



The Door County Invasive Species Team

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

Invasive Species Workshops, News, and Volunteer Opportunities

March 2023

2022 Recap and projecting forward for 2023

DCIST had an unbelievable 2022 field season, highlights included monitoring over 13,000 acres, controlling 548 acres of invasives, and participating in 15 outreach and media events. DCIST treated over 3 acres of teasel, 8 acres of knotweed, 84 acres of wild parsnip, and over 207 acres of phragmites. Additionally, DCIST team members controlled another 245 acres of other species including purple loosestrife, European marsh thistle, and so much more. Several prohibited species were controlled including European frogbit, porcelain berry, black swallow-wort, and Johnsongrass.

Two major finds occurred in 2022. DCIST, through work done with the Clark Lake Advancement Association, identified and controlled an isolated population of Johnsongrass. In 2023 DCIST will evaluate treatment success. The second find was the discovery of European frogbit in Little Sturgeon by WDNR staff. They were monitoring for the species as part of the WDNR “European frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) Infestation of Green Bay Coastal Areas Management Plan”. DCIST partners helped to monitor for this species at a variety of sites. To support acquisition of gear and pay for staffing in 2023, WDNR awarded DCIST a sub-award through an existing “Great Lakes Restoration Inventory (GLRI) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant”.

Looking forward to 2023 DCIST will continue with its non-native phragmites, teasel, knotweed, and wild parsnip monitoring and control efforts throughout Door County. DCIST plans to expand outreach and control efforts with innovative programs including purple loosestrife biocontrol, and a few other programs that details will be released in the coming months! DCIST will continue to participate in the state-wide Clean Boats Clean Water efforts, focusing on the Carmody and Pinney Park boat launches. These efforts include having inspectors at these boat launches to engage with boaters about the steps they need to take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Interested in learning more? Follow us on Facebook and check out Doorinvasives.org. There you will find previous newsletters, information on a variety of invasive species in Door County, and information on conservation events coming up in Door. These efforts would not be possible without the fantastic Door County community. Thank you all for a great 2022 season and looking forward to an even more successful 2023 season!

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/>.

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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”. 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.



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 its other common name “Juneberry”.

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”.



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.

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



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.

Looking for native species?!

Patrick Goggin at UW Extension Lakes has developed a native plant guide for folks planting pollinator gardens and shorelines in our part of the world. To view this resource please visit: <https://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/#350> then click on **Guide to Native Plants (a.k.a. Local Beings): 112 species that support clean water, wildlife habitat, and a happy soul.**

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

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Partner Updates!

The Ridges Sanctuary Master Plan

The Ridges have been drafting and formulating a 20-year vision for The Ridges Sanctuary

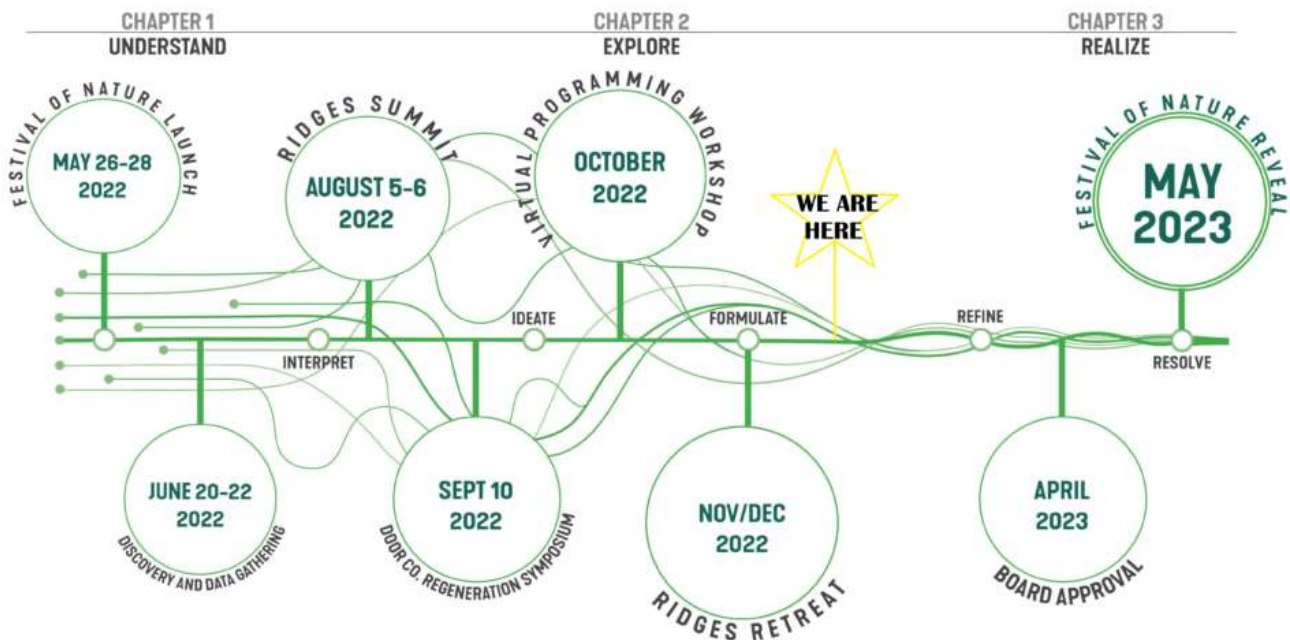
The Ridges Sanctuary has been busy! Over the last 7 months, they have been working hard with the SmithGroup and PROS Consulting to interpret, ideate and formulate a 20-year vision for The Ridges Sanctuary. With the help of The Ridges board, volunteers, members, community, neighbors and staff, they have approached the development of Draft Concept Plans for the very important 20-year vision.

