



## **ISN Partner Meeting Notes**

November 2, 2016

Boardman River Nature Center

1450 Cass Rd., Traverse City

1:00 – 3:00pm

**Present:** Marsha Barber Clark\* (GT Conservation District), Jon Throop\* (GT Regional Land Conservancy), Kaldis Grants, Shaun Howard (The Nature Conservancy/Michigan Dune Alliance), Becky Hill\* (Leelanau Conservancy), Vickie Smith (Wildlife & Wetland Solutions), John Ransom (Benzie Conservation District), Mac Templeton (Huron Pines AmeriCorps/GTCD/ISN), Susan Spencer\* (Manistee Conservation District), Buzz Long\* (Leelanau Conservation District), Ari Cornman (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians), Jeanie Williams\* (ISEA), Carolyn Thayer (Designs in Bloom), Emily Cook, Katie Grzesiak, Miriam Owsley, Fields Ratliff (Invasive Species Network)

\*= Steering Committee Member

### **ISN Introduction**

- Basic overview of ISN
- ISN Strategic Goals review & discussion
- New Invader: black jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*) found in Benzie County
  - WWS has also treated it in Leelanau County

### **ISN Steering Committee Updates**

- Update on co-vice chairs, Becky Hill and DJ Shook

### **ISN Updates and Discussion**

#### **AmeriCorps Update – Mac Templeton**

- Mac has been conducting research on the hybridization of narrow (invasive) and broad-leaf (invasive) cattail (*Typha xglauca*)
  - reproduces faster than parents
  - litter prevents other species from growing
  - muskrats are the only thing that eats/uses them
  - hybrid experiences greatly increased growth from fertilizer runoff, unlike either parent
- Ari Cornman: Sault Tribe is doing *Typha* research right now
- Written reports will be available upon completion
- Future hybridization research: bittersweets, *Phragmites*

### **MISIN**

- Asked for partners to please submit all data before the start of the next field season
- Promoted the site as a plant identification resource
- Treatment tracking rollout—ISN this year, partners 2017

### **Grants Update**

- MISGP1: *Success in “Habitat Matters”*
  - Completed – spending down final money, granted a one month extension
  - Fully successful in grant metrics
- MISGP2: *Habitat Matters – Targeting Source Populations*
  - Grant is underway with much of the funds going toward 2017 treatments
- USFS CWMA:
  - Ties in with MISGP2
- EPA GLRI: *Growing “Go Beyond Beauty”*
  - Slow to start, picking up steam
- MISGP3
  - Has been submitted – should receive word in December 2016
- Ideas for USFS CWMA 2?
  - Extensive surveying in Manistee
  - Spraying adjacent areas/properties

## ISN Partner Meeting Notes

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### Field Season Recap (Katie and Fields)

- Crew was successful despite losing one member due to health problems mid-season
  - ISN is still awaiting word on a crew for the 2017 field season; depends on the results of MISGP3
- Surveying crew met or exceeded all goals set for them in the spring.
- Large-scale (source population) treatments
  - Phragmites in Manistee and Benzie Counties, including contracted work on Manistee Lake, Betsie Bay, and several other small lakes
  - Japanese Knotweed, Veteran's Oak Grove Drive in Manistee County completed with plans for follow-up next year.
- Plans for next year
  - Retreatment of Source Populations
    - Expansion of target area
    - Include Elberta Dunes and Arcadia Marsh
  - Roadside restoration (native plantings)
  - Continue surveying with Techs

### GPS units need to be calibrated!

- If you borrowed one from ISN, it needs to be returned over the winter for calibration

