

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Invasive Species Report 2023



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

About this report

The goal of this report is to provide updates on the Department of Natural Resources' invasive species programs and progress in managing invasive species from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. During this time the department engaged partners in early detection, management, and control, implemented a coordinated response framework, and provided training and outreach for businesses and other stakeholders.

The legislature has defined invasive species as “non-indigenous species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health”. These species can be aquatic or terrestrial weeds, insect pests, nuisance animals, or disease-causing organisms.

The impact of invasive species

Invasive species can occur in all types of habitats and affect both urban and rural areas throughout Wisconsin. The negative effects on our environment and citizens include damage to natural resources, alteration of aesthetic values, harm to wildlife and human health and a strain on our economy. The costs to manage and control invasive species can be reduced or avoided if invasions are anticipated and prevented.

Why does this matter?

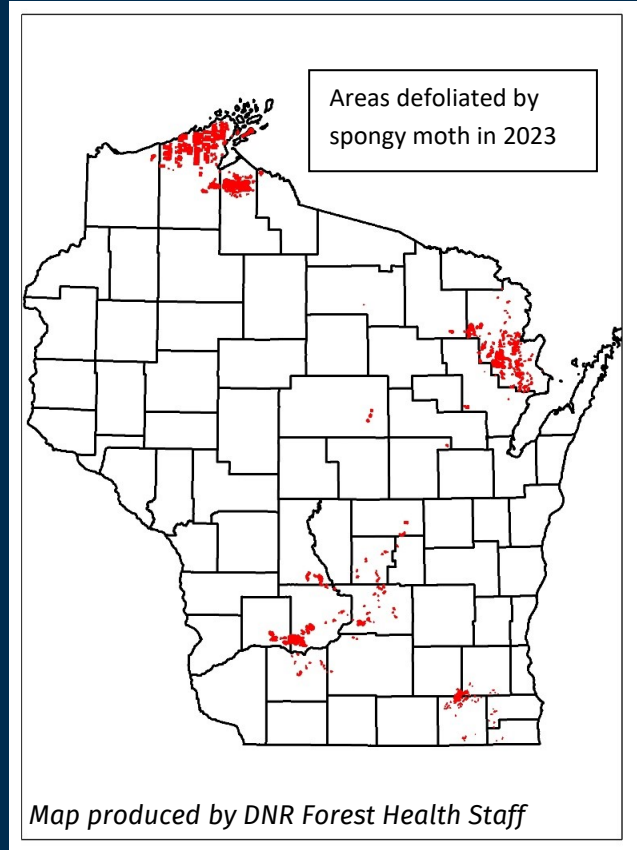
The Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule (Chapter NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code) classifies invasive species in Wisconsin as Prohibited or Restricted and regulates their transportation, possession, transfer and introduction. It also establishes “Preventative Measures” to slow the spread of invasive species. This rule applies to over 245 species and affects everyone in Wisconsin.

Species Monitoring and Control

Continued Impacts from Spongy Moth

Dry spring weather during 2021, 2022 and 2023 have favored survival of spongy moth caterpillars and allowed their populations to increase to very high levels, causing defoliation over 373,283 acres. Contiguous, heavy defoliation occurred in aspen in Bayfield and Ashland counties and in aspen and northern pin oak stands on sandy soils in Marinette County. Scattered and intense defoliation of oaks occurred in the Baraboo hills, south central counties and in the southern Kettle Moraine State Forest and adjoining areas.

While the spongy moth diseases *Entomophaga maimaiga* and Nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) were present at many sites, dry, hot weather prevented them from causing enough mortality to collapse the outbreak. The Forest Health team is predicting the regional outbreak to continue into 2024 and is advising communities, property managers and the public to assess the local threat and take action to mitigate damage from the pest next spring. Forest managers are advised to expect increased mortality in the next few years in oak and aspen stands that have been defoliated two years in a row and experienced additional stress due to drought.