The draft concept plans have been revealed! This process has been informed over the last seven months by input from Ridges members, board, volunteers, staff, neighbors, and program participants. Most recently, Ridges board and staff gathered in December at the Ridges Retreat to formulate a concept. These ideas, supported by the endless feedback the Ridges heard from the community, have generated a few concept plans that they are excited to share. Now it is time to refine the concepts.

For more information about the process reach out to The Ridges Sanctuary or visit their website at:

<https://www.ridgessanctuary.org/masterplan/>

PROJECT TIMELINE



For more information about The Ridges Sanctuary please visit <https://www.ridgessanctuary.org/>.



Partner Updates!

The Door County Land Trust is Welcoming New Staff

The Door County Land Trust has hired a Community Conservation Coordinator and a Land Protection Manager

Please give a warm welcome to Door County Land Trust's two newest staff members: Brian Forest and Paige Witek! These new staff members to Door County Land Trust bring a wealth of experience and energy to their positions and to the conservation community of Door County.



Brian joined the Door County Land Trust team in 2023 with over 20 years of conservation experience within organizations such as the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department and The Ridges Sanctuary. As Land Program Manager, Brian will manage the process of acquiring new lands to help meet the Land Trust's conservation priorities. His long history in the field of conservation and deep knowledge of Door County's ecology serve him well for the position.

Paige joined the Land Trust staff in January 2023. As the community conservation coordinator, Paige engages the Door County community in meaningful natural resources stewardship, environmental education, citizen science programs, and ecological research. She is energized to involve volunteers in the Land Trust's mission of protecting our peninsula's land and water. Paige has already begun scheduling hikes and work day outings that will begin in March.



**Door County
Land Trust**

For more information about the Door County Land Trust please visit <https://www.doorcountylandtrust.org/>.

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.



Invasive Species in the News

Rusty crayfish on the decline!

A recent publication in the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences shared findings of rusty crayfish populations decreasing in Northern Wisconsin Lakes Research and publication by UW-Madison, University of Illinois and University of Notre Dame

Invasive species often present a real problem on short time scales (these intervals can be a few hundred years or a few decades) often resulting in a singular species taking over an area displacing and potentially resulting in a loss of native species. Invasive species management requires practitioners to look at current tools and information and decide if the invasive populations can be eradicated (small isolated populations), successfully managed (maintain or decrease populations), or if there are no tools at the moment capable of addressing the issue. The goal of invasive species management is to provide enough time for native species to become resilient enough to compete.

A recent study found evidence that invasive rusty cray fish may have their days numbered, and reiterates the question invasive species managers have been asking themselves “Just how hard should natural resource managers fight invasive species after they establish? A new University of Illinois study suggests some invaders – even highly successful ones – can die off naturally, leaving native communities to rebound with minimal management effort.”



