



# Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition

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

WRISC Issue 3

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## *Japanese Knotweed: From lava flows to your backyard*

*John Preuss and Emily Anderson*



Is that bamboo growing in my backyard? Not quite, it's an invasive plant called Japanese Knotweed. Japanese Knotweed is an extremely aggressive invasive plant from, you guessed it, Japan.

This large shrub can grow up to 12 feet tall and has been documented in at least 41 US states and 5 Canadian provinces. The plant has hollow "bamboo-like" stems, large heart-shaped alternate leaves, and small white flowers that bloom in late summer.

In its native range this highly adaptive plant grows on the sides of volcanoes and is known to break its way through hardened lava!

That can spell trouble when it is found in urban areas. Knotweed's extensive underground rhizomes are known to damage building foundations and asphalt roadways. The plant also promotes soil erosion when it dies back in the fall while growing

along lakes and streams. Making matters even worse, knotweed can spread vegetatively. That means when a broken stem floats downstream, or a section of root tissue breaks off (even as little as 1/2 inch), those plant parts can set down roots and start growing new plants!

How did knotweed even get here? It was originally planted as an ornamental shrub by homeowners for its beautiful flowers and has often been used as a living fence to generate privacy from neighbors. Many of these people now regret planting this species because of its aggressive nature. In the United Kingdom banks will not even mortgage a home if it has Japanese knotweed on the property.

Here at WRISC, knotweed is at the top of our rapid response priority list. Japanese knotweed is so bad it has been nominated to be included on the World's Worst 100 Invasive Species List. In Wisconsin, it is listed as a restricted species (meaning it is illegal to buy, sell, introduce, or transport the plant, unless for education or disposal purposes), Michigan also regulates the plant as a prohibited species. To report a Japanese knotweed location, or for more information including control measures, contact WRISC at [wildriverscwma@gmail.com](mailto:wildriverscwma@gmail.com) or 906-774-1550x104.



### Wisconsin Launches First Detector Network

Inspired by Wisconsin's Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs, the Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN) was launched this spring. Established by UW-Extension, the program's goal is to empower members of the public to take action against invasive species by providing training and volunteer opportunities. For a \$30 fee, participants receive training through a combination of prerecorded videos, interactive online sessions, and in-field volunteering projects. 2014 training sessions have already begun, but keep an eye out for the chance to join WIFDN next winter. For more information, visit the program website at [fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn](http://fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn).



### White-Nose Syndrome confirmed in Dickinson County

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently announced that White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) has been confirmed in three counties in Michigan, including Dickinson County. At the same time, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also confirmed White-Nose in one county in the southwestern part of the state. First discovered in 2006 in New York, White-Nose has been spreading from the northeast ever since. The fungus responsible for the disease thrives in caves where bats hibernate.



WNS is named for the characteristic white-covered noses of bats infected by the fungus. With no known treatment, to-date WNS has killed up to 5 million bats and can kill up to 95% of bats in infected caves. White-Nose is of great concern because as insectivores, bats help keep pest populations in check which can affect commercial agriculture and forest crops. Visit the WRISC website for links to the press releases.

## Got Invasives?

Invasives are lurking everywhere, on the side of the road, in a local park, even in your backyard! That's why WRISC is asking for your invasive locations. With the help of citizens like you, we can map invasive locations across our coverage area. This helps us keep track of the spread of invasives, find priority locations that need treatment, and catch early detection populations before they spread. Not sure if its invasive? Not a problem. Take pictures and send them to [wildriverscwma@gmail.com](mailto:wildriverscwma@gmail.com)



Japanese Barberry, a common landscape plant

and we'll identify what you have. Visit our citizen monitoring webpage at <http://www.wrisc.org/citizenmonitoring.htm> for more information and to download our citizen monitoring reporting form (or contact WRISC and we'll send you one).

#### REPORT IT!

Report invasive locations and get free WRISC "bling!" Choose from t-shirts, water bottles, boot brushes, leather gloves, or a field guide!

Did you know WRISC has some money to treat invasives on private and public property? Check out our new Rapid Response and Private Forest Control projects on the next page!

# Projects and Programs!

Check out what WRISC has planned for the 2014 season!

## Clean Boats Clean Waters

This year, thanks to combined funding from the WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund, Wisconsin Clean Boats Clean Waters, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the US Forest Service, WRISC will have 6 summer staff working at boat landings as watercraft inspectors and boat wash operators. Three of our staff will be at lakes in Florence County (including operating a boat wash at Keyes Lake), the others will rove throughout the five county area with two portable boat wash units. Check out our website or contact Emily Anderson for information about requesting a boat wash at your event/landing!

