



# Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network Partner Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

1-4 pm

Boardman River Nature Center

**Attendees:** Katie Grzesiak, Fields Ratliff, Emily Cook, Shelli DiFranco (ISN), Michelle Jacobs, Sam Griffin, Kevin Drotos, Jon Throop (GTRLC), Chelsea Taylor, Marsha Barber Clark (GTCD), Kayla Knoll (MCD), DJ Shook (LRBOI/NRCS), Buzz Long, Kayla Knoll (LCD), Kaldis Grants (TNC), John Ransom (BCD), Tom Clement (CAKE CISMA), Bob Sanders, Ari Cornman (LRBOI), Jason Kimbrough (NRCS), Jim Malloy (MDOT), Claire Wood, Leah RobisonBecky Hill (Leelanau Conservancy), Leah, Bob Dompierre (Old Mission Associates), Tom Myelotti, Jeanie Williams (ISEA), Chuck Reed, Mary Reed (Portage Lake Watershed Forever), Phil Jarvi (GT Wild Ones), Pat Trentacoste (Benzie Long Lake), Jamie Leanderson, Paula Dreeszen,

## ISN introduction

- History
- Outreach strategies
  - Positive connection rather than negative push

## ISN Steering Committee Updates—Jon Throop

- Steering Committee focuses the efforts of ISN – trying to balance the different types of organizations represented on the SC
- Grants: Trucking along; long-term funding source brainstorm
  - GLRI future is uncertain; SC believes that ISN is critical to our community (direct & indirect)
  - Traditional grants: GLRI, Sustain Our Great Lakes, MISGP
  - Other options: Rotary Charities Grants as well as wider partnerships (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)
  - Looking at private foundations, fee for service, cost-sharing, fee for program participation, fundraising events (dinner, etc.)
- New ISN website, same address; check it out! [www.HabitatMatters.org](http://www.HabitatMatters.org)
- Hiring survey crew for the summer; don't have budget for "check-out crew" for partners
- Asked partners to consider including ISN in partner publications, outreach, messaging, etc.
- Open funding discussion:
  - ISN's ideal annual budget: \$300-400k/year (4 FT staff, 6 seasonal, treatment costs, etc.)
  - CAKE CISMA got a signed MOA with the State of Michigan (Between DNR, CISMA and the Beaver Island Archipelago) - \$7k
  - Antrim and Kalkaska counties (and Benzie and Manistee) each have a millage
  - Michigan Dune Alliance & other regional partnerships
  - Planned giving/legacies (Development position needed for this)

## ISN Updates & Discussion

- MISIN data submission—if you haven't, PLEASE DO
  - [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)
  - Katie can connect partners to the right person in MISIN for extracting data from MISIN as needed
  - Good information on how to ID species (plants, animals, insects, fish, etc.)
  - Treatment tracking is in the process to connect with MiWaters reporting
- Grants Update
  - Fully funded through October 2017
    - EPA GLRI, USFS GLRI, and MISGP2
    - TART contract – creating management plan for Leelanau Trail
    - Waiting to hear back from US EPA GLRI, USFS GLRI



