



Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition

Serving Florence, Forest, Marinette (WI), Dickinson, and Menominee (MI) Counties

WRISC Issue 5

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Plant Profile—Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

By Emily Anderson

A low-growing bush, Japanese Barberry is a common feature of many landscaped parks and front yards. With clusters of small spoon-shaped leaves, delicate hanging flowers, bright red berries, and brilliant fall foliage, this shrub is beautiful to look at, that is until you try to touch it. This beauty of artificial landscapes is also covered in tiny, needle-like thorns ready to stab unsuspecting victims, even through thick pants or gloves. And humans aren't the only ones with a distaste for this spiny plant; native wildlife such as deer also avoid it, which can lead to a problem.

Japanese Barberry has been in North America for over a century, but recently, it has become invasive. When it is not maintained in a yard setting, this shrub can spread easily in sunny areas and shaded forests alike. Deer avoid browsing on Barberry due to the thorns, giving it an edge over native plants and allowing Barberry to grow unchecked. Horizontal branches root freely when they touch the ground, allowing bushes to expand and shade out nearby plants. Normally these shrubs only grow 2-3 feet tall, but in wild areas bushes can reach nearly 6 feet! Birds are attracted to Barberry's bright red berries, and can spread seeds from cities and towns to isolated woodlands where it can take a long time for infestations to be discovered.



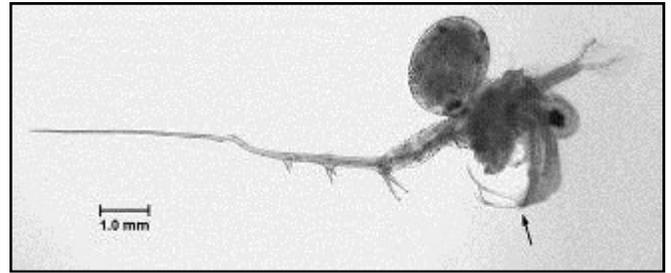
Native Winterberry Holly

In recent years, more people have recognized the danger posed by Japanese Barberry, in more ways than one. New research has shown a link between Barberry, increased numbers of deer ticks, and higher rates of lymes disease. Many stores and nurseries no longer sell Barberry plants, and in Wisconsin that may soon be the law, as the WI DNR has recommended that Japanese Barberry be listed as a restricted invasive species, making it illegal to buy, sell, or plant.

Want to help in the battle against Barberry? You can do your part by removing these invasives from your yard, then consider replacing them with beautiful native alternatives such as Winterberry Holly, Ninebark, or Arrow-Wood.

Spiny Waterflea Discovered in Butternut Lake

In August, the aquatic invasive Spiny Waterflea (*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*) was discovered for the first time in the WRISC area in Butternut Lake in northern Forest County. After a tip from a local fisherman, AIS specialists from UW Trout Lake sampled the lake and confirmed the presence of Spiny Waterfleas.



Spiny Waterfleas are microscopic animals known as zooplankton, native to Europe and Asia. They are only $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, have a translucent body, a long straight tail, a single dark black eye, and small spines along the abdomen and tail. Spiny Waterflea prey on other zooplankton, including Daphnia, an important food source for native fish. Their long, spiny tails make it difficult for small fish to eat them and stick in the digestive tracts of larger fish. Spiny Waterfleas impact recreation by gathering on gear, forming gelatinous-like blobs, and fouling fishing lines with their spines. There is currently no known treatment to control spiny waterfleas, making preventing new introductions key. All boaters and anglers are reminded to inspect their boats and equipment, remove any attached plants/animals, drain all water from boats/motors/equipment, and never move live fish or plants away from a water body.

Update: Yellow Floating Heart, Lake Gordon Forest County- John Preuss (Lumberjack RC&D)



In 2013, a lake survey by the WI DNR and Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council discovered two patches of Yellow Floating Heart on Lake Gordon in Forest County. Lake Gordon is the first natural lake in Wisconsin with Yellow Floating Heart, where the possession, sale, transfer, and introduction of this Prohibited plant is illegal. Yellow Floating Heart grows in dense floating mats, excluding native species, creating stagnant areas, and interfering with fishing, swimming and boating. The floating leaves are 1-6 inches and slightly heart shaped with wavy edges. It produces small showy yellow flowers, usually with five distinct fringed

petals. The plant can reproduce by seed or broken stems. In only 12 short weeks, one adult plant can turn into 100 new plants. Shortly after the 2013 discovery, the two populations were removed by hand, and follow up has been going on ever since. A visit in late 2013 revealed a new large pile of Yellow Floating Heart dumped next to the boat landing, an introduction believed to have come from a backyard water garden. In 2014, only two plants were found and removed on the lake, once on June 3rd and once on October 1st. If the plants are eradicated this would be the first instance. For more information, contact Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development AIS Coordinator John Preuss at 715-369-9886 or johnpreuss@frontier.com.