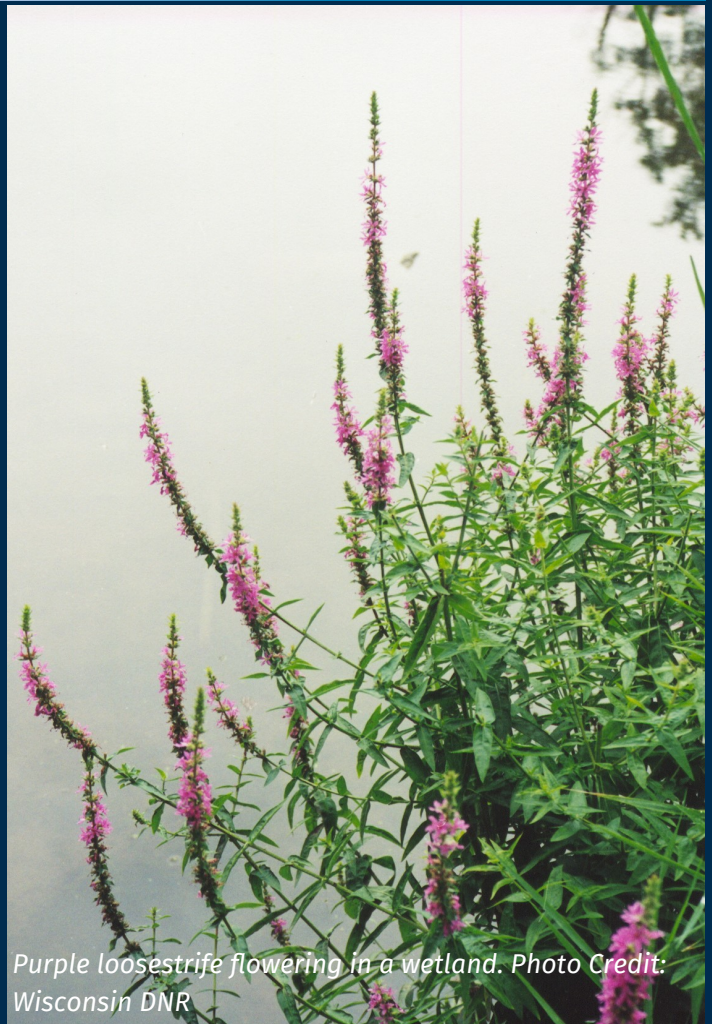
Forest Health program staff helped several state parks and the Kettle Moraine State Forest treat campgrounds and other high public use areas to minimize damage from high spongy moth populations. Treatments included aerial sprays of a bacterial insecticide and injections of a systemic insecticide into selected oaks. Treatments were successful in keeping defoliation well below 50%, the threshold for causing significant stress to trees.

Lee Fredericks of Rainbow Ecoscience demonstrates the injection of trees with systemic pesticides for DNR Parks and Forest Health employees at Big Foot Beach State Park in Lake Geneva. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Species Monitoring and Control

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol

2022 seemed to be a superbloom year for the wetland invasive plant purple loosestrife, possibly due to two years of late season cold that killed off spring beetles before they could lay eggs and from seed spread in areas with high levels of flooding. The Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Program continues to coordinate organizations and citizens who work hard to keep the plants in check by raising *Galerculla* sp. beetles that weaken them, reducing seed production. Many groups attempted to overwinter 2022 beetles along with plants for spring rearing to beat the weather issues and early reports indicate success.



Purple loosestrife flowering in a wetland. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



Volunteers rearing purple loosestrife biocontrol beetles. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Response



Matt Puz, Wetland Invasive Plant Specialist, collecting treatment evaluation data at Dyer's Slough, Marinette County.

Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

An Update on European Frog-bit in Wisconsin

The ever-growing Response Team comprised of state and local agencies and partners continues to implement an extensive response to the greater Green Bay European frog-bit population. Four out of the five Green Bay counties now have frog-bit and County Land and Water Conservation departments continue to hire seasonal staff and build capacity for responding to this species with the help of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Focus Area 2 non-compete funds. The department continues to lead data collection and protocol development for treatment evaluation as we continue to learn how to respond to this species. Finally, the Great Lakes Commission formed an official European frog-bit Collaborative on which the department serves as a member of the Steering Committee and numerous individuals of the Response Team are standing members.

