



Meeting Notes

Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network

Fall Partner Meeting

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

1-4 pm

Boardman River Nature Center

Attendees: Katie, Emily, Fields, & Audrey (ISN); Jake Bournay & Jake Blessing (GTRLC); Matt Leone, Rose Maylen, Parker Maynard, Kyler Moran (HP AmeriCorps at GTRLC); Julia Ghering & Andy Harmon (SLBE); Mikayla Leishman (WWS); Becky Hill (LC); Shelly Stusick (HP AmeriCorps at LC); John Ransom & Jane Perrino (BCD); Carolyn Henne (USFS); Josh Shields (MCD); Doug Barry (DNR Orchard Beach); Monnie Peters (Neahtawanta); Brian M, Shane, & Josh Drage (DNR TC); Laurel Voran (Glen Lake)

Don't forget to check out the posted PowerPoint for further details (and photos!)

ISN introduction

- ISN history & overview—see PowerPoint

ISN Steering Committee Updates—Becky Hill

- General updates
 - Overview of Steering Committee topics (prioritization, Strategic Plan review, grants & direction) & duties (quarterly meetings, additional emails & communications)
- Steering Committee membership updates
 - Susan Spencer left Manistee Conservation District
 - DJ Shook's job has shifted with the Grand Traverse Band
 - Jeanie Williams has resigned
- Steering Committee Elections
 - Because ISN's fiduciary agent is GTCD, all CDs must be on board with ISN's work—Josh Shields has stepped up to represent MCD on the Steering Committee
 - Melissa Witkowski volunteered & was confirmed (Grand Traverse Band)
 - Monnie Peters volunteered & was confirmed (private citizen)
 - Doug Barry volunteered & was confirmed as Vice Chair

ISN Updates & Discussion (Part I)

- Outreach & *Go Beyond Beauty*—Emily Cook
 - Outreach materials
 - New resources:
 - Signs & future presence at Seed Libraries & Seed Swaps
 - More door hangers (spotted knapweed, general invasive knotweeds)
 - **Bootbrush stations still available for \$100—contact Fields for details**
 - Also, station upgrades (scrub brush on a cable)
 - Future Resources Discussion:
 - Callery pear, tree-of-heaven, purple loosestrife, and yellow flag iris door hangers
 - Treatment videos
 - ID guide with revamp—hardcopies will still be available, but we may tweak the format
 - Looking to pair outreach efforts with the UN's 2020 International Year of Plant Health themes
 - Work with florists on baby's breath, miscanthus
 - Also golf courses for miscanthus (apparently it's bad for them!)
 - Work with NRCS on removing sterile miscanthus as a recommendation



- Events & efforts
 - ID workshop for partners & volunteers (2 per year)
 - Herbicide training workshop for partners (1 per year)
 - Garlic mustard dumpsters & workbees in 4 counties
 - Baby's breath workbees with GTRLC (Elberta Beach)
 - Increased site visits
 - Japanese barberry trade-ups in Grand Traverse and Benzie
 - Autumn olive workshops—held 3 this year, looking to do 2 next year
 - Knotweed workshops in Leelanau and Manistee
- Go *Beyond Beauty* update
 - New Achievement Program utilized for the first time this year
 - Congratulations to Old Mission Associates LLC for completing Gold Level training!
- Field Season—Fields Ratliff & Audrey Menninga
 - Summer Crew recap
 - Treated >250 sites, >13 species, >1,000 acres
 - Planted 320 native trees
 - Woody treatments ongoing through 2019
 - Confirmed 3 new species:
 - Chinese yam (state watchlist species!)
 - Japanese hedgeparsley (found before, not officially reported)
 - Common teasel (never reported but likely scattered throughout service area)
 - HWA update
 - 124 sites, 6,148 acres surveyed in 2019
 - Focused on public properties
 - This season, focusing on private properties
 - **Link on ISN's website, or contact Audrey**
 - Restoration work
 - Provided 1,200 seedlings to partners in 2019
 - **Providing an additional chunk of seedlings in the spring; contact Fields for details!**
 - GTRLC, LC, SBDNLS interested in getting trees for 2020

Invasive Species Activity!

