



# Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network

## Partner Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

1-4 pm

Boardman River Nature Center

**Attendees:** Katie Grzesiak, Fields Ratliff, Emily Cook, Rebecca Koteskey (ISN), Jon Throop (GTRLC), DJ Shook (GTBOI/NRCS), Kaldis Grants (TNC), Shaun Howard (TNC), John Ransom (BCD) Ari Cornman (LRBOI), Jason Kimbrough (NRCS), Leah Robison (LC), Paula Dreeszen (GTRLC volunteer), Jane Perrino (BCD/AIS), Archie Martell (LRBOI), Nathan Helms (SLBE), Chelsea Loomis (SLBE), Keith Ferguson (SLBE), Neil Run (SLBE), Erica Adams (SLBE), Nicole Schafer (SLBE), Kenyon Fatt (SLBE), Andrew Harmon (SLBE), Monnie Peters (Peninsula Twp resident), David Barrons (Leelanau Goes Native), Susan Spencer (MCD), Cheryl Gross (Plant It Wild), Emily Douglas (LC), Tara Knapp (LCD)

### ISN introduction (See *powerpoint*)

- History
- Outreach strategies

### ISN Steering Committee Updates—Jon Throop (ISN Steering Committee Chair)

- Steering Committee focuses the efforts of ISN – trying to balance the different types of organizations represented on the SC
- Representatives are from throughout partner pool and while there is no need to fill spots, it is a committee open to more participants to increase group diversity (i.e. landowner, etc.)

### ISN Updates & Discussion (See *powerpoint*)

- Grants Update – Katie Grzesiak
  - Several grants are complete or almost completed
    - MISGP2 (October 2017)—spent out
    - USFS2015 (March 2017)—very close to spent out
    - GLRI2015 (December 2017)
  - “New” grants
    - GLRI2016 – ornamental invasive outreach & control & crew (awarded several months late. Will be seeking an extension to make-up for lost field season)
    - USFS CWMA 2016 – mainly treatment, some staff time
    - USFS Outreach – new grant, entirely for outreach efforts, aimed at southern end of our region
  - Grant proposals recently submitted – awaiting word (Winter 2018)
    - MISGP2017 FAIT1 – core function
    - MISGP2017 FAIT2 – ornamental invasive treatments & crew
    - MISGP2017 FA6 – GBB strategic planning (statewide focus)
  - One upcoming grant proposal
    - USFS CWMA 2017 (due in January) – Seeking project ideas for proposal; treatment-focused
      - Presently considering dumpsters for each county, contract treatments of high-priority species, and staff time.
- Field Season Recap – Fields Ratliff (See *powerpoint*)
  - Source populations of Japanese knotweed and phragmites were treated (Veteran’s Oak Grove Drive and Betsie Bay/Manistee Lake/Manistee Rive Delta
    - 240 acres, phragmites
    - 7 acres Japanese knotweed
  - Treated Focus 4 and other species
    - Knotweed – 114 sites/8 acres
    - Phragmites – 31 sites/40 acres



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- Garlic mustard – 51.1 acres/100+ bags
- Oriental Bittersweet – 1 site, several more are planned
- Others include: giant hogweed, multiple species in Kid's Creek, baby's breath, Japanese barberry
- Restoration Projects
  - Planted over 1,300 trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses to restore 37.5 acres
  - Provided resources to multiple partners
- Surveying
  - Exceeded all goals and were able to work on inland lakes in addition to Lake Michigan shoreline.
  - No survey crew next year (regular Crew will do some surveys on rain days)
- GPS units need calibration!
  - If you have an ISN GPS unit, calibrate it or bring it to ISN to calibrate it for you; EPA requires this
  - Need to borrow a GPS? Let us know
- Q&A:
  - ISN treats on a combination of public and private lands
  - Cost-share was implemented this year to great success
  - Efficacy of MarshMaster vs. helicopter treatment—helicopter better for wide-spread homogeneous infestations, MarshMaster better for spottier work
  - Use of drones/UAVs for treatment—low capacity; mostly used for survey in this industry
- Outreach Efforts — Emily Cook (See *powerpoint*)
  - Go Beyond Beauty
    - Overview of program and recent expansion to include others apart from nurseries and landscapers
    - 36 participants including 22 nurseries/landscapers
    - Japanese barberry focus this year
    - “Dumpster Day”
      - 3 events (Grand Traverse and Manistee counties)
      - 125+ barberry plants returned in exchange for coupons to GBB businesses (participation by regional landowners)
    - Buyback Program
      - Targeted businesses with barberry growing in their landscape
      - 13 local businesses participated in 3 counties
      - 144 plants and replaced with native species!
    - What is next for the program?
      - Continue to recruit new participants
      - Host an additional Dumpster Day in 2018
      - Discussion on the potential for state-wide programming continues
  - Workbees
    - Garlic mustard – 4, one in each county
    - Baby's breath – 6, all on Elberta Beach in Benzie County, a partnership with GTRLC
    - Japanese barberry – Portage Lake and Frankfort
  - Schools/Education
    - “Leelanau Goes Native” – potential partnership with Saving Birds Thru Habitat to teach kids about invasive species while they develop their own bird habitat (Pathfinder School project in Spring 2018)
    - Curriculum and associated materials are now available on ISN's website.



