



# NOTES

## Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN) Spring Partner Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

1-3 pm

Online!

**Present:** (ISN - Katie Grzesiak, Fields Ratliff, Shelly Stusick, Audrey Menninga, Emily Cook) Emily Baker (public), Andy Harmon (SLBE), Grace Nagle (LC - AmeriCorps), Laurel Voran (GBB and GL Assoc.), Becky Hill (LC), Buzz Long (LCD), Carolyn Henne (USFS), Doug Barry (DNR), Drea Weiner (MiSTEM), Jane Perrino (BCD/AISPP), Josh Shields (MCD/FAP), Koffi Kpachavi (GTCD), Melissa Witkowski (GTB), Mikalya Leishman (WWS), Paula Dreeszen (GTRLC), Samantha Griffin (GTRLC), Tom Vitale (GTCD), Veronica Bauer (LC - AmeriCorps), Joe Jaczkowski, Carol Keusel (Spider Lake), Eric Keller (Sen. Peters' office)

Meeting [Recording](#) and [PDF of slides](#) are also available

### Meeting Goals:

- Update partners and interested parties on ISN staff's past work and upcoming plans
- Foster discussion & dialogue on current and future ISN projects
  - Communicate partner and public needs to ISN
- Keep the group up-to-date on invasive species and their prevention/control
- Kindle collaboration and cooperation around invasive species in our region

1:00 - Welcome and Introductions

1:10 - ISN introduction *see slides*

1:15 - ISN Steering Committee Updates—Becky Hill

*The team is grateful to be back together after an unsettling year. The Steering Committee is working on developing a plan in case there is another sudden pause in funding.*

1:20 - ISN Updates & Discussion

- Outreach—Emily Cook
  - Outreach materials & efforts
    - *Events are scheduled (with caution). Visit [www.HabitatMatters.org](http://www.HabitatMatters.org) for a complete list. Private partner events are scheduled for May-June. Contact Emily for more information and to register. These include an ID training (May 27 and June 7/8) and herbicide training (June 1)*
    - *Resources are available for partners including doorhangers, PBYP books, rack cards, etc. Contact Emily.*
    - *Native Plant sign orders are due to Katie by the end of April.*
  - Upcoming events, trainings, & workshops
- *Go Beyond Beauty*—Shelly Stusick
  - Program review *See slides*
  - State-wide expansion update *coming later this year! Lots to prepare*
- Field Work—Fields Ratliff & Audrey Menninga
  - HWA update
    - *Single-tree discovery means the program is working!*
    - *Hope for continued work*
  - Summer Crew plans



## Spring Partner Meeting

### Notes cont'd

- Survey Technicians *please share your needs! Contact Fields*
- Registered Technician program
  - *We plan to offer this program to partners' seasonals to assist with reducing costs of testing*
  - *Training in early June—contact us for more information*

1:45 - BREAK

1:50 - Emerging Invasives (breakout activity)

- Japanese hedgeparsley, tree-of-heaven, Oregon grape, kuma/golden bamboo, burning bush, creeping Jenny

2:25 - ISN Updates cont'd

- **MISIN data submission—if you haven't, PLEASE DO**
- Funding Update & new projects
  - *Working on Lake Association Funding - \$3,000 split between 3 Lake Associations to help fund CD3 roadside stations. Katie is working on an application—stay tuned!*
- Statewide/Nationwide Updates

2:30 - A note from US Senator Peters' office—Eric Keller

- *Keller's office covers 26 of Michigan's counties, and is a resource for all of us*
  - *Please don't hesitate to reach out if there are issues at a Federal level*
- *Senator Peters is passionate about natural resources & water quality, and has introduced legislation to increase funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*
- *The next few months in Congress are expected to be spent on the American Rescue Plan extension, with infrastructure, climate, and Water Resources Development as the next key topics*

2:35 - Partner Updates—1-2 min per organization - if multiple reps, please feel free to have one person talk

**Josh Shields (Manistee Conservation District/FAP)** - Tree sale happening, continuing ready-to-use herbicide experiment, also researching oak wilt treatment options

**Carol Kuesel (Spider Lake)** - Third year organizing environmental webinars. Stay tuned for those dates, including how to ID and remove IS on shoreline

**Melissa Witkowski (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)** - Working with Leelanau Conservancy on DeYoung And Chippewa Run Preserves to plant trees to prevent invasive species

**Becky Hill (Leelanau Conservancy)** - Lots of trail stuff - restoration after a year of heavy use. Conservation grazing is returning to Clay Cliffs. Oak wilt monitoring to occur near Palmer Woods.



## **Spring Partner Meeting Notes cont'd**

**Jane Perrino (Benzie Conservation District/AISPP)** - 2 boat washing units will be active this year with the addition of Grand Traverse County. (Covering the same service area as ISN). Will also be doing lake monitoring.

**Tom Vitale (Grand Traverse Conservation District Parklands)** - mostly doing park management via trails and trail restoration. Some habitat restoration. There is an NER workbee on May 8 (with ISN) and there will be another release of beetles for PL management.

**Drea Weiner (MiSTEM)** - Trying to figure out how to expose teachers to the outdoor element of IS and native plant work. If anyone has any ideas, please let her know.

**Mikayla Leishman (Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions LLC)** - Finishing woody IS work. They are planning for spring garlic mustard removal and native restoration work. Let them know if in need of a project as they are scheduling.

**Andy Harmon (Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore)** - Preparing for field season work and also developing a registered technician program for herbicide use.

**Laurel Voran (Glen Lk Association)** - Working on coltsfoot management - first flowers were spotted in late March! Also doing yellow flag iris removal and starting to use app to track treatments. Drones are also being used to do some survey work.