Species covered—see PowerPoint

ISN Updates & Discussion (Part II)

- MISIN data submission—Please do this over the winter!
- ISN resource recap
 - Please remember we have resources available for YOU, and to ask if there's something you don't have!
 - Also, remember to use the MISC Forum!
- Funding Update
 - Fully funded through October 2020
 - Current grants & Upcoming grants—see PowerPoint
- Prioritization Revamp
 - Goals & process recap—see PowerPoint
 - Discussion
 - Suggested to order Awareness species by how common they are in the region or by growth habit
 - Worry that "Awareness Invasive Species" might get shortened to AIS (aka aquatic invasive species)



- Names/spelling corrections!
- Adding Scots pine to Field list
- Names brainstorming for Top 12 (could be confusing)
 - Dirty Dozen, Terrible 12, Thumbs-Down Top 12
- Finalization & rollout in January!
- Statewide Updates
 - North American Invasive Species Managers conference—Audrey
 - Session on Effects of Glyphosates on human health—see PowerPoint
 - Note that this only tested the active ingredient, not any of the formulations
 - Discussion on need for record-keeping on exposures for workers
 - New Invasive Species—featured in activity!
 - Biocontrol updates—several in process—see PowerPoint
 - MISC
 - Annual Meeting in December
 - Working to get more CISMA leadership, less State “power”
 - Midwest Invasive Plant Network—Emily
 - Working to add a Michigan business rep—a *Go Beyond Beauty* participant?
 - Working to improve resources/awareness with CISMAs
 - MIPN’s Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes (WIGL) Collaborative—Katie
 - New alternatives to woody invaders app/website rolling out soon; it’s awesome!
 - Great to tie in with *Go Beyond Beauty*
 - Play Clean Go
 - Eastern Expansion is spreading to 5 new states this year

Partner Updates

- Grand Traverse Conservation District: Focused on dam removals & habitat restoration! Additionally, the Nature Center has been getting some TLC; check out the updated gallery on your way out
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians: partnering with Leelanau Conservancy on tree plantings & invasive species control at DeYoung & Chip Run, partnering with ISN on HWA; always up for more partnerships
- DNR Orchard Beach: >2,000 hours spent on woody invasives work! Also doing seed collection and Happy Little Trees planting (people love it!)
- Monnie Peters/Neatawantah: Surveyed HWA with ISN; looking forward to more this year!
- Manistee Conservation District: Testing DIY chemical injections for oak wilt; lots of brush management moving through the NRCS; Tyler Dulo just hired as the Conservation Tech
- US Forest Service: Pat Ruta McGann retired; Carolyn is doing both jobs. **Carolyn’s email has changed: Carolyn.henne@usda.gov. The old one doesn’t work!** ~1,000 acres treated by CISMA partners and their own crew
- Benzie Conservation District/AISPP: Applied for AISPP in 4 counties for MISGP; also maintaining a partnership with the US Forest Service for Benzie County; doing boat washes at paid events (races), enrolling lakes in Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program & “Score the Shore” assessments; seeking increased volunteer engagement; some phragmites & cattail treatments
- Leelanau Conservancy: Cattail treatments, bike trail installation, farmhouse restoration, installing fern garden; working with contractors on decontamination; controlling shrubs, butterbur, plantings to battle autumn olive re-invasion
- Laurel Voran, Glen Lake Assoc: Continuing work against coltsfoot; branching out to yellow flag iris, Phragmites, and future butterbur treatments



- Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions: lots of treatments in northern Michigan and Wisconsin! Also native plantings. Excited to continue!
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy: Treating many species on properties, wrapping up Campaign for Generations with new properties coming online; working to provide same services to all properties; some properties have their own lakes, which is a new experience! Partnering with ISN for HWA for easement owners
- DNR Leelanau/TC: garlic mustard & autumn olive work continues; Michigan Cares for Tourism workday had ISN involvement
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore: >500 acres of treatment & 39 species treated; tested musselcide in Good Harbor Bay on invasive mussels (connecting gobies, mussels, and avian botulism), working with GVSU/US Forest Service for air column testing for HWA (SLBE as control); Early Detection work on islands; another 1,000 acres of prescribed burns for next year; hoping for goat work in future; emerald ash borer/lingering ash/reestablishing black ash swamps project (environmental vs. genetic resistance); invasive species work to start in plover areas (late-season treatment only); 50th anniversary in 2020; UMich implementing habitat resiliency against invasive species; establishing Michigan Monkeyflower working group
 - Discussion: how to decontaminate mowers?
 - Air compressors
 - Brushes
 - Do decontamination while on the ramp (grate?) to the trailer

Adjourn