

## WRISC Update

Prepared by Emily Anderson  
BOD Meeting 8-5-2015  
Crandon, WI

### Since the Last Meeting

- WRISC Annual Meeting (June 3)
- WI Free Fishing Weekend (June 6-7)
- MI Free Fishing Weekend (June 13-14)
- WI Drain Campaign (June 13-14)
- Science Summer Camp AIS Talk – Kingsford, MI (June 17)
- MI AIS Landing Blitz (June 26-July 5)
- WI Landing Blitz (July 2-5) – Did not receive towels as ordered, but still went to landings.
- Badwater Bash Fishing Tournament (July 11)
- Harmony Arboretum Adopt a Spot Mapping Day (July 11)
- Aquatic Vegetation ID and Mapping Training (July 17)
- Sawyer Lake Association AIS/Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Presentation (July 18)
- ~~Fumee Natural Area Workday (July 18):~~ **CANCELED** due to weather
- Joint Workday: NMU Intern Crew at Fumee Lake Natural Area (July 22)
- Crandon Kentuck Day (July 25)
- Menominee County Fair (July 24-26)

### Upcoming Events

- Crossroads Community Garden Workday (August 12)
- Foster City Invasive Species Training (August 20)
- Marinette County Fair (August 27-30)
- Florence County Fair (August 28-30)
- Dickinson County Fair (Sep 2-7)
- Forest County Fair (Sep 10-13)
- Forest County High School Env. Science Field Trip (Sep 15?)
- October WRISC Board Meeting (Oct 7)
- Marquette Invasives Conference (Oct 21-22)

### **WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team**

Field work has been extensive under this grant, involving invasive species survey, mapping, and control work. (For information on control efforts see the GLRI-Rapid Response section). Since the last report, our plans for invasive species road surveys have expanded. A method was found to collect GPS tracks using the garmin units' calculate area feature. Seasonal staff were trained in gps data collect methods and were sent out to survey roads first in June while Leafy Spurge was flowering and then in July while Wild Parsnip was flowering. A map is attached of the leafy spurge survey route and points/tracks recorded. Additional funds from Michigan invasive species grant was used to survey areas of Dickinson/Menominee counties outside of the Menominee river watershed.

Total miles surveyed for leafy spurge: 664. Total miles surveyed for Wild Parsnip: 577. In match, Florence County staff also conducted additional road surveys of Wild Parsnip on an additional 17+ miles which will be incorporated in WRISC's

data. We do not have any more large surveys planned for 2015. Remaining locations suggested by Partners will be surveyed next year, if mileage funds are sufficient a road survey for European Marsh Thistle will also take place.

This grant has also helped to fund WRISC Coordinator time to oversee control work and conduct education/outreach.

### **WMA Control Grant – Wisconsin**

One private property was resurveyed and three new properties surveyed for invasive species. The re-survey was a property in northern forest county where last year's survey was inaccurate due to previous control efforts. All of the three new properties were in Florence County. The survey of one of the properties in northern Florence County discovered the presence of 3 invasive Musk Thistle plants, a species previously unknown to exist in the WRISC area.

This fall GPS data from the properties will be mapped and invasive management plants written.

### **Citizen Based Monitoring Grant, Adopt a Spot - Wisconsin**

This grant expired at the end of June and report and a reimbursement request/grant report was submitted. A scientific poster of our project is still due the end of September to complete grant requirements. Working under other funding, a scheduled Adopt a Spot training at Harmony Arboretum in Marinette County took place in July with volunteers from the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association. Volunteers were extremely interested in managing invasives on the property, in particular preventing invasives like spotted knapweed along the parking lot and road from moving into their native prairie. I am looking at working with the volunteers to perhaps donate herbicide for control of spotted knapweed.

The Wisconsin DNR has still not issued a request for proposals for the 2015-2016 Citizen Monitoring Grant Program, which was supposed to be announced sometime in July. The Coordinator will still be looking for the RFP and will submit a proposal for continued funding for the Adopt a Spot program if/when it is issued.

### **GLRI – Rapid Response/Control Work**

Invasive control has kicked into high gear. A lot of time has been spent securing permission forms from private landowners and verbal/written permission from managers of public lands (to date 19 signed landowner forms have been collected, with an additional 11 verbal/written permission/permits for public lands, and several more permission forms pending). Permission forms are being kept as hard copies in the WRISC office and electronic scans on the WRISC laptop.

June: Remaining manual control of garlic mustard locations, including a newly discovered infestation in the city of Marinette. Chemical treatments of wild parsnip also took place at select locations in Dickinson County (once the parsnip road survey data is mapped we hope to increase our number of treatment locations for parsnip next year based on the new information).

July: Based on the June Leafy Spurge Surveys, we selected locations on the leading edge of the spurge infestation to pursue for control work. Using Milestone, we treated locations in Florence, Marinette, and Dickinson counties. We had hoped to treat some locations in Menominee County but were unable to get the necessary permissions. We also ran into problems in Dickinson and Menominee Counties on identifying and/or hearing back from landowners. We hope to expand our treatment locations by working more with state DOTs next year.

We also conducted some control workdays with partners at the Catwillow Monarch Area in Forest County, and Fumee Lake Natural Area in Dickinson County. A workday is planned for August at the Crossroads Community Garden in Florence. We will also be starting Japanese Knotweed treatments across the area in August.

## **GLRI – Boat Wash**

WRISC staff have conducted clean boats clean waters outreach and used the portable boatwash on weekends and for special events as needed. They have rotated around boat landings in the area, particularly covering the Crivitz area until the Marinette County boatwash crew was ready to take over.

As of July 26th: 840 people contacted, 360 boats inspected.

