



The Door County Invasive Species Team

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

The 2022 field season is almost here! And DCIST is looking for your help!

Got Phrag?!

Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD) has secured funding through Wisconsin DNR's Surface Water Grant program, Forest Service's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program, Fish and Wildlife's Sustain our Great Lakes program, and funding through the American Rescue Plan Act funds to address non-native phragmites on all private properties throughout the County. Funds are anticipated to last for 5-years. If you know of any non-native phragmites populations please reach out to DCIST so we can offer this opportunity to any and all interested private property land owners.



Phragmites is an herbaceous perennial grass. It is an aquatic invader, colonizing riparian, wetland, and shoreline areas. It can look like other grasses and plants, but an easy diagnostic tool is to look at where the leaves meet the stem. Phragmites will have prominent white hairs at this juncture. The hairs become more prominent when the leaf is gently pulled away from the stem. Phragmites can grow up to 20' tall and becomes more prominent in late summer/fall when the plume flower head forms. Like most invasive species phragmites has a vast root system that can grow 6' deep and 10' wide resulting in a large underground energy source, making control difficult.

Phragmites consumes a lot of water as it grows and has been documented lowering water levels in wetlands. Phragmites stands grow densely and quickly, shading out native species and preventing movement through well-established populations. Its dense stems can alter the flow of water and even clog drainage ditches. Additionally, these changes in hydrology and the dense impenetrable wall of growth limit water access, impede wildlife movement, alter water fowl habitat, and can decrease property values. There are a few look alike plants to non-native phragmites including native phragmites. The important features to differentiate phragmites from other grasses is to look for the prominent white hairs at leaf and stem junctures.

Non-native phragmites can look quite similar to native phragmites. There are many guides to differentiate the two subspecies. For a direct comparison, search online for the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative Identifying Native Vs. Invasive Phragmites.

For more information about SWCD's control efforts, to report non-native phragmites, or to learn more about invasive species in Door County please visit the [Doorinvasives.org](http://doorinvasives.org). To see the current inventory DCIST has please visit the Door County Web map <http://map.co.door.wi.us/map/> click on the *Conservation* folder to open a drop-down menu and select the *Invasive Plants* folder. Under the *Invasive Plants* drop-down folder toggle the *2021 Phragmites Inventory*, check the box and all populations mapped during last year's season will be displayed.

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!

Invasive Species Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities

Every Day is Earth Day

April 21st-24th

The festival kicks off on Thursday night at Crossroads with a screening of "Kiss the Ground." Then on Friday night at Northern Sky's Gould Theater, there will be an Earth Day Show featuring live music, prose and poetry. On Saturday we will host our festival at the Kress with booths and workshops focused on Earth Care. Finally, the fest will wrap on Sunday at Crossroads with demonstrations and outdoor activities.

For more information please visit:

<https://kresspavilion.org/ededfest/>



Garlic Mustard Pull Day

May 17th, 9 am (Rain Date May 18th, 9 am)

Garlic Mustard is one of those noxious weeds the Village of Egg Harbor is focusing on eradicating. This is a species that blooms in spring and drops around 1,000 seeds per plant in early June.

The program will include a presentation by Sam Koyen from the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) at the home of Ken & Shawn Mathys.

After a brief presentation, volunteers will head out to tackle a large patch of Garlic Mustard along County Hwy G, adjacent to the golf course. As time permits we will branch out to other areas.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.villageofegg Harbor.org/> or reach out to Tom Strong at tstrong@villageofegg Harbor.org



Clean Boats Clean Waters Training

May 31st, 10-12 am

Ever wonder how to become a boat launch aquatic invasive species protector or wonder about DCIST's aquatic invasive species prevention efforts? Here's your chance to attend a Clean Boats Clean Water training. This Clean Boats, Clean Waters training is for those who have never participated in a Clean Boats, Clean Waters, watercraft inspection, and for those who would like a reminder and some practice before heading out to the landings this summer. This FREE training is open to the public. All are welcome to attend. To register, please contact Samantha Koyen, Door County AIS Coordinator and Conservationist, at skoyen@co.door.wi.us or call 920-746-2363.

For more information about Clean Boats Clean Waters please visit:

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/default.aspx>



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Invasive Species Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities



20th Annual Festival of Nature May 13th- August 6th

The 2022 Festival of Nature offers a full slate of field trips, classes, and activities throughout Door County. Registration opens Monday, April 18th at 10am.* There is a maximum number of participants allowed for each field trip or program, so registering early is the best way to ensure you get to participate in the activities you want. Registration is easy – go to [www. RidgesSanctuary.org](http://www.RidgesSanctuary.org) or call 920-839-2802.

