



2018 Fall Partner Meeting Notes

November 7, 2018, 1-4 pm
Boardman River Nature Center
1450 Cass Rd.

Introductions

- Becky Hill*, Andrea Hunt, Zack Pitman, (LC); Jake Bournay, Chris Garrock, Paula Dreezen (GTRLC); Megan Sebright (NRCS); Carolyn Henne* (USFS); Doug Barry (DNR); Jane Perrino, Jodi Monteith, John Ransom (BCD); Buzz Long* (LCD); Melissa Witkowski (GTB); Max Miller (GTCD); Kaldis Grants (TNC); Jennifer Flynn (SEEDS); Ann Mills (CAKE CISMA); Bob Ryder (public); Bethany Dickerson (public)
- ISN Staff: Katie Grzesiak, Fields Ratliff

ISN Introduction (See PowerPoint)

Steering Committee Report—Becky Hill

- Jon Throop has taken a new position within GTRLC that precludes work on ISN's Steering Committee; he sent a letter to partners (attached)
- The Strategic Plan has been finalized!
 - Steering Committee plans to in-depth update one section of it at each meeting each year to keep it a "living document"
- The Funding Plan is still in progress to guide ISN into more diversified funding

Steering Committee Members

- Becky was unanimously voted in as ISN Steering Committee Chair
- Doug Barry and Jake Bournay were added to the Steering Committee with no contest

ISN Updates & Discussion (See PowerPoint)

- MISIN data submission
 - If you have data, please submit it at www.misin.msu.edu, or contact ISN to connect with MISIN directly for bulk uploads
 - This is especially crucial for our prioritization! Please share your information to help us be better!
- Bootbrush Stations
 - If you would like one, we still have them!
 - Customizable
 - ~\$150 cost share
 - Or we'll share the file and you can print & build your own!
- Native Plant Signs-- www.habitatmatters.org/native-plant-species.html
 - Available in spring
 - ~\$10 each
- Decontamination Protocols—[Aquatic](#) and [Terrestrial](#)
 - Please include them in your own work!
 - ALSO in contracts & Requests for Proposals!
- Treatment Update—Fields Ratliff
 - Treated over 700 acres
 - Surveyed nearly 1,000 acres
 - ISN seasonal crew had projects with over 25 partners
 - [Black swallow-wort \(*Vincetoxicum nigrum*\)](#)
 - Newly found in our area in 2018—Village of Kingsley
 - Treated 26 sites (4 acres)
 - **ID characteristics: twining vine, thick glossy leaves, TINY dark flowers, herbal sent when crushed, seed capsules similar to milkweeds**
- Restoration projects—Fields Ratliff (See PowerPoint)
 - Planted over 5,000 native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses

- Restored over 30 acres with the help of 8 partners
- Outreach & *Go Beyond Beauty*—K. Grzesiak (E. Cook home sick!) (See PowerPoint)
 - *Go Beyond Beauty*
 - Further growth! 8 new participants
 - Achievement Program
 - Basic participation will always be free
 - Further details on website: www.habitatmatters.org/gbb-achievement-program.html
 - Japanese Barberry Trade-up continues!
 - 2 events
 - Over 255 plants (100 more than last year, with 1 less event)
 - Workbees & Events
 - 9 workbees (garlic mustard & baby's breath)
 - TONS of other events
 - Evening of Conservation—new! Showcasing [Nature Change videos on invasive species](#). Over 100 attendees!
- Municipality outreach—K Grzesiak (See PowerPoint)
 - Many thanks to Rebecca for her awesome work on this! She has left ISN (but not GTCD) due to a lapse in grant funding
 - 11 townships/villages etc. contacted through her work in 2018
 - 4 considering an IS ordinance or planting guide
 - 10 more have an IS ordinance or planting guide
 - Garlic mustard dumpsters for public (USFS funding) a success!
 - Thanks to partners for hosting!
 - Will continue next year
- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (See PowerPoint)
 - Katie attended
 - LOTS of great sessions!
- MISC update (See PowerPoint)
 - Katie continues Core Team participation
 - Elected Core Team Chair in August
 - MISC Annual Meeting December 12-13
- Play Clean Go update (See PowerPoint)
- RIPPLE update (See PowerPoint)
- Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes (WIGL) Collaborative through MIPN
 - Creating alternatives list (for landscapes), database of laws in GL states, and database of best management practices
 - Katie participating

New and “Up & Coming” Invasive Species Activity (See PowerPoint)

- Giant hogweed, Oregon grape, Japanese chaff flower, black jetbead, Asian longhorn beetle, European frogbit, Japanese stiltgrass, spotted lanternfly, Himalayan balsam, Chinese yam

ISN Updates continued (See PowerPoint)

- Strategic Plan & Funding Plan updates (See PowerPoint)
 - Strategic Plan available on website: www.habitatmatters.org/about-isn--faqs.html
- Funding Update
 - Current Grants (See PowerPoint)
 - Future grants/applied for (See PowerPoint)

