Invader Crusader award from the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council (WISC). According to WISC, over 20 Invader Crusaders were nominated for this year's awards – the most impressive turnout of quality crusading in recent years. DCIST was nominated for the award by a local non-profit conservation organization and recognized on June 5th at a public ceremony in Madison that kicked off Invasive Species Awareness Month. **DCIST would like to thank our partners, supporters, volunteers, and the citizens of Door County for helping to make our organization a successful model for invasive species outreach and control in the State of Wisconsin!**

Recent DCIST activities: Early Detection Workshop in Bailey's Harbor (above) and educational booth at Gibraltar's Earth Day Fair (right).



Since 2005, Invader Crusader Awards have honored Wisconsin citizens and organizations – both volunteer and professional - for their significant contributions to the prevention, management, education, or research of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's land and waters.

Save the Date! Interested in learning how you can be on the front line in identifying pests like Emerald Ash Borer? On July 24th DCIST will be hosting a training for those interested in volunteering for a new collaborative effort between USDA-APHIS and Wisconsin's First Detector Network. Details to come!



Newport State Park and the Battle against Garlic Mustard
Volunteers from the Newport Wilderness Society will be working to control garlic mustard **through the month of June every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning** at Newport State Park from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Interested individuals and groups are welcome and encouraged to help in the battle against garlic mustard at Wisconsin's only formally designated Wilderness Park. If you'd like to help, contact the park office the day before at (920) 854-2500 or contact Don Heeringa any time at (920) 421-2125.



The Nature Conservancy – Forget-me-Not Pull at Shivering Sands
Volunteers are needed on **June 18th** to help remove woodland forget-me-nots at The Nature Conservancy's Shivering Sands Preserve off of Glidden Drive in the Town of Sevastopol. Anyone interested in helping may contact Kari Hagenow (khagenow@tnc.org) – volunteers will meet in at the work location (just south of 4671 Glidden Drive, look for a small dirt road on west side of road) at 9:00am. We will work until approximately 12:00pm – all supplies will be provided. **While forget-me-nots are often seen as a harmless garden annual, their escape and prolific seed set can threaten our native habitats and rare species (like the federally-threatened Dwarf Lake Iris at this site).**

Conserve our County Parks - Join us as we identify invasive species in the parks!

Throughout the summer months DCIST will be working with Door County Parks to identify invasive species concerns within our parks. Members of the public are invited to join Kari Hagenow, the DCIST coordinator, as she hikes the trails and gets off the beaten path to explore the flora of our County Parks. Participants will learn to identify the various invasive species that may be found and will receive a tutorial on how the County maps these species using a handheld GPS. Listed below are the dates and locations for the month of July. Hikes will begin at 10am in the respective parking area for each County Park – most will last approximately two hours. Information on all of Door County's Parks is available at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/parks/>. For more information on the invasive species hikes contact Kari Hagenow at dcist1@gmail.com or 920-743-8695 ext. 306.

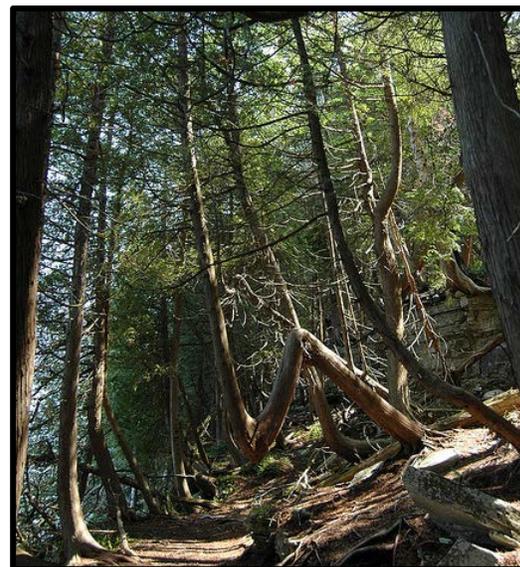
Wednesday July 2nd – Meridian County Park, Town of Jacksonport

Friday July 11th – Anhapee State Trail (meet at 1820 S. Neenah Avenue in Sturgeon Bay)

