

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area

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

Issue No 3 - June 2010

Take the ISAM Challenge

Colleen Matula from the Wisconsin DNR raised the stakes for Invasive Species Awareness Month this year. See more on **Page 2**, including an invasive species rap!



Weed Warriors Are Everywhere

Thanks to the tireless and enthusiastic volunteers who have helped at events so far this year. Join us at an upcoming event and get in on the fun! **Page 3**

A day in the life...

This month, we'll get to know one of our members who spends his entire summer treating invasive plants throughout the western Great Lakes region. **Isaiah Messerly** is with the National Park Service based out of Ashland, and here's what he had to say...

Q: Job Title:

A: Biologist, Crew Leader - Exotic Plant Mgmt. Team

Q: And what does your job title mean?

A: I lead a crew of 3 or more people carrying out an array of nonnative invasives species reduction efforts in national parks located in the Upper Great Lakes.

Q: Describe a typical day on the job.

A: I don't think a typical day exists on this job, someone or something (i.e. nature) is always throwing you a curve ball. However, if everything goes to plan, we normally travel to a site first. This in itself is sometimes no easy task. At some locations, weeds are located in such remote hard to access areas that we need to boat in or hike in to get there. We assess the site, determine the most appropriate treatment method, and then begin work. The next day we do it all over again.

Q: How many species do you deal with in a season?

A: Everything from *Allaria petiolata* to *Zanthoxylum americanum*, there are too many to count.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

A: My favorite part of this job is being able to travel to many different locations and different parks. Each park was created to preserve something spectacular. People travel long distances to visit these places and I get to experience them as part of my job.

Q: What is your least favorite part of the job?

A: Being away from my family regularly in the summer.

Q: Why are you part of the Northwoods CWMA?

A: The NCWMA offers a great forum where a bunch of people with common goals and interests can get together to share ideas. If you've ever stood in a field of buckthorn, you quickly realize it is a team effort that starts with dedicated individuals.



Invasive Species Awareness Month Challenge

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month, and this year, Colleen Matula, NCWMA member and DNR Forest Ecologist in Mellen, challenged us to get the word out through our local libraries. She donated educational materials to divvy up into “toolkits” for libraries. The kits include a book, DVD, ID cards, brochures, and coloring pages - all with information about invasive species. Other NCWMA members donated publications and created a kid-friendly poster to compliment the kits, then distributed them to libraries all the way from Iron River to Bayfield to Mercer. The Ashland Daily Press published an article about the display in the Vaughn Public Library, which will also be hosting a program on aquatic invasive species this month.



Alright stop. please people listen.
 All these species think they can glisten.
 But they can't. We gonna stop them somehow.
 Biological. Chemical. Mechanical. Right Now!
 Yo, we gotta stop them - I know
 Grab your gloves and clippers and let's go.
 You know what we need? Come and see.
 Get on the ground and pull those weeds.
 Invasive species. We don't want them.
 Invasive species. We don't want them
 Zebra muscles and gobys
 Travel here on boaties
 Gotta put our foot down and end this now.
 Yo, this is what we do at Trees For Tomorrow.
 So pull those weeds, leave the gobys on the shore,
 empty your boat and clean your shoes to the core.
 We got this. Yo, take care of our earth
 and show everybody just what its worth.
 So get up now, get up on your feet
 Lets make these species face defeat.
 Invasive species. We don't want them.
 Invasive species. We don't want them.

In April, high school students around the state learned about invasive species impacts in our region at Trees For Tomorrow. For Invasive Species Awareness Month, a challenge was issued to several high schools in Wisconsin with a cash award. The challenge: write - *and sing* - a short song on invasive species with an important message (no profanity). The cash award went to students from Oconto, who wrote the invasive species rap shown here.



There were several other schools that participated, including Mellen High School which wrote a country twang lamenting on the impacts of invasive species. All songs will be posted on the ISAM and IPAW website.

This month, try to do something special for Invasive Species Awareness Month. You don't have to be a rap star to make a difference.





Thanks to our 2010 weed warriors!



From top left, clockwise: students from Mellen filled garbage bags with garlic mustard along the Bad River; Northland College student cutting buckthorn on campus; some of the volunteers that help cut buckthorn and honeysuckle at a local park where they filled **3 dump trucks** full of shrubs; Northland College student spraying invasives in Bay City Creek; volunteers learning about invasive species before doing hands-on control; Ashland's mayor working alongside a younger resident to control invasives