Group photo at a work day on the Peshtigo River in Marinette. The team manually removed 1,100 pounds!

Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



Response

Selecting for Resistance to Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) continues to cause damage to forests in Wisconsin. The invasive beetle has been confirmed in all but three counties: Taylor, Washburn and Burnett. It has nearly eliminated ash in wetlands throughout the southern half of the state and stands in many locations in the northern counties are now showing signs of infestation. Department Forest Health and Urban Forestry staff identify



Emerald ash borer. Photo Credit: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

samples and images of EAB reported by foresters, landowners and communities. Collaboration continues with the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), which maintains a map of where EAB has been found in the state. This map is used to encourage communities and landowners to plan for mitigation of losses due to EAB in community green infrastructure and woodlots.



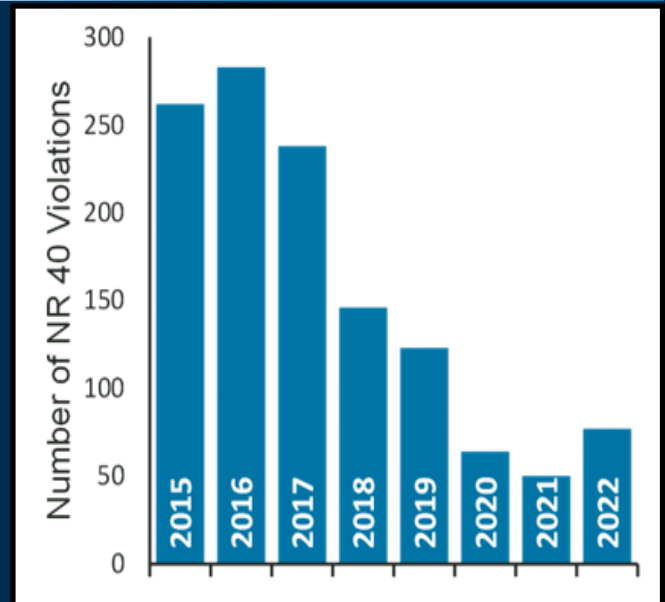
Characteristic winding galleries created by EAB larvae. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

In 2023, the Forest Health team facilitated a project with University of Wisconsin researcher Phil Townsend, Ph.D., and the USDA Forest Service. The project aims to use hyperspectral imagery taken from aircraft to survey for potentially resistant ash in forests where EAB has otherwise eliminated it. The Forest Health team provided startup funding for the first flights and worked with Forest Service tree geneticist Nick LaBonte to select sites to survey, with most on state lands. The Forest Service will take over funding of this project and will enter any potentially resistant ash into a program to improve resistance to EAB, with the goal of producing ash that can be reintroduced into Wisconsin wetland forests.

Response

DATCP Nursery Inspections

DATCP is tasked with the responsibility of inspecting licensed nurseries. As part of their work, they share the results of their inspections with the department. The Organisms in Trade (OIT) Program Coordinator performs outreach and education to nurseries and their suppliers with violations to prevent the future sale of invasive species. Since 2015, there has been a notable decrease in NR 40 violations found during nursery inspections.



Number of NR 40 violations found during nursery inspections from 2015 to 2022.

Online Sales of Invasive Species

Online sales of invasive species are challenging to find and enforce. The DNR relies heavily on partners and the public to report these types of sales. When a species is sold online, the department reaches out to the individual or business to halt the sale and provide education to prevent future sales. The DNR is involved with ongoing projects to tackle this sub-pathway, including the web-crawling software GLDIATR.

