



## 2018 Spring Partner Meeting Notes

April 11, 2018, 1-3 pm  
Boardman River Nature Center  
1450 Cass Rd.

### Introductions

- Jake Bournay, Vickie Smith, Shaun Howard, Jennifer Flynn, Tom Maiolani, Ari Cornman, Dave Barrons, John Ransom, Monnie Peters, Josh Shields, Jeanie Williams, Andrea Hunt, Becky Hill, Carolyn Henne, Kate Lewis, Madison Meter, Laurene Kallioinen, Eric Clone, Jodi Monteith, Laurel Voran, Paul Jarvi, Kaldis Grants, Marsha Barber Clark, Chelsea Nester, AmeriCorps members (GTRLC)
- ISN Staff: Katie Grzesiak, Emily Cook, Rebecca Koteskey, Audrey Menninga, Fields Ratliff

### ISN Introduction (See ppt)

### ISN Steering Committee Updates—Becky Hill

- ISN's Strategic Plan is in the final stages!
- A Funding Plan has been drafted to help guide ISN into more diversified funding

### ISN Updates & Discussion

- MISIN data submission
  - If you have data, please submit it at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://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
- GPS Units
  - **If you have borrowed a unit from ISN, it needs calibration ASAP for compliance with our EPA GLRI grant**
  - Questions? Contact Audrey Menninga [ameninga@gtcd.org](mailto:ameninga@gtcd.org)
- Funding Update
  - Fully funded through October 2018; “patchy” funding extends through October 2019
    - EPA GLRI
      - Focused on invasive ornamental control
      - Funds crew, staff
    - USFS CWMA (GLRI), 2016 & 2018
      - General ISN funding—staff time, treatment, restoration
    - USFS Outreach (GLRI)
      - IS education efforts in Manistee County specifically, staff time
    - MISGPI7
      - “core” funding for ISN—staff time, treatment, outreach
    - GTB subgrant (awaiting paperwork)
      - Treatment & restoration, staff time
    - TNC subgrant (awaiting paperwork)
      - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) surveys, staff time, other?
  - Future grants
    - USFS GLRI Restoration funds—possible application, due May 11
      - Coastal wetland restoration (especially trees)
        - Can include adjacent uplands
      - Please share sites within our four-county region that may be candidates; tree planting is emphasized by the RFP
        - Josh Shields: In areas that have been hit by EAB, herbaceous may be more successful than trees, due to hydraulic changes. In some places, red maple may already be in place, and herbaceous plants could compliment the already established trees
        - Betsie River/Lake put forward as a possible site
    - Rotary grant (fall 2018)
      - ISN will only apply if the grant is for more than one year

- MISGP2018 coming up in May (approx.)
- Outreach & *Go Beyond Beauty*—Emily Cook
  - New resources
    - Activity Book created by volunteer (Master Gardener) Holly Wright
      - Available now from ISN
    - Michigan Native Garden Design (For the birds!) created by Michigan Audubon, printed by ISN
      - Describes many Michigan native garden plans and how they support birds
      - Printed 4/17/2018; available now
  - *Go Beyond Beauty*
    - Upcoming *GBB* meeting: April 25, 6pm at Boardman River Nature Center
      - Presentation by Tom Ford on backyard habitat
    - Expansions!
      - Public (gardeners, garden groups, municipalities) can now be participants!
        - 17 “other” participants as of 4/11/2018
      - Working on extra recognition for participants to help the program sustain itself
        - Basic participation will always be free
        - Trainings to staff (half or whole day)
        - Audits of stock/orders to assure no high-priority invasives are sold
        - Extra recognition for businesses phasing out additional invasive ornamental plants
        - Site visits for “other” participants
  - Japanese Barberry Trade-up continues!
    - June 15, 10am-2pm in Manistee County
    - June 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm at the Boardman River Nature Center
    - Looking at doing other counties in the future.
    - The dumpster days are not a “line item” in any grants (but we’ll make it work), and we’ll be writing for it in the future
- Bootbrush stations
  - Cost-share (\$150 each) for ready-to-go bootbrush stations (15 remaining); you’ll want weather-proof stickers of your logo
  - If you want to get your own, we’re happy to share our PDF for the sign, and the station-building specifications
- Native Plant Sign orders
  - <\$10 each (printed on aluminum with a 30” stake), or get the PDFs for free
  - Orders due by the end of April
- Municipality outreach—Rebecca Koteskey
  - Bingham and Suttons Bay townships have added or updated their invasive species ordinances; Benzonia and Leelanau townships are working on theirs now
    - Solon, Cleveland townships will be reached out to based on partner recommendations
    - Lake associations etc. will be approached this year as well
  - Garlic mustard dumpsters for the public will be in each county this year! (USFS funding)

