



# The Door County Invasive Species Team

*Empowering Door County citizens and municipalities with the information, tools, and skills to tackle invasive species.*

## Door County Invasive Species News

### INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2024 INVADER CRUSADER AWARD WINNERS

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) congratulates the winners of the 2024 Invasive Species Council Invader Crusader Awards. The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council selects the Invader Crusader award winners as part of Invasive Species Action Month in June. The governor-appointed council advises the DNR and the state legislature on invasive species issues.

Each year, the council honors Invader Crusaders, individuals, groups or organizations who have made significant contributions to prevent, monitor or control invasive species that can harm Wisconsin's ecosystems, economy and, in some cases, public health. Door County resident, Paul Regnier, is among one of the winners for his work within Marshall's Point.



*Photo by Wisconsin DNR*

Nominations come from residents and organizations, and awards are given in several categories. For more information about the winners of the 2024 Invader Crusader Awards please visit: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/94866>

### Farewell, Forget-Me-Nots! Door County Land Trust Volunteers Take Charge!

This June, DCLT stewardship volunteers tackled the invasive forget-me-nots, *Myosotis sylvatica*, by hand pulling them at two of the Land Trust properties. Forget-me-nots spread easily from gardens and can form large monocultures, crowding out native plant species and reducing the number of spring ephemeral wildflowers. Wild blue phlox, Virginia bluebells, dog violet, and Jacob's ladder are excellent native alternatives.

Gilson-Peterson Forest in Ellison Bay, offers a towering canopy of hemlock, white pine, and maples providing cover for migrating birds. Here volunteers removed scattered forget-me-nots, and made a significant impact on a large patch along the trail. The second workday focused on the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve, a diverse landscape of shorelines, sand dunes, and forests. Volunteers successfully removed the flowering forget-me-not population near a trail loop and Lake Lane, aiding the Preserve Steward in future management.

The Door County Land Trust staff would like to send a huge shout-out and thank you to the amazing volunteers who helped achieve this feat! You are awesome!



Make sure to check us out on Facebook on the Door County Invasive Species (DCIST) page and at our website <https://doorinvasives.org> for events, news, and more!

## Native Species Highlights

### Wisconsin Native Flower Species

Door County is home to many beautiful native plants that not only provide stunning visuals but also support a healthy ecosystem for pollinators and wildlife. The plants below are only a sliver of the species Door County has to offer. While you are outside enjoying summer in Door County, help halt invasive species by reporting any populations on the GLEDN app and landscape with native species!

**Shrubby Cinquefoil** (*Dasiphora fruticosa*): This plant can be found in a variety of habitats though is commonly found in sunny, moist sites in nature. The common name cinquefoil refers to the leaves, *cinq* means five and *foil* means leaf.



Photo by Oregon State University



Photo by Donald Cameron

**Swamp Candles** (*Lysimachia terrestris*): This plant can be found moist habitats and would be an excellent addition to a rain garden as it is a valuable plant for native bees. It also goes by the common name of earth loosestrife, but fear not, it has no relation to the invasive purple loosestrife.



Photo by Prairie Moon

**Yellow Pimpernel** (*Taenidia integerrima*): This plant can be found along the edges of woodlands and would be a fantastic addition to a shade garden at home. This offers a pop of color in a woodland in early summer. Yellow pimpernel also serves as a host plant for the black swallowtail. *Integerrima* comes from the Latin word *integerrimus*, which means “most entire” referring to the smooth, undivided margins of the leaflets.



Photo by Diane M. Narem

**June Grass** (*Koeleria macrantha*): This plant thrives in dry, sunny conditions. Its short stature makes it a great addition for a defined edge in a garden. June grass actively grows during cooler spring and fall seasons, providing interest before other grasses green up. The species epithet *macrantha* comes from the Greek word *makros*, meaning “large” and *anthos*, meaning “flower”.

DCIST relies on volunteers to help collect data on where invasive plants and animals are found in Door County.

If you're interested in helping, DCIST can provide training on the use of handheld GPS units or you can also use the GLEDN app to report findings via your smartphone. Contact DCIST at [dcist1@gmail.com](mailto:dcist1@gmail.com) for more information or learn how to download and use the app at <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn/>.

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter and keep up to date on our DCIST website at <https://doorinvasives.org>. We will be posting any and all additional training opportunities & educational materials as we receive them.

## Invasive Species Workshops, News, and Volunteer Opportunities

### Cana Island Makes Strides Against Invasive Dame's Rocket!

Although pretty, Dame's rocket is a nuisance to Door County's natural areas. Dame's Rocket produces abundant seed, and it is estimated a single plant can produce 1,000 – 2,000 seeds, this high seed production allows this species to quickly overwhelm natural areas. Long-time volunteer, Karen Smith, has regularly been pulling plants. Over the past two years, the County Park team has bolstered these efforts by using herbicide to further advance the fight on this invasive. Below is a before and after highlighting the hard work that has been put in for this invasive species removal.