Collaboration with the North American Invasive Species Management Association

The department has entered into a partnership with the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). NAISMA is a professional organization that supports invasive species management professionals through trainings, standards, outreach and networking to bridge jurisdictions and diverse stakeholders. The department's partnership will allow access to current online training and certification, education and outreach materials, and webinars. The outreach materials are helpful with consistent branding using the "PlayCleanGo" and "Stop Invasive Species in their Tracks" that are gaining common usage across the United States and Canada.

Outreach

Fisheries and AIS Staff Work to Keep Round Goby Out of the Winnebago System

The round goby is a small invasive fish native to the Caspian and Black Seas which was transported to the Great Lakes in ballast water of ocean-going vessels. Since arriving they have quickly moved throughout the Great Lakes and now threaten Lake Winnebago. The round goby is a very aggressive species capable of displacing native fish and impacting sport fish by eating their eggs. To prevent their movement into Lake Winnebago, the Fox River Navigation System Authority closed the Menasha Lock.

The department has also been working with partners to educate boaters and anglers on the importance of preventing the spread of round goby into Lake Winnebago. So far, round goby have not been confirmed in the Winnebago System. Part of this effort included the development of new signage and recently creating an online file to identify sign posting locations on the Winnebago System. The new signs relay the importance of reporting any suspected round goby using the DNR website reporting tool. The reporting tool hosts an area for entering personal information and an interactive map to identify the location caught which is then submitted to staff.

ATTENTION

ROUND GOBY

- Competes with native fishes.
- Is found in Little Lake Butte des Morts; there are concerns that it may move into the Winnebago System.
- Should never be used as bait.
- Should not be moved (except one can be brought to a DNR office.)

REPORT ROUND GOBIES

If you think you've caught a round goby on the Winnebago System:

- 1 Place the dead fish in a plastic bag on ice.
- 2 Record specific information about where (GPS location if possible) and when it was caught.
- 3 Bring it to the DNR Oshkosh office (8:30-4:00, Mon-Fri; 625 E. County Rd Y Suite 700 Oshkosh, WI 54901) Phone: 920-420-9943.

REPORTING TOOL

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Before you leave your fishing site:

- INSPECT** all fishing gear.
- REMOVE** all plants, animals & mud.
- DRAIN** all lake, river or stream water from buckets, coolers and boats.
- NEVER MOVE** live fish, bugs & snails from your fishing site.
- KNOW** the minnow use regulations.

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search "invasives" for more information

New signage created by AIS staff to inform the public about round goby and how to report encounters.



Captured round goby. Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski

Neogobius melanostomus
Round goby
© Paul Skawinski 2008

Outreach

AIS Snapshot Day

On August 20th, 2022, water lovers of all ages gathered for a one-day statewide aquatic invasive species (AIS) scavenger hunt as a part of the 9th annual AIS Snapshot Day. This event is coordinated by University of Wisconsin-Extension in partnership with River Alliance, the DNR and Extension Lakes. Volunteers met at local rendezvous sites across the state to learn how to identify AIS

such as Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife and New Zealand mudsnails, and then searched for them in the field at pre-selected locations. Initially focused on rivers and streams, Snapshot Day has expanded to include lakes and wetlands. Findings from Snapshot Day are uploaded to the statewide water quality database, SWIMS, where they can be used to track the spread of invasive species and develop management plans.



*Volunteers survey for invasive species at the 2022 Snapshot day.
Photo Credit: Garrett Hopkins*

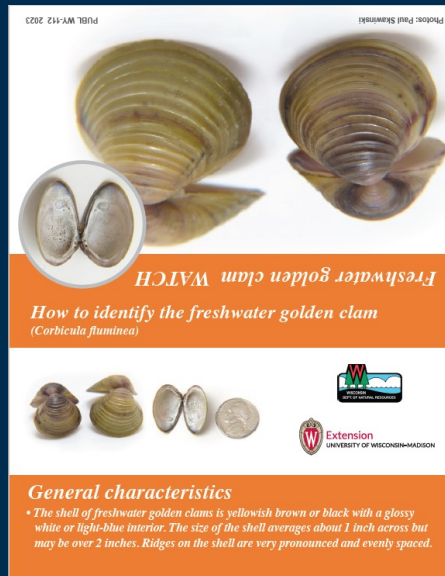
Every year, Snapshot Day provides a vast amount of AIS data to the DNR to assist in management decisions, and this year was no exception! 109 participants gathered across 23 meeting locations and monitored 92 waterbodies in Wisconsin. 39 of those waterbodies had no AIS detected. At 53 sites, volunteers located 14 different AIS species, including purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, Asian clams (*Corbicula*), and faucet snails.