“That’s the case for rusty crayfish in some Northern Wisconsin lakes. According to the 33-year study, many lakes in the region have seen steady declines of the crustacean, with a handful of lakes falling to nearly zero. Whether they’ve destroyed their own habitat or died off due to disease, the results are clear: when rusty crayfish decline, water plants and snails bounce back.”

“But now we’re seeing evidence in Midwestern lakes that the ecological impacts of rusty crayfish may be severe for a few decades, but may not be permanent, as we feared. While I think there’s still reason to worry about invasive species and prevent them from establishing in the first place, I see this as a real conservation optimism story,” says study co-author Eric Larson, associate professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES), part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at U of I.”

Prevention is the best way to help preserve native species and habitats and require minimal efforts. In the state of Wisconsin boaters and anglers are required to put these preventative steps into action according to state statute NR40. NR40 requires boaters, paddlers, and anglers to inspect boats, trailers, and equipment. Remove any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading and before transporting on a public highway). Drain all water from boats, motors and all equipment. Never move live fish away from a waterbody. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.

For more information about this topic please visit: <https://aces.illinois.edu/news/reign-invasive-rusty-crayfish-may-be-ending-wisconsin-lakes-rejoice>.

For more information about NR40 please visit: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/prevention.html>.

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Invasive Species Workshops and Field Days

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/>

Door County Land Trust Stewardship Work Days - Oak Road Nature Preserve

March 21st, Time: 10 am – 12pm

Take part in helping the Door County Land Trust care for our preserves and the wildlife that call them home. Join the DCLT staff for land stewardship projects at Oak Road Nature Preserve. Learn about and engage in both trail and nest box maintenance. All necessary equipment will be provided. Please register to reserve your spot and to receive updates. Dress for the weather and make sure to wear sturdy closed-toed shoes and long pants. Water will be available, but bring a refillable water bottle. We look forward to seeing you!

Location: Oak Road Nature Preserve, 6391 Oak Road, Egg Harbor

Link to learn more and register:

<https://secure.doorcountylantrust.org/events-registration-merchandise/event/stewardship-work-day-march-21/>



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

April 18th, 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/>

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Invasive Species Workshops and Field Days

WDNR Parks - WORK *PLAY* EARTH DAY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

April 22^h, 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 Spring Work Day

May 6th, 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/>



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

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

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



Don't let the ghosts of decorations past promote Bittersweet!

Invasive Plant Profile: Asiatic Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) An uncommon invader of Door county

Asiatic bittersweet/oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a woody vine, perennial plant that can establish in a range of habitats including forests, woodlands, fields, hedge-rows, and coastal areas. It is distributed as an ornamental plant and is used in holiday decorations to add a pop of color with its vibrant red berries. This species easily escapes cultivation and the pop of color in holiday decor is a seed waiting to take root. Bittersweet like many invasive plants is fast growing, free of natural enemies (pests and diseases) and has a competitive edge over native vegetation. Bittersweet's excessive growth can dominate tree canopies, strangle/girdle large trees, shade out younger trees and dominate understories. Today there are limited populations on the Door Peninsula making it a high priority for eradication when it is found.

Asiatic bittersweet is a large vine that can grow more than 60ft in length. It twines around trees and structures for support. The leaves are glossy and round or heart-shaped with a pointed tip. The flowers, which are small, 5-petaled and greenish-yellow, develop in clusters of 3-7 at the leaf axils. The native counterpart to Asiatic bittersweet is American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*). American bittersweet is also a woody vine and looks similar to Asiatic bittersweet. There are a few tricks to remember when trying to identify each species. American bittersweet has an orange capsule, whereas Asiatic bittersweet has a yellow capsule. Remember to "YELL-NO" at the Asiatic bittersweet and to "okay" the orange capsule of American bittersweet. Another trick is American bittersweet is "saving the best for last" meaning the berries are at the end of its branches where Asiatic bittersweet is "strung-out" meaning the berries are along the stems and branches.

There are both manual and chemical control options available for Asiatic bittersweet. Be aware that clipped plants will grow back and pulled plants can readily re-root. Burn or landfill all plant parts that are removed (DO NOT COMPOST). There are also herbicides available that will work well against Asiatic bittersweet, however if near water a permit may be required, and aquatic-use herbicide formulas should be used.

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!**



Asiatic bittersweet berries photo taken by Nisa Karimi



Asiatic bittersweet vine photo taken by WDNR



Asiatic bittersweet vs American bittersweet photo provided by Duluth News Tribune

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