

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area

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

Issue No 8 - June 2011

Heard It Through The Grapevine

NCWMA member Jane Swenson reminds us that sometimes low-tech is best, on **Page 2**

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NCWMA Partners With USFS and Towns

The NCWMA is helping local towns manage invasive plants through a project funded by the US Forest Service **Page 3**

1 use **native plants** in your garden, and ask local vendors to stock them

2 keep a **boot brush** in your vehicle - *and use it*



6 learn to **identify** a few common or new invaders in your area

7 don't forget to **check your pets** - remove seeds from their fur and paws



3 clean mud and plants off **camping and hiking gear**



10 ways to be...
INVASIVE FREE

8 burn **firewood** where you bought it or cut it

4 help with local **volunteer** efforts to control invasives

9 keep invasives out of your yard - **removing a few** at a time adds up



5 remove **aquatic plants** from your boat or trailer



10 spread the **word**, not the weeds!

Heard It Through the Grapevine...

Submitted by Jane Swenson

In the world of invasives, technology has given us a helping hand. Through the use of GPS devices, technical mapping software, and online data-sharing websites, we are able plot the location of just about any invasive species we can find, whether aquatic or terrestrial. Unfortunately, most of this information still must be collected by visiting each site and recording data by hand. This style of monitoring can be labor-intensive and time-consuming. Researchers are developing complex models to predict the locations and spread of invasive species, but in the meantime, there is one valuable tool that often doesn't get the recognition it deserves: word of mouth. In a small community in northern Wisconsin, the importance of this simple, affordable means of sharing information has shown to be helpful in discovering new infestations in remote areas that see very little human traffic. The following are a few examples of this old-fashioned approach:

Example #1: *A couple attended a lake association meeting where I was speaking about some of the most common invasives near or in the lake, namely Eurasian water milfoil and purple loosestrife. Real samples were available. The couple approached me after the meeting and asked about loosestrife. We visited their property and found the entire shoreline infested. Biological treatment was started that same year.*

Example #2: *A teenager called me one night with a plant he had pulled out of the water near his cabin. I went over to look at it. Alongside the plant, he had a small plant ID card he was given at a boat landing. He had correctly identified the plant as Eurasian water milfoil.*

Example #3: *The Watercraft Inspection Coordinator contacted the NCWMA Coordinator after she received a call from the town's tax assessor. He had just left a property where he noticed a stand of tall plants that looked like bamboo, but he wasn't sure what they were. As you may have guessed, it turned out to be Japanese knotweed. The NCWMA Coordinator contacted me, and I was able to visit the site with our county AIS Coordinator later that week and talk to the residents. The discovery of this stand of knotweed was very important since it was already growing along the water's edge, yet young enough to be treated later this summer.*

I'm sure most of you have similar stories. It's a good reminder that local people can be an extension of our eyes and minds. Also, never doubt that our efforts to get the word out are making an impact!



taking it to the streets

Invasive plants are no stranger to our roadsides. By their nature, right-of-ways are very disturbed areas and therefore prone to infestation. Here invasives get their foot in the door (or root, as it were) and begin invading adjacent natural areas where their impacts are more disruptive.

Enter the town road crew. Armed with the right information and equipment, these crews could be a crucial partner in stemming the tide of invasives spreading into natural areas such as the Chequamegon National Forest. That is the goal of a cooperative project taking place this summer. The Northwoods CWMA, with support from the Resource Advisory Committee of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, has hired two interns to work with township and county road crews surrounding the forest.

To begin, the interns will spend a week in each town during the summer. They will survey roadsides, gravel pits, and equipment storage yards; work with road crews to demonstrate control methods; and initiate treatment. As part of the project, each town or county highway department will spend a minimum of forty hours controlling invasives during the course of the summer. Later in the fall, a customized management plan will be created for each of the ten

participating municipalities. The plans will include maps and species-specific control measures, and also highlight invasive species BMP's for right-of-way maintenance (online at council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives).

Once the project is completed, the inventory data will be added to a regional database so other agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service can see which species are cropping up nearby. In addition, an invasive species management plan *template* will be posted on the Northwoods CWMA website for other municipalities to adapt for their own area.

As with most of our projects, this would not be possible without the cooperation of many partners. The U.S. Forest Service provided funding through the Resource Advisory Committee's Title II Funds; interns were hired through Northland College and trained by staff from the National Park Service and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; and most importantly, local town supervisors and road crews have stepped up to learn about invasive plants and help control invasives in their area. If you would like more information, feel free to contact Darienne McNamara, NCWMA Coordinator, at 715-373-5964 or email info@northwoodscwma.org.



Thanks

to our volunteers -
you make the difference!



facebook

**We're on
Facebook!**

The Northwoods CWMA Facebook page provides information about who we are, upcoming events, pictures, and other resources.

It's similar to our traditional website, but with Facebook, it is much easier to contact us and exchange information. It is also easier to keep our members up-to-date as we post new events, photos, links, and other resources.

Not on Facebook? Don't worry, we still have our website, however our photos are now available only on our Facebook page.