



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

May 2015

Celebrate Sustainability at the 2015 Sustainable Living Fair June 5th & 6th - Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay

The annual Sustainable Living Fair is back for another year and will be taking place at Crossroads & Heritage Village at Big Creek on June 5th and 6th. This year's Friday night kick-off will be all about the Niagara Escarpment by bringing stories, recommendations and insights from the upcoming 2015 *Sources of Knowledge Forum*, titled "The Great Arc: Life on the (L)edge". Taking place in Tobermory, Ontario on May 8-10, the forum's goal is to build bridges to other communities which lie on the rim of the Michigan Basin. The Niagara Escarpment, often referred to as the "Great Arc", is a prominent geologic feature that extends visibly from western New York State, through southern Ontario and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, before descending through the Door Peninsula and Wisconsin's Eastern Highlands. The presentation will take place from 6:30pm until 9:00pm on Friday.

Saturday will be filled with a celebration featuring local exhibitors and vendors sharing the life of sustainable practices and environmental knowledge. There will be local food, live demonstrations, local artists, music, childrens activities and much more. The fair runs from 10:00am until 4:00pm on Saturday. The Sustainable Living Fair is brought to you by the Climate Change Coalition of Door County, Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership, Heritage Village at Big Creek, Door Property Owners, Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, Sustain Door, Crossroads at Big Creek, Door County Environmental Council, and the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society.



Sustainable Living Fair participants at the Heritage Village at Big Creek in 2008, the first year the fair was held.

A note on our April Newsletter:

Our April newsletter included an article on Page 2 about the benefits of using native plants in gardens. The table provided below the article included morning glories, in the genus *Ipomoea*. In Wisconsin, there are two species and both are non-native. It should also be noted that there are non-native and in some cases invasive species within a genus which could easily be mistaken for native plants. This table was adapted from the research of Dr. Tallamy in Delaware. For accurate information on what is and is not native to Wisconsin, you can search for a species in the Flora of Wisconsin at <http://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/>.

Prevent the Spread of Oak Wilt

April 15th marks the beginning of the yearly window when oak wilt can be transmitted from diseased to healthy oak trees. Oak wilt mainly affects red oaks, including northern red oak and pin oak. Red oaks often die within a few weeks of becoming infected. White oaks are more resistant; therefore the disease progresses more slowly. Property owners should not prune, wound or harvest oaks during this high risk period that extends until July 15th. This includes installing tree-climbing spikes, nailing signs on trees, and accidental tree barking that can occur when bark is removed via impact with equipment. The beetles which carry the oak wilt fungus from dead trees to healthy oaks are more active during this time period. Firewood from oak wilt-killed trees should also not be moved from April 15th until July 15th to prevent the spread to new areas. For more information on oak wilt, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/OakWilt.html>.

Door Stewardship Alliance Kicks off 2015 Volunteer Season

The Door County Land Trust (DCLT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are excited to begin another season of land management and stewardship opportunities and are always looking for volunteers to help. The Door Stewardship Alliance, DCLT and TNC's troupe of land management and invasive species warriors, has undergone some changes for 2015 including their new website (www.doorstewardshipalliance.weebly.com) where volunteers can view upcoming opportunities on an easy-to-navigate Google calendar right on the front page. **Garlic mustard workdays are already scheduled for May 14th and 26th**, with more opportunities in the works that will be added shortly. To view details of upcoming workdays, click on the listing on the calendar and box will pop-up with information on where, when, and what to bring. Door Stewardship volunteers are also on a mailing list and receive a weekly email reminding them of upcoming opportunities. If you'd like to be added to this list, email Kari (khagenow@tnc.org) or Amanda (apyke@doorcountylandtrust.org). Also, if you've volunteered with the Door Stewardship Alliance before, or would like to in the future, please set aside a few minutes to take a short survey that was developed to help guide 2015 work and give volunteers the best experience possible. You can take the survey at <http://bit.ly/1G14Tuy>.



Door Stewardship Alliance volunteer manually removes scotch pine from TNC's Kangaroo Lake Preserve during a June 2014 workday.



Volunteer manually removes Japanese barberry from the Ruses in May 2014.

