



Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition

A cooperative partnership managing invasive species in Dickinson, Menominee (MI), Florence, Forest, and Marinette Counties (WI)

WILD RIVERS ISC Newsletter

Issue 26

December 2023

2023 Accomplishments!

The 2023 season was a year of well-rounded accomplishments! From invasive species inventory to management to outreach, WRISC was busy working towards our long term goals and overall mission!

Some highlights include our ramped up invasive species inventory efforts on properties adjacent to State and Federal lands. This will help establish up-to-date information about invasives in the area & guide management efforts to help protect our public forest lands! WRISC also continued management efforts for variety of invasives, and put a lot of effort towards Wild Parsnip in particular.

Ever a priority, WRISC hosted a variety of events and connected with many people! Many of these events were directed towards youth & recreationists with a focus on preventing the spread of invasive species in the places we play and want to protect!

Thanks to all of our partners and volunteers for helping us have another successful year working to make our counties invasive



WRISC Crews posing with newly installed boot brush station at local trailhead in Menominee, MI

Totals for 2023 605 new infestations discovered



Treated locations

374

Acres Treated

323.8 acres



Boaters contacted

1,860

Current funding total: 335K

Connected with
1,355 people
at 64 events



120,000+
social media
impressions



Local



108K

State



115K

Federal



112K

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Round Leaf Bittersweet: Leaves can be highly variable in shape and come to a point (left), Berries are red with bright yellow fruit capsules that remain on throughout the winter (right)

Recognizing Local Populations of Round-leaf Bittersweet

During the past season WRISC has been on the look out for an invasive species known as Round-leaf Bittersweet. Currently this is an early detection species & we are focused on determining the extent of its infestations. Round-leaf Bittersweet is native to China, Korea, & Japan, & was originally introduced to North America in the 1860's. It gained increased popularity in the 1900's as an ornamental, promoted for its hardiness & showy fruit.

This woody vine climbs trees & support structures, reaching lengths of more than 60 feet. Vines girdle & smother trees & shrubs as they grow. Round-leaf Bittersweet spreads rapidly by seeds & rhizomes & entire plant communities may be quickly overwhelmed by this invasive.

If you have seen Round-leaf Bittersweet, please report it to WRISC!

American Bittersweet —a native alternative!

The easiest way to differentiate American Bittersweet from its invasive counterpart is by the fruit, which will only be present on the end of the stems!



Extensive Round-leaf Bittersweet infestation.

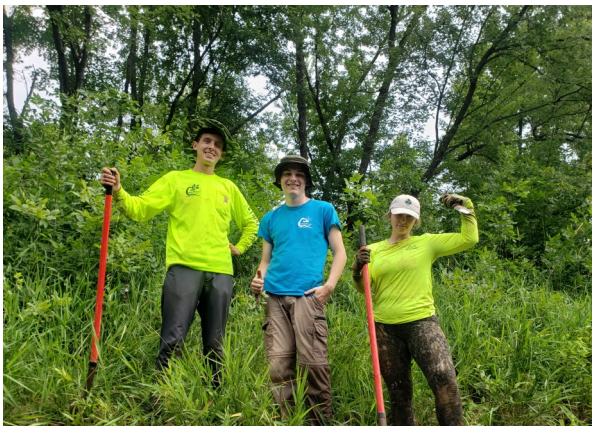


WRISC staff conducting management activities on Japanese Knotweed infestation.

Start-up On a Cost Share Program

Thanks to funding from WE Energies' Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF), WRISC has been able to establish an invasive species re-treatment cost-share program for private landowners! Invasive species management can often take several years, while unfortunately grant funding typically only covers two years of management. This new cost-share program will allow follow-up management to occur on any infestation of priority invasive species that have received two-years of grant-funded treatment. Several species are covered by the program, including invasive Phragmites, invasive Knotweeds, and Wild Parsnip.

For more information about the retreatment cost-share program, or to enroll in the program, visit our website at www.wrisc.org/cost-share



WRISC Strike Team managing Purple Loosestrife on Michigamme River.

WRISC is Hiring!

We have several open positions for our seasonal Strike Team Crew for 2024. Think you have what it takes to join our hardworking team? Apply today!

Applications are due March 15th, 2024!

www.wrisc.org/job-openings

PRIORITY Invasive Species

This priority list identifies the invasive species the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition is currently focused on for prevention, early detection, and management.



TOP 5 TERRESTRIAL

Garlic Mustard Invasive Buckthorn
Wild Parsnip Japanese Barberry
Invasive Knotweeds

TOP 5 TERRESTRIAL - EARLY DETECTION

Spotted Lanternfly Giant Hogweed
Cut-Leaf Teasel Round-Leaf Bittersweet
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



TOP 5 AQUATIC

Invasive Milfoil Purple Loosestrife
Zebra Mussels Invasive Phragmites
European Frog-bit

TOP 5 AQUATIC - EARLY DETECTION

Yellow Floating Heart Spiny Waterflea
Flowering Rush Red Swamp Crayfish
New Zealand Mud Snail



REPORT PRIORITY SPECIES

Contact WRISC to report invasive locations:
(800) 774-1850 ext. 102 | wildriverswma@gmail.com
Or utilize smart phone apps & websites:
EDDMaps.org | msn.msu.edu

Find the full priority list at WWW.WRISC.ORG



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



European Frog-bit



Purple Loosestrife

www.wrisc.org | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/wrisc) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/wrisc) | [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@wrisc)

On the Lookout in 2024

This fall, WRISC finalized our updated Priority Invasive Species List! The list includes our "Top 5s" for several categories, including terrestrial, aquatic, and early detection for both. Our crews will be on the lookout for these species (and more) in 2024!

Check out the quick list of these priority species in the graphics to the left, or visit our website for detailed species profiles on each priority invasive species listed, as well as our entire prioritization list!

www.wrisc.org/priority-invasive-species

Upcoming Events



Upper Peninsula Invasive Species Conference
April 16-17, 2024



Invasive Species Trade-Up Days
MAY 2024

WRISC Annual Meeting
JUNE 5, 2024



Great Lakes Landing Blitz June 26 - July 6



MI Paddle Stewards Event
July 2024



Stay tuned for more event announcements!
www.wrisc.org/events