



# Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the

INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 11 July 2005

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## Wisconsinites Shine During Invasive Species Awareness Month!!!

By Amy Staffen

I have found inspiration recently in the enthusiastic efforts and responses to our state's first Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM). When I first took my position as Education Coordinator with the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species, I thought that planning this awareness month would be a fun challenge, but I envisioned something on a small scale. Much to my delight, it grew into something bigger! Here are some highlights:

- ❖ 82 EVENTS IN 34 COUNTIES
- ❖ ARTICLES IN NEWSPAPERS, NEWSLETTERS AND MAGAZINES
- ❖ TELEVISION APPEARANCES
- ❖ RADIO INTERVIEWS AND PSA'S
- ❖ CREATION OF AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE
- ❖ INVADER CRUSADER AWARDS EVENT WITH GOVERNOR DOYLE
- ❖ AND SECRETARY HASSETT OF THE WI-DNR

*The key to June's success was...*

**P \* A \* R \* T \* N \* E \* R \* S !!!**

- ❖ 13 individuals representing 10 state agencies or private organizations served on the Planning Committee
- ❖ 52 partner groups led events
- ❖ 30 individuals agreed to be listed on the Media Kit Expert's List for various invasive species topics
- ❖ 31 individuals agreed to be listed on the IPAW Speaker's Bureau, which was built in part as a resource for June

I can't emphasize enough the value of the many partners in bringing this initiative together. When it comes to invasive species issues, Wisconsin is blessed with a whole army of passionate and engaged people. Thank you so much, all of you, for serving on the planning committee, helping with publicity, setting up events, providing expert guidance. What an inspiration to work with all of you! Now we can only hope that...

*Through Awareness Comes Positive Change!*

## First Annual Invader Crusader Awards

"The health of our ecosystems, our economy and our way of life rests in large part on the acts of individuals and organizations." Gov. Jim Doyle

Invader Crusader Awards are presented by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species to individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Wisconsin.

*See Page 5 for more information*

## **Board of Directors 2005 spring election results; officer elections; and newsletter editor change**

**Patrick Goggin - IPAW president**

### **Results of the IPAW Board of Directors 2005 spring elections**

IPAW is happy to announce their results for the Board of Directors 2005 spring elections. Several old directors stepped down, other directors renewed their service to IPAW, and new directors joined the team of the IPAW Board of Directors.

Two directors left their service having served IPAW since the group's beginning in March 2001. Dan Undersander (Professor of Agronomy -UW-Extension) served as president of IPAW since our inception, providing a foundation of leadership and guidance for the board and group. We thank him for his vital contribution to getting IPAW established and functioning as a successful statewide organization. Likewise, Nancy Braker with The Nature Conservancy served IPAW well, helping to guide the directors and Wisconsin group into an effective cooperative association, and assisting the growth of the organization through service as our secretary. Both UW-Extension and The Nature Conservancy will carry on partnering with IPAW in the coming years through the contributions of Dan and Nancy as continuing members.

Two directors renewed their service to the IPAW board in the 2005 spring elections. Rolf Utegaard with Eau Claire County and Jim Reinartz with UW-Milwaukee each renewed their commitment of service to IPAW and its members.

In addition, we have several new directors joining the group. Amy Staffen, John Exo, Mark Feider, and Tom Hunt all have volunteered their skills and time in service to IPAW and we thank them.

Amy Staffen has devoted much of her academic and professional efforts to restoration of remnant native plant communities in Wisconsin. Amy writes, "To work on Wisconsin's mystically beautiful remnant prairies, woodlands, and wetlands is such a privilege. To wage the laborious battle against the weeds that threaten these areas is daunting; to witness the amazing reproductive abilities of invasive species is frightening. IPAW is playing a vital role in this necessary fight to preserve our native biodiversity through its education, science, and legislative initiatives, and I am glad to contribute to the continuing vitality of this important organization as a member of the board."

John Exo teaches land managers, general public, and others about invasive plants as an educator for UW-Extension. He is coordinator for the Greater Sauk County Invasive Plant Team, a public/private/NGO collaborative, which was formed in 1999 to address the spread of invasives in the Baraboo Hills and beyond. John has years of first-hand experience managing invasives as a volunteer for The Nature Conservancy, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and other non-profit organizations, as well as on his own 40-acre property.

As an environmental educator active with Audubon since 1971, Mark Feider has created and taught field programs on natural heritage issues. Helplessly watching dozens of 'pristine' natural areas sicken and devolve into shadows of their former selves has prompted him to both teach and involve people in active habitat restoration projects, including nuking invasives as a major activity. One of Mark's personal and organizational goals is to launch individual and community focused bird conservation projects as part of the new Audubon citizen science initiative - Audubon At Home. Being dedicated to education and advocacy, Mark has an interest in seeing collaborative invasive plant education and direct community action activities within community groups, conservation organizations, and IPAW continue to expand in his home area of southeast Wisconsin.