Five New Wisconsin EAB Quarantines, Including One Close to Home

This fall Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in two new locations in the state of Wisconsin, prompting new quarantines in five counties. In September the invasive pest was confirmed in Calumet County in the eastern part of the state, prompting quarantines there and in Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Outagamie counties. Then, in October EAB was detected in a purple monitoring trap in Rhinelander WI, resulting in a quarantine of Oneida county.



Not Your Normal Invasives

For those who manage invasive species, names like Garlic Mustard or Zebra Mussels are very familiar. But what about Bristly Locust? or Meadow Knapweed? Check out some invasives you may not have heard of that are in the WRISC area.



Himalayan Knotweed

Knotweed Cultivars

Japanese Knotweed is huge plant and a huge problem, but there are also different horticultural knotweed varieties popping up in the WRISC area. This year we treated a dwarf knotweed patch spreading along a road, and helped a landowner identify a Himalayan knotweed landscape plant.



Dwarf Knotweed

Bristly Locust (*Robinia hispida*)



Bristly Locust is an invasive shrub covered in red bristly spines. Similar to the invasive tree Black Locust, it can be identified by its pinnately compound leaves with small round/oval leaflets. In early summer it produces large clusters of showy rose-colored pea-like flowers. But, while popular as a landscape plant it can escape, form dense thickets, and spread by root-suckering.

Beyond Spotted Knapweed



Spotted Knapweed

Spotted Knapweed is a common invasive, spreading easily in sunny areas, particularly roadsides. But, did you know that there are several other species of knapweeds moving into the Midwest from Western states? Species such as Brown, Black, Meadow, and Diffuse Knapweed have already been reported in parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Look at flower/seed heads to distinguish species. Go to <http://www.wrisc.org/speciesprofiles.htm> for links to two great brochures on knapweeds.



Brown or Black Knapweed
(awaiting ID confirmation)

Hounds Tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)

Hounds Tongue is a biennial plant, first year plants are a non-descript basal rosette, and second year plants are 1-4 feet tall with alternate elliptical hairy leaves. Flowers are red/purplish and each produce 4 small nutlets covered in Velcro-like barbs. Plants prefers open areas, but are somewhat shade-tolerant and can quickly take over disturbed sites. Seeds easily hitchhike with passing animals or humans to new areas. In the WRISC area, Hounds Tongue is mostly scattered in Michigan counties, but was recently reported in Florence County as well.



Picture by Willa Campbell

Fifth Annual Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference!

The Dry, the Wet, and the Ugly!

The Upper Peninsula Invasive Council (UPIC) is pleased to present the **Fifth Annual Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference: The Dry, the Wet and the Ugly**. The council has put together facilitated strategy sessions, panel discussions, and informational presentations this year incorporating several professionals from across the region. The theme of: "**The Dry, the Wet and the Ugly**" will focus on a wide range of invasive management efforts and concepts currently employed in the U.P. as well as on possible long-term management strategies specific to the area. Plants and animals ignore political boundaries, and so it is natural to unite together and work collaboratively, pooling knowledge and resources in the Great Lakes region.



Conference topics include: the status of invasive plant management in the UP, aquatic eDNA testing, facilitated strategy sessions on Garlic Mustard and Japanese Knotweed, diver assisted suction harvesting of aquatic invasives, and a panel discussion on new invasives potentially moving into the UP, just to name a few. **For complete registration information, and a conference schedule, visit**

www.uprcd.org/conference.asp. For more information, contact the UP Resource Conservation and Development Council at 906-225-0215 or conference@uprcd.org. This year's conference is supported by the RRIP-IT-UP project (Rapid Response Invasive Plant Intervention Team for the Upper Peninsula) and the NMU Biology Department.



Tuesday November 4th,

9am-3:30pm

NMU, Marquette, MI

University Center Explorer Rooms

Registration (includes lunch)

Students: \$25 full day, \$15 half day

Non-students: \$40

Down to Business

Want to be more involved with WRISC? Check out our upcoming meetings or contact the coordinator to schedule a WRISC event in your area!

November Action Team Meetings—*Get in the Action!*

WRISC has six action teams (Organizational Development, Terrestrial, Aquatic, Monitoring, Grants, and Education/Outreach). Action teams will be meeting via conference call in the beginning of November. Some upcoming items include: re-designing the WRISC brochure, updating the By-laws, invasive species outreach to local road crews. Contact Emily if you're interested in joining an action team.

WRISC Board Meeting

Join us at our next Board of Directors meeting 10:00am December 3rd, in Marinette County. Meeting location is still being determined, so check our website for updates.

Emily Anderson
WRISC Coordinator

102 N Hooper St
Kingsford, MI 49802
wildriverscwma@gmail.com
906-774-1550x104

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