

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area

*Working together to protect the northwoods of Wisconsin
from the impacts of invasive species*

Issue No 10 - October 2011

Report from the Field: Ashland Co AIS

Scott Caven gives us a report on the findings from AIS monitoring in Ashland County, along with some tips to slow the spread of AIS, on [Page 2](#)



New Exhibit Features Invasive Species

See photos and learn more about the new invasive species exhibit at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, sponsored by the National Park Service. [Page 3](#)



In the last five years, we have seen Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed, and Bohemian knotweed creep into more alleys, ravines, and forest edges throughout Bayfield and Ashland counties. Late this summer, the Northwoods CWMA worked with landowners from communities around the peninsula in a cooperative effort to control knotweed species.

NCWMA members Jane Swenson (Iron River area volunteer), Darienne McNamara (NCWMA Coordinator), and Jeremy Bates

(Bayfield County AIS Coordinator) each

went door-to-door in communities near their home or office, talking to landowners with knotweed on their property. Nearly a dozen homeowners granted permission to treat on their property. In addition, road crews from two communities worked with us to identify many roadside patches for treatment.

Over the course of three days, each stand was sprayed using a foliar treatment (0.13% solution of Milestone with surfactant). Colleen Matula, Wisconsin DNR, provided guidance after using the technique with good success in 2010. Treatment efficacy was good overall, though some sites will need to be re-treated next year. By dividing the effort into small tasks and working with partners, the NCWMA was able to carry out a large-scale effort to knockout knotweed in the Chequamegon Bay area.



Mom Was Right: Don't Pick Up or Transport ^{aquatic} Hitchhikers!

The Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department has teamed up with many other organizations to prevent and control the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in northern Wisconsin. AIS monitoring is vital to that effort. Sixteen inland lakes in Ashland County were monitored during the summer of 2011. Here's what was found:

- 9 of the 16 lakes (56.25%) had at least one AIS present
- 3 of the 16 lakes (18.75%) had banded mystery snails
- 5 of the 16 lakes (31.25%) had Chinese mystery snails
- 4 of the 16 lakes (25%) had purple loosestrife
- Out of 12 invasive species found, 9 of them (75%) were previously undocumented in the particular water body where they were recorded

Monitoring for aquatic invasive species is critical to the current and future health of lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. Monitoring can help us find AIS early, which significantly reduces the risk of spreading them. Anglers and boaters can also help prevent the spread of AIS by following all rules and regulations, including:

- Inspecting boats, trailers, and equipment
- Removing all attached aquatic plants and animals
- Draining all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment
- Never moving live fish away from a water body
- Buying bait only at Wisconsin bait dealers

Preventing and controlling the spread of aquatic invasive species is not an easy task. Just a few seeds, fish, mussels, crayfish, snails, soil, plant fragments, or water can wreak havoc on any given waterbody. Northern Wisconsin: it's time to step up and keep our water resources pristine! Like mom always said: don't pickup hitchhikers.

This article was submitted by Scott Caven, Ashland County AIS Coordinator. For more information, he can be reached at 715-682-7187 or ais.ashlandlwc@centurytel.net.



Chinese mystery snails

Why is monitoring important?

75% of the aquatic invasive species discovered in Ashland County during the summer of 2011 were **previously undocumented**



banded mystery snails

**you are
what you eat**

Find tasty and creative recipes for invasive species such as **honeysuckle syrup, garlic mustard ice cream, and deep fried earthworms** online at... <http://invasivore.org>

Park Service Sponsors New Exhibits



In addition to the new mobile kiosk, several boot brush stations have been added in strategic locations within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. By placing boot brushes at trailheads, docks, and boat landings, the park hopes to slow the spread of invasive species to the islands.

The National Park Service has produced portable exhibits to highlight the impacts from some of the most common invasive species, along with preventative measures to slow their spread. The exhibits were funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

On the mobile exhibit, there are two sides, each with a distinct theme. One side is titled "Little things, Big problems." Viewers can see a vile of two million purple loosestrife seeds (roughly the amount produced by a single plant in one year), get a close-up view of a spiny water flea, and learn what zebra mussels can do to water intake pipes. On the other side, viewers learn to "Make a difference." They discover who is hitching a ride on fishing and camping gear, where gypsy moths are coming from, and what can be done to keep gear clean and invasive free. An important message in the exhibit is that simple actions can make a big difference. There are lift

doors and tactile objects to focus viewers on the problems and possible solutions. The exhibit is designed to be mobile and can be used inside or outside.

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has plans to utilize this exhibit throughout the park, and at events such as farmer's markets, Applefest, and county fairs.



During the winter months, the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center will host the mobile exhibit for people to interact, learn, and remember the importance of fighting invasive species, even when snow and cold push thoughts of them toward the back of our minds.



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