## Menominee Watershed

Funding from WE Energies continues this year in our Menominee Watershed mapping project. The main goal of the project is to compile and prioritize terrestrial and aquatic invasive species infestations across the geopolitical boundaries of the Menominee River Watershed. All the invasive species that are documented during this project will be submitted to the regional data base, Midwestern Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN).



## NEW! Rapid Response Team

This two year program funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative kicks off this year. Two summer staff members will act as a roving rapid response team treating prioritized terrestrial and aquatic non-native invasive species across the WRISC area. The team will also provide education and outreach to private landowners regarding how to manage invasive species on their property and promote restoration. Treatment areas will be selected using a WRISC "prioritization tool" which looks at species priority, ecological site value, human site value, feasibility, and available resources. Two of our priority species include garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed.

### Check us out online!

Like us on Facebook!

Keep track of program updates, volunteer opportunities, job postings, and events on our website.

[www.wrisc.org](http://www.wrisc.org)



## NEW! WI Private Forest Land Control Project

Funded by the WDNR, this project is aimed at helping private landowners manage invasive species populations. To qualify, properties must be private non-industrial forested land of 500 acres or less and in Forest, Florence, or Marinette counties.

The project will run for two years (2014-2015). During this time WRISC staff will work with landowners to create targeted 5 year management plans. We will also provide landowners with the knowledge and skills to complete their plan after the project concludes. There is no fee for the program, but space is limited. For more information, visit our website or contact the WRISC Coordinator.

## De-Phrag the UP!

The Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council, a WRISC partner, is now in the 2nd year of its Phragmites control project. The goal of this project is to map all locations of non-native phragmites throughout the entire UP. The survey data is then used to prioritize those infestations which will be treated with grant funds, and try to secure landowner permission to conduct treatments. If you are a Michigan landowner with Phragmites, contact WRISC about reporting your infestation and joining the program, or see our website for more information.

# WRISC Upcoming Events—Mark your calendars!

## Training Opportunities—Learn all you need to know

### Clean Boats Clean Waters Training

**May 20th, 4pm-6pm: Florence Natural Resource Center (outdoor pavilion)**

WRISC is holding a training for our summer boat wash interns, and we want you to join us! This free training will set up attendees with the knowledge and skills to educate the public about aquatic invasive species (AIS), and how to properly clean equipment when leaving a boat landing. After attending you can volunteer with WRISC during the summer as a boat landing educator and watercraft inspector! Anyone high school age and above is encouraged to attend!



### Terrestrial Invasives Training

**May 21st, Dickinson Conservation District (102 N Hooper St Kingsford, MI); 10am-2pm**

**OR...June 17th, 5320 Wensaut Lane Crandon, WI; 1pm-4pm (stay until 5pm for outdoor portion of the training)**

WRISC and is conducting terrestrial invasives training for summer staff and partners AND its open to the public! The training will include identification, control measures, and important safety information. We have two different training times/locations available. To RSVP or for directions contact Emily Anderson at [wildriverscwma@gmail.com](mailto:wildriverscwma@gmail.com) or 906-774-1550x104. (Note: Can't make the May date? Ask about carpooling to the Crandon training!)

### Mapping/Monitoring Field Training

**June 10th, all day training: Location TBA**

Save the date! WRISC is planning an all day field training in mapping and monitoring techniques. Location has yet to be determined, but will likely take place in Dickinson or Menominee counties. Check the WRISC website closer to June for more details.



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Or Like us on Facebook!

### WRISC Annual Meeting!

**June 4th, 8am-1:30pm: Florence Natural Resource Center**

Partners, members, citizens, volunteers...everyone is invited to our 6th annual meeting. The business portion kicks off with a Board of Directors meeting at 8am. Registration for the presentation portion of the meeting runs from 8:30-9:00am. Updates are scheduled to cover WRISC invasive species projects, new research, MI's aquatic invasive species program, and what's new in aquatic invasive species integrated management. Invasive species control "tools of the trade" will also be on display. The meeting wraps up with a networking lunch and round table discussion. (Optional lunch—\$5).

## WRISC Work Days—tackle invasives hands on!

### Crandon Garlic Mustard Work Day

**May 30th, Crandon Rifle Range, 1pm-4pm**

Garlic mustard is a very aggressive invader impacting the health of northern forests. Luckily, adult plants easily pull out of the ground! Join us for an hour or the afternoon, everyone is welcome!

*Help battle invasives and take home leather gloves or a boot brush, compliments of WRISC!*

### Fumee Lake Work Day

**July 23rd, Fumee Lake Natural Area—Dickinson Co, 9am-12pm**

Join us for a work day battling invasives at Fumee Lake Natural Area! Most of this day's work will be clearing out some woody invasives like honeysuckle and barberry. Meet at the west end parking lot at 9am.