



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



The 2024 field season was exceptionally busy! Since its inception, the DCIST program has gained significant popularity, and our knowledge of priority invasive species continues to grow. This year, we sent over 1,700 permission slips to property owners throughout Door County.

While DCIST's work is primarily grant-funded, budget constraints prevented us from addressing all inventoried populations. Despite these challenges, we treated 4.4 acres of teasel, 7.4 acres of knotweed, and 73 acres of wild parsnip. Our contractor, Merjent, is wrapping up phragmites treatment on about 100 acres. In addition to our priority species, we treated 1.6 acres of purple loosestrife, 1.5 acres of black swallow-wort, and manually removed 66 pounds of European frog-bit from four sites.

Ongoing monitoring is essential, especially for species listed as "prohibited" under the NR-40 rule. This season, we found new populations of black swallow-wort and European frog-bit, but we successfully controlled these outbreaks and will continue follow-up treatments.

Field staff used inventory data to guide treatments on public and private lands, and this data will be shared later this year on the county's web map.

Public outreach and education remained key in 2024. Participants in the Door County Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program inspected 447 boats and shared invasive species prevention messages with over 700 people. Though we did not hold our annual spring training, winter workshops are planned.

October Talks at Crossroads: Nature and Agriculture

Crossroads at Big Creek is hosting two October talks that may interest you. On October 14th at 5:30 PM, Superintendent Becky Wiepz from the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station will discuss how climate conditions affect apple flavor. Then, on October 21st at 1:30 PM, in partnership with the Wild Ones, watch a pre-recorded seminar by Heather Holm to learn about bumblebees. Discover their life cycle, nutritional needs, and how to choose the right native plants to support bee populations in Door County.

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!

New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*): A sure sign that fall is upon us, the New England aster is one of the showiest and best-known asters. It graces habitats with its vibrant purple flowers. This deer-resistant plant can thrive in a wide range of conditions. And if you're looking for other aster species, there's a variety to suit almost any space

Photo by Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org



Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*): An iconic warm-season grass of the prairie habitat, little bluestem is commonly used in landscaping and pairs well with New England aster. Once established, it's very drought-tolerant but can handle all but the wettest of sites. It offers interest throughout the seasons. New growth is blue-green, turning shades of bronze after the first frost. Plus, the fluffy white seed heads add

seasonal appeal.

Photos by Prairie Moon



Bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*): Deep blue flowers hold an unusual secret: they never actually open! Bottle gentian are pollinated exclusively by bumblebees, which have the size and strength needed to pry open the flowers. Once established, plants require little care. They prefer consistently moist soil. Named for the king of Illyria who supposedly discovered that the roots helped to cure troops suffering from malaria.

Photo by Prairie Moon



Winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*): Abundant bright red fruits adorn the branches on female plants from fall into winter, providing wildlife and birds a much-needed food source. Winterberry is easily grown but thrives in wet soils. It's an excellent addition around ponds, lakes, streams, or ditches.

Photo by Prairie Moon

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 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

Red Banks Alvar Seed Collecting Hike

Date: October 5, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Location: Red Banks Alvar State Natural Area

NERN is hosting their third annual "Learn N Work" volunteer event at Red Banks Alvar State Natural Area. The event will focus on learning about and collecting seeds from unique native plants that grow in this rare alvar landscape. Led by DNR biologist Jacob Koebernik and NERN host Bob Bultman, volunteers will take a walking tour of the alvar and learn about its geology and biology.



Learn more and register here: [Seed Collecting Hike](#)

Door County Big Plant

Deadline October 4

While temperatures and leaves are starting to drop, fall is an excellent time to do native plantings. Although air temperatures are cool, the soil temperature is ideal for the roots of native plants to establish without the stress of hot summer temperatures. The Climate Change Coalition of Door County is partnering with Johnson Nursery to offer Door County property owners an opportunity to purchase native trees and wildflowers. To learn more and order plants, visit the [Climate Change Coalition](#) website.



Fall Guided Hikes

Dates: Various

As the leaves begin to turn vibrant hues of red, orange, and yellow, there's no better way to experience the beauty of fall than with a guided hike. These guided adventures offer expert insights into the local flora and fauna, as well as the historical significance of the area. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or a beginner, a guided hike is a wonderful way to connect with nature and create lasting memories.

To find more information and register, visit [The Ridges](#) or the [Door County Land Trust](#) website.



Creation of a Nature Preserve: Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal

Date: October 5, 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve

Learn how Door County Land Trust partnered with the City of Sturgeon Bay and its community to create the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve. Join us on a 1 ½-mile moderate walk through open dunes, ridges and swales, old fields, and old growth forest to learn about the property's history, the creation and restoration of this preserve, and the vision for the future. Wear sturdy walking shoes and a hat. Bring water, insect repellent, and sunscreen.



