



# 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

### Brewery Pilot Project

The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) is excited to announce a pilot project using local breweries as invasive species information distributors. Starboard Brewing Company in Sturgeon Bay has agreed to be the first brewery to help in this DCIST effort. The first species of focus for this outreach campaign is the spotted lanternfly. This invasive insect is native to China and currently is found as far west as Indiana and Michigan. Currently, it is not yet present in Wisconsin. Contrary to its moth like appearance, it is a planthopper. Planthoppers are in the group of homopterous insects that are related to leafhoppers and spittlebugs. Spotted lanternfly was selected for the initial campaign due to the negative impacts this species can have on the beer industry. Spotted lanternflies like to feed on hops amongst several other agricultural plants. This pilot brew is called Planthopper Pale Ale and will be available the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>.



According to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) “Spotted lanternflies feed on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, with tree-of-heaven being one of the preferred hosts. Spotted lanternflies are invasive and can be spread long distances by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses. If allowed to spread in the United States, this pest could seriously impact the country’s grape, orchard, and logging industries.”

By promoting awareness and prevention, the goal is to help slow the spread of these invasive insects until management strategies are developed. Starboard Brewing Company is owned and operated by Amanda and Patrick Surfus. When DCIST initially approached Amanda and Patrick, their first response was overwhelming support for the project. Amanda Surfus, prior to opening Starboard, worked 7 years for The Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department helping to grow the DCIST program. In the past, Amanda and Patrick have created and named several beers to help outreach conservation efforts in Door County including a, Honeysuckle Pale Ale, brewed with honeysuckle flowers for the Door County Land Trust. Their popular Woolly Weiss, a Belgian White Ale, was named to honor the Woolly mammoth sculpture that was moved to the west side of Sturgeon Bay, per request from members of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

The hope is as Starboard Brewing visitors grab their pint of Planthopper Pale Ale they read a little about the spotted lanternfly and provide some feedback on this pilot outreach project. Their feedback will help shape future efforts and hopefully participants will learn about their role in preventing the spread of invasive species.

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!

## Door County Invasive Species News

### Door County Land Trust Ship Canal Nature Preserve Pitcher's Dune Thistle Habitat Restoration and Neighborhood Outreach Project

Door County Land Trust's Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve is home to one of the Great Lake's largest populations of the federally threatened Pitcher's thistle. Pitcher's thistle, scientifically known as *Cirsium pitcheri*, is only found on the dunes that border the Great Lakes and is one of Wisconsin's hidden wonders.

For the past 10 years, the Land Trust has been managing the Pitcher's thistle habitat at the Ship Canal Nature Preserve, conducting invasive species removal, and partnering with Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) as they conduct research on the site, including observation of pollinators and the evaluation of Pitcher's thistle population growth.



This year the Land Trust is inviting neighboring landowners to allow invasive species control on their property at no cost to them. Additionally, community members are invited to work with the Land Trust and the Chicago Botanical Garden to implement a new community science project – Budburst. The Land Trust is looking for volunteers to help with project Budburst by conducting pollinator observations on the preserve to further inform management practices. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [volunteers@doorcountylandtrust.org](mailto:volunteers@doorcountylandtrust.org).

With recent high waters on Lake Michigan and the erosion of sand dune shorelines, the populations of thistles found along the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve and Southern Lake Michigan Drive are more important than ever. The Pitcher's thistle needs more quality habitat if it is to survive—and sandy shores like this area are among the best habitat in Door County.

If you are interested in learning more about this project visit our website (<https://www.doorcountylandtrust.org/thistle>).

### 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, 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 check out our website <https://doorinvasives.org>, fill out the fillable non-native phragmites permission slip, and return it to Door County Soil & Water.



The Door County Invasive Species Team – Samantha Koyen, Coordinator  
 DCIST Message Line: 920-746-5955; Email: [dcist1@gmail.com](mailto:dcist1@gmail.com)  
 Check out our new website at <https://doorinvasives.org>

## Invasive Species News

### Wisconsin DNR Multi-year Invasive Species Case Conclude with Convictions

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 announced the conclusion of a multi-year law enforcement investigation and prosecution related to the illegal distribution of more than 960 invasive crayfish by several wholesale-level distributors.