In 2023 for our 10th anniversary of Snapshot Day, we have 26 meeting locations. Volunteer registration is still in progress. This year's event is to be held August 19, 2023.

Outreach

Freshwater Golden Clam AIS Watch Card

This year, with assistance from the UW-Extension Natural Resources Institute marketing and design team, we designed and printed a new AIS informational card for freshwater golden clams. There were no existing informational cards for this species prior to this. This was an important gap to fill, as it is one of the key species Water Action Volunteers and Snapshot Day volunteers search for.



Freshwater golden clam

Freshwater golden clams prefer sandy habitats of lakes and streams and may be burrowed several inches into the sediment. They consume plankton through filter feeding.

Freshwater golden clams are very successful at outcompeting native mollusks. In areas with very dense populations of freshwater golden clams, fish spawning habitat and aquatic insect populations can also decrease. Freshwater golden clams can also cling to pipes and other water infrastructure and have caused millions of dollars in damages to industrial water systems.

REMINDER: Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings. While Wisconsin's NR 40 laws prohibit the transport of invasive species, an exception is made for identification and disposal purposes. Contact the WDNR for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of plants, fish or invertebrates into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.

What you can do:

- Learn to recognize freshwater golden clams (see back cover)
- Clean off aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts and other recreational gear left in lakes
- Drain water from boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container and motor before leaving water access—drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs
- Dispose of unwanted plants, live bait, worms and fish parts in the trash
- Scrub soles of footwear with stiff bristled brush
- Rinse watercraft and equipment with high-pressure hot water AND/OR
- Dry everything for 5 days or more OR wipe with a towel before reuse
- Report new sightings; note the exact location, place specimen in a sealed bag and then in the freezer



To report suspected findings of freshwater golden clams, please visit the QR code for a point of contact.

Card is a product of the UW-Madison Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Information sourced from Golden Sands RC&D.

Clean Boats Clean Waters

Wisconsin's long running 4th of July Landing Blitz to provide boaters with AIS prevention information has combined fully with the states and provinces within the Great Lakes Region for the multi-agency effort, the Great Lakes Regional Landing Blitz, a 10-day event at boat launches. The department, UW-Extension and Extension Lakes have been highly involved in planning and training for the event. Several Wisconsin partners were successful in securing Great Lakes Commission grant funding to expand their Landing Blitz efforts in 2022 and 2023.



The Numbers on 2022 Clean Boats, Clean Waters Efforts

- 137,770 boats inspected by watercraft inspectors
- 273,991 people received AIS prevention message at boat landings
- 86,471 hours spent conducting inspections

Outreach

New Brochures for Landscaping Alternatives

Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species professionals for UW-Extension Natural Resources Institute, the department, UW-Steven's Point Extension Lakes, and Minnesota DNR collaborated to create two new brochures focused on landscaping alternatives for common invasive plants.

Dozens of plant suggestions are offered with photos and growth information. Combined with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network's brochure for alternatives to woody invasive plants, they form a complimentary set of valuable information for landowners.



Prohibited Malaysian trumpet snails discovered in a pet shop. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Pet Store Monitoring and Outreach

The DNR OIT Working Group (composed of invasive species staff, law enforcement staff, industry representatives and partners) created a standardized protocol and datasheet for monitoring and educating pet stores on invasive species in the trade. In 2022, department staff and partners visited 22 stores to pilot the protocol and datasheet. Future efforts will include finalizing the protocol and statewide implementation.

