



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 Updates!

DCIST is celebrating another great year managing and mapping invasive species populations throughout Door County. We were able to control 2.4 acres of teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), 8.2 acres of Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), 109 acres of wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) and 206 acres of non-native phragmites (*Phragmites australis*). Of these areas treated, more were mapped to prepare for the 2024 field season and over 1,366 acres were monitored in 2023 including all quarries.

European frog bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) persists! DCIST inventoried 50 highly susceptible sites throughout Door County and inspected 67.5 miles of shoreline, wetland and creek corridors. Full time and LTE staff were able to hand pull a total of 235 lbs. of European Frog-Bit using kayaks. Three locations with identified populations are on the West side of the peninsula and are located at Peninsula State Park (Fish Creek), Little Sturgeon (North of Carmody Park) and Little Sturgeon (Twin Harbor Creek). The Fish Creek population was controlled through two rounds of hand pulling and removal. Both Little Sturgeon sites were controlled through a single hand pulling and removal. All sites with found populations will be re-evaluated in 2024 due to high probability that populations will return.

Looking forward to 2024, 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.

“Reporting invasive species is a first step in containing their spread. Maintaining and restoring our waters and landscapes can reduce the impacts even when we don’t have other management options to an 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 2023 season and looking forward to an even more successful 2024 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 Trees/Shrubs

Native trees and shrubs provide many benefits to our local ecosystems. They provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, reduce energy costs and are already adapted to our local temperatures making them easier to grow and maintain. When planted with climate change and disease/pests in mind – woodlands, forests and hardwood swamps can be more sustainable and provide greater ecological value.

EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) is an example of what happens to ecosystems that have low diversity. EAB feeds on ash species and eventually kills the tree. Forests that were dominated by ash trees are now dying. Door County is starting to see the effects EAB has on its forests. Areas that were once lush ash woodlands are now starting over.

To plan for the future, we have to consider there may be other pests or disease that could threaten what we are planting now – later on. So, how do we plant without knowing what the next invasive species might bring? Plant many different trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants to strengthen your woodland and outcompete invasive species.



Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*):

Yellow Birch has year-round benefits to enjoy. It can live for 150 years or more and the inner bark actually tastes and smells like wintergreen! If that isn't incredible enough to plant this tree it is also good to know that it grows 40-60' with a 40-50' spread making it a real show stopper. It is adaptable but prefers well drained, acidic soil with lots of room to branch out. It cannot survive in clay soil. Growth Rate: Slow

Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*):

Nannyberry is a fantastic native shrub that is often underutilized. Vibernum can be found growing in moist soils along stream banks, pond edges, low woods or bordering swamps. These creamy white flowers bloom May/June and their fruit is edible! In the fall the green leaves will change orange-red to purple making them light up the year with many different shades. Growth rate: Moderate



Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) "King of the Woods":

Sugar maple trees are well known for their delicious syrup (it takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup!) and fall colors. This perennial woody prefers moist woodland soils and can grow in full sun or shade. They bloom from April to June and typically grows 60-100 feet. Avoid planting in compacted soils. Many people enjoy planting Sugar maples along their driveways or roads due to their structure and beauty. Growth rate: Slow (Silver maples grow much faster!)

Photo credits: Minnesota Wildflowers *More information about these species visit: [Knowledgebase](#) | [Johnson's Nursery](#) | [Menomonee](#)

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Partner Updates!

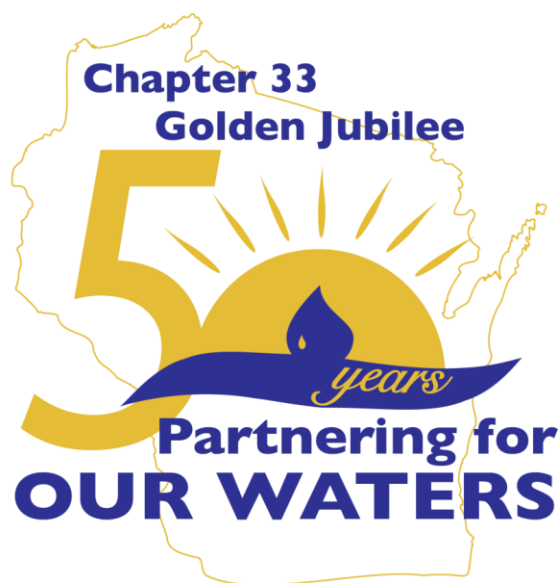
Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership

This convention is part of Wisconsin Water Week – April 10-12, 2024

We're ready to celebrate in 2024 with this theme: “Chapter 33 Golden Jubilee: 50 Years of Partnering for Our Waters”

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin's unique lake law, Chapter 33: Public Inland Waters. The legislature and governor worked together in the early 1970s to establish a collaborative research and management framework that lives on today as the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership. The law also created the pathway for landowners around lakes to form Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts. Today, over 250 lake districts exist in the state, and they all operate under the same policies and rules laid out in Chapter 33. As we gather in Stevens Point for our annual Convention, we'll look back at the progress made over 50 years of partnering to protect and restore waters, and we will collectively look ahead to the next 50 years to ensure that the next generations of water lovers will continue our legacy of proactive lake, river, and watershed management.

[Lakes and Rivers Convention - Wisconsin Water Week](#)



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Invasive Species News

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)

February 26, 2024 @8:00-March 1 @ 5:00 pm

NISAW is an international event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat that they pose, and what can be done to prevent their spread. NISAW is powered by The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA), which supports local, state, tribal, federal, regional, and national organizations to make NISAW their own with these tools:

Educational Invasive Species Webinars

NAISMA hosts educational webinars on priority invasive species issues the week of NISAW and the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Other organizations may host webinars also. The 2024 NISAW webinar series is listed below. Get more information and register on the NISAW events page.

- Monday, February 26, 2024 – Annual USGS Invasive Species Research Forum
- Tuesday, February 27-28, 2024 – The Invasive Species Language Workshop
- Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – The Federal Interagency Committee on the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds
- Thursday, February 29, 2024 – Opportunities and Challenges for Preventing the Next Plant Invasion
- Friday, March 1, 2024 – Protecting North American Biodiversity from Invasive Species

Congressional Briefings

NISAW provides an opportunity for organizations to hold formal briefings for Congressional staff to educate and inform on a specific topic or bill.

Local Events and Awareness Weeks or Months

NAISMA promotes state and local events and Awareness Weeks or Months utilizing the NISAW events page and social media channels.

Outreach and Communications

NAISMA encourages local, state, and regional organizations to use the FREE NISAW toolkit of outreach and communications resources to raise awareness of local invasive species concerns to elected officials, agency leadership, and the public. NAISMA's emails, social media posts, and digital advertising campaign aims to reach 500,000 viewers.



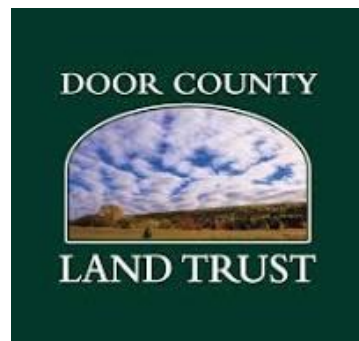
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Job Opportunities

Door County Land Trust

Stewardship field coordinator
Seasonal Stewardship