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- Carolyn Henne heard that USFS GLRI would be sending grant declines/acceptances this week
- Upcoming grants: Rotary Charities, MISGP
- Hiring—seasonal Lead & Survey Technicians
  - Hope to know new hires by the end of this week
  - We welcome survey site suggestions! Use [this form](#), or call Fields.
  - Will begin work in May
- [Go Beyond Beauty](#)—Emily Cook
  - Overview: Began to work with landscapers and nurseries who chose to not sell invasive ornamentals and in exchange, they receive publicity, education material, signage, etc.
    - Have a solid group of participants, but want to be more inclusive – anyone who wants to join, can.
  - Signage now available!
  - Upcoming meeting—Thursday, April 6; 2-4pm at BRNC
  - Trade-up/Dumpster Day; Saturday, May 13 from 10am-2pm
    - Japanese barberry as a tick vector is a huge outreach opportunity; Emily can share research links and articles
    - Promotional materials will be available soon
    - Emily working with Joe/NatureChange for a [spot on Dumpster Day](#)
    - ISN has an infographic about the Lyme/tick connection [on Facebook](#)—please share!
- Municipality outreach
  - Contacting as many municipalities as possible—plant to build relationships where they're interested
  - Brainstorming: “government” day – where nonprofits, etc. can do a 5 min intro for many gov't entities (The Watershed Center involved in one in Atrim?)
  - Brainstorming: Benzie County and Manistee County are creating a watershed day to get all the water folks together
- Bootbrushes: promoting these among our partners
  - ~\$300 each (not including labor), but ISN can cost-share about 50%
  - ISN has signage created, or groups can create their own (must have ISN/GLRI funding statement)
  - Send order detail to KEG by April 30 to be included in this bulk order
- Restoration funds—Fields Ratliff
  - \$20,000 available for a cost-share of restoration work (replanting, etc.) through USFS and US EPA GLRI
  - Email Fields by 4/1 with site info, min & max funding requested, and number of acres to be restored
  - Timeline for projects: Must be done by 10/1 (all requests for reimbursements/receipts due to KEG)
- Treatment Update
  - 2016 season recap
    - Crew work w/ partners
    - Knotweed, baby's breath, & Phragmites source populations
  - 2017 plans
    - Manistee knotweed, Manistee + Arcadia + Betsie Phragmites, and Elberta baby's breath; focus on JK sites with smaller Phragmites sites possible, too
    - Costshare program rollout: 50% to landowners at an \$80/hour rate
    - No crew?
      - Is written into the EPA GLRI grant, but are planning NOT to have them
- Field Season



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- Workplan—copies available upon request
- [Spring, summer, & fall workbees](#)
  - Garlic mustard workbees, invasive species papermaking
  - Fall workbees?
- Future trainings
  - ID/GPS training
  - Japanese knotweed community training
  - Clean Boats Clean Waters—Crystal Lk, Manistee & Leelanau too
- Survey Techs—site brainstorming!
  - Google Doc/contact Katie
  - Available May – August
- **GPS Units—Need calibration!**
  - If you have an ISN GPS unit, calibrate it or bring it to ISN to calibrate it for you; EPA requires this
- MISC update
  - Forum: [www.forum.michiganinvasives.org](http://www.forum.michiganinvasives.org) – use this as a resource
  - MISIN Treatment Tracking: incorporating this into other trackers
  - Funding for CISMAs
  - New invasives to look out for: [False brome](#) + [hardy kiwi](#)
    - False brome is in Leelanau and Benzie counties already
    - Hardy kiwi is a vine, may be advertised as a cover crop/fruit crop but is invasive – can cover and bring down trees/shrubs (similar to bittersweet)
- ISEA's Great Lakes Watershed Field Course brainstorming—Jeanie Williams
  - Funded by a NOAA grant to look at how people influence watershed health, then bring that back to their classrooms so students can do actions in their communities
  - Reach out to Jeanie if you have ideas/interest
  - Late June—educators from throughout the GL watershed!
    - Also targeting teachers that live/work in a Great Lakes Area of Concern
  - Invasive Species, Habitat Restoration, Nutrient Runoff as major topics
    - Sites on a bus trip to inspire class projects?
      - Jeanie looking for site options
      - 4 day opportunity: June 26-29, 2017
      - 30 teachers, between 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade is preferred (no students)
      - Want to show teachers the policies and other things that influence these issues (i.e. trash on the beach, etc.)
      - Places that “need something”

#### Partner Updates

- USFS—Crew of 3 to do both invasive species work AND Karner Blue butterfly habitat work (reduced from previous 2 crews)
- Glen Lake/Laurel Voran—coltsfoot competes with Michigan Monkey Flower
  - 1 new population found in 2016
  - Continue prevention & treatment
- GT Band—Working on road/stream crossing projects
  - Native plant salvage and replanting in Benzie county
    - Want to make this a regular thing!
  - Phragmites on GT Bay – surveying land, will share update with broader GT Bay Phrag group in early April
  - Working in Arcadia Marsh (manoomin)