Tom Hunt is director of an environmental studies program at the UW-Platteville and he brings with him a curriculum on invasive plant management, which deals not only with technical approaches to control (controls such as mechanical, biological, or chemical), but also with controls that place an emphasis on the importance of cultural and legislative approaches. Through small grants he is able to engage students in invasive plant identification and plant control in the campus greenway where they utilize standard methods of control. Tom also engages students in service learning projects pertaining to invasives, which expand out into the community.

### **Officer elections**

Officer elections were held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 during the monthly meeting of the IPAW Board of Directors. The following folks were nominated and accepted positions as officers via their election from fellow directors: Patrick Goggin > president; Rolf Utegaard > continues as our vice-president; Amy Staffen > secretary; and Tom Boos > continues as our treasurer.

Thank you to each of them for stepping up and committing themselves for additional service to IPAW and its membership. We also appreciate the dedication and contributions of all past officers to IPAW, namely Dan Undersander as president, and David Hamel as secretary.

Elections continued from page 2

### "Plants out of Place" newsletter editor change over

David Beckmann, not the English soccer star but a biologist with Colorado State University working at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin has served IPAW as an editor to our "Plants out of Place" newsletter for some time. David is stepping down as editor; we thank him for his hard work and dedication in sending out a quality newsletter to our membership.

IPAW will miss David Beckmann's involvement with the newsletter, but we are fortunate to have Susan Slapnick stepping forward as our new newsletter editor. Susan is a retired Associate Researcher from the UW-Madison Department of Physiology. Though she specializes professionally in electron microscopy and tissue culture techniques, Susan has developed a broad knowledge base of restoration ecology (and invasive species) through her volunteer work with Madison Audubon Society, Friends of the Campus Natural Areas and The Prairie Enthusiasts. She even has a prairie named after her at Goose Pond Sanctuary as a tribute to her many hours of hard labor battling invasives there! Welcome aboard, Susan!

## IPAW Accomplishments are Many .... And Still Growing!!

The many accomplishments of IPAW are solely due to volunteer efforts by dedicated invasive plant enthusiasts like you. IPAW has several committees that represent most factions involved with invasive plants. Allow us to highlight a few of the committee accomplishments and continual work efforts. And as always, if you are interested in volunteering your time to work with a committee, please send an email to [info@ipaw.org](mailto:info@ipaw.org) and your name will be forwarded to the appropriate committee chair, or contact the committee chair listed below. We greatly encourage you to participate in any of the functions listed below.

### Science Committee

The IPAW Science Committee recently established three working groups that have been meeting since February 2005. The *Standards Working group* has been developing a standardized data collection protocol, culminating in the Invasive Plant Report Form, with accompanying instructions regarding voucher specimens and photo documentation. The *Control and Post-Treatment Monitoring group* is brainstorming ways to encourage knowledge sharing and data collection related to management activities.

The *Strategic Planning* group is currently exploring possibilities for long-term data sharing on invasive species. Partnering with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network, these efforts include discussing database options, surveying project needs, and considering further organizational partnerships.

### WARNING...IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOLLOWS!

*The Standards Working Group of the Science Committee has recently developed the Invasive Plant Report Form for use by people in Wisconsin who are in the field observing and controlling invasive plant species. Our hope is that many individuals and organizations will use this form for their information gathering this year. Our goal is to provide an easy standardized method that will serve as the foundation for more effective information sharing (such as mapping) and coordination of monitoring and management efforts. **You will find a copy of the form enclosed in this issue of the newsletter.** Please consider filling out the form to assist us in our efforts. Copies of the Invasive Plant Report Form can be downloaded from our website at [www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org) or by emailing [info@ipaw.org](mailto:info@ipaw.org) to have the form mailed. We also recognize that this is our first attempt at the form, therefore we welcome constructive comments. IPAW thanks you in advance.*

The Science Committee has several other projects to pursue, but with limited volunteers, it takes time to formulate. If you're interested in joining the Science Committee or participating in one of these groups, please contact Chris Reyes, Science Committee Co-chair at [chrisreyes@uwalumni.com](mailto:chrisreyes@uwalumni.com)

### Education Committee

The education committee has been extremely busy with the Invasive Species Awareness Month of June. The committee had an excellent summery of activities in Issue 9- December 2004 edition of Plants out of Place. Those activities are on going, so if you want to refresh your memory dig up the old copy or visit the website.

Amy Staffen continues to do an excellent job as committee chair and can be reached at [astaffen@tnc.org](mailto:astaffen@tnc.org).

### Website Subcommittee

The website committee continues to upgrade the ever popular IPAW website. If you have any comments on the website or want to express your thoughts on how the website can be improved, contact Tom Brock at [tdbrock@wisc.edu](mailto:tdbrock@wisc.edu) or our website author, Marsha Vomastic at [vomastic@charter.net](mailto:vomastic@charter.net).

Accomplishments continued from page 3

### **Plant Industry Relations**

This committee has been busy developing Economic Impact Statements for several seed industry species. The statements portray the economic value to the seed industry as well as the economic impact to native habitats. The purpose of these EI Statements is to educate and channel discussions regarding invasive plant species that are economically valuable to the seed industry, yet invasive to natural areas.