- **Decontamination protocols are available [on ISN's website](#) (or email Katie)—please consider adding these to any contracts or requests for proposals to help stop the spread of invasive species!**
- Restoration projects—Fields Ratliff
  - Last year we funded 10 projects on 30 acres! Trees and herbaceous species were used.
  - This year we hope to meet or exceed this number—proposals are in
- Treatment Update—Fields Ratliff
  - 2018 plans
    - Goal of 500 acres of treatment this year
      - Focus is on ornamental invasive species, like knotweed, barberry, buckthorns, honeysuckles, baby's breath, and more
      - Other Top 20 and Focus Four species may also be treated
    - Crew use requests coming soon!
  - Surveys--contact Fields or Audrey with ideas for “rainy day” survey projects for the crew
- Workbees, workshops, & events—Visit [habitatmatters.org/eventsworkbees](http://habitatmatters.org/eventsworkbees) for a complete list
  - Spring & summer workbees
    - GM workbees food change
    - BB workbees all summer!
  - Future trainings & workshops
    - GM papermaking workshop with Jane Kramer—full! (June 2)
    - Knotweed Community Trainings
      - Manistee (June 9)
      - Leelanau (June 13)
    - **ID/GPS Training—June 7; please consider sending your seasonal workers to this training! No cost, just please RSVP with a number to Katie by the end of May.**
- MISC update
  - Every county in Michigan is now associated with a CISMA! We might be the first state to do this. 😊
  - Rack cards are being created to help CISMAs connect people with other CISMAs
  - Reviewed feedback from the annual meeting for next year
  - Planning a CISMA “field trip” again for this summer
  - Don't forget about the MISC Forum: <http://forum.michiganinvasives.org/>
    - Great place to ask, share, & get IS info from all over the state

#### Partner Updates

- Becky Hill, Leelanau Conservancy:
  - Goats! The conservancy will use the goats for garlic mustard and possibly shrubs at Clay Cliffs, using a contractor to take care of and move the goats around
    - They will be there during the ISN work bee (Sat., May 19)
  - The garlic mustard dumpster the Leelanau Conservancy is going to be located at Clay Cliffs
- Marsha Barber Clark (Grand Traverse Conservation District):
  - GTCD is going for a millage. If you have any further questions, send them towards Marsha ([mclark@gtcd.org](mailto:mclark@gtcd.org))
  - A new foot bridge at Brown Bridge Flat area to connect two trails. GTCD received \$50,000 for the footbridge, which was matched by the City of Traverse City
  - Clean up from the dam removal last year is ongoing

