



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

Wild Parsnip Control Wraps up in Door County

One of the four species Door County has focused efforts on is Wild Parsnip. Wild parsnip is an invasive species originally introduced as an agricultural commodity. It escaped cultivation and rapidly spread throughout the United States. Wild parsnip is notorious for the burns that an unsuspecting passerby can receive when sap from the plant gets on skin and is introduced to sunlight, resulting in photodermatitis. At the start of the summer, Door County Soil & Water hired two seasonal employees, Sam Hoffman & Tina Lee, to aid in invasive species monitoring, control, and outreach efforts throughout Door County. This year Soil & Water Conservation staff have controlled 12 acres of wild parsnip through shovel cutting and helped facilitate an additional 25 acres of control by a private contractor, resulting in 61.3% of the 60.4 acres of wild parsnip inventoried in Door County this year being controlled. Wild parsnip is a biennial and seed banks can be persistent, however; continued treatment efforts can result in controlled populations.



Sam Hoffman seasonal crew lead shovel cutting wild parsnip in Door County.

Door County AIS Snapshot Day

DCIST was able to host and participate in the Wisconsin River Alliance and Wisconsin DNRs Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Snapshot Day in Door County. Snapshot Day is for water enthusiasts to learn about AIS and the potential impacts of these species. These efforts take place annually all over Wisconsin and provide a quick “snapshot” of invasive species found within Wisconsin waters. Efforts for this event was minimized due to COVID-19, however; DCIST was able to identify and report to the DNR the presence of rusty crayfish in Fish Creek and re-confirm the continued presence of Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels and starry stonewort in Green Bay – Lake Michigan. For more information on how halt the spread of AIS please follow WDNR guidelines: 1) Inspect equipment, boats, trailers, boots, etc. for debris 2) Remove all debris and if possible sanitize equipment prior to using it on another waterbody 3) Drain all water from equipment 4) Never move live fish, plants or animals away from a waterbody 5) Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.



Rusty crayfish specimen found in Fish Creek on AIS snapshot day.

2020 Japanese Knotweed Control

Another one of the four species Door County has focused control efforts on is Japanese knotweed. This year 1 acre of Japanese knotweed out of 5.1 acres inventoried has been treated by Door County Soil & Water Staff and an additional 1 acre will be controlled by a contractor resulting in 39% of the inventoried populations of Japanese knotweed being controlled in 2020. The most common way of introducing Japanese knotweed is through redistribution of a root or shoot fragments. One small fragment left unchecked can result in a tap root 6' deep and stout rhizomes spreading out 65'. When stressed, some studies indicate knotweed can go dormant up to 25 years! For more information please check out the June 2020 DCIST invasive species highlight section or on [Doorinvasives.org](https://doorinvasives.org).



Sam Hoffman treating Japanese knotweed in Door County.

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. Below are a few species that highlight the importance of maintaining our native ecology. 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!

Kalm's St. Johnswort (*Hypericum kalmianum*): This is one of several shrubby St. Johnsworts. This native shrub species gets its Latin and common name from Peter Kalm, a student of Linnaeus, who discovered the plant in America around 1750.



Photos courtesy of Illinois Wildflowers.



Photo courtesy of Illinois Wildflowers.

Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*): This beautiful late blooming flower often blamed for causing allergies in the late summer/fall; however, the true culprit is ragweed. There are 25 different goldenrod species in Wisconsin. Canada goldenrod is one of the most common species of goldenrod in Door County.

Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*): This sweet white flowering plant is found in grassy fens, marly borders of lakes, sand flats along Lake Michigan, gravelly hillside seeps, and low areas along springs on rocky hillsides. This wildflower is typically found in high quality natural areas.



Photos courtesy of Jouko Lehmuskallio.



Blooming swamp milkweed in Door County.

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*): This pink flowering milkweed loosely resembles its cousin common milkweed. Unlike its cousin, swamp milkweed does not reproduce via clonal rhizomes. Some milkweed species have long been used to treat a variety of ailments, which earns this genus its name *Asclepias* after the Greek god of medicine, Aesculapius.

Invasive Species Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities

The Nature Conservancy 60th Anniversary!

August 24th-28th



With limitations in in-person gatherings, The Nature Conservancy has shifted their celebration of The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin's 60th anniversary to an online platform. The celebration consists of one short video a day highlighting a Door County nature topic August 24th-27th and host a Live Q&A Session on Friday, August 28th over lunch with Kari Hagenow, Mike Grimm, and other TNC staff. For more information or to register please visit:

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/volunteer-and-attend-events/find-local-events-and-opportunities/wi-door-nature-week/>

2020 Southern Illinois Conservation Workshop

September 21st-25th

The third annual Southern Illinois Conservation Workshop has been converted to a week-long, virtual webinar series this year. This workshop brings together professionals with expertise on different aspects of landowner conservation to offer an opportunity for local land managers and landowners to learn, make connections, and ask questions.

Join us online via Zoom, September 21-25, 2:00pm-4:00pm CDT each day. If you cannot attend the in-person webinars, they will be recorded and posted to YouTube for later viewing. Topics include: Stream restoration in southern Illinois, wildlife benefits of native shrubs, What's the plant?, Herbicide sprayers and best practices 101, and so much more. For more information and to register please visit: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22467>



Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC)

November 2nd-6th

This Conference will be held as a webinar platform. The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) is a biennial conference that addresses all taxa of invasive species. In 2020, UMISC will celebrate 12 years of connecting the invasive species management, research, and policy community. The goal of UMISC is to strengthen management of invasive species, especially prevention, control, and containment. There have been great strides in invasive species research, prevention, and management, but much work still must be done. The conference provides numerous opportunities to network with professionals, land managers, researchers, nonprofits, and others. For more information visit: www.umisc.net



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 August 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.

Let's make Common Reed less Common!

Invasive Species Profile: Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) An invader of Door County

Phragmites or common reed is a perennial aggressive wetland grass that outcompetes native plants and displaces native animals. The presence of large stands can even change the hydrology of an area. Due to its height and its distinctive, fluffy seed heads, Phragmites is easy to spot, even by traveling motorists. Phragmites has spread throughout Door County along right-of-ways, in wetlands, and along shorelines. This is one of the four species Door County has historically focused monitoring, control, and outreach efforts.

Phragmites is thought to be originally native to the Middle East and has since spread its native range now to Europe. Believed to be originally introduced as an ornamental plant to the United States, it now is found in all the lower 48 states and is considered to have a world-wide distribution.

There are a handful of species that look like Phragmites, this includes native Phragmites and several species of ornamental grasses. Native Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *americanus*) has smooth, flexible stems, often with shiny, round, black spots (a fungus). Its inflorescence is usually sparser than non-native Phragmites, as are most patches where it grows.

There are both manual and chemical control options available for Phragmites with various levels of success. Mechanical methods include cutting stems below the water's surface, mowing or burning various populations. Mechanical control has proven to have limited success and often are used to limit the spread of established populations and not eradicate populations. Chemical control options consist of foliar spray of herbicide applied to bundled and cut stems in late summer-fall. Subsequent follow up treatments are almost always needed. *Phragmites australis* often is found in and along waterways which may require an aquatic permit and certified applicator to apply herbicide. For more information on various control options please see the NRCS USDA Phragmites factsheet at

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081651.pdf

Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) is 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 and 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 find Phragmites in Door County, be sure to report it to DCIST or using the GLEDN app!**



Tina and Sam surveying Phragmites stand.



Phragmites stand growing in standing water.



Phragmites seed heads.



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

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