Steve Strachota is the committee chair and can be reached at [sstrachota@dairylandseed.com](mailto:sstrachota@dairylandseed.com)

### **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee was active this year as two board members left their post. Obviously, new recruits were needed and most of you likely received a ballot form this spring. This committee doesn't need much help until the time comes when we need to recruit new board members. Let us know if you are interested in helping out when that time comes and please continue to fill out and return the ballots when they come.

We currently need a chairperson for this committee, so in the meantime contact Patrick Goggin at [pagogg@co.vilas.wi.us](mailto:pagogg@co.vilas.wi.us) or (715) 479-3648.

### **Fundraising Committee**

The Fundraising Committee always needs creative people to help us obtain funding sources to support our organization. Recently, IPAW has decided to sell the "soon-to-be-hot-off-the-presses" publication by Elizabeth Czarapata, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*. This exciting book will be sold at a discount at our display booth at conferences, etc. and through the website.

Other funding is needed to continue our Program assistant position. The Nature Conservancy provided us with a grant that allowed us to hire a PA for one year for approximately 6 hours a week. Well, as all good things come to an end, so did that. This is not all bad; it made us realize how fundamentally valuable a PA is to the operations of our organization.

Other committees are constantly coming up with creative ways to spend money to help control invasive plants and educate the public; hence, we need to raise funds.

Nancy Braker is the committee chairperson and can be reached at [nbraker@tnc.org](mailto:nbraker@tnc.org) or (608) 356-5300.

### **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee has been pounding the pavement at conferences and symposia all across the state. Please remember that one does not need to be a committee member to staff our booth, so if you are aware of a conference that you think IPAW should have a presence and you want to help spread the word, please let us know. The IPAW display and booth is always popular as the public becomes more aware of the issues of Invasive Plants. It is always fun advocating the importance issues that invasive plants pose.

Rolf Utgaard is the committee chairperson and can be reached at [bigute-hort@prodigy.net](mailto:bigute-hort@prodigy.net) or (715) 834-0065.

### **Newsletter Committee**

The newsletter committee can always use your help with gathering and writing articles for the newsletter. The "Plants out of Place" newsletter is delivered to members and partners on a quarterly basis, so we are always in need of help. "Plants out of Place" is getting better and better each edition and we are happy to have a new editor, as the previous editor, David Beckman, is stepping down. Thank you so much David. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to [info@ipaw.org](mailto:info@ipaw.org).

### **Government Relations**

This farsighted, much needed committee is involved in invasive species classification and regulations. They keep apprised of the on goings of the Governors Council on Invasive Species. They are currently working on organizing legislative field days to expose legislators to the impact invasive species have on natural communities.

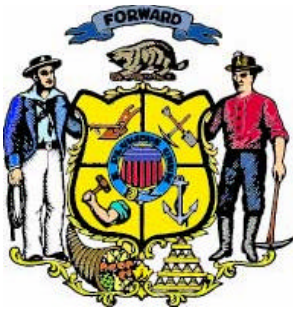
Gene Roark is the committee chairperson and can be reached at (608) 238-5349.

### **Conference Subcommittee**

The last Plants out of Place Conference was a huge success and we are currently planning the third Poof Conference. It is scheduled for early 2006 and we need a great deal of help organizing the event and contacting speakers. Please consider being a part of this wonderful opportunity to learn from a variety of experts in the field of invasive plants.

Again, we currently need a chairperson for this committee, so in the meantime contact Thomas Boos at [thomas.boos@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:thomas.boos@dnr.state.wi.us) or (608) 236-4695.

Having attended several committee meetings, it is clearly evident that countless interesting and productive ideas exist, but cannot be brought to fruition due to lack of time and resources. Again, please consider helping IPAW by volunteering your time and, of course, enjoy your summer. Thank you.



## WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

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### 2005 Invader Crusader Award Citations

The Education Committee of the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species is pleased to announce the 2005 recipients of the Invader Crusader Award. The award serves to honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's lands and waters. The Invader Crusader is awarded to three recipients from each of two categorical groupings: 1) community members (youth, families, individuals, or groups) and 2) organizations (business, non-government organizations, public officials, government agencies or employees, or tribes).

#### **St. Catherine's High School Environmental Club, Racine**

St. Catherine's High School Environmental Club has been willing to provide the hard manual labor it takes to rid Racine's Colonial Park of invasive species. Under the direction of faculty advisor, Melissa Warner, the club has been working in the 68-acre "natural area" for the past six years to preserve the young mesic woodland in the park.

Since 1999, club members have pulled, dug, chopped, sawed and otherwise destroyed countless buckthorn trees, garlic mustard, and other invasive weeds infesting Colonial Park, contributing 1,300 hours of hard manual labor. Thanks to the club, the park's biological diversity is being preserved to the delight of nature lovers, bird watchers, and those enjoying a walk through the native woods.

#### **Terri Lyon, Manitowoc County**

Terri volunteers her time as an educator, fundraiser, motivator, and beetle multiplier whose efforts are being felt by purple loosestrife and wetlands throughout the region. To date, Lyon and her growing coalition of volunteers are responsible for nearly 40,000 purple loosestrife munching beetles being released in Manitowoc County.