Wednesday July 16th – Door Bluff Headlands, Town of Liberty Grove

Friday July 25th – Sugar Creek, Town of Gardner

Wednesday July 30th – Ellison Bluff, Town of Liberty Grove



Peninsula State Park Welcomes Coordinator, Offers Opportunities to Volunteer

Peninsula State Park welcomes Brad Steckart, UW-Stevens Point graduate, as its 2014 Invasive Species Coordinator (ISC). This seasonal position is funded through Friends of Peninsula State Park merchandise sales. Peninsula has engaged a seasonal invasive species employee most summers since 2000. As long ago as 1998, the park contracted a master's degree candidate from the UW-Madison to study herbicide use and garlic mustard. Invasive work days are planned weekly throughout the summer. To find out how you can get involved, contact Naturalist Kathleen Harris at 920-868-3258.



Preserving Kangaroo Lake – Help identify and control invasive shrubs with The Nature Conservancy and The Door County Land Trust

On **June 28th**, The Nature Conservancy and Door County Land Trust are teaming up to tackle an invasive species problem that spans their adjacent Preserves at Kangaroo Lake. From 9:00am until 12:00pm, staff and volunteers will identify and control Japanese barberry, exotic honeysuckle, buckthorn, and Scotch pine that is found in small numbers throughout more than 60-acres of hardwood forest that boasts spring wildflowers and dolomite outcroppings. A small boxed lunch and picnic will be provided following the workday. If you are interested in helping, or would like more info, RSPV to Bobbie Webster (bwebster@doorcountylantrust.org) with the Land Trust or Kari Hagenow (khagenow@tnc.org) at The Nature Conservancy.

The Door Stewardship Alliance (DSA), made up of Door County Land Trust and Nature Conservancy volunteers, meets Tuesday mornings to conduct invasive species and other land management activities on Preserves across the Door Peninsula. Additional opportunities are available periodically. To get weekly email updates with details of where they'll be working next, contact Bobbie Webster (bwebster@doorcountylantrust.org) or Kari Hagenow (khagenow@tnc.org).



Black Swallow-wort – A recent invader that we need your help to stop!

Continuing on DCIST's theme of early detection and rapid response*, The Ridges Sanctuary and DCIST will be hosting a black swallow-wort workshop on **July 8th** at 1:00pm. Black swallow-wort has been recently found spreading in the County and is considered high priority for control and prohibited by Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule. The workshop is free and open to the public. Participants can meet at The Ridges Upper Rangelight in Bailey's Harbor. Before going out to remove the pods of swallow-wort, local weed warriors will give a brief talk on the identification and control of the plant. The workshop will last approximately two hours. For more information contact Kari Hagenow (dcist1@gmail.com) or Marne Kaeske (marne@ridgessanctuary.org).

***What is Early Detection & Rapid Response?** Sometimes considered the "second line of defense" after prevention, early detection and rapid response (EDRR) is a critical component of any effective invasive species management program. When new invasive species infestations are detected, a prompt and coordinated containment and eradication response can reduce environmental and economic impacts.

Deadly Bat Disease Detected at Single Wisconsin Site

In April white-nose syndrome, a bat disease that has killed up to 5 million bats in 23 states, was confirmed for the first time in Wisconsin. Bat survey crews from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources were wrapping up winter surveillance efforts when they discovered 11 individual bats displaying the classic signs of white-nose syndrome within a single mine in Grant County. Genetic and tissue tests later confirmed the disease. Classic signs of White-nose include characteristic white fuzz on the bat's nose, wings, and tail for which the disease gets its name. It can be found when a bat is infected with the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. White-nose syndrome causes bats to frequently wake during their hibernation, which depletes the bats' energy stores and can lead to dehydration or starvation before spring arrives. Other states have found that up to 95% of bats in infected caves and mines have died as white-nose spreads rapidly from bat to bat. The Grant County mine is within flying distance for bats from a site in Illinois where the disease was confirmed in 2012.