Enforcement

DNR Wardens' Focus on Aquatic Invasive Species Pays Off

In 2022 and 2023, the Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection funding received a federal grant to pay for a specialized work group of seven conservation wardens to focus a small portion of their year on aquatic species in trade industries. This equates to less than one full-time position statewide to work on this topic and leaves a gap where the department would like to do more.

The wardens identified two specialty grocery stores that have been acquiring live, invasive Asian swamp eels from out-of-state distributors and selling them in Wisconsin. This prompted a joint forces operation between several states under the authority of the 12-Party MOU (Agreement on Regional Cooperative Enforcement Operations) to identify additional distributors of these fish. In Wisconsin, wardens seized 44 of these invasive fish. These Asian swamp eels, along with other non-native aquatic species, are known to be released into waterways as part of certain ceremonies and are also purchased as a live food product. Citations are being issued to several retail and wholesale suppliers in Wisconsin, Illinois, and New York.



Prohibited Asian swamp eels seized from a retail store.

Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

Enforcement



Prohibited red swamp crayfish for sale at a grocery store.
Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

The wardens also found that distributors of live invasive red swamp crayfish were continuing to import these to Wisconsin, even though the department has reached out to these out-of-state distributors about their products being illegal. The red swamp crayfish is highly invasive in Wisconsin. Several red swamp crayfish found in the wild in Wisconsin in the past two years have been linked to the illegal shipment of these species. Luckily, these escapees do not appear to have established a population. Numerous investigations of this nature are ongoing.

In addition, wardens have continued to reach out to suppliers in the live food, pet, and biological supply trades to educate the companies about what species are prohibited in Wisconsin, along with helping them identify alternative species to sell.

They have also collaborated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and several other states to focus on identifying illegal shipments and sales of live, invasive snakehead fish, coming to Wisconsin as part of the underground pet trade.



A giant snakehead released from an aquarium. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Grants

Weed Management Area—Private Forest Grant Program Funds Control Efforts

The Weed Management Area–Private Forest Grant Program (WMA-PFGP) awarded \$62,608.00 to five different partner groups in fiscal year 2023. Projects included inventory, control, and monitoring of invasive plants on private lands, along with education and outreach events for landowners and college students.



Goats grazing for invasive species control as part of the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area fiscal year 2023 WMA grant. Photo Credit: Ramona Shackelford, NCWMA

One recipient group, the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, used a portion of their funding to hire goats for invasive species control. Goats are a great way to control invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle without the use of chemicals.

Grants

Sustain our Great Lakes & Fund for Lake Michigan Project

This project focuses habitat management, restoration and invasive species control on State Natural Areas (SNAs) and surrounding lands in the Lake Michigan Basin. SNAs are outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape and natural communities. Targeted SNAs are within Conservation Opportunity Areas, which contain significant ecological features, natural communities and habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the state's Wildlife Action Plan. Many targeted SNAs contain natural communities of global importance (e.g. Kohler Park Dunes and Dunbar Barrens). This project helps fund restoration on 12 SNAs, surrounding DNR lands, and private and public lands close to these properties. Focal ecosystems include prairie, barrens, savanna, forest, rare wetland and dune habitats within SNAs. Major activities include the use of prescribed fire, herbicides, brush removal, seed collecting, selective forest stand thinning and invasive species control. Partnerships with conservation non-governmental organizations including Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, Watershed Organizations, and Resource Conservation and Development Councils are the primary method to encourage landowners to expand habitat and invasive species monitoring, control and management on their properties, and provide technical assistances and education. The benefits of this project will improve habitat for SGCNs within the SNAs, reduce invasive species which impair habitat quality, and improve connectivity between habitat reserves. 2023 is the final year of this grant. Participating landowners are responsible for any ongoing activities after the conclusion of this grant.



Kohler Park Dunes State Natural Area is one of twelve SNAs funded under this project. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Forest Health

Control Projects on the State Forests and the Bearskin State Trail

Wild parsnip control along the Bearskin State Trail continues and there are significantly reduced populations due to this effort.