Terri's efforts will benefit native wetland plant communities and the birds, frogs, turtles and mammals that require this habitat to survive. Terri is developing citizen conservationists, both young and old, who are taking ownership of their environment and their community. This is what being an Invader Crusader is all about.

#### **Betty Czarapata, Waukesha County - posthumous award Husband, Lee, is receiving the award on her behalf**

Betty Czarapata has been recognized as an Invader Crusader because of her remarkable contributions to increase people's awareness and actions to recognize, prevent and remove invasive plants.

#### **Peter Murray Chair**

Wisconsin Association of Lakes  
Madison

#### **Becky Sapper Vice Chair**

The Nature Conservancy  
Ashland

#### **Laurie Osterndorf**

**Executive Committee**  
Department of Natural Resources  
Madison

#### **Will Christianson**

Department of Tourism  
Madison

#### **Charles Henriksen**

Henriksen Fisheries  
Baileys Harbor

#### **Harald E. (Jordy) Jordahl**

Department of Administration  
Madison

#### **Gregory D. Long, ASLA**

Private Member  
New Berlin

#### **Bernice Mattsson**

Department of Commerce  
Madison

#### **Kenneth Raffa**

University of Wisconsin  
Madison

#### **James Reinartz**

University of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Field Station  
Saukville

#### **Dennis Seevers**

Private Member  
Arpin

#### **Richard Stark**

Department of Transportation  
Madison

#### **Melody Walker**

Department of Agriculture, Trade and  
Consumer Protection  
Madison

A school teacher by training, Betty wrote an elementary to middle school curriculum to educate students about invasive weeds. In 1999, she self-published *Invading Weeds: A Growing Threat to Wisconsin's Biological Diversity*. Betty was one of the first volunteer coordinators of Weed-Out, a program in Milwaukee that organizes volunteers to control invasive weeds in the Milwaukee County Park System.

Betty's efforts will reach an even larger audience with the July publication of her new book, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: A Guide to Their Identification and Control*. Betty took most of the photographs and describes more than 100 native and non-native invasive plants and various control methods. We lost this amazing crusader in 2003 due to cancer, but her greatest work in invasive weed education will be realized with the release of her book. In this way, her legacy will live on.

### **Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah**

#### **Accepting the award is Miles Falck, biologist**

One of the key leaders in the crusade against invasive species has been the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC - pronounced *GLIF-wick*). GLIFWC has developed an informational website, which contains 19 comprehensive and detailed species accounts with visuals, as well as interactive distribution maps, educational materials and a slide library. GLIFWC's activities range from comprehensive inventory and monitoring to the control, identification and prioritization of invasives and eradication of plants such as purple loosestrife and leafy spurge. GLIFWC is a model partner organization working with a variety of land managers, agencies and non-profits towards a common goal.

### **Kristin Westad, Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area**

Southwestern Wisconsin's grasslands, in the form of working farms and native prairies, are continually threatened by the spread of invasive species and other noxious weeds. Kristin Westad, Project Coordinator of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area is spearheading the invasive control efforts across 40,000 acres of publicly and privately-owned grassland in Iowa and Dane Counties, successfully partnering with dozens of organizations and rural landowners. Control efforts on many fence lines separating farms have removed countless box elder trees, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and other invasive species, resulting in larger healthier grasslands and enhanced wildlife habitat.

Westad not only gets her hands dirty helping out during control efforts, she also educates farmers and the public about invasive species through a quarterly newsletter and face-to-face conversations, as well as helping landowners secure federal and state funding to control their invasive species. It is no surprise why biologist frequently cite the control efforts that she leads as a model to increase the scale at which conservation is done.

### **Kelly Kearns, Dept. of Natural Resources, Madison**

Kelly Kearns is the Plant Conservation Program Manager with the Endangered Resources Bureau of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Kelly has been deeply involved in all aspects of invasive plant management including public education, development of regulations and bringing together diverse groups to join forces against invasive species. Although invasive species are an integral part of Kelly's current job responsibilities, Kelly's interest, enthusiasm and efforts have far exceeded what is required according to her job description.

Kelly is a co-editor of a widely used manual on invasive species and was "a strong advocate for the need to update Wisconsin's noxious weed law, becoming the 'sparkplug' of the 20-member task force. Kelly was also a key factor in the creation and continued growth of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin.

As a demonstration of respect given to Kelly by one of her fellow Invader Crusaders, it was requested that Kelly be presented her award last, because "She has been incredibly devoted, visionary, and energetic on invasive issues for so many years. She's a tough act for any of us to follow."

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## Update on Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn Biocontrol Research

If you are one of the many people who are eager to get a hold of some insects that will devour their garlic mustard and buckthorn, this article may contain some bad news for you! In short, the availability of organisms for biocontrol of garlic mustard is at least 3 years off, and several years longer for buckthorn. Don't stop pulling those plants; because once these insects are widely available, they aren't going to eliminate these invasives. The various insects may reduce the number of overwintering rosettes, kill some flowering stems or reduce seed set, but they will not negate the need for vigilance and wide-scale inspection for and control of garlic mustard. For buckthorn the research is still in the preliminary stages and the potential for effective biocontrol agents is uncertain. For those wanting more details, below are some of the more pertinent information gleaned from the Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard Biocontrol Workshop hosted by the MN DNR in March of this year.