A number of invasive crayfish were distributed, including red swamp, mini orange, electric blue and others. Although red swamp crayfish are native to the southern U.S., they are not native to the northern U.S., including Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Due to the damage these crayfish can cause to native plant and animal populations, the species are illegal to possess in Wisconsin.



*Red swamp crayfish. Photo credit WDNR.*

“Some of the more popular invasive crayfish species cause havoc in our waterways by out-competing native species, damaging shorelines, and burrowing deep into the ground to avoid winter freezing,” said Lt. Warden Robert Stroess, Administrator of the DNR’s Commercial Fish and Aquatic Species in Trade Enforcement Program.

The investigation was launched in 2019 after a concerned citizen reported a red swamp crayfish for sale in a Milwaukee pet store. The primary distributor responsible for these illegal crayfish, Apet, Inc., had previously been notified by the DNR of Wisconsin’s invasive species laws. In 2017, Apet, Inc. was found to be delivering an invasive plant and crayfish to a pet store. Despite being contacted by the DNR two more times, the company continued to ship more crayfish to pet stores.

Apet, Inc. was found to have delivered 847 invasive crayfish to Wisconsin customers over two years ending in mid-2019.

“Education and outreach are our primary tools for changing illegal behavior,” Stroess said. “But when that doesn’t work, enforcement is needed.”

The Wisconsin Department of Justice charged Apet, Inc. At the conclusion of the case, there were 147 citation convictions of “Transport, Possess or Transfer Invasive Species.”

“I’m hopeful the outcome of this case will deter other wholesale distributors from shipping or delivering to Wisconsin,” Stroess said.

More information about invasive species in Wisconsin can be found on the DNR website.

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](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 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 Ephemeral Species

Spring ephemeral species are one of many Wisconsin's natural gems. These flowers carpet woodlands giving the first show of color and promise of the summer season to follow. These flowers have a limited time to prosper and blossom before the trees leaf out, earning them the name "ephemeral". They provide pollinators with an early source of nectar.



**Jack-in-the-Pulpit** (*Arisaema triphyllum*): This ephemeral can typically be found in a woodland setting. These plants have one to two leaves that are divided into three leaflets. Flowers form a cylindrical cup shape and can be green to maroon in color with vertical striping. In late summer, clumps of bright red berries appear.

Flowering Jack-in-the-pulpit photo taken by Jim Stasz. Foliage taken by Gay Nell Olive.

**Squirrel Corn** (*Dicentra canadensis*): This ephemeral flower can be white to pinkish white, with blue/grey fern like leaves. It is found most commonly in woodland settings. Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) is a native look-alike also found in similar habitats.



Flowering squirrel corn photo taken by R.W. Smith. Foliage taken by Katy Chayka.



Photos taken by Sasha White.

**Mayapple** (*Podophyllum peltatum*): This ephemeral grows in woodland settings. The flower of this ephemeral is tucked under its umbrella like leaves. The pollinated flower results in a small fruit which resembles an apple earning this plant its name.

**Large Flowered Trillium** (*Trillium grandiflorum*): This ephemeral typically grows in woodland setting. *Tri* meaning three in Latin, *lilium* from the Latin word *liliaceous*, referring to the funnel shaped lily flower and *grandis*, meaning great or large. There are several trillium species in Door County that are also found in similar habitats.



Flowering large trillium photo taken by Charles Peirce.

Native species like these support local ecology. By managing invasive species it allows native species a fighting chance. Please help our native species by controlling invasive species and whenever possible landscape with native species.

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## Invasive Species Workshops and Field Days

### Door County Land Trust Stewardship Work Days - Three Springs Nature Preserve

April 18<sup>th</sup>, Time: 10 am – 12pm



Join DCLT staff for a land stewardship project at Three Springs Nature Preserve! We will be working to control the presence of non-native scotch pine. Scotch pine is native to northern Asia and Europe, including its namesake Scotland, and was introduced to North America. By removing the scotch pine, we will be reducing the competition for resources for our native species on the property. All necessary equipment will be provided. Register to let us know you are coming and stay updated. Please dress for the weather and make sure to wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and long pants. Water will be available, but we ask that everyone bring a refillable water bottle.