DCIST Summer Training

June 8th 8 am-12 pm

DCIST would like to invite you to a fun filled 4 hour invasive species training to learn more about field identification, safety, invasive species rules and regulations, and why protecting Door County from these invasive species is so important. Various partners will address topics and there will be a field component so dress appropriately!

For more information about the event reach out to the DCIST coordinator, Samantha Koyen: Office: 920-746-2363, Email: dcist1@gmail.com



Want to stay up to date on all activities?

Check out the DCIST calendar! The calendar provides up to date events going on pertaining to natural resource events. If you have an event you would like to add to the calendar let us know! The website also provides information on control options, identification information, and so much more!

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

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, we 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 May 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.

Native Species Highlights

Wisconsin Spring Flowers

Spring in Wisconsin is a beautiful time to see ephemeral species, and stunning spring flowers. Ephemeral species have a limited time to prosper and blossom before the trees leaf out, earning them the name “ephemeral”, meaning lasting a short time. Ephemerals and spring flowering native plants provide pollinators with an early source of nectar. Native species like these support our native ecology. Please help our native species by controlling invasive species and whenever possible landscape with native species.

Blood root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*): This ephemeral grows in undisturbed woodlands, in flood plains, and on slopes near streams and waterways. When cut this plant exudes a reddish sap living up to its common name “blood root”.



Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*): This ephemeral can grow in a variety of habitats including lawns, woodlands, savannahs and pastures, but is most commonly found in woodland settings.

Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*): This ephemeral flower can be pink, blue or white. It is found most commonly in woodland settings.



Shadbush/serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*): There are several species of serviceberry native to Door County, including roundleaf serviceberry (*A. sanguinea*), inland serviceberry (*A. interior*), common serviceberry (*A. arborea*), and Allegheny serviceberry (*A. laevis*). These white flowering shrubs bloom late April into May and provide small edible berries in June/July earning this shrub it’s other common name “Juneberry”.



Yellow trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*): This ephemeral grows most commonly in woodland settings. There are also white trout lilies (*Erythronium albidum*) that grow in Wisconsin.



****Bloodroot photo credits:** left-Minnesota Wildflowers/right-Wisconsin DNR, **Spring beauty Photo credits:** left-Illinois, Wildflowers/right-Mt. Cuba Center, **Hepatica photo credits:** left & right-Wisconsin Master Gardener Program UW-Extension, **Shadbush/serviceberry photo credits:** left- G.A. Cooper/right- Danny Barron, **Trout lily photo credits:** left-Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center/right-Minnesota Wildflowers.

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A Stinky Invader!

Invasive Plant Profile: Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) An invader of Door county

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an herbaceous biennial, meaning it has a two-year life cycle, when crushed the plant smells like garlic earning its name “garlic mustard.” Garlic mustard was introduced by early European settlers, they brought the plant over to use as an herb and for medicinal purposes. In current times, the rise of the “if you can’t beat it, then eat it” movement has resulted in some people going back to eating this invasive species, most commonly as pesto sauce.

Characteristics of garlic mustard, such as its high seed production (one plant can produce up to 8,000 seeds), early seasonal growth, allelopathic qualities (the ability for it to modify soil components), and ability to tolerate a variety of open and wooded habitats, wetlands, old fields, and disturbed areas allows the plant several advantage over Wisconsin’s native plants. Impacts of garlic mustard invasions include negative impacts to wildlife food sources, loss of wildlife habitat, altering soil characteristics to prohibit other plant species from growing, and loss of native species.

During the first year of growth garlic mustard forms a rosette (leaves that grow in a circular arrangement close to the ground) of round, scalloped-margined leaves that stay semi-evergreen through the winter. During the second and final year of its life cycle, plants sends up a flower stem with triangular toothed leaves that has tiny four-petaled white flowers. The plant dies after producing long narrow seedpods. Second year garlic mustard plants may be 3 to 4 ft tall, while first year plants are a low growing ground cover.

Mechanical methods such as hand-pulling can be effective on small populations/plants if care is taken to remove as much of the root system as possible. Controlled burns can be effective to control populations as well. For more dense or established populations, chemical control in the form of foliar treatment may be most effective. Recent studies suggest competitive plantings after control efforts have proven successful in suppressing existing seed banks. For more information please visit UW – Extension Renz Weed Lab’s Garlic Mustard information page at

<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A3924-07.pdf>.

Garlic mustard is listed as a Restricted species under 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 garlic mustard 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!**



*1st year garlic mustard rosette
photo taken by Kelly Kearns*



*2nd year garlic mustard flowers
photo taken by Wisconsin DNR*



*2nd year garlic mustard with seed
pods photo taken by Elizabeth J.
Czarapata*



The Door County Invasive Species Team – Samantha Koyen, Coordinator

DCIST Message Line: 920-746-5955; Email: dcist1@gmail.com

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