



# Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area

*Working Together to Protect Northern Wisconsin from Invasive Species*

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## *Spring Ephemerals*

The long grasp of winter makes us look to spring and anticipate the beautiful show of the spring ephemerals (short-lived plants that emerge early in the spring). These plants rise before the trees above them leaf out, soaking in the sunlight they need. Trillium, trout lily, spring beauty, bloodroot, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild ginger — just a sampling of the beauties to behold.

In some areas however, spring ephemerals are in decline due to invasive species. Invasives can come in and crowd out, taking away the needed early season light. Garlic mustard is a notorious offender, often times covering an entire forest floor. Invasive shrubs such as Eurasian honeysuckle can also move in and shade out the spring ephemerals.

Spring ephemerals are very important to the forest ecosystem and are very sensitive to disturbance. They stabilize and contribute important nutrients to the soil, and sustain native bee populations.

Remember to always brush off the bottoms of your shoes for any mud and seeds upon entering and leaving the forest! Don't be a vector for invasive species!



*Ostrich Fern*



*The NCWMA will be able to be sponsoring a free guided spring ephemeral hike along the North Country Trail near Mellen. Watch the NCWMA website for future details.*



*Trout Lily*



*Nodding Trillium*



*Spring Beauty*



## *A Threat to Spring Ephemerals: Garlic Mustard*

As the snow starts to melt away a few areas within the NCWMA will unfortunately reveal garlic mustard plants, green and ready to invade. This plant has devastated forests in the southern part of the state, smothering out native communities. Garlic mustard retards the growth of neighboring plants and destroys beneficial mycorrhizal fungi. Garlic mustard is a biennial; read below to help you identify the first and second year plants of garlic mustard:

*First year plants are basal and kidney-shaped.*



*Second year plants are taller and have somewhat triangular shaped leaves with wavy edges.*



*Second year plants have clusters of small white, four-petaled flowers.*



*All parts of the plant smell like garlic when crushed. It however is in the Mustard family (Brassicaceae).*



*Planning for garlic mustard pulls are in the works! Tentative date May 30th; check out our website for dates and times.*



*Suspect you've found garlic mustard? Please let us know!*





## Summer Projects

The NCWMA has a few projects that we're gearing up for this summer, in addition to our normal work days, trainings, and other events. Hired summer help will be working on the following projects:

- ⇒ Roadside invasive plant management focusing on key species and key locations
- ⇒ Clean Boats, Clean Waters Surveys and free boat washes at boat landings
- ⇒ Mellen garlic mustard site monitoring, control, and analysis
- ⇒ Ashland Shoreland Restoration Project



### Invasive Plant ID and Herbicide Use Training June 3rd

A training for our interns, other area interns, and the general public will be held on June 3rd at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and the Ashland National Park Service Office. See our website for more details and to register.



## Weeds and Wildlife



If you love birds and other wildlife, there's good reason to despise invasives. Monocultures of invasive species mean loss of species diversity, nesting habitat, and food sources. Buckthorn berries provide little nourishment to birds and also act as a laxative. Bats are known to get stuck in common burdock seed heads and die. Monarch caterpillars cannot feed on swallow-worts, which is allelopathic and inhibits milkweed from growing.

Want to learn more? The NCWMA will be holding a session at the Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival, "Weeds and Wildlife", on Thursday, May 15 at 2:00. If you are interested in this session or any of the numerous other sessions and field trips, please see the event website at [www.birdandnaturefest.com](http://www.birdandnaturefest.com).



Common Buckthorn

Planting a garden this spring? There are many beautiful native species to choose from! Contact us for more information.



Blazing Star



Check out all of our photos on Flickr!  
[www.flickr.com/photos/northwoodscwma/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/northwoodscwma/)



Click on the Upcoming Events tab on the NCWMA website to view the latest information about events!  
[www.northwoodscwma.org](http://www.northwoodscwma.org)

## Come Join 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. 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. For more photos, check out our Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/northwoodscwma/>



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