The Ruses on Kangaroo Lake – 2015 Volunteer Workdays

May 27, 28 & 29 (Invasives Control and trail maintenance)

October 21, 22 & 23 (Planting of prairie butterfly habitat, invasive species control and trail maintenance)

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

If you can help, please contact JC Pfeiffer (Pfeiffer@hbc.com, 507-452-4048) or the Ruses Front Desk as soon as possible so arrangements can be made. If needed, lodging in Sturgeon Bay is provided for those who participate.

Garlic Mustard Fighters needed for Newport State Park

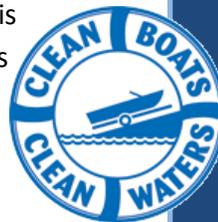
Newport State Park in Ellison Bay continues its battle against garlic mustard this spring. Mustard removal efforts will likely be underway during the month of May on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. There may also be opportunities to work independently at other times. The park offers bags that volunteers can pick up before pulling, leave where they were working when finished, and notify the park staff for removal. Garlic mustard is an herbaceous biennial known for its prolific seed production and outcompeting of native plants in the forest. For more information on efforts at Newport or to volunteer contact Michelle Hefty at michelle.hefty@wisconsin.gov.



Does your group or organization conduct invasive species control or environmental education in Door County? We'd like to help you spread the word!

Send invasive species related volunteer opportunities, educational events, and more to dcist1@gmail.com and we'll post them in our newsletter and online calendar. Remember, we're all in this together – invasive species do not observe our man-made boundaries!

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a serious threat to native fish species, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities on the Great Lakes, as well as our local rivers and inland lakes. AIS encompass not only plant species like Eurasian water-milfoil, but also animal species like the spiny water flea or New Zealand mudsnail. One way that Wisconsin has been working to prevent the spread of AIS is through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. This program positions volunteer or paid watercraft inspectors at boat launches throughout the state to talk to boaters as they are placing or removing their boat from the water.



Inspectors share with boaters the AIS prevention steps required by law, explaining the reasons for the steps, and answering any questions the boaters have about the laws. In recent years, the program has changed to a more conversational approach (versus asking pre-determined questions) that incorporates local data or the importance of preventing AIS to that region or County. Inspectors also perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species, distribute informational brochures and collect and report any new water body infestations. In 2014, 100% of boaters that were talked to reported that they were aware of Wisconsin's invasive species law, a statistic that speaks to the success of previous Clean Boats, Clean Waters efforts.

Each year a number of inspectors operate at our Door County boat launches. **For more information on or to volunteer with the Clean Boats, Clean waters program, visit the UW-Steven's Point/UW-Extension Lakes site <http://bit.ly/1yPPiLB>.** For more watercraft inspection results, and to view data for specific counties or landings, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives> and click *Watercraft Inspection Data* (on the right hand side of the page) under *Data & Maps*.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters by the Numbers (2014):

- 120,021 boats inspected
- 249,708 people contacted about AIS prevention
- 70,351 hours spend conducting inspections
- 97% of boaters were willing to talk to inspectors
- 19% used their watercraft on different waterbody within last 5 days (high risk of spreading AIS).



How do you Protect the Places you Play? Show us in a Video!

As part of Wisconsin's 11th Annual Invasive Species Awareness Month (June) the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council is sponsoring an invasive species video contest. This is your opportunity to let your inner director out, showcase your camera skills, and create a short video illustrating why you care about invasive species and how easy and even fun invasive species prevention can be. The goal of the contest is to increase awareness of invasive species that invade our favorite recreation areas, and to educate citizens on how they can prevent their spread in these habitats. Less-than-two-minute videos showing how to protect the places you play can be uploaded to the Wisconsin DNR Facebook page until May 30th. Contest rules and guidelines can be found there as well. The winning entries will be shown at the Invader Crusader Award Ceremony. Examples of videos submitted last year can be found at <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness-month/video-contest/>.



Interested in the latest research on Wisconsin's Aquatic Invaders?

The Center for Limnology has created a catalogue where anyone can learn about previous and on-going aquatic invasive species research. You can search by species, location, or agency; or you can browse all current research projects.