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- Inland Seas: Great Lakes Watershed
  - Will begin using iNaturalist on their ship to record fish
  - Will look at MISIN tracker and add data
- GTRLC: Gearing up for field season;
  - Doing test plots on Oregon grape (will be posting to MISC forum)
  - Arcadia Marsh work ongoing
  - Sustain Our Great Lakes program grant aimed at Tobego and Jordan River Valley and herp habitat - massasagua (grant is pending)
  - Goats! Buying goats to do land management, especially in Arcadia Dunes where there are stacked invasives (autumn olive with bittersweet vining up it, etc.)
- GTCD: 5<sup>th</sup> year of restorative work at BBQA, planting native plants
  - New dam removed on Boardman River at Boardman Pond this summer (more work!)
  - Sabin Dam removal 2018?
- Leelanau Conservation District: Native plant sale and tree/shrub sale
  - Creating a native plant guide focused on sediment/erosion and landscaping
  - Now based in Government Center in Suttons Bay
  - Working on invasive species/restoration at Veronica Valley Park, on Government Center grounds
  - Work w/ Benzie CD on their boatwashing station.
- Portage Lake has an issue w/ narrow-leaved cattail
  - Started in 2008 (Phragmites & Eurasian watermilfoil), but areas that are still an issue.
  - Looking for info on how to manage/treat invasive cattail
    - Controlled burn? Plantwise (Dave Mindell did Arcadia burn a few years ago)
    - Saginaw Bay Cisma as a resource
    - Sault Tribe is involved in cattail research now
- Leelanau Conservancy: Earth Week outreach & awareness – focusing on garlic mustard workbees and Palmer Woods Trail Run with M22.
  - Wildflower Rescue plant sale on Memorial Day weekend
  - 2 person crew for survey their 26 properties (will know the invasives that are on DeYoung – helpful for the TART Management Plan)
  - Creating an invasive plant monitoring volunteer program (AmeriCorps member is leading this)
  - Has found false brome at their Chippewa Run property (also in SLBE).
    - Other new species: Himalayan Blackberry, wineberry.
  - Created 2 deer exclosures (7 acres and 22 acres) for study at Palmer Woods.
- Wild Ones: New organization to the area focused on native plants in landscapes
  - Forming partnerships
  - Events planned every month
    - Bee houses, seed bombs, cut flowers & more!
- Manistee Conservation District: Second year of 10-county oak wilt group.
  - US FS water quality monitoring, second year of stream monitoring grant,
  - 2 Clean Boat/Clean Water events
- The Nature Conservancy: Working w/ GTRLC on Beaver Island for Sustain Our Great Lakes,
  - Will have a restoration crew in Frankfort on baby's breath,
  - GVSU partnership on restoration/ research on baby's breath and treatment successes/genetics that will influence adaptive management plan; applied for 2 more years with GVSU.
  - Phragmites research in GT Bay
  - Tax Increment Financing (PH impact on \$\$) paper will be published in Journal of Coastal Economics– ask Kaldis or Shawn Howard to get it



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- Benzie Conservation District: Starting a boat washing program – MISGP funded 2 mobile boat washing stations for surrounding counties.
- CAKE: Beaver Island project/survey.
  - Black swallowwort is in Petoskey (sole population) and is the biggest issue to tackle.
  - Work with them on any successful ordinances for other invasives as they think that private landowners will be the biggest hurdle to overcome.
  - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid train-the-trainer workshops
- Little River Band: Removing IS from 30 acres, planting 12 acres of native wildlife.
  - Want to plant trees in Manistee county to compensate for the loss of ash trees.
- USDA National Resource Conservation Service: Landowner assistance & Technical Assistance
  - pollinators, erosion, soil help,
  - small farms come to NRCS for effectiveness tips and forestry management plans too
- MDOT: Tag, mow and spray sites as needed.
  - MDOT can only manage on the roadway right of way – need partnerships to continue treating on private/other property
  - Working to encourage natives, discourage invasives
  - Jim overs 21 counties & is our contact person
- Old Mission Associates:
  - Erosion control (MI Natural Shoreline Partnership), second season of shoreline restoration on Little Glen Lake.
  - Info on Japanese barberry re: ticks will help them get landowners to remove the plant.
  - Interested in knowing more about goats from GTRLC!
  
- Other topics:
  - Outreach to tree-trimmers for stopping the spread of Oak Wilt (pruning season)