- Registration for summer camps have started, and they have already exceeded last year's total. Field trip visits for schools will start soon.
- Vickie Smith (Wetland and Wildlife Solutions):
  - Beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> year of treatment in Green Bay on about 800 acres of Phragmites
  - Treating about 1200 acres of Phragmites in the U.P.
- Carolyn Henne (Manistee National Forest):
  - Crew of 7 people this year
  - Focusing on invasive species along Lake Michigan to protect piping plover and Pitcher's Thistle habitat
    - Also wild and scenic rivers, access sites, and other high-risk areas
- Dave Barrons (Leelanau Parks & Rec):
  - Submitted application for Veronica Valley MDNR Natura Resource Trust Fund to install some ADA trails to the fishing ponds
  - Pocket prairie in progress!
- Laurel Voran (Glen Lake Association):
  - Waiting for coltsfoot to come up
  - Surveys for treatment efficacy soon
- Josh Shields, Manistee Conservation District:
  - Oak wilt grant through MISGP was able to be extended into a 3<sup>rd</sup> year--\$97,000 spent and \$20,000 left
  - Cost share with the state will dry up, but looking at cost share programs with the NRCS
  - Also, plastic injectors that are cheaper and "do it yourself" may also be an option for homeowners—experimenting this year
  - **Don't trim oaks April 15-July 15 OR only prune during dormant season if possible.** Use pruning sealer for any wounds during the growing season.
  - Native plant sale will be the same day as the Barberry Trade-Up day (June 15<sup>th</sup>)
- John Ransom & Jodi Montieth (Benzie Conservation District):
  - BCD is up for their millage this year
  - Some events this year include Platte and Betsie river clean-up days
  - Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program ongoing
  - Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways Project will have 2 boat washing stations around the 3 counties (Benzie, Leelanau, Manistee)
- Kate Lewis (TART):
  - Launching a task force of volunteers to begin taking care of invasive species along the TART Leelanau trail, expanding to other trails too?
- Ari Cornman, Little River Band:
  - Oak wilt survey will begin on all their properties after one was found with suspected oak wilt
  - Checking in on native plantings
  - New purchased property is full of Scotch Pine; working to get a grant for treatment.
- Jake Bournay (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy):
  - AmeriCorps crew of six focusing on dune invasives, forests
  - Also investigating forest health this year, and assessing areas where the goat herd was last year
- Eric Clone (Inhabitect):
  - Purchased property in Solon township last year, starting a nursery on it

- **Please share potential sites for native Plant Rescue efforts**
  - Attacked Japanese barberry last year in Manistee and Grand Traverse County
  - Hiring for 2018!
  - Partnering with Child Services and AmeriCorps to begin a Youth Corps program
    - Teach at-risk youth hireable skills!
- Kaldis Grants & Shaun Howard (TNC, Michigan Dune Alliance):
  - Save Our Great Lakes (SOGL), part 3 is wrapped up; accomplished and exceeded goals
    - EDR species reduced by 90%
  - Have a dune crew of 7 this year, and will be collaborating with partners on mostly baby's breath treatments this year
  - Collaborating with Grand Valley State University on baby's breath genetic analysis & chemical treatment efficacy evaluation
- Jeanie Williams (Inland Seas):
  - The ship is on its way up to Sutton's Bay TODAY!
  - School programs begin in one month
  - Inland Seas is doing some new landscaping around the building
  - New programs to get classes interested in red swamp crayfish detection
- Chelsea Nester (GTSI),
  - Offering "build your own field trips" to teachers across many counties
  - Working with GRACE projects to help students learn new skills. Have paid interns that are learning how to use GIS—looking for host sites!

