



Meeting Notes

Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network

Partner Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

1-3 pm

Online!

Attendees:

Katie Grzesiak, Audrey Menninga, Fields Ratliff, Shelly Stusick, Emily Cook (ISN), Carolyn Thayer (Designs in Bloom), Drea Weiner (MISTEM), Carolyn Henne (USFS), Rick Hager (GTRLC volunteer), Sally Cook (GBB, community), Josh Shields (FAP/MCD), Renne Mallison (MCD), Garrett Noyes (Birdsfoot native nursery), Bob Dompierre (Dompierre Designs), Irene Stibitz (GTCD), Kyler Moran (GTRLC), Laurel Voran (GBB), Doug Barry (DNR), Molly Fava (LC - AmeriCorps), John Ransom (BCD), Paula Dreeszen (GTRLC volunteer), Becky Hill (LC), Luke Kreykes (GTCD), Carol Kuesel (Community - Spider Lake), Mikayla Leishman (WWS), Monnie Peters (Community, Steering Committee), Melissa Witkowski (GTB), Paul Wiemerslage (AuSable Inst.), Anne Rodeck (LC-AmeriCorps), Lara Treemore Spears (Portage Lake Watershed), Jane Perrino (AISPP), Koffi K. (GTCD), Kama Ross (FAP), Ginny (Community), Luisa (Community), Liz Buck (Community)

Please note: a recording of the meeting can be found [online](#), and a PDF of the slides can be found [on our website](#).

Welcome and Introductions

ISN introduction & background (*see slides*)

ISN Steering Committee Updates—Becky Hill

- ISN looked for different grants while layoffs were occurring, but stepped back from that when grants were reinstated.
- ISN is now moving back towards goals that were set in April, including looking at future grant apps to fill in gaps of current funding.

ISN Updates & Discussion (*see slides*)

- Outreach & Community Events—Emily Cook
 - Outreach materials & efforts
 - Native Plant Sign orders—placed in spring
 - Field Guide status—will be asking for feedback soon
 - The future of outreach—a survey is live now on our website!
- Field Work—Fields Ratliff & Audrey Menninga
 - Season recap—success despite struggle!
 - HWA update—more surveys this year
 - Restoration work—successful, hope for more in the future
 - Bootbrush mini-stations—Please contact Fields to request these (\$20)
- *Go Beyond Beauty*—Shelly Stusick
 - Current status
 - Statewide plans

Emerging Invasives (breakout activity)

- Goldencreeper
- Mile-a-minute weed
- Chinese silvergrass
- Starry stonewort

ISN Updates cont'd

- **MISIN data submission—if you haven't, PLEASE DO**
- ISN resource recap—want something else? Please request it! We're always looking for new ideas
- Funding Update



- Fully funded through June 2021, strongly funded into 2022—perhaps longer?
- Statewide Updates
 - MISC—planning annual meeting for CISMAs
 - MIPN & WIGL Collaborative
 - Check out woodyinvasives.org to learn more about this amazing project!
 - Possible national CISMA/CWMA/etc. meeting in 2021?
 - Play Clean Go—strengthening & expanding
 - Neighbor CISMAs
 - CAKE CISMA has a new coordinator! Kirk Acharya
 - NC CISMA came back from the funding pause well! New HWA detection in their service area 😞

Partner Updates—2 min each

- **Garrett (Birdsfoot Native Nursery):** Cleaning seed, planning for next year.
- **Drea (MiSTEM):** Looking to get teacher authentic STEM experiences. Wants to connect teachers with ISN for some IS work in the field season.
- **Paula/Rick (GTRLC Volunteers):** Did some GM and BB work this year. Paula has been working on Japanese hedge parsley while Rick has been primarily at Mitchell Creek on invasives there. Rick has also been working on collecting seeds to distribute to other preserves.
- **Kyler (GTRLC AmeriCorps):** Pulled a lot of GM and smaller amounts of BB. Spread a lot of seed at Headwaters.
- **Liz Buck (private landowner):** Working on restoring 3.5 ac property. Has Himalayan Blackberry that she's looking for help on.
- **Carol Kuessel (private landowner, lake association):** PH, buckthorn, PL—hoping for help from ISN (wants PL door hangers). Hoping to have a survey done on lake.
- **Paul Wiemerslage (Au Sable Institute):** No college classes this year, and they took a hit with that. Working with 5-8th graders to implement restoration projects (has helped on the NER previously). Has a grant to work with sacred grounds.
- **Renee Mallison/Josh Shields (MCD):** Finished five year strategic plan. Working to change entire outside area of district into complete native garden with zero maintenance. Josh has been working with oak wilt and also at BL treatments. Josh has also been helping with NRCS cost-share for landowners.
- **Koffi & Luke (GTCD):** Working to adapt to COVID. Parklands working hard to keep trails up. Education was paused, but now operational again. New incubator farm in progress. New 501c3 for Nature Center. Over 40,000 native plants planted since last two dams were removed. Helped Garfield Township with native buffer at Silver Lake.
- **Lara Treemore Spears (Portage Lake Watershed):** Has lake manager now to help with aquatic treatments (including stonewort). Drone surveys of the lake to monitor plants, erosion, etc. Hoping for a boat washing station soon.
- **Carolyn Thayer (landscaper, GBB participant):** Continuing to do landscape projects – noticing more and more people being drawn to natives!
- **Bob Dompierre (Landscaper, GBB participant):** started own company this summer to focus on landscaping. Mostly private landowners, small business owners.
- **Monnie Peters (Neahatawanta, private landowner):** Pulled a lot of GM, used PL beetles in one big patch and hoping they migrate to another spot on private property.
- **Becky Hill (Leelanau Conservancy):** Lots and lots of GM. Great PH treatment by W&WS. Very effective butterbur treatment as well. Lots of trail work. Has found oak wilt in some natural areas and will be tackling that next year.
- **Carolyn Henne (USFS):** Ten person crew (Best crew!)—30 species and 600 acres. Moved into a new office. Converting lawn to native gardens
- **Jane Perrino (Benzie Conservation District):** Due to grant freeze, had to restructure staff time. Didn't do boat washes this year. Back on track now. Will cover ISN service area next year with boat



launch. Monitored five lakes per usual. Will be doing some grant work with GTB grant (also wants PL doorhangers).

- **Kama (District Forester):** Working with Frankfort high school project to help control invasives and restore parcel.
- **Doug Barry (DNR Parks & Rec):** Oak wilt on Heely Lake. Doing GM and JB work.
- **Mikayla (W&WS):** Lots and lots of work. Got new equipment that's been a huge help this year.
- **Laurel (GBB Landscaper):** Working on coltsfoot (8 years now). Looking at YI now—22 landowners have it on their property. Did a lot of manual treatment on Fischer Lake but found it on Crystal River as well. Working with AO, ToH, and BB
- **Ann Rodeck/Molly (Leelanau Conservancy Americorps):** Did lots and lots of GM.

Adjourn