



# Meeting Notes

## Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network

### Partner Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2019

1-4 pm

Boardman River Nature Center

**Attendees:** Katie, Fields, Andy, Emily (ISN), Josh Shields (MCD/FAP), Becky Hill (LC), Marsha Barber Clark, Tom Vitale (GTCD), Connor Kotte, Shelly Stusick. (LC -AmeriCorps), Julia Gehring (SLBE), John Ransom (BCD), Carolyn Henne (USFS), Jake Bournay, Jake Blessing, Mike Okma (GTRLC), Parker Maynard (GTRLC – AmeriCorps), Emily Elshoff (SEEDS), Mikayla Leishman (WWS), Melissa Witkowski (GT Band)

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

### ISN introduction

Katie covered ISN basics for new(er) attendees including Habitat Matters messaging. Communications Specialist (Rebecca Koteskey) position ended + Invasive Species Specialist position created (Audrey Menninga) HWA survey tech and crew lead seasonal positions combined.

### ISN Steering Committee Updates—Becky Hill

Grants ongoing, Strategic plan work continued, there is a need to redo the “TOP 20” and “FOCUS 4” because so much has changed since that original list was created. Will be working on throughout summer and have some sort of draft ready by the fall partner meeting.

### ISN Updates & Discussion (Part I)

Outreach & *Go Beyond Beauty*—Emily Cook

- Outreach materials & efforts
  - Bootbrush stations – available at cost share
  - Native Plant Sign orders – due 4/15
  - New project: invasive species signs to educate that infestations may be pretty, but they're not valuable for habitat! Partnership with Pathfinder School to start
  - Printed materials available as always to partners—contact ISN for pickup/drop-off
  - Municipality outreach work will be weaker without an Outreach Specialist
    - Partner assistance? GTRLC offers connections
- *GBB* update – Achievement Levels are now available for a fee – program is still available for free at a basic level.
  - Achievement Levels include training for staff, site visits, and committing not to sell further invasive species than the basic level requires
  - Japanese barberry trade-ups are on, and registration is open! GT & Benzie counties this year, (Leelanau next year?)
- Upcoming Events, trainings, & workshops listed on website
  - ID workshops available to partners but not on website (6/3 & 6/4)—stay tuned for details

Field Season—Fields Ratliff

- Treatment (1,000 acre goal) + Survey (3,000 acre goal)
- HWA update
  - Prioritization meeting December 2018, Partner Training in February 2019
  - Season ending now! A few small projects over the summer
  - 5,160 Acres surveyed + 119 sites (37 different owners and partners)
  - \*\*Ask an ISN staff member if you would like to see the map of HWA survey sites
  - SLBE is working with GVSU on eDNA test for detecting HWA!
    - Passive aerial sampling for HWA at low levels
    - Proof-of-concept works, so now it's on to development (funding-dependent)



- Summer Crew plans
  - Crew in place, 2 seasonals + crew lead (Audrey)
  - Send check-out requests to Fields/Audrey. Should be coming out by end of April.
- Restoration work
  - Planting over 1,000 seedlings across ISN Service Area.
  - Waiting on additional funding for partner projects

### **Invasive Species Activity!**

Species covered: coltsfoot, butterbur, slender false brome, callery/Bradford pear, flowering rush, forget-me-not, woodland bluegrass, scotch thistle, Himalayan blackberry, yellow flag iris

### **ISN Updates & Discussion (Part II)**

MISIN data submission—if you haven't submitted your surveys/detections, **PLEASE DO**

ISN resource recap

- There are a lot of resources available to folks—in print and electronic
- Many electronic resources (including some great lists of websites/books) are on the website
  - Decontamination protocols, planting guides for municipalities, print and online resource list,
- MISC Forum is a great resource for communicating outside our service area

Funding Update

- Fully funded through April 2020, strongly funded through October 2020
- 7 grants currently. EPA GLRI, MISGP, USFS (GLRI), GTBOI (GLRI), Gerstacker, TNC HWA (MISGP)
- Upcoming grants – USFS 2019, USFS Outreach 2019, MISGP 2019
- Also just submitted a mini-grant through MISGP/DEQ – Clean Boats, Clean Waters
- Funding plan draft is complete, finalization ongoing
  - Pushing towards diversifying funding
- The strategic plan was approved in 2018 and is on website
  - Living document that the Steering Committee will continue to revisit and update.

Top 20 Revamp

- Background
  - It has been 10 years and at the time of conception MISIN did not exist!
  - Time to go back to square one and make sure our priorities are good/revamp some
- Goals & outputs—what should this look like? (brainstorming)
  - Who is it for?
  - Categorize by habitats?
  - Include EDR?
  - Categorize by risk or population?
  - Providing resources for people when a species is not prioritized (i.e. autumn olive, NRCS EQIP), \*\*There is no acreage minimum and includes some paperwork but worth it for funding availability
  - Just plants? Or would we include aquatics as well? Mission would need to change (“terrestrial invasive plants”)
    - Carolyn notes it started with terrestrial plants because resources were so limited
- Species to consider (brainstorming)
  - Himalayan blackberry
  - Hellborine orchid
  - baby's breath (& all T20)
  - swallow-worts
  - burning bush
  - spurges (cypress, other?)
  - Oregon grape



- black jetbead
- Japanese stiltgrass
- cheatgrass
- tree-of-heaven
- houndstongue
- myrtle
- false brome
- Austrian pine
- Lombardy poplar
- privet (common)
- Miscanthus/silver grass
- money plant
- common tansy
- Japanese hedgeparsley

### Statewide Updates

- MISC—helping CISMAs talk to each other – Core Team Participation
- MIPN—board participation ongoing
- WIGL Collaborative (MIPN program)—new landscape alternatives app update coming soon!
- Play Clean Go—Eastern expansion involvement; more resources to come; partners should consider participation (it's a great message)

### Partner Updates—2 min each

- **Josh – FAP/MCD** - tree sale mode at MCD and ML Conservation District, Forestry for Michigan Birds committee (modeled after Vermont and Maine) – best management practices to encourage special species *i.e.* Canada and Blackburnian warbler, produce safety technician started at MCD, working on getting technical assistance as MCD staff to help with NRCS EQIP. Native Plant Sale is June 14 with Birdsfoot Nursery. Aquatic Plant workshop with Jo Latimore on Bear Lake.
- **Becky – LC** – IS work but also infrastructure and trail work. No goats at Clay Cliffs this year due to scheduling. Boardwalks, bike trails, etc.
- **Julia – SLBE** – still hiring people for the season so work may be a bit delayed. EAB bio release this year, first oak wilt occurrence in the park so early detection work is ongoing, Restoration project planned along Little Platte Lake – road removal and prescribed burns, GLRI pushing them to do more work with partners on forest health. IS threats to Glen Lake.
- **John – BCD** – tree sale, many events coming up – water tours and river clean-ups + Upper Herring Lake (should ISN be involved??), AISPP – Jodi and two interns + surveying vis FS funding, Potentially loaning boat wash to partners. Beach clean-ups and art auction
- **Jake(s) and Mike – GTRLC** – easement monitoring season + busy field season, three AmeriCorps, want 3-4 more – campaigns to protect a lot of properties, Jon Throop is designated volunteer coordinator, “Adopt a patch” program for invasive species, buckthorn removal at Petobego – easement side of things, let Mike/Jake know if there is access needed (25,000+ acres)
- **Carolyn – USFS** – Crew starts in a couple of weeks (9 people), 250,000 acres, GLRI grant to prioritize treatments along Lake MI shoreline for habitat (plover and pitcher’s thistle), Little Manistee and Manistee Rivers, savannah restoration, equipment cleaning protocol development for fire crew, 30 acre black locust site treatment
- **Emily – SEEDS** – Youth Conservation Corps is ready to be hired, teen leads and returnees – they will do pretty much anything from light construction to plant removal BUT no chemical application. They will be chainsaw trained.
- **Mikayala – WWS** – Nick has taken over as sole owner. Mikayala is filling Vickie’s role. Getting ready for field season
- **Melissa – GTBand** – Getting ready for big tree planting at DeYoung (Leelanau Conservancy) via EQIP, wild rice research going into late summer and fall