### **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Introduction—Josh Shields**

- Why care about hemlock? It has a low timber value
  - Hemlock is one of our most important "foundation" species
    - As a single tree or dominant component of the forest, it keeps streams cold and changes soil chemistry
    - Creates a "pit & mound" topography that supports many mini-ecosystems
  - Has a high wildlife value for songbirds (food & nesting) as well as winter shelter for mammals
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is a non-native insect pest related to aphids
  - It can be ID'd by the cottony tufts (like tiny cotton balls) on the bottom-side base of needles
  - It's a sap-sucking insect that, left unchecked, will eventually kill the tree
  - It moves by young "crawlers" to new trees via birds, people, vehicles, and other touch-based spread
  - If the tree is still green, there's a chance to save it
- Quarantines in Michigan
  - Hemlock can't be moved into the state from elsewhere
  - HWA was first discovered in the wild in 2015 (previous discoveries in landscapes)
    - 5 counties are presently known to be infested, and have internal hemlock quarantines—trees and live materials can't be moved out of these counties
- Prevention, Detection, and Containment
  - State Parks are common hotspots—crawlers hitch rides on RVs and other large vehicles/trailers especially
  - Surveys are going on now in the 5 affected counties as well as the Lake Michigan region (ISN contributing)
  - **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
- Treatments
  - There's work now in APHIS for a biocontrol beetle
  - Insecticide injections work, but kill *any* insect eating the tree
    - Last 2-3 years or 5 years, depending on the insecticide
  - (P.S. there's a wasp biocontrol that may work for emerald ash borer!)

### Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Updates & Training—Shaun Howard

- Surveys are taking place both in the infested counties (to see what's there) and outside (to see IF it's there)
  - Known populations are clustered along the Lake Michigan shoreline; we'll start there
  - The best time to survey is November through March (though anytime will work)
    - The cottony tufts are more recognizable
    - Crawlers aren't active (less chance of spread)
      - Decontamination is key during crawler activity—hot dryer for clothes & shoes, hot showers for people
    - Surveys are also looking for elongate hemlock scale
      - Going to use the data to find out if EHS helps or hurts HWA
    - The MISIN app will be used for public reporting; separate app for CISMA surveys
    - **NO reports are official or to be publicized until confirmed by MDARD & APHIS**
      - Once confirmed, a county-wide quarantine will be established
      - THEN the public will be informed
- Governance Structure
  - There's a Coordination board with many sub-committees (survey, treatment, data, outreach, research/biocontrol etc.)
  - The West MI HWA Taskforce is a part of the WM CISMA funded through GLRI
    - SaveMIHemlocks.org
    - 2 MISGP grants also awarded for survey & treatment in West MI
    - Another grant for Michigan Dune Alliance (TNC) for surveys in 10 counties outside of the 5 quarantined counties (us!)
- MDA Surveys
  - Use risk factors to prioritize initial “detection” surveys
    - Human traffic, brush piles, hemlock presence, high quality habitat, near lakeshore
  - Just looking for overall distribution (is it here yes/no), NOT looking for whether it's on every tree
    - Checking roughly 30 trees per 4 acres gives a 75% chance of finding HWA if it's there
    - Looking at more trees actually doesn't increase that likelihood by much, just wastes time
    - Shaun will help facilitate decision making of where to survey
  - Delimitation surveys (looking at every tree to determine the extent of the infestation in an area we KNOW has HWA) will happen in the 5 quarantined counties & anywhere else HWA is confirmed
  - Actual survey is very technically easy!
- Mapping

- Must have ArcGIS Online
- Go to ArcGIS.com, sign in
  - Share login info with Shaun to be added to the HWA survey group
  - Download Survey123 app to mobile device
  - Login using ArcGIS login info
  - Add surveys: “HWA Survey123”
- Works offline so long as you have GIS
  - Don’t need data plan
  - Download stuff when you get back on wifi
- Survey123 specifics
  - Detection Site = the larger area you’re surveying; site ID is whatever you want
  - Add point—not per tree; the 30 trees make 1 point (present yes/no)
  - Location—let the GPS do it, or click the map and pan around to find your location
  - Area—size of HWA infestation
  - Photo is saved w/ spatial data
  - Add another point if doing subunits of a larger site
  - “✓” = done & save
  - Continue survey = new site
- Tablets and phones both work for this
  - Just make sure the tablet has GPS
- If you find HWA
  - Take a sample to send to APHIS
  - DON’T publicize until APHIS confirms
    - A county-wide quarantine will be established
    - THEN the public will be informed
  - DO start delimitation surveys right away