Extensive invasive plant surveys were conducted during the summer of 2022 on the Afterhours Trail system on the Brule River State Forest (BRSF). For the first time on this state forest, goats were deployed to control buckthorn on a 5-acre red pine plantation on the BRSF. The goats were part of an integrated pest management plan to reduce the amount of pesticide used on the forest.



Wild parsnip blooming.

Photo Credit: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Goats on the job in the Brule River State Forest. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Forest Health



Data logger and solar radiation shield used to monitor Japanese stiltgrass in the Coulee Experimental State Forest. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Control of Japanese stiltgrass on the Coulee Experimental SF continued. During the summer of 2022, Forest Health collaborated with UW-La Crosse to study the phenology of this invasive grass; the first of a two year study. The data will help guide management decisions to better understand ideal timing of control methods for this grass here in Wisconsin.

Various invasive plant control projects were completed on the Northern Highland American Legion SF, Governor Knowles SF, and the Flambeau River SF.



A DNR Forester cuts down an amur cork tree, a prohibited species, on the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Volunteer Spotlight



“It is amazing to see what even a small group of people can accomplish in a few hours”

It is a wonderful feeling to come together with a likeminded group of people whose common goal is to restore and care for the land. In protecting even a small area of this earth, we benefit not only the land, but the people and creatures that enjoy it and call it home. It is amazing to see what even a small group of people can accomplish in a few hours, whether it be collecting and spreading seeds, pulling invasive plants or cutting and piling brush. Just think what could be accomplished if more people gave up just a few hours one time a month to help. Welcoming and friendly people, fresh air and good exercise, and the incredible feeling of accomplishment after several hours of work, is what keeps me coming back.

— Sue Knaack, State Natural Area Volunteer

Sue Knaack stands in the woods at Rocky Run State Natural Area where she volunteers. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Volunteer Work by Numbers

- 5,411 volunteer hours were spent managing State Natural Areas
- Volunteer efforts impacted 1,519 acres on 48 different sites
- 20,529 acres of state land reported treated with pesticides in 2022 as part of an integrated pest management approach



Volunteers come together after clearing brush at Lower Chippewa River SNA. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

2023 Invader Crusader Awards

The Invader Crusader award winners are selected by the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council as part of Invasive Species Action Month in June. The governor-appointed council advises the DNR and the state legislature on invasive species issues. Each year, the council honors Invader Crusaders: Individuals, groups or organizations who have made significant contributions to prevent, monitor or control invasive species that can harm Wisconsin's ecosystems, economy and in some cases, public health.

Nominations come from residents and organizations, and awards are given in several categories. 2023 Invader Crusader Award winners and the organizations they volunteer or work for are listed below.

Professional Individuals

- Jaime Osterom
- Matthew Wallrath
- Mic Armstrong

Volunteer Individuals

- Jim Giffin
- Nancy Gloe
- Richard "Dick" Ballou

Professional Groups

- Melinda Myers LLC
- Mequon Nature Preserve

Volunteer Groups

- Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed
- Silverwood Park Volunteers
- Wehr Nature Center

Special Recognition

- James Hughes
- Julie Fox



Recipients of the 2023 Invader Crusader Awards stand with their plaques at the annual awards ceremony held at Horicon Marsh on June 7, 2023.

Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Future Needs

Drone Use: Remote sensing tools are needed to detect invasive species at different spatial scales. Classification algorithms have been used to identify specific species using satellite and aerial imagery. Research has been done to use these tools to identify invasive species in broad landscapes. Remote sensing analysis can help the department understand where invasive species are found across broad landscapes, including large lakes, wetlands, and other DNR-managed lands that could not be easily searched on foot. Advances in drone technology have allowed for herbicide application and biocontrol release. The department currently does not have this capability. Resources for these control platforms will reduce the amount of total herbicide needed and reduce the risk of spraying non-target species.