## **Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP)**

The field season has jumped into high gear with this program supporting some invasive species mapping and control work along with the MEF Strike Team and GRLI Rapid Response grants. In particular, it allowed us to expand road surveys of leafy spurge and wild parsnip to areas outside of the Menominee River Watershed in Dickinson/Menominee counties. It is also supporting a great deal of education/outreach. This grant is supporting the production of publications such as the WRISC newsletter, website updates and regular facebook postings, and mailing list emails (such as the new phenology updates). WRISC is also seeking input from action teams on new publications/outreach materials that this grant could fund. Current suggestions are for a brochure on thistle ID and materials on wild parsnip ID and control.

This grant also provides funding for increased signage (re-facing of portable billboard, play clean go signs at trails, etc). We just received the first signage item, pavement stencils for use at boatlandings.



## MI Grant Aquatic:

Over the course of the summer, our two aquatic staffers have completed many different tests and samplings and have collected a great deal of data for the ten lakes involved in the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP). Since June, transparency (secchi disk) readings have been done on all of the lakes weekly. For many of the lakes volunteers have accepted the task of obtaining these weekly readings, the rest are done by WRISC staff. Also, two more rounds of chlorophyll-a testing have been completed.

A number of additional tests have also been performed beyond the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) parameters for which each of the lakes is registered. Water samples were taken from each of the lakes and are being sent to White Water Associates for calcium analysis. Dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles have been recorded for all of the lakes, as well as pH and conductivity. Samples of water milfoil were assessed and taken from each of the lakes

earlier in the season. These samples were taken from major beds located within the lakes. They were then packaged and shipped to Grand Valley for genetic testing. The results from this testing provided information on the genetic make-up of the various milfoils found in lakes and whether it was native, Eurasian, or hybrid milfoil. Currently being done are the Aquatic Vegetation Surveys, which assess and map the entire aquatic plant communities of each of the lakes by sampling along transects set-up for each lake. Surveys have been completed for six of the ten lakes as of now.

Each of the lakes also had an eDNA sample taken and sent in for analysis. This test is used for the early detection of invasive species by analyzing the sample for genetic tracers and codes specific to various species, such as zebra mussels or spiny water flea. Many of the samples proved clear of invasives, while others told us what we already knew was there (zebra mussels in Lake Antoine, for instance). However, two of the lakes did return positive hits for zebra mussels where there had not been any known presence before. Since false positives can be generated, the lakes will be retested and visual snorkel surveys will be performed to ensure whether there are truly new infestations at these locations.

Coming up for the remainder of the summer is further transparency readings, the final two rounds of chlorophyll-a, summer phosphorus sampling, and finishing up vegetation surveys. Following data collection, the processing and analysis of data will begin.

### **UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant**

With funds from the UP RC&D, this grant supports work across the CISMA groups of the UP. It funds the Coordinator time to provide information for regular Upper Peninsula Invasives Council (UPIC) newsletters, and participate in the planning committee for the 2016 Marquette Invasive Species Conference. The project focuses on a few targets across the UP, including education and outreach on Japanese Knotweed. Plans are underway to send out a knotweed press release and plan a workshop later in the year, probably to take place in the city of Menominee.

### **UP RC&D Phragmites Project**

Another small contract with the UP RC&D, this project funds WRISC's assistance on a UP-wide phragmites education and control project. In May we helped with a landowner workshop. In June/July WRISC technicians reconned previously treated Phragmites sites and on one worked to prep the site by cutting/flattening dead stems. We have two technicians prepared with aquatic pesticide applicator certifications for fall control work.

### **Misc.**

New Thistle: Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*) was discovered in northern Forest County during a survey of a private property through WRISC's WMA Control grant. The three plants were found at 2 different locations on the property and a third location nearby along the road. All were manually removed and bagged, and voucher specimens pressed for the state herbarium. Shortly after we received a report from another WMA Control grant landowner in northern Forest County who found 6 plants on his property, bagged the flower heads, and sprayed them (this report is still unconfirmed since we did not get any photos).

Garden Valerian: VERY recently, Garden Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) was confirmed in Forest County. The Coordinator spotted an infestation along hwy 70 east of hwy 55 in the national forest and is working with the forest service to plan control efforts.

Newsletters: The education/outreach action team completed WRISC's Summer newsletter, featuring a species profile on Wild Parsnip, a highlight of Partner AIS/CBCW work in Florence County, a highlight of WRISC's MI Grant aquatic work, Musk thistle notice, and events.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website was updated after the last meeting with all of the new documents approved/adopted (MOU, Strategic Plan, By-laws, Species List, Landowner/Volunteer forms) as well as announcing our 7

new partners and new Board of Directors. The Projects pages were also updated, although we are still working on getting a page up and going for the Michigan Project. With help from summer staff we added new species profiles to the website from the Kingsford Environmental Science class, and plan to have summer staff create more to add.

Content		Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	125				
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	19				
/Documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	17				
/species-profiles?sa=X&ved=0CAsQ9QE...	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	13				
/apps/photos/	Photos	10				
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	10				
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	10				
/apps/calendar/	Calendar	9				
/contact-us	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	8				
/apps/photos/photo?photoid=88016043	Japanese Knotweed	8				
/projects	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	7				

The WRISC website had **196 visitors in June** and **140 visitors in July**. In June and July, through the website we also had two people request to join our email mailing list and one person contact us about Japanese Knotweed. The image to the left shows the pages most frequently visited in May. Below is a summary of the pageviews overall and a graph of pageviews during the months of June and July.



Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. Due to the volume of work this summer, seasonal technicians helped in posting pictures from events and field work. The WRISC facebook page has gone from 143 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **153 likes**. The graph below shows the total reach for our facebook page for the months of June and July, where our average reach increased dramatically to 94. This was in large part due to a very popular post in July with an article on the increasing link between Japanese Barberry and lymes disease. This single