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- Communications Update – Rebecca Koteskey (See *powerpoint*)
  - Leelanau TART Trails Invasive Species Management Plan is complete and has been submitted to them.
    - Plan includes introduction of invasive species, prevention, and treatment/best management practices
  - Municipality Outreach
    - All municipalities in four county service area are being targeted
    - Working with interested parties to implement invasive species ordinances and/or planting guidelines.
      - 9 township presentations completed in 2017
      - Several townships are likely to host garlic mustard dumpsters in 2018
- State-wide Updates – Katie Grzesiak (See *powerpoint*)
  - MISC Annual Meeting is December 12 and 13 in Gaylord, Michigan
    - Katie serves as chair
    - Annual meeting topics include sustainable funding, working with Road Commissions, CISMA tools, and how to conduct legislative tours, among others
  - Play, Clean, Go
    - Katie is on Steering Committee
    - State-wide adoption of program as occurred
    - Tri-national participation (US, Canada, Mexico)
    - Partners can participate too (not just ISN); great messaging to get the idea across!
  - RIPPLE
    - Be aware that this program exists to spread awareness on Plant and Pet escapes (from pet stores & owners, etc.)
- NAISMA Conference Updates
  - Katie attended North American Invasive Species Management Association annual conference in Reno
  - Topics included biocontrol for flowering rush, weed-free forage program, Eurasian water milfoil treatment via new invention, and much more!

#### Strategic Planning and Discussion

- Background & introduction (See *powerpoint*)
- How it's organized:
  - Outcomes = big-picture, pie-in-the-sky ideas that we will always strive toward
  - Strategies = how to work toward the Outcomes; actual things that can be achieved
  - Workplan = what we're actually doing to work toward the Strategies, on-the-ground
  - The above 3 should all tie in to each other
  - Other parts:
    - ISN Operation—how we do what we do at the current time
      - Staff, processes, roles of partners, etc.
    - Organizational chart—trying to graphically show how ISN's many parts function together to make decisions
- Discussion: Are we missing anything? Does everything make sense? Is anything incorrect?
  - Wordsmithing: fixing phrasing to make things more clear & measurable
  - Discussion of the need for a Strategic Scope write-up preceding the Outcomes to properly frame the document (explain the organization, goals of the document, etc.)
  - Terrestrial plant focus, but mentioning links to aquatic, insect, and forest invasives too
  - Focus on the positive (habitat), especially with messaging
  - Analyze measurability of strategies



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- Note: we didn't want too many numbers, because numbers are often required in grants
- Surveying & data sharing is crucial, even just for the data's sake (future work)
- More focus on habitat (since that's how all our outreach work is framed?)
  - Unpack some into Strategies
- Educating lawmakers & other organizations? Where else can we fill gaps?
- Explicit partnership with MISIN/Eyes on the Forest?
- **Discussion cut short due to time; please email Katie or Jon your thoughts or questions ([kgrzesiak@gtcd.org](mailto:kgrzesiak@gtcd.org), [jthroop@gtrlc.org](mailto:jthroop@gtrlc.org))**

Little River Band Arctic Grayling Project – Archie Martell, Little River Band (See *powerpoint*)