Wisconsin has four bat species that hibernate (all of which are threatened) and is home to several of the upper Midwest's largest bat hibernation sites. Historical estimates have put the population at 350,000 to 500,000 bats. Bats play an important role by eating insects that can damage forests and transfer diseases like West Nile Virus. Citizens can help bats by continuing to avoid disturbing them, especially during hibernation; by following all decontamination requirements for those who enter caves or mines, by volunteering to monitor bat populations in the State through a variety of different opportunities (DNR's Bat Program webpage, <http://wiatri.net/inventory/bats>), and by reporting sick or dead bats through the Bat Program webpage.

Have your voice heard! Comment Period Open for Changes to Invasive Species Rule

Chapter NR-40, better known as Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule, went into effect in 2009 and identified X invasive plants and animals that threaten Wisconsin's environment, economy, and health. The law classifies each species as either 'restricted' or 'prohibited'. Restricted species are those that have been introduced into the State and widespread through portions of or all of Wisconsin. Prohibited species are those whose impacts would be significant if they become established, but have not yet been found in Wisconsin or have been identified only in small numbers.

Revisions to NR-40 have been proposed and the public comment period for the changes is now open. Anyone is invited to **submit comments through June 30th**. The proposed rule package includes revising and clarifying rule language, listing additional species, delisting or down listing currently regulated species, and updating scientific names of species. A list of the proposed species changes and literature reviews are available through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' website (dnr.wi.gov, search "NR 40") and the proposed rule and supporting documents may be viewed and downloaded from the Administrative Rules System page of the WDNR website (search "SS-04-12").

In addition, the WDNR will hold public hearings at two locations in the State. The first will be Tuesday June 17th at 4:00pm at the Wisconsin Natural Resources Building at 101 South Webster Street in Madison. The second will be Wednesday June 18th at 4:00pm at the Wisconsin Natural Resource Service Center at 2984 Shawano Avenue in Green Bay. The Tuesday hearing will be webcasted live for those who are unable to participate in person. To request a webcast link, contact Terrell Hyde by noon on June 16th at DNRIvasiveSpecies@wisconsin.gov or by calling (608) 264-9255. The Door County Invasive Species Team will also have a representative attending the June 18th hearing in Green Bay.

Beech Bark Disease causes significant mortality and defect in American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). The disease occurs when bark, attacked and altered by a readily-visible insect called the beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*), is invaded and killed by several species of nectria fungi. The scale insect arrived in North America from Europe around 1890 when it was accidentally brought to Nova Scotia. By 1932, the scale and associated nectria fungus were killing trees throughout the Maritime Provinces of Canada and localized areas of eastern and southcentral Maine. The scale has continued to move west and south across the United States and was found in Wisconsin (Door County) for the first time in 2009.

The beech scale is a soft-bodied insect. At maturity it is yellow, elliptical and 0.5-1.0mm long. The insect contains numerous minute glands that secrete a white 'wool-like' wax – generally the first sign of the disease. In North America, two species of the nectria fungi are most commonly associated with beech bark disease. The principle one, *Nectria coccina* var. *faginata*, is considered a weak parasite; the second species, *Nectria galligena*, is a common pathogen that incites perennial cankers of many hardwood species.

Beech bark disease can be identified by isolated dots of white 'wool' (mentioned above) that appear on the bole of the tree on roughened areas of bark, beneath mosses and lichens, and below large branches. Eventually the entire bole of the tree may be covered as the population increases. On some trees, a red-brown exudate called a slime flux or "tarry spot" oozes from the tree's dead spots. These dead spots are often the first symptom of fungal infection.

Most areas of Wisconsin where beech is present now have some low level of the beech scale. It is unknown how long it takes for a scale population to go from a single scale on a tree, to a full blown scale population where the tree appears white with the fluffy scale insects. At the point of the scale population explosion the trees will start to decline and within 3-5 years many will have died. Research has shown that only a small percentage (<5%) of American beech are resistant to this disease; another small percentage will be partially resistant while most are susceptible and will die. The scale and fungus can travel long distances on infested beech logs and firewood.



Photos: White, wool-like dots on American beech (top), the beech scale insect (center), and the fruiting bodies of the *Nectria coccina* fungus.