**Location:** Three Springs Nature Preserve, 10442 Three Springs Road, Sister Bay, WI 54234

**Link to learn more and register:** <https://secure.doorcountylantrust.org/events-registration-merchandise/event/stewardship-work-day-april-18th/>

### WDNR Parks - WORK \*PLAY\* EARTH DAY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

April 22<sup>h</sup>, Time: 9 am – 12pm

Join the Friends of Potawatomi State Park in prepping the park for spring! Volunteers are needed to help with seasonal clean-up of playgrounds, campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails. Activities may include litter pick up, removing downed sticks and branches, blowing and raking leaves, painting, pressure washing, and other maintenance activities. Water and snacks will be provided by the Friends of Potawatomi State Park. Volunteers should wear long pants, sturdy footwear, and gloves. Some hand tools will be provided, but volunteers may also bring their own shovels, rakes, and other hand tools. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No pets, please. Park admission waived while volunteering.

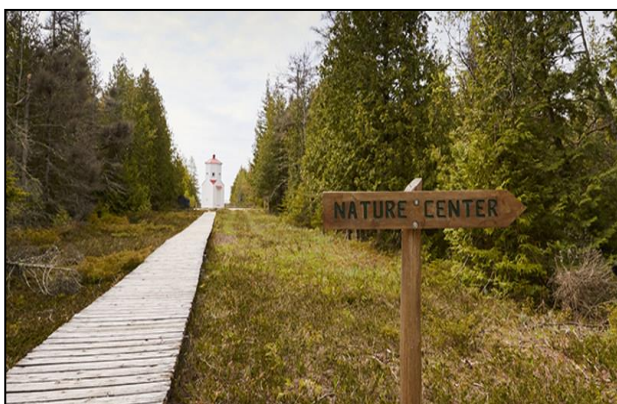
**Location:** Meet at the shelter by the campground on Shoreline Road.

**Link to learn more visit:** <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/67301>



### The Ridges Sanctuary Wednesday Work Crew

Wednesdays May through October, Time: 9 am – 11:30 am



Join The Ridges Sanctuary staff and volunteers every Wednesday. Work with an enthusiastic group of people in maintaining the Ridges buildings and properties. This includes building projects in the workshop, building and maintaining boardwalks and bridges, cutting and removing trees and maintaining hiking trails and setting up and maintaining informational displays. Please dress for the weather and make sure to wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and long pants.

Location: The Ridges Workshop

Link to learn more about volunteer please visit:  
<https://www.ridgessanctuary.org/join/volunteer/>

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## Invasive Species Workshops and Field Days

### The Ridges Sanctuary Spring Work Day

May 6<sup>th</sup>, Time: 9 am – 12 pm

Join The Ridges Sanctuary staff for a fun filled morning getting acquainted with The Ridges while cleaning and organizing around the center, tending to the gardens, and general preparations for the summer months ahead. All necessary equipment and a bagged lunch will be provided. Please dress for the weather and make sure to wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and long pants.

Location: Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center, 8166 WI-57, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Link to learn more and register:

<https://www.ridgessanctuary.org/join/volunteer/>



### Festival of Nature

Wednesdays May 26 through June 16



The Door County Festival of Nature has been brought to you by The Ridges Sanctuary and our partners in conservation to celebrate the natural beauty of the Door Peninsula. Each year we bring forward a slate of field trips, events and experiences to help you explore the unique natural systems found throughout Door County.

To register for this event please visit:

<https://www.doorcountyfestivalofnature.org/>

### 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>

The Door County Invasive Species Team – Samantha Koyen, Coordinator

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



## The Stink of Garlic mustard and the impact

### 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. 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!**



*1<sup>st</sup> year garlic mustard rosette  
photo taken by Kelly Kearns*



*2<sup>nd</sup> year garlic mustard flowers  
photo taken by Wisconsin DNR*



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



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