

# Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area

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

Issue No 13 - July 2012



## Pigweed and Plover

*Resisting invasion in rare shorebird habitat in the Apostle Islands*

Page 2



## Notes from the Field:

### Report from new NCWMA Intern Mackenzie Hogfeldt

As the days have burned by in this hot summer, I reflect on some of the projects initiated during my internship and look forward to those beginning to take shape...

My summer as an NCWMA intern began the first week of June as I started coordinating with several NCWMA partners to plan and coordinate the many projects I would be involved in during my internship. Shortly thereafter, I began assisting Northland College professor Sara Johnson and two Northland College students, Tom Bierman and Jordan Mead, on an invasive plant inventory of two areas on the city of Ashland's waterfront and one area in Prentice Park. We evaluated relative abundance of invasive and native plant species in 25'x100' survey plots. This work gives the city of Ashland a reference point for comparing future floristic quality and has helped identified target areas for future management plans.

*Continued page 3*



Ashland shoreline weed surveys with Tom Bierman and Jordan Meade

## This **Pig** of **Weed** is **Hogging** up Long Island

### Invasive Threat to the Endangered Piping Plover

The Great Lakes piping plover (right) is an endangered species, with only 63 breeding pairs reported in a 2008 census by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Habitat loss, nest disturbance, and predation have contributed to the rare status of these birds. In the fall of 2011, a new threat to Great Lakes plovers, in the form of the invasive plant, winged pigweed, was discovered on Long Island of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, home to the largest population of nesting plovers outside of Michigan.



On Long Island, beach grass stabilizes low dunes, helping to create beach habitat that plovers favor for nesting. The encroachment of winged pigweed, native to areas west of the Mississippi River, has the potential to transform this sensitive habitat. Pigweed is a prolific seed producer that forms tumbleweed-like bushes (left). Each plant can release thousands of seeds as it rolls across a landscape.

Recently, the Great Lakes Research Initiative awarded funding to address winged pigweed on Long Island. This work will be a cooperative effort by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service, the Bad River Tribe, and the NCWMA, running from 2012-2014. Managing the pigweed population will require monitoring of pigweed and plover phenology to evaluate the best timing for control events. Because of the sensitivity of the plover habitat, pigweed will be controlled by hand pulling. When the time is right for control, the NCWMA may come knocking on your door look for volunteers!

This article was adapted from an Apostle Islands National Lakeshore *Resource Brief* prepared by Peggy Burkman.

**Photo credits:** Plover —National Park Service photo; and winged pigweed — Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1989. *Midwest wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species*. Midwest National Technical Center, Lincoln.

# Field Notes...

*continued from page 1*

The Ashland waterfront was also the site of another invasive plant management project that I worked on this summer. The Ashland Shoreland Restoration Project ([ashlandshorerestore.org/](http://ashlandshorerestore.org/)) seeks to eliminate invasives and restore native plants on 4100 feet of Ashland shore. Working under the direction of Brick Fevold of the WI DNR, I managed tansy, spotted knapweed and Canada thistle. It has been hard work with more to come in August.

In late June, honeysuckle and buckthorn were the treatment targets of a weed operation at Lucius Woods State Park. I worked alongside members of the Douglas County Aquatic Invasive Species program, the Douglas County Forest Service, and a Solon Spring youth group to remove LOTS of biomass. Additionally, we collected *Galerucella* beetles for rearing and later release for combatting purple loosestrife. It was a successful day with a follow up day planned for August.



Fassett's locoweed (*Oxytropis campestris* var. *chartacea*) is only known to occur in Wisconsin. Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR.



Honeysuckle and buckthorn removal at Lucius Woods State Park

In July, last month I participated in a Canada thistle pull with the U. S. Forest Service in the Chequamegon National Forest . This was a really rewarding experience as we were actively preserving habitat for the endemic legume, Fassett's locoweed, as well as other threatened legumes.

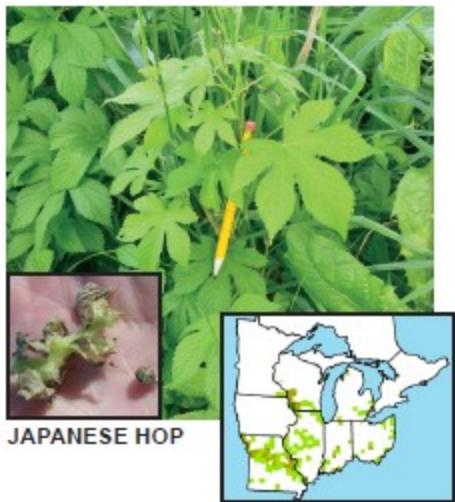
Amidst working on all of the various projects the NCWMA is involved with I have been representing the Cooperative every other Saturday at the Ashland Area Farmers Market. This has been a really enriching experience as I actively learn while answering questions of passersby.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two months as an NCWMA intern and as more projects come together for August, I anticipate an action-packed finish to the position. Thanks to everyone I have worked with for the help and for being such incredible resources for my internship!

# **KEEP A LOOKOUT!**

for **NEW INVASIVE PLANTS** in the Midwest!

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has updated a flyer featuring weedy plants that may be coming soon to a landscape near you! The flier features color photos, range maps, and detailed descriptions of 16 species that are on the move in Midwestern states.



JAPANESE HOP



ASIAN BITTERSWEET

Two examples of weeds featured in the MIPN flyer that have made headway in Wisconsin.

You can find this flyer on the web at [mipn.org/publications.html](http://mipn.org/publications.html), or pick up copies at the next NCWMA meeting. Speaking of which...

## **...Care to Join Us?**

The Northwoods CWMA meets at 9:00am on the second Thursday of every month at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center on Highway G near Ashland, WI. The public is always welcome to attend, or just drop by to discuss an invasive species concern or question. For more information, contact us at [info@northwoodscwma.org](mailto:info@northwoodscwma.org), visit us online at [www.northwoodscwma.org](http://www.northwoodscwma.org), or find us on [Facebook](#).