- Lost Communication Specialist position (hoping to hire it back in the future)
- Otherwise fully (if creatively) funded through September 2019
- Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) surveys
 - 2 survey technicians, December-April
 - **Hiring now!** www.habitatmatters.org/employment.html
 - HWA ID: tufts (like tiny cotton balls) on the bottom-side base of needles
 - Moves by young “crawlers” to new trees via birds, people, vehicles, and other touch-based spread
 - Prevention: trim hemlock branches away from where cars, RVs, trailers, people, etc. might brush against them
 - Don’t put bird feeders in/near hemlocks
 - Don’t fertilize hemlocks; increase nitrogen makes the trees more appealing to HWA
 - ISN will host prioritization meetings and trainings soon! Partners are welcome

Brainstorming

- Top 20 Update starting in 2019 to prepare for 2020
 - We’ll send out a survey and utilize other information to help rank invasiveness
 - Partners can also suggest new species
 - Perhaps change the structure of our prioritization?
 - Suggestion to think of species whose invasiveness will change with Climate Change
- Partner/Outreach Brainstorming
 - Lake Associations
 - Increased outreach to professionals who can spread invasive species
 - Landscapers, foresters, Road Commissions, excavators, arborists, realtors
 - Sportsmen’s groups, ski clubs/snowshoe groups
 - Farmers & orgs
 - Historical/art groups?
 - ORV clubs (NC CISMA does this, found there was very little awareness!)
 - Boat & dock installers
 - More work with farmers on Integrated Pest Management?
- Requests for new resources
 - Purple loosestrife door hangers
 - Spotted knapweed door hangers (lakeshore owners esp.)

Partner Updates

- GT Regional Land Conservancy: Jon has transitioned to a new job in the organization; Chris and Jake will be stepping up; work at Petobego on glossy buckthorn, herp surveys (especially *Massasauga rattler*), working to streamline work for greater efficiency, increase community involvement, hiring a AmeriCorps crew of 6 right now, working on Oregon grape control (workbees!)
- GT Conservation District: got a millage! Projects on Boardman bottomlands restoration (& invasive control)
- GT Band: IS projects with Leelanau Conservancy (DeYoung, Clay Cliffs), LCD (county parks)
- Leelanau Conservation District: subgrants from ISN, GTBOI, working on native plantings at Leelanau Government Center in memory of Chris Garthe, who started the big push for them (this will be 3x larger than his plan!), help from ISN and the Master Gardeners

- Benzie Conservation District: renewed the millage! Annual meeting is Nov 20 at Mills Community House with speaker Dr. Jo Latimore; considering buying a drone for monitoring? Treating autumn olive & phragmites at Lower Herring Lk
- Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways Project: nearing end of MISGP grant (surpassed all goals w/ 13k boats washed), applied for another! Backing from BCD's millage too. Challenging working with seasonal residents as volunteers, working with Lake Associations on weed surveys & decontamination methods
- Leelanau Conservancy: goats for conservation grazing continues! Focused on garlic mustard & shrubs. Lots of outreach because of goats. 3rd year as AmeriCorps host site, new mountain bike trail (source of volunteers!), restoration planting at Chip Run hoping to crowd out invasives
- DNR (Orchard Beach SP & Tippy Dam): Doug came here from the UP (and was involved in CUPCWMA/Lake2Lake CISMA), may be starting a friends group for Tippy Dam
- USFS (Huron-Manistee National Forest): Prioritizing 2,500 acres, with more priority species than people to work on them. Nordhouse Dunes, Pitcher's thistle monitoring with spotted knapweed under control and natives returning! Indiana Dunes National Park researchers checking for thistle biocontrol escapees harming P. thistle. Treatments on the National Wild & Scenic River corridor and autumn olive work at Pine River
- The Nature Conservancy/Michigan Dune Alliance: baby's breath work continues with a management agreement helping link private lands between Pt. Betsie and Sleeping Bear Dunes NL; likely not for eradication, but prioritizing control. >400 acres treated this year (manageable) using physical removal & herbicides. GVSU research on genetics presenting soon. HWA work being transferred to subawardees (SWxSW CISMA, WM CISMA, ISN, CAKE CISMA) now! Additional survey efforts encouraged!
- CAKE CISMA: Dusty (coordinator) left for a job in Guam. Finished phragmites treatments on Beaver Is, working on common buckthorn with Little Traverse Conservancy, and hiring a new coordinator!
- NRCS: Anticipating a new Farm Bill in Dec/Jan; new sign-ups for EQIP after that. Spotted-wing drosophila is resulting in the removal of old orchards (a great deal for landowners!). Fielding lots of questions about pollinator habitat, but running into problems with autumn olive & spotted knapweed—no contractors want the jobs!

Discussion of contractor gap

- Contractors don't want small jobs
- How can we help with this?
 - ISN fee-for-service?
 - Collaboratives of landowners to make bigger jobs or work together?
 - Landscaper work in off-season?