



# Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area

*Working Together to Protect Northern Wisconsin from Invasive Species*

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## The Deep Freeze



The NCWMA region was recently hit by a cold snap plummeting temperatures well below zero for days on end. This may be good news in terms of slowing the spread of some invasive species.

The emerald ash borer larvae overwinter beneath the bark of ash trees, and while they have an antifreeze mechanism to protect them from the cold, they can't handle temperatures hovering at  $-20$  and  $-30$ . There's no doubt that the population took a good hit with the cold temps. The ones that survive however will emerge and lay their eggs, bringing the population back up. But the reduction in their numbers comes as a welcomed effect.

Gypsy moths are also affected by the colder temperatures. Temperatures hitting  $-20$  degrees will kill exposed gypsy moth eggs. However, eggs are often laid on bases of trees or rocks where snow insulates them. Alternating freezing and thawing periods into early spring may also prevent the overwintering eggs from hatching.



EAB larvae



Gypsy moth egg masses

John H. Ghent, USDA Forest Service, bugwood.org

## We're Hiring!

Even though it's still winter and we're talking about the deep freeze, we're looking towards the summer season. We will be hiring summer interns to perform invasive plant management and conduct Clean Boats Clean Waters surveys. For more information on these opportunities, see the NCWMA website at [www.northwoodscwma.org](http://www.northwoodscwma.org) or call (715) 373-6167.





## Great Ice Fishing Bait Tip

By Jeremy Bates, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator

Many anglers have different opinions on what bait to use when trying to lure fish from under the ice. Some use shiners, waxies, and artificial bait. While much of this depends on personal preference and the fish you pursue, one tip applies to all bait. This great tip is: Don't let bait be a vector for invasive species and disease.

Not only does being responsible with your bait preserve fisheries, it is also the law. The following rules apply:

**Do not transfer bait from one waterbody to the next.** By taking your bait from one waterbody to another you risk contamination from fish diseases and the spread of other microscopic invaders.

**Do not release your bait into the lake.** By doing this you could directly be releasing a new invasive into the lake.

**Preserve bait correctly.** Frozen fish can only be used on the waterbody from which they were harvested, but once properly preserved, they can be used anywhere. If you use smelt or other dead bait, preserve it in a way that does not require freezing or refrigeration. Methods of preservation include storage in alcohol or mineral oil, or drying by packing in a salt/borax mixture.

**Buy bait at licensed Wisconsin bait dealers.** Licensed dealers understand the rules and precautions necessary to prevent invasive species. They can also be an expert source on which baits anglers have been successful in the local area.

Ok so many of you read this wanting to know what bait will catch you the most crappies or biggest walleye. But in a way this will help you improve your catch. By taking these simple steps you can prevent a decline in the native fish community. You will be stopping harmful invasions of exotic fish that compete with native game fish for food. You will also help prevent the spread of fish diseases like VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) which can cause large fish kills of your species like walleye, perch, crappie, bass, trout, and more. Being responsible with your bait improves fishing for everyone both now and for future generations.

Free Ice Fishing  
Weekend in  
Wisconsin is  
January 18–19



## Local Native Plant and Tree Sales



The Ashland County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and the Iron County LWCD are separately holding native tree/plant sales this year. For Ashland county, contact the Ashland County LWCD at (715) 682-7187 to be placed on the mailing list. Pre-paid orders will be accepted through the end of February, with pick-up times on May 9-10, 2014. The pick-up location is the county highway garage. For Iron County, contact Heather at (715) 561-2234 for an order form. Orders are due February 21st, with pick-up on May 2nd at the Iron County Forestry & Highway Building in Hurley.



## CWMAs Expanding in Wisconsin

We are happy to report that the number of Cooperative Weed Management Area groups is on the rise in Wisconsin! The NCWMA has started working with representatives from Barron, Washburn, Polk, and Burnett Counties to help them get started in creating their own CWMA. May the new year bring more CWMA's and we thank all of the NCWMA members and volunteers that have helped us to become the group we are today!



*This map shows counties in Wisconsin that are currently covered by a cooperative weed management area or similar weed partnership. Other counties are in the process of creating a CWMA, while there is interest in other counties.*

## A Look Back over the Years





## Herbicide Control Measures Session



The NCWMA will be sponsoring a Herbicide Control Measures for Invasives session with Lee Shambeau and Rick Schulte of 4 Control on February 27 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. This is a great opportunity to learn from experts how to best control your invasive plant problems. Watch the NCWMA website for more details on this session as they come!



*Have a project idea in mind for the NCWMA? Let us know!*

*Project proposals are due by March 1, 2014.*

*Contact the NCWMA Coordinator for more information.*



## Come Join Us!

Be sure to look at the Upcoming Events tab on our website, [www.northwoodscwma.org](http://www.northwoodscwma.org), in the coming months for the latest listing of upcoming events. For more information on any of these events or to get involved, please contact us!

The Northwoods CWMA meets at 9:00 AM on the second Tuesday of every month (check the NCWMA website for any date or location changes) at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center on Highway G near Ashland, WI. *Note: The February meeting will be held Tuesday, February 11 at 9:00 AM at the EOC room in the Bayfield County Annex Building.* 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.



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**We're on the web!**

**[www.northwoodscwma.org](http://www.northwoodscwma.org)**