- Reintroduction of Arctic Grayling into the Northern Manistee River
- Iconic, native fish that was extirpated; once the dominant salmonid in the northern Lower Peninsula
  - Overharvest, logging, and non-native stocking all played a part in extirpation
  - Stocking was tried in the 1800s through late 1900s without success
    - “Imprinting” didn't work—fish didn't know where to go to spawn
- Bring back historic food source with sustainable populations (rather than just stocking)
  - Focus on upper Manistee (upriver of Hodenpyle) for now; hope to expand
  - Remote Site Incubators (RSI) used to help fish imprint (worked in Montana!)
  - May be competition between brook trout & grayling—going OK in Montana, but it's a big unknown
- Q&A:
  - Both a subsistence fish AND a sportfish
  - Montana's efforts started in 2005 and use fall recruitment to measure success
- Visit [MichiganGrayling.org](http://MichiganGrayling.org) for more info, or contact Archie [ArchieMartell@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:ArchieMartell@lrboi-nsn.gov)

Partner Updates

- Josh Shields, Manistee Conservation District
  - Contractors are currently implementing oak wilt treatments (2<sup>nd</sup> year); proposal for MISGP2017 submitted for future oak wilt funding
  - Invasive species restoration/exclusion experiment set up with herbicides & tilling & native plantings to oust spotted knapweed this fall—hoping for good information to share with landowners
- DJ Shook, NRCS/GT Band of Indians
  - NRCS EQIP sign-up deadline is in mid-January (plans should be written NOW); contact your NRCS rep to get this going, as there's a targeted pot of funds from GLRI for our region
  - Tribe applied for IS grant with ISN for treatment & restoration & education (especially cultural)
  - Tribe is hoping to expand participation with more CISMAs
- Reb Ratliff, GTCD
  - Parklands program works on upland & wetland woody invasives especially with dams projects underway
  - Resource needs for IS on the Brown Bridge bottomlands have dramatically decreased!
  - Planning to hit the ground running on IS at Boardman & Sabin ponds (dam removals)
- Monnie Peters (Penninsula Twp)
  - Shoreline issues are main focus (*Phragmites*)
  - Need continuous education for landowners
  - Need for resources for relators



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- From Jane Perrino: [mishorelandstewards.org/](http://mishorelandstewards.org/) for general shoreline conservation information for landowners
- Jon Throop, GT Regional Land Conservancy
  - Last SOGL grant is wrapping up
  - 8 AmeriCorps members this year, 7 more next year (2 returning)
  - First year of goats eating invasives program was a success!
  - 200 acres of baby's breath controlled at Elberta Beach/Sand Products properties
  - Autumn olive projects in Yuba & Acme
- Jane Perrino, Benzie Conservation District/AIS Pathways Project
  - First year of project!
  - Mobile boatwash stations had very positive response this year; >660 boats washed
  - Also good for "what did I find under my dock" questions
  - One municipality made Eurasian water milfoil a priority for the future, even though they don't have it now!
  - 2 new IDs of Eurasian water milfoil in inland lakes
  - Nov 15 is BCD's annual meeting
- Kaldis & Shaun, The Nature Conservancy/Michigan Dune Alliance
  - Wrapping up SOGL
  - Hoping for a hemlock woolly adelgid grant from MISGP (focused on survey)
  - Phragmites Tax Increment Financing paper FINALLY published:  
<https://cbe.miis.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1076&context=joc>
- Nathan Helms, Sleeping Bear Dunes NL
  - Redeveloping baby's breath strategy to prioritize winnable battles, especially in the Plateau
  - Autumn olive in Otter Creek watershed is at maintenance levels
  - Large-scale survey protocol for baby's breath, knapweed, & Pitcher's thistle
  - Monitoring for scale-resistant beech trees (~100 prospective sites)
- Emily & Leah, Leelanau Conservancy
  - Restoration in areas that had previous treatment (hoping for exclusion)
    - Chippewa Run had woody removal & native plantings
    - Whaleback had sweet woodruff removal & "spreading" natives planted
    - Houdek Dunes had erosion control with snowfencing & dune grass
  - IS Citizen Science program
  - Presently torching garlic mustard at Clay Cliffs
- Ari & Archie, Little River Band of Indians
  - Autumn olive & honeysuckle in Tribal property 😞
  - New property overrun with Scots pine—will raze & plant natives!
  - Survey of most oaks for oak wilt with USFS
  - Other conservation projects with martens, loons, turtles, and snowshoe hare
- Tara Knapp, Leelanau Conservation District
  - Sub-grantee for new GLRI award—especially with areas from the 2015 windstorm
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grad Field Day was a big success!