### **Garlic Mustard Control Agents:**

Research conducted by Esther Gerber, Harriet Hinz and others at CABI out of Switzerland found 69 insects feeding on garlic mustard in its home range in Europe. Host specificity tests were done on over 82 species of plants, mostly in the family Brassicaceae, that are used agriculturally or are native in the North American range of garlic mustard. No choice, choice and open field tests narrowed the field down to those species that appear to only feed on garlic mustard and have the potential to cause significant damage to the plants or their reproductive capability. In order of priority for testing and potential for impacts, the four best candidates are all weevils in the genus *Ceutorhynchus*. *C. scrobicollis* appears to be the most promising in its potential impacts on garlic mustard. The larvae mine the roots and adults feed on the leaves. *C. alliaris* and *C. roberti* are both shoot miners. *C. constrictus* larvae mine the seeds. To date the maximum amount of seed lost due to this insect is 18%.

Initial host testing was done in Europe. A second phase has begun in a new biological containment facility at the University of Minnesota. For the last year Jeanie Katovich has had *C. scrobicollis* and *C. roberti* and will be getting *C. alliaris* this summer. She is doing testing on further species of native plants in the Brassicaceae looking at ovipositing, larval development and feeding in each of the plants with each agent.

Once all the testing is completed they will need to apply for review by the federal technical advisory group, possibly conduct more testing and get a permit from USDA -APHIS. Then an Environmental Impact Statement must be written, go through the public input process and be approved by a number of federal agencies. Before insects can be released into any state, their agencies must review the EIS and agree to the introduction. In WI, DATCP is the agency that can approve the release after reviewing the EIS and getting DNR's feedback.

None of these agents alone has resulted in 100% mortality of host plants. Early testing shows that combining two or more of the agents is generally more effective in stressing the plants than a single agent, but details on their interactions still need to be worked out. Doug Landis at Michigan State is using CABI's data to develop models to predict the possible levels of success with introducing various levels of the different agents.

In addition to the testing and approval, researchers also need to develop methods for rearing these insects in sufficient quantity to make them widely available. To date it appears that *C. scrobicollis* is the easiest to rear.

### **Buckthorn Control Agents:**

Common and glossy buckthorn present many problems in developing successful biological control agents. Woody species are more time-consuming and challenging to raise and test and can be more difficult to kill with insects. These buckthorn species are relatively scarce and it is difficult to find dense stands of seedlings in Europe. There are over 50 genera and 900 species in the Rhamnaceae family. *Rhamnus cathartica* hybridizes with several other European *Rhamnus* species.

Andre Gassman of CABI has examined 50 European sites for each of the two buckthorn species. He has found approximately 30 arthropods that feed on one or both species. There are 17 that feed only on *R. cathartica* and only one that feeds only on *R. frangula*. Some of these insects feed also on other *Rhamnus* species.

Luke Skinner of MNDNR will be the lead person in the US for this research. Steps yet to be taken include prioritizing which insects to work on, developing a host plant list for testing, conducting host-testing and expanding the survey to look at additional insects.

For more information on these studies, see the following websites:

Cornell - <http://www.invasiveplants.net/invasiveplants/InvasivePlants/GarlicMustard/garlicMustard.asp>  
CABI - <http://www.cabi-bioscience.org/>

## ***Request for people to collect voucher specimens and records of certain invasive plants***

In an effort to try to get better data on the range and spread of invasive plants in the state and to assist with early detection efforts, we are asking for everyone's help in gathering voucher specimens and records of species that appear to be under-collected. To get info on known ranges of individual species most people interested in plants in Wisconsin use the UW Madison or Steven's Point Herbaria websites (<http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/>) (<http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/VascularPlants.html>). However, these maps are made based on voucher specimens collected and submitted to various herbaria. Regardless of the actual abundance of a plant in a particular county, if no one collects and submits it, the maps will show that it is not known in that county. For example, garlic mustard is recorded in only 29 out of the 72 counties; despite the fact that many of us know of places it grows in those unmarked counties.

The list below is broken into 3 groups.

The early detection species should be reported anywhere they are found in the state to [eagand@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:eagand@dnr.state.wi.us). These are new potential invasives, in addition to those listed in a previous IPAW newsletter.

The ornamental species are listed in order to see if they are truly spreading into and impacting natural areas. Potential future regulations or voluntary sales restrictions may be looking at these species and data is needed to determine if they are invasive in Wisconsin.

The last group of widespread species is included to get more accurate information on the range and abundance of these species.