To register, visit the Door County Land Trust website:

[Creation of a Nature Preserve](#)

Bat House Building Workshop

Date: October 18, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Location: The Ridges Sanctuary Workshop

Come build your own bat house to hang on your property! Bats are facing habitat loss and decline due to factors like deforestation and disease. By providing a suitable habitat, you can help support their populations. Additionally, bats can consume thousands of mosquitoes each night, helping to reduce their population and potentially lowering the need for chemical pest control.



To register, visit The Ridges website: [Bat House Building](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Wisconsin Neonic Forum

Date: October 30, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Location: University of Wisconsin – Madison

Join for the first ever Wisconsin Neonic Forum this fall! Learn about the benefits and risks of neonicotinoids, the most widely used insecticides in Wisconsin, and how they're affecting our state's agriculture and environment.

Register here: [Wisconsin Neonic Forum](#)

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference

Dates: November 12 – November 14

Location: Duluth, MN (virtual attendance available)

The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) is a biennial gathering that brings together experts in invasive species management, research, and policy. The conference aims to advance invasive species management, particularly prevention, control, and containment. It offers opportunities for networking and learning about the latest developments in the field.

Register here: [Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference](#)



The Door County Invasive Species Team – Jason Miller, Coordinator

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

Hidden Hazard: Asiatic Bittersweet: A Silent Threat to Our Environment
Invasive Plant Profile: Asiatic Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) An uncommon invader of Door County

Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a highly invasive vine that poses a significant threat to native ecosystems. It can rapidly overgrow trees, shrubs, and other plants, causing damage and death. This aggressive plant is often mistaken for its native counterpart, American bittersweet, but there are key differences.

Asiatic bittersweet is a large vine that can grow over 60 feet long, easily outcompeting native plants. It thrives in various settings, including forests, woodlands, and coastal areas. One of its most distinctive features is its yellow capsules, which contrast with the orange capsules of American bittersweet.

To control Asiatic bittersweet, a combination of manual and chemical methods can be effective. Digging or pulling plants can be helpful, but it's important to be cautious of re-growth. Herbicides can also be used, but it's essential to follow local regulations, especially near water bodies. Prevention is key; avoid planting Asiatic bittersweet and be vigilant in monitoring your property for signs of infestation.

Asiatic bittersweet is listed as a restricted species under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule, Chapter NR 40. Restricted species are those that are already present throughout the state of Wisconsin and are not likely to be eradicated even though they are likely to cause significant environmental and economic harm or harm to human health. The NR 40 Rule makes it illegal to transport, transfer, or introduce invasive species listed as restricted in Wisconsin. If you suspect you have Asiatic bittersweet on your property, contact DCIST for identification or for more information on what you can do to halt invasion of exotic plants on your land. **Remember if you find invasive species in Door County, be sure to report it to DCIST or use the GLEDN app!**

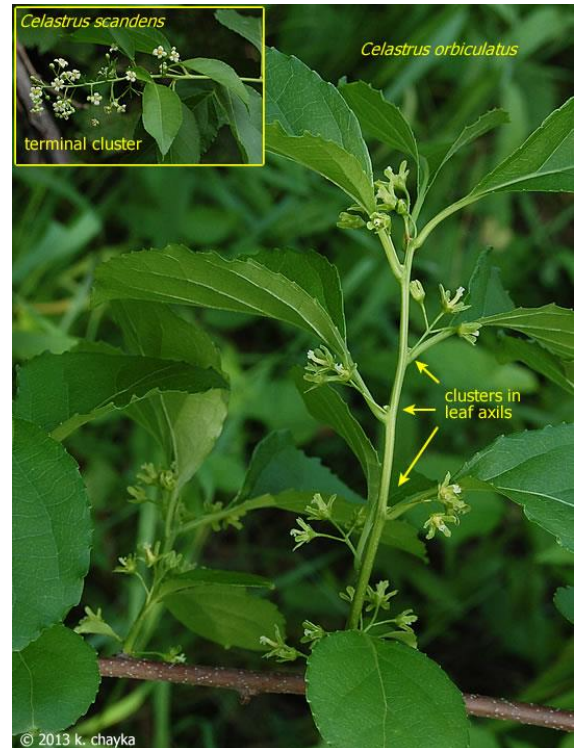


Photo by Katy Chayka, Minnesota Wildflowers



Photo by Peter M. Dziuk, Minnesota Wildflowers



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