



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

April 2015

Registration is open for the 13th Annual Door County Festival of Nature!

Each spring since 2002, Door County conservation organizations and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have joined together to bring you the Door County Festival of Nature. This year, the Festival celebrates our World Class Wetlands for their scenic beauty, the wildlife they shelter and for the hiking, bird watching, paddling and other activities they support. As part of the Festival, seasoned trip leaders guide participants through some of the most pristine and unique natural areas in the county and teach how we can all make choices to keep our wetlands and watersheds health.

As part of the festival, Kari Hagenow, the DCIST coordinator, will be leading a Friday morning invasive species-focused hike around portions of the Shivering Sands wetland complex. Participants will learn how to identify and control invasive plants of our forest and their impact on our native plants.

Aside from the many field trips, the Festival of Nature also offers a Thursday evening Mix, Mingle and Movie and a Friday evening reception, dinner and keynote speaker at Maxwellton Braes. This year's keynote will be Katie Beilfuss, the Outreach Programs Director with Wisconsin Wetlands Association, presenting "Celebrating our Ramsar Designated Wetlands of International Importance".

The Festival of Nature is brought to you by the cooperative efforts of The Ridges Sanctuary, Crossroads at Big Creek, The Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. For more information on the Festival or to register, visit <http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/programs/featured/2014-door-county-festival-of-nature/>.



This April, give back to the Earth!

Earth Day celebrates its 45th birthday - 1970-2015

Five things you can do for our planet on Earth Day:

1. Leave the car at home – carpool, take the bus, or break out the bicycle.
2. Switch to online bank statements and opt out of paper statements.
3. Plant a native tree or shrub to help clean the air and sequester carbon.
4. Set up a compost bin to get the most out of your food waste.
5. **EXTEND THE CELEBRATION!** Use Earth Day to jumpstart a more sustainable lifestyle & consider volunteering this year with DCIST!

Dreaming of your Summer Garden? Consider native plants!

If the recent warm temperatures have you thinking spring and paging through the seed catalogs to select this year's plantings, remember the important role that native plants play in our gardens. Plants native to our area have evolved hand-in-hand with many butterflies and other insects that rely on them as a food source for their caterpillars (or larvae). In turn, most songbirds feed on these insects or rely on them to feed their young and ensure survival to adulthood. Over the last five years, Douglas W. Tallamy from the University of Delaware, has been researching the usefulness of native flora as host plants for native caterpillars which in turn support butterflies and other wildlife. Dr. Tallamy also recently authored a NY Times article explaining these relationships further – you can read at <http://nyti.ms/1HnlACP>.

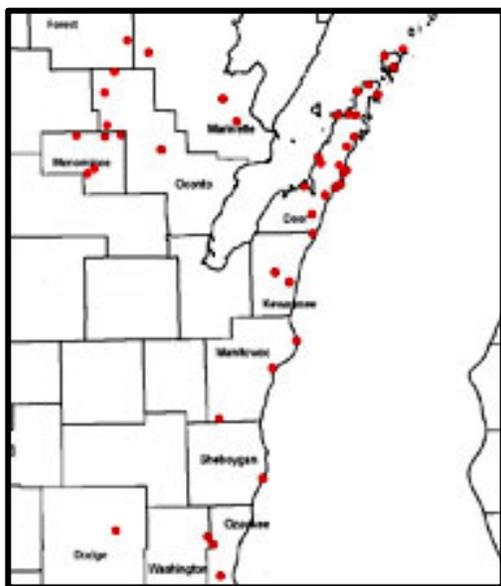
For a list of great Wisconsin natives for attracting birds, visit <http://www.wildones.org/land/wibirdpl.html>.

Common Name	Genus/ Scientific Name	Number of caterpillar species supported
Goldenrods	<i>Solidago</i>	115
Asters	<i>Aster</i>	112
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus</i>	73
Joe Pye weed/boneset	<i>Eupatorium</i>	42
Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea</i>	39
Sedges	<i>Carex</i>	36
Honeysuckles (Native)	<i>Lonicera</i>	36
Lupine	<i>Lupinus</i>	33
Violets	<i>Viola</i>	29
Oaks (tree)	<i>Quercus</i>	557
Cherries	<i>Prunus</i>	456
Willows	<i>Salix</i>	455



Left: List of common native plants and the number of caterpillars supported by that plant based on Dr. Tallamy's research.

Top: Large-leaved aster (*Aster macrophyllus*), a Door County native, by Christopher Noll, Wisconsin State Herbarium webpage.



Beech scale distribution in Wisconsin as of December 2013. Source: Wisconsin DNR

Beech Bark Disease Documents Updated

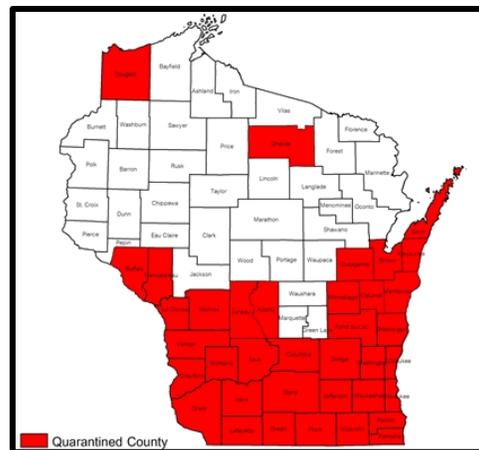
A document titled "Management of Beech Bark Disease in Wisconsin" was recently updated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The revised document (and other discussed below) can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/BeechBarkDisease.html>. Also, the document "Reasonable precautions to reduce the risk of moving beech scale" was updated in October 2013. This document will help landowners determine if they can move beech firewood or if they should wait a year to let any of the beech scale on the bark die.