### Go Beyond Beauty (Emily and Miriam)

- Program expansion – GBB will now be offered to anyone responsible for making landscape decisions
  - Municipalities, garden clubs, conservation districts, individuals, etc.
  - Conservation Districts' plant sales? Yes
- New branding
  - GBB now has its own logo and colors
  - Still relates closely to existing ISN branding
- Additional Incentives
  - Trade-up program – an opportunity to allow landowners to bring in invasive plants in exchange for coupons to participating GBB nurseries/landscapers
    - First “Dumpster Day” on Saturday, May 13, 2017
  - Buy-back program – ISN will buy back some existing nursery stock (invasive) in exchange for joining GBB
- New ideas brainstormed at meetings:
  - GBB workgroup: to make sure “Dumpster Day” event goes well and all potential issues are worked out beforehand
    - Chamber of Commerce (or similar) liaison for GBB workgroup?
  - Jobsite signs for landscapers
  - Add non-invasive non-natives to Dumpster Days? No trade-up, just disposal
- If you are interested in being a part of the new GBB workgroup and having a hand in how these programs are implemented, please email Emily

### Conferences and Other Programs:

- UMISC – Largest invasive species conference in the United States – LaCrosse, Wisconsin
  - Katie, Emily, and Fields attended
  - Learned about many topics including biocontrol, phragmites, aquatic plant ID, new terrestrial invasive species, and expanding partnerships
- MISC – Annual meeting on December 5 and 6
- RIPPLE
  - An effort to stop the spread of aquatic invasives via pet trade
  - ISN had a meeting with coordinators and are going to help with some basic outreach

## ISN Partner Meeting Notes

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- Play, Clean, Go
  - Similar to “Clean Drain Dry” initiative—outreach tools/items available
  - Katie was asked to serve on the steering committee (quarterly conference calls)

### **Partner Updates**

#### **Grand Traverse Conservation District** (Marsha Barber-Clark)

- Continues to oversee the function of ISN and review/hold grants as they become accessible.

#### **GTRLC** (Jon Throop)

- Successful invasive species control this field season
  - Crew spent large chunks of time on garlic mustard, grasslands, autumn olive and buckthorn, baby’s breath, Lake Michigan shoreline, and trail work
  - Workbees with ISN on Elberta Beach – looking to do more in 2017
- There is potential for getting goats and training them to consume invasive species
  - Goal is to prove to farmers etc. that it’s a viable business model

#### **The Nature Conservancy** (Kaldis Grants/Shawn Howard)

- One more year of SOGL funding
- Applied for MISPG3 to extend SOGL work
  - Looking to get a larger seasonal crew in 2017
- Partnered with GVSU for a study on baby’s breath treatment effectiveness, seed viability, & genetics, as well as use of drones to estimate baby’s breath % cover
- New preserve north of Onekama, Manistee County (Portage Point Woods)
- Working with Crystal Downs Country Club to work on invasives on one of the last untreated sections of Lake Michigan shorelines in this region. (South of Pt. Betsie)
- Working to establish metrics for restoration work (how much is enough)

#### **Leelanau Conservancy** (Becky Hill)

- Continuing invasives work
- Trying to determine the best approach for Clay Cliffs Natural Area garlic mustard
- Using ISN bootbrushes
- Developing volunteer monitoring program

#### **Wildlife & Wetland Solutions** (Vickie Smith)

- Very busy field season
- Did contracted work for ISN
- Moving to a new office before next year!

#### **Benzie Conservation District** (John Ransom)

- Submitted application for MISGP3 – mobile boat washing stations
- BCD Annual Meeting, November 17<sup>th</sup>, Stormcloud Brewery in Frankfort

#### **Manistee Conservation District** (Susan Spencer)

- Busy creating programs and hosting events; prove they’re worth the millage!
- Received & implementing grant to identify and manage populations of oak wilt (treatments now)
- Kayla Knoll has started a stream monitoring program

#### **Leelanau Conservation District** (Buzz Long)

- Continues to refer invasives inquiries to ISN
- Also working on oak wilt issues (Kama Ross, District Forester)

#### **Little River Band of Ottawa Indians** (Ari Cornman)

- Small staff with strong funding; looking for partnership opportunities Bought parcels that are heavily Scots pine/autumn olive/honeysuckle, hoping to restore them

#### **Designs in Bloom** (Carolyn Thayer, GBB member)

- Busy meeting the *increased* demand of doing native plantings
- Large project in Benzie County was just completed at Bellows Park
  - Native garden to prevent run-off into Crystal Lake
- Working with Plant It Wild! For education, and more connectivity with ISN