Please make a copy of the new reporting form in this newsletter or print a copy off of the IPAW website ([www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)). For instructions on collecting, pressing and photodocumenting voucher specimens, see the Invasives Plants of the Future website at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/futureplants/reporting.htm>. For common plants easily identified by a photo, good detailed photos that show identifying characteristics can be sent instead of pressed specimens. Digital images and reports can be sent to Invasive [Plants@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:Plants@mailplus.wisc.edu)

### **New invaders with no or only a few records in the state:**

Pueraria montana - kudzu  
 Dioscorea oppositifolia – Chinese yam  
 Polygonum perfoliatum – mile-a-minute vine  
 Cytisus scoparius – Scotch thistle  
 Anthriscus sylvestris – wild chervil  
 Conium maculatum – poison hemlock  
 Centaurea solstitialis – yellow starthistle  
 Epilobium hirsutum – hairy willow-herb  
 Lespedeza cuneata – Chinese or sericea lespedeza  
 Glyceria maxima – tall mannagrass

### **Widespread but under-reported from natural areas:**

Rhamnus cathartica – common buckthorn  
 Rhamnus frangula – glossy buckthorn  
 Rosa multiflora – multiflora rose  
 Elaeagnus umbellata – autumn olive  
 Bromus tectorum – cheat grass, downy chess  
 Aegopodium podagraria – bishop's goutweed  
 Festuca arundinacea – tall fescue  
 Hesperis matronalis – dame's rocket  
 Alliaria petiolata – garlic mustard  
 Euphorbia esula – leafy spurge  
 Phragmites australis – giant reed grass (non-native ecotype only)  
 Potamogeton crispus – curly leaf pondweed

### **Ornamental species – looking for records of spreading into and impacting natural areas (not just roadsides or yards):**

Lonicera japonica – Japanese honeysuckle (vine)  
 Lonicera maackii – Amur honeysuckle  
 Ampelopsis brevipedunculata – porcelain berry  
 Acer platanoides – Norway maple  
 Acer ginnala – Amur maple  
 Quercus acutissima – sawtooth oak  
 Ailanthus altissima – tree of heaven  
 Elaeagnus angustifolia – Russian olive  
 Euonymus alatus – burning bush  
 Ligustrum vulgare, sinense, ovalifolium – European, Chinese and California privet  
 Celastrus orbiculata – Oriental bittersweet  
 Euonymus fortunei – wintercreeper  
 Hedera helix – English ivy  
 Lupinus polyphyllus – big-leaf lupine  
 Iris pseudacorus – yellow iris  
 Gypsophila paniculata – baby's breath  
 Coronilla varia – crown vetch  
 Lotus corniculata – bird's-foot trefoil  
 Euphorbia cyparissias – cypress spurge  
 Tussilago farfara – colt's foot



## DEVELOPING MUNICIPAL WEED LAWS

A Municipality's Obligation to Promote and Encourage the Control of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species in the landscape.

Prepared by Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd

### What is an Invasive Non-Native Plant?

According to Jil M. Swearingen, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Center for Urban Ecology in a paper entitled "What the Heck is an Invasive Plant?" dated March 23, 2004, an invasive species is one that displays rapid growth and spread, establishes over large areas, and persists. Invasiveness is characterized by robust vegetative growth, high reproductive rate, abundant seed production, high seed germination rate, and longevity. Some native plants exhibit invasive tendencies in certain situations.

A species is considered non-native when it has been introduced by humans to locations outside its native or natural range. This designation applies to species introduced from another continent, another ecosystem, and even another habitat within an ecosystem.

### Why are Invasive Non-Native Plants in need of Control?

Many non-native species exist in apparent harmony in environments where they were introduced. For example, a relatively small number of exotic plants (e.g., corn, wheat, rice, oats) form the basis of our agricultural industry and pose little to no known threat to our natural ecosystems. The most important aspect of an invasive plant is how it responds to a new environment.

However, there are non-native species that do pose a known threat to our natural ecosystems; which includes not only our health and well being, but also that of our animal and insect species, as well as our native plant species. These plants are considered invasive species and they impact native plants, animals, and natural ecosystems. Jil lists these impacts as:

- Reducing biodiversity
- Altering hydrologic conditions
- Altering soil characteristics
- Altering fire intensity and frequency
- Interfering with natural succession
- Competing for pollinators
- Poisoning or repelling native insects
- Displacing rare plant species
- Increasing predation on nesting birds
- Serving as reservoirs of plant pathogens
- Replacing complex communities with single species monocultures
- Diluting the genetic composition of native species through hybridization

To that end, municipalities need to establish a means of controlling these invasive species commonly referred to as weeds.

### *Weed Laws*

What are weed ordinances and why are they necessary? Weed laws – sometimes referred to as “vegetation control statutes” – correctly written and appropriately enforced, protect the environment and the public’s health and safety against invasive non-native plants commonly referred to as weeds. For example, the Federal Noxious Weed Act outlaws scores of exotic plants that pose a threat to livestock, native ecosystems, navigable waterways, and aquatic habitats.

Our Wisconsin state laws (Sec 66.96 & 66.955 Wis Stats) regulate invasive plants such as:

Canada thistle, leafy spurge, and field bindweed (Creeping Jenny) as noxious and requires that “every person shall destroy all noxious weeds on all lands which the person shall own, occupies or control.” Further it goes on to say that noxious weeds on all federal, state or county trunk highways and all town highways and on lands in the municipality shall be destroyed.

Purple loosestrife and multiflora rose as nuisance plants by providing that no person may sell, offer for sale, distribute, plant or cultivate the plants or its seeds. It further requires that the DNR eradicate these species and provides a fine for violation.