Find the tool at http://cfllibrary.uwcfll.org/ais_projects.



Photo: AP/Dan Reiland

May Plant Profile: European frog-bit

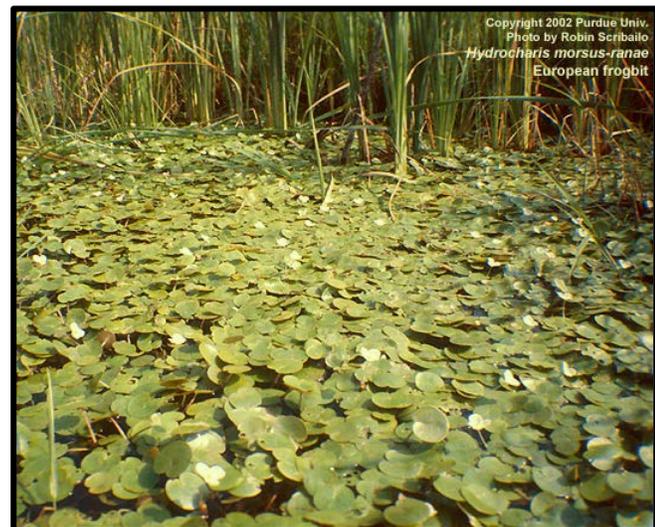
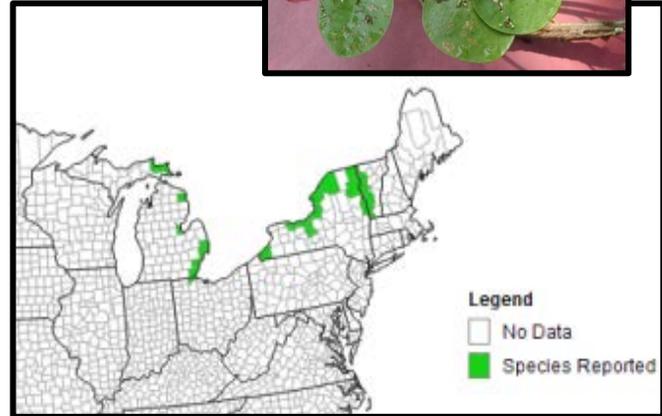
European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*), native to the Europe, is a free-floating aquatic plant that grows into large, interconnected floating mats. It was introduced into North America in the 1930's likely for use as an ornamental plant. It has been reported from several sites in Ontario, New York, and Vermont, as well as Michigan where it has been expanding in density (at existing sites) and distribution in the State. European frog-bit typically invades low-wave habitats such as sheltered bays, swamps, marshes, and drainage ditches. Below its floating mats, European frog-bit chokes the water column with a tangled mass of chord-like stolons and roots, which limits light penetration, crowds out native vegetation, has negative impacts on the movement of fish and wildlife, and impedes recreational activities.

Resembling a miniature lily pad, European frog-bit has leaves that are 1-2 inches long, kidney-shaped, leathery on the top surface, and purplish-red on the underside. Flowers of European frog-bit are three-petaled and white in color with a yellow center. New plants develop vegetatively through stolons that are capable of producing juvenile plants. They also reproduce through turions – winter buds which break free and remain on the bottom until spring when they float to the surface and grow into new plants.

Manual removal (hand-pulling or raking) of European frog-bit can be done on very small populations and can limit the spread of current infestation. Care should be taken to remove all plant parts from the water and properly dispose of material in the trash. Since **European frog-bit is not yet in Wisconsin, early detection of this species is crucial!** Learn to identify this plant and practice prevention techniques such as removing all plants and mud from boats and trailers before leaving a boat launch.

European frog-bit is listed as a prohibited species in Wisconsin's Invasive Species rule (Chapter NR-40). Prohibited status means 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.

This profile was adapted from information provided in the Spring newsletter of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network. See more at www.mipn.org.



Top: European frog-bit plant (Wisconsin DNR).

Top Middle: Distribution of European Frog-bit in the northeastern U.S. (Eddmaps.org). **Lower Middle:** Flowering plant (treknature.com). **Lower:** Flowering mat of Frog-bit (Robin Scribailo, Purdue University)