



The Door County Invasive Species Team

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

The Door county Invasive Species Team wants to thank you and all their partners for the support of invasive species efforts in 2019! Your awareness, volunteer time and financial support are imperative to the protection of Door County's irreplaceable natural resources from the threat of invasive plants and animals.

In 2019, DCIST and its partners achieved:

- Offered training and outreach for invasive species identification and monitoring, participating in over 15 events
- Invasive species/Phragmites ordinances now exist in ten towns & villages and the City of Sturgeon Bay. DCIST conducts outreach and education within these municipalities to ensure successful ordinance implementation.
- Over 130 private landowners were personally reached through educational programs, presentations and outreach. Many more were educated through our mailings, website and local media.
- More than 138 boats were inspected with 227 boaters engaged by DCIST staff and partners through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program aimed at stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species.



DCIST information table at the Garden Door Open House

Door County Welcomes New Conservationist and Interim DCIST Coordinator, Sam Koyen



Samantha (Sam) joined the Door county Soil and Water department in December of 2019. She is originally from Massachusetts where she learned her love of the outdoors from her parents. Sam received a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science from Juniata College in 2013. During her time in undergrad, Sam studied abroad in India and Thailand working with communities on natural resource conservation. Before attending graduate school, Sam held positions as a waste-water laboratory technician and as an ecological restoration technician. She graduated with a M.S. in Sustainability Science with a concentration in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 2018. Sam worked as a wetland ecologist within the private sector prior to joining the Soil and Water Department. Her main duties included ecological restoration efforts, community mapping, and wetland delineations. When she isn't out identifying plants or volunteering, Sam can be found gardening and baking with her husband.

Invasive Species Workshops, News, and Volunteer Opportunities

Spiny Water Fleas Flourish in Southern Waters of Green Bay

Research article Published March, 2018, written by Casey A. Merkle & Bart T. De Stasio from Lawrence University

The spiny water flea *Bythotrephes longimanus* is an invasive species in Lake Michigan's Green Bay. The spiny water flea has become a major predator in the bay's lower food web, and its eggs are easily spread inland by recreational boating activities. In 2015 and 2016, researchers sampled *Bythotrephes* populations in two southern Green Bay locations to determine the species' abundance and impact.

Read more in the Journal of Great Lakes Research:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0380133018300339>

Remember when leaving a boat launch to check all gear and to **remove** any foreign materials (mud, animals, & plants), **clean** all gear, **drain** wells & buckets, and **dry** equipment before launching into another body of water.



Spiny Water Fleas photo provided courtesy of USDA Aquatic Invasives



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/>.

Make sure to check us out on Facebook and at our website <https://doorinvasives.org> for events, news, and more!

Looking for a job? The Wisconsin DNR, City of Green Bay and many more currently have postings related to invasive species:

The WDNR is hiring one **LTE Wildlife Biologist**. The position will be housed in Madison. This position will assist in coordinating the statewide wildlife land and habitat program. Visit http://wisc.jobs/public/job_view.asp?annoid=100826&jobid=100340&org=370&class=55271&index=true for more information or to apply. The deadline for these positions is January 10.

The City of Green Bay is hiring one **Seasonal Forestry Emerald Ash Borer Specialist**. This position is responsible for the treatment of Emerald Ash borer in park ash trees along with other responsibilities. Visit <https://greenbay.jobing.com/city-of-green-bay/seasonal-forestry-emerald-ash-borer-specialist-2-40943852> for more information or to apply.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is hiring one **Land Stewardship Coordinator**. This position will coordinate management activities such as invasive species control, prescribe burns, timber management practices, project monitoring, initiate and administer grants and cost sharing programs, and equipment care/maintenance. Deadline is January 26. Visit <https://www.aldoleopold.org/employment/> for more information or to apply.

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.

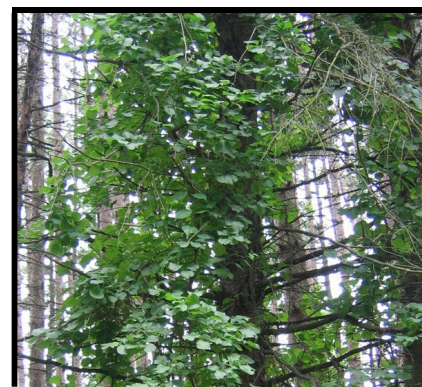
Asiatic bittersweet is listed as a restricted species under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule, Chapter NR 40. Restricted species are those that are already present throughout the state of Wisconsin and are not likely to be eradicated even though they are likely to cause significant environmental and 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 vs American bittersweet photo provided by Duluth News Tribune



Asiatic bittersweet vine photo taken by WDNR



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>