Unfortunately the manner in which to carry out this control of weeds is not laid out in the statute so it is important that each community develop their own weed laws. Nor does it speak about what to do keep the weed species from returning only to be destroyed again.

Therein lies the purpose behind this brief article. Many local weed laws are not plant-specific, except for those referenced in the state statutes, but we know through our IPAW educational efforts that there are many more weed species than the five listed by the state statutes. Local laws generally prohibit so-called weeds (undefined) in excess of an arbitrary height. For example, many local weed laws prohibit landowners from having “weeds in excess of an average height of 8 inches.” In a suburban culture in which a lush carpet of green grass is the norm, ambiguous weed laws have been used by neighbors and village officials to prosecute those who choose to “grow naturally” versus those who argue that all in the town must “mow.” A big difference exists, however, between a yard full of noxious, invasive weeds and an intentionally planted natural landscape. The first step is to educate yourself so you can tell your neighbor the difference between Monarda and chickory. IPAW has provided a multitude of information on its website ([www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)) and through its regional groups to help you with this process.

Nor do they provide for replacement of weed species with acceptable plant species to keep the weeds from growing back. It’s one thing to have a weed law; it’s another to promote replacing noxious weeds with something else.

### *Getting Started: The Jenny Weed Seed Model*

The following was taken from a 3-part series which appeared in the *Wild Ones Journal*, authored by Bret Rappaport, a partner with the Chicago, Illinois law firm Schwartz, Cooper, Greenberger & Krauss, and who is a leading expert on municipal weed laws and natural landscaping, and rewritten to address the need for noxious weed laws.

Municipalities should consider following the "Jenny Weed Seed Model" to promote control of noxious weeds. The phases of this model are (a) germination and seedling, (b) maturation, (c) blossom, and (d) eradication.

### Germination and Seedling

*An idea takes root.* There must be the germination of the idea, marked by a commitment by the municipality to do it. The first step is to identify a person to lead the mission. It must be only one person, and that point person will be "Jenny Weed Seed." As well as being passionate and committed to getting this done, he or she must be knowledgeable about noxious weeds and the principles involved. This first prerequisite of a point-person cannot be over-stressed; this person must know what will replace the weeds and why it is important that this should happen. It is not enough to have strong feelings about "stopping weeds for the good of the environment". These strong feelings are much more readily defended if backed by information that is presented in an amicable manner. Smile and bring bouquets of both Canada Thistle and native wildflowers!

*Involve Municipal Departments.* The second step is to involve affected municipal departments. Find out what is the relevant process that needs to be followed. Does your town have a Planning Board or someone who oversees landscape ordinances? Should public safety, traffic, and public works involved in the discussion process. An ad hoc committee should be set up to discuss the different implications of weed eradication within the community. This committee should meet several times to discuss and brainstorm about weed eradication, how it will affect the community in a positive way, and how it should be used, carried out, and promoted.

*Call Together the Citizens.* Create a citizens advisory committee. A citizens advisory committee is a necessary and important component of the "Jenny Weed Seed Model," since it will bring into the process non-governmental agencies and individuals who will be affected by the program, and that are interested in seeing it come to pass. Members of this committee should include schools, houses of worship, businesses, and individuals.

### *Maturation*

*Your Turn.* Assuming that everything else is on track, the next phase is for "Jenny Weed Seed," the designated point person, to meet with the municipal attorney. The existing laws should be reviewed, and a model ordinance should be drafted that not only outlines what weeds are considered noxious, but also promotes replacement with suitable non-weed species plants and outlines measures with which to add to the list. The law must be drafted by the attorney, as experience has shown that when citizens advisory committees or other committees are involved in the actual ordinance drafting process, what emerges is an incomprehensible, ineffective, and complicated law. The goal is to make the law simple, and then simplify that simple law even further.

*Meet with Your Client.* The final step in the maturation process is for "Jenny Weed Seed" and the municipal attorney to meet with local government officials to adjust and fine-tune the draft ordinance (but not to engage in a comprehensive rewriting).

*Reconvene the Committee.* To allow the noxious weed eradication program to begin in the community, the sixth step in the "Jenny Weed Seed Model" is to reconvene the citizens committee. The purpose of this is to coordinate (i) events, (ii) publications, (iii) short-term and long-term projects, and (iv) any other aspects of the weed eradication project which the committee develops, such as integrating the schools, environmental organizations or other aspects such as local historical societies or

garden clubs into the process. The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF), for example, has a Highway Beautification Program as one of their standard programs.

### *Blossom*

*Get It Passed.* The municipal council should pass the ordinance as part of a ceremony that presents the concept as part of an overall city beautification and quality of life initiative.

### *Eradication*

Once the ordinance is passed, the municipality must take that project - now in eradication - and continue to promote it. *First*, municipal properties should be cleared of noxious weeds and preferably, natural landscaping put in its place. *Second*, municipal resources should be made available to homeowners who wish to eradicate large areas of noxious weeds. This doesn't mean that the city should pay the homeowners to rid the noxious weeds from their yard, but if the municipality has the resources for a staff botanist or naturalist, that person's services should be made available to residents. *Third*, many cities also have beautification projects where they share the cost of street-side plantings or trees with homeowners. These projects could be expanded to include eradication of weed species first, to be followed by the plantings. Preferably, the trees and plants offered should all be native. *Fourth*, publications should be made available. Some communities, like the City of Madison, Wisconsin, have published entire brochures on natural landscaping which includes maintaining a weed free environment.