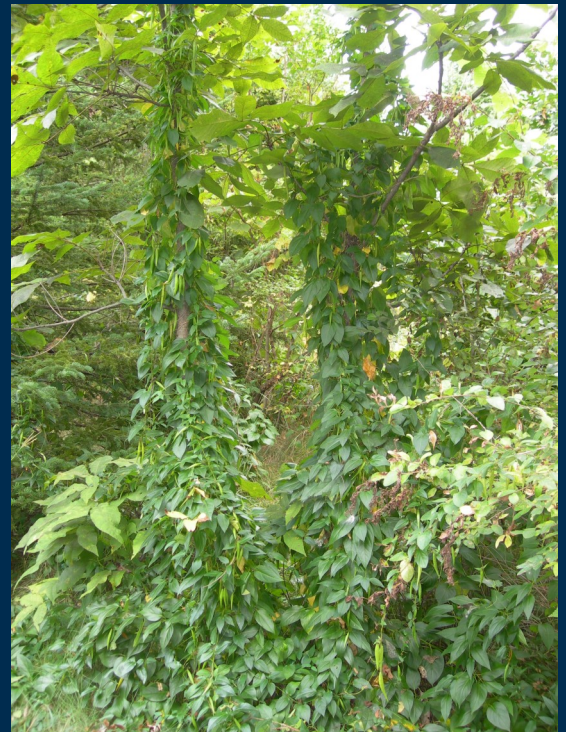
Continued Funding Needed: Federal Pittman-Robertson funding, which ended in 2020, allowed DNR to work with partners to initiate urgent control of prohibited species. Almost all invasive species require multiple years of regular control work to get the population contained. Further funding is needed to continue this important work to minimize the spread of these newly invading species. CISMAs are critical partners in doing outreach, education, surveying for new invasives and working with landowners to get control work initiated. In 2022, the Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership ceased field operations due to a lack of funding, and several counties in southern and western Wisconsin lack any regional CISMA partner. Stable funding to establish, maintain, and assist these partners is needed.

Invasive Decontamination Outreach: Funding is needed to expand the department's messaging to help slow the spread of invasive species through promoting voluntary actions by natural resource users in wetland and terrestrial settings. Installing and updating signage, interpretive kiosks, and permanent boot brushes at strategic locations including parks, state natural areas, wildlife areas, and forestry resources will help to reinforce messaging. If implemented on a wide scale, this messaging should help to change social norms and practices for those working and recreating in natural places.

Future Needs

Development of Multiple Invasive Species Biocontrol Programs

The department currently has a purple loosestrife biocontrol program administered by the Lakes and Rivers Section in collaboration with UW–Extension. There are additional species including spotted knapweed, leafy spurge and black swallow-wort that would benefit from receiving biocontrol programs. Spotted knapweed control has been released in partnership with Wade Oehmichen, BASF. The frequency of these releases has been reduced in recent years and there are portions of Wisconsin that have yet to receive control agents. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources currently has a program to assist with leafy spurge biocontrol using *Apthona* beetles. The MNDNR has pursued this program since 1994 and has conducted releases on over 2,000 sites. Black swallow-wort is a split-listed invasive species, with most of northern Wisconsin designated as prohibited. This species has limited detections in northern Wisconsin. There is an available biocontrol agent to help control this species, but has yet to be introduced in Wisconsin in large numbers. Black swallow-wort control agents can be introduced to southern Wisconsin to establish source populations which can then be transplanted to other areas with recently discovered sites.



Black swallow-wort infestation. Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



Map depicting split-listed status of black swallow-wort. Red indicates prohibited areas and orange indicates restricted.

Who to contact

General Questions on Invasive Species

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives>

Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/invasives/classification>

Invasive Species Contacts

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/contacts>

How to get involved

Found an invasive species that you have never seen before? Send photos, details of its location, abundance, and habitat to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov

Reporting an aquatic invasive species? Visit:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/report>

Want to work with others on invasive species in your area? Join your local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)! Visit:

<https://ipaw.org/the-solution/education/cismas/>

Want to control specific invasives on your land? Visit:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/control>

Want to volunteer on a local State Natural Area? Visit:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/StateNaturalAreas/volunteer>