As of December 2013, the beech scale has been found in low populations throughout most of the Wisconsin range of beech. Beech scale is confirmed in eleven counties (Dodge, Door, Forest, Kewaunee, Marinette, Manitowoc, Menominee, Oconto, Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washington). Beech bark disease and high populations of beech scale have only been found in Door County.

In early 2015, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found within the City of Appleton. Although Outagamie County was already quarantined, this is the first finding of EAB in the County. A tree trimming company, while working on private trees, noticed woodpecker damage on a tree they were working on. Examination found the typical S-shaped galleries and larvae, which was sent out for official identification as required for first finding in Outagamie County. A new find was also discovered in the Towns of Koshkonong and Sullivan in Jefferson County, already under quarantine as well.

A number of DCIST members recently convened in the first Emerald Ash Borer working group meeting. Members of the working group are discussing proper disposal methods for infested wood in the City of Sturgeon Bay, the potential use and outcomes of biocontrol agents in the County, and current options for managing our natural areas in the face of EAB. One of the goals of the group is to work to prevent the spread of EAB in the County at a rate faster than would occur naturally through outreach and education.

Purdue University has created self-study programs on Emerald Ash Borer for various groups including homeowners and campground managers. Topics covered in the homeowners study program consist of EAB background, signs and symptoms, to treat or not to treat, insecticide options (may differ from Wisconsin), and biological control. You can participate in the programs at <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/eab/index.php?page=industries/selfstudy>.



Top: Distinct S-shaped larval galleries of the Emerald Ash Borer (nature.org).

Bottom: Wisconsin counties quarantine for EAB as of October 2014.

Northern Long-Eared Bat Listed as Federally Threatened

On April 1st, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the addition of the Northern Long-Eared Bat to the list of threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The listing is primarily due to the threat posed by white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has devastated many bat populations. The threatened status will help the federal agency develop plans to protect the species, not just through research to find a cure for the disease but also by protecting habitat and preventing other threats that might reduce bat numbers. At the same time, the Service issued an interim special rule that eliminates unnecessary regulatory requirements for landowners, land managers, government agencies and other in the range of the bat. The public is invited to comment on this interim rule as the Service considers whether modifications or exemptions for additional categories of activities should be included in the final rule. Public comments will be accepted through July 1, 2015. For further details, visit <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>.

Shoreline Landowners – it's not too late to register for the 2015 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention

This year's annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention will have a special focus on health – the health of our lakes, their watersheds, and how water and lake ecology impact people. Join in for the latest in lake science and research, and hear examples of successful lake initiatives across the state.

For more information or to register visit www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes.



April Plant Profile: Water Hyacinth

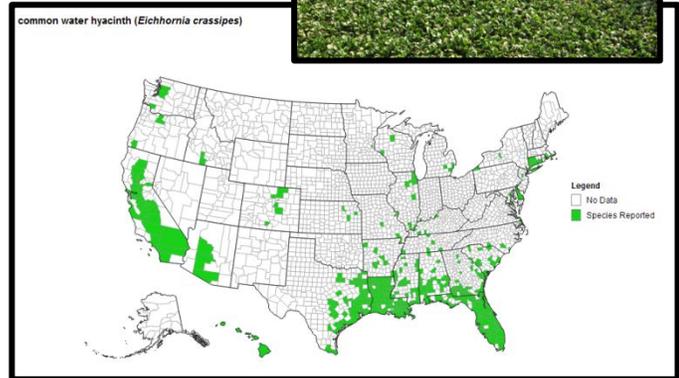
A Water Garden Escapee & Early Detection Species

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), native to the Amazon basin of South America, is a floating perennial herb known for growing very rapidly and in dense mats. It is considered invasive in 56 different countries and was introduced into the United States in 1884 as an ornamental plant. It is now found throughout the southeastern states and California as well as in a growing number of counties in the Midwest States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. In many freshwater lakes and marshes, water hyacinth impedes navigation and recreation, reduces oxygen in the water by blocking the air-water interface, blocks sunlight to plants below and reduces biological diversity.

Water hyacinth is similar in appearance to another non-native species known as Frog's-bit or American spongeplant. The plant has thick green waxy leaves that are circular or elliptical in shape with gently incurved sides. The leaves are formed in rosettes that can be up to be 6-inches wide and can rise 1- 3 feet above the water's surface. Flowers of water hyacinth are six-petaled and light purple in color with a yellow blotch. They form in showy clusters of 8-15 flowers. The fruit of water hyacinth are three-celled capsules that each contain approximately 450 seeds. New plants develop vegetatively as new rosettes form on floating stolons.

Manual removal of water hyacinth can be done on very small populations and should be conducted before flowering and seed set. In addition, registered aquatic herbicides can provide temporary control of water hyacinth in small scale applications. Three biological control agents (two weevils and a moth larvae) have been used on this plant in tropical and subtropical populations, however no known biological controls have been tested in Wisconsin.

Water hyacinth is proposed as a prohibited species in the current revisions of the State's Invasive Species rule (Chapter NR-40). Prohibited status would mean that the plant is not yet widely found in the state, but poses great environmental and/or economic impacts should it become established. Prohibited plants cannot be transported, transferred, possessed or introduced without a permit.



Top: Water hyacinth chokes a river in India (Aquatic Plant Management Society). **Top Middle:** Distribution of water hyacinth in the U.S. (Eddmaps.org)
Lower Middle: Water hyacinth rosette
Lower: Flowering water hyacinth plant.