### Ordinance Guidelines

The following guidelines should be used by communities in drafting new weed ordinances that are aimed at a more benign relationship between yards and nature:

The ordinance should protect the fundamental right of residents to choose their own landscaping, but provide a definition of what is not acceptable because it is considered an invasive noxious weed.

The ordinance should apply equally to all residents, as well as the municipality itself and the state, if possible.

Any restrictions should have a rational basis, i.e., a legitimate interest in public health, safety, or welfare.

The ordinance should not require the filing of an application, statement of intent, or management plan, and there should be no review or approval process of fees assessed against residents who intend to engage in legitimate natural landscaping.

In order to avoid harassment, the municipality's "weed commissioners" who will enforce the weed ordinance should be trained to distinguish between those people who are growing permitted plant species and those with non-permitted growth.

Enforcement of the ordinance should be undertaken through due process of law, which guarantees individuals the right to fair adjudication of their rights.

The ordinance should actively address the problems of environmental degradation brought about by the indiscriminate use of toxic chemicals in landscape management. Although allowing non-native, non-invasive plant species, it should encourage the preservation and restoration of diverse, biologically stable natural plant communities, and environmentally sound practices. This would reduce not only contaminants to the environment such as pesticides, fertilizers, pollutants, and noise, but would help reduce the accumulation of yard waste.

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*Ordinance Model*

A model for a good, fair, and workable modified weed ordinance, one that is simple, easily understood, and allows for natural landscaping, is as follows:

Public Nuisance: Untended, Rank, and Unmanaged Vegetation

1. Prohibition

Untended, rank and unmanaged growth of vegetation on any property within the municipality which is visible from any public way, street, sidewalk, or alley is declared to be a public nuisance and may be abated in accordance with the procedures set forth in 2-3 of this Ordinance. This prohibition shall not apply to vegetation native to area, provided there is a setback of not less than four (4) feet from the front lot line of vegetation not in excess of eighteen (18) inches exclusive of trees and shrubs.

2. Procedure

The City shall issue a written citation to a Landowner whose property is in violation of Section 1 of this Ordinance. This citation shall inform said Landowner of the basis of the citation and shall include the following information:

(1) the date of any inspection and the name of the inspector; and

(2) the names and addresses of any neighbor(s) of the Landowner or other person(s) who contacted the City or was contacted by the City regarding the alleged violation of 1 of this Ordinance. The Citation shall be adjudicated in accordance with Art. \_\_\_\_\_, of the Municipal Code relating to adjudication of [traffic offenses].

3. Abatement and Penalty

Upon a finding of guilt in accordance with Section 2 of this Ordinance, the Landowner shall have twenty-eight (28) calendar days in which to abate the nuisance. If he/she does not to act, the City may take whatever reasonable action is necessary to abate the nuisance. The costs of such abatement shall be assessed against the Landowner and shall constitute a fine, the collection of which may be made pursuant to the provisions of this Art. - [relating to the imposing a lien on the property].

4. Restoration

Once eradicated, direction as to the replacement of appropriate non-weed plant species, preferably native plant species, should be included to prevent the reappearance of the weed species.

The result is a community with a landscape ordinance made for the control of noxious weeds. Long ago Mother Nature determined what plants are best suited to a particular place. The bottom line is that non-native noxious weeds are not a good idea. Eradicating them is a key component for creating a healthier, more beautiful, and sustainable landscape in your community.

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*Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's)*  
*Workshop held in Ashland, WI*  
*Patrick Goggin - IPAW President*

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest hosted a Cooperative Weed Management Area Workshop on May 9, 2005 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Wisconsin. The term CWMA refers to a local organization that integrates all noxious weed management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to benefit entire communities. Natural resource professionals from local, county, state, and federal agencies, concerned citizens, not-for-profit groups, and others from throughout the upper Midwest attended the daylong event.

Rick VanBebber, the Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinator with the Idaho Department of Agriculture/USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region, was the lead presenter for the day. The workshop centered on discussing the elements of a CWMA "Cookbook", designed to steer interested people through the process of organizing and leading a CWMA group. Organizational aspects talked about included focusing on a common concern, developing cooperative agreements, sorting out management and operation plans, and arranging ad-hoc committees and communication channels. Time was also spent on how to lead the CWMA effort and ways to foster successful activities. Important activities of CWMA's were described including education, prevention, cooperative work projects, sharing of resources, and hiring and contracting for services.

For more information on Cooperative Weed Management Areas check out the CWMA "Cookbook" @ [http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/resources/noxious\\_weeds/cwma\\_cookbook\\_012302.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/resources/noxious_weeds/cwma_cookbook_012302.pdf)

or contact Linda Parker, Forest Ecologist  
for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, at [lrparker@fs.fed.us](mailto:lrparker@fs.fed.us).

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