*Photos by Tim Kazmierczak/Door County Parks*

### State Natural Areas Update

State natural areas (SNA) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape, with Door County being home to 29 SNA's. Although these SNAs are of high-quality habitats, they are not immune to problems with invasive species. Here in the northeast part of the state the SNA crews tackled garlic mustard removal at Newport State Park this spring. As we move into summer, they will focus their efforts on European marsh thistle, hound's-tongue, and garden valerian.



*Photo by Thomas A. Meyer/DNR*

### Invasive Species Volunteer Workdays at The Ridges

**Dates: July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

Come help with invasive species projects at The Ridges! Work will involve removing and bagging invasive plants. Wear appropriate footwear, pants, and long sleeves. Gloves, bags, and tools will be provided.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center



## Invasive Species Workshops, News, and Volunteer Opportunities

### The Ridges Stewardship Workshop Series

Dates: July 25<sup>th</sup>, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>

You are invited to take part in The Ridges Stewardship Workshops, a series that will focus on local environmental issues and what private landowners can do to better steward their own property. Ridges' Land Manager Sam Hoffman will lead discussions and demonstrate different field techniques ranging from plant identification and invasive species control, to promoting diverse wildlife habitats in your own backyard. Light hiking required.

To register, visit The Ridges website

<https://www.ridgessanctuary.org/event/stewardship-workshop-series/all/>



### Great Lakes Landing Blitz

June 26<sup>th</sup>-July 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Great Lakes Boat Launches

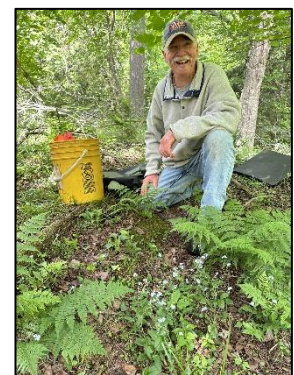
Every fourth-of-July weekend, AIS Partnership members and Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteers reach out to boaters across Wisconsin with a simple but powerful message: You have the power to protect lakes and rivers from aquatic invasive species. This year due to COVID-19 the Landing Blitz and the Drain Campaign have been combined.

Volunteers will be stationed at boat landings around the state to give demonstrations of the preventative steps that boaters must take before they leave the water: **Inspect** your boat, trailer and equipment, **Remove** all attached plants or animals, **Drain** all water from boats, motors, live-wells and other equipment, **Never** move live fish away from a waterbody, **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash, **Buy** minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer, and use leftover minnows only if you will be using them on that same waterbody or if no lake or river water or other fish were added to the container.



### Door County Land Trust Tackling Invasive Species

Managing invasive species is crucial to preserving native ecosystems and biodiversity. So far this year, DCLT has controlled roughly 74 acres of invasive species. With the help of contractors, 47.68 acres were dedicated to woody plant management, ensuring that aggressive, non-native shrubs didn't outcompete native vegetation. Furthermore, 19.45 acres were treated for garlic mustard, a particularly invasive plant known to disrupt the growth of native forest understory. Additionally, 4.88 acres were focused on the removal of woodland forget-me-nots, small but persistent plants that can quickly crowd out native species in forest understory. European marsh thistle, occupying 1.83 acres, also received targeted attention to prevent its prickly encroachment on native wetlands. Interested in volunteering at a future Door County Land Trust workday? [Click HERE](#) to sign-up to be on our Stewardship Crew email list and be notified of upcoming workdays.



The Door County Invasive Species Team – Jason Miller, Coordinator

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Check out our website at <https://doorinvasives.org>

## European Frog Bit

**Invasive Species Profile: European Frog Bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) An invader of Door County**

European frogbit (EFB) is a small floating invasive plant that can invade shallow or slow-moving waters. EFB can form large colonies of dense floating mats that can drastically reduce light that native plants need and restrict movement of large fish and diving duck. EFB was first found in Oconto County in 2021. It is a popular plant in the aquarium trade. Two populations were found in Door County in 2022, one in the Little Sturgeon area, the second near the mouth of Fish Creek.

EFB is a free-floating, aquatic plant that can form dense mats of interlocking plants. The leaves are leathery, measure 0.5-2.5" across and are round to heart-shaped. EFB produces small white three petal flowers in mid-summer. This plant rarely reproduces through seed, instead relying on vegetative reproduction.

EFB looks most similar to American frog-bit (*Limnobium spongia*) which is a native frog-bit found in the southern United States. EFB is smooth, often dark purple underneath, with tissues containing air pockets located mostly along the midvein.

Due to the recent discovery of this species in Wisconsin there is not much known for control options. The only known effective control method currently for this plant, is manual control. All known populations are being controlled through hand-pulling and ensuring the entire plant is removed. For more information please visit the Wisconsin DNR page at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/EuropeanFrogbit.html>. DCIST and the WDNR is asking the public to join in efforts for monitoring for this species.

European frog bit is a prohibited species under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule Chapter NR 40. Prohibited species are not currently found in Wisconsin or are found in very low density and few areas. Prohibited species are likely to cause significant environmental and economic harm or harm to human health. The NR 40 Rule makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce invasive species listed as a prohibited species in Wisconsin. **If you find European frogbit in Door County, be sure to report it to DCIST or using the GLEDN app!**



Photo by Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Photo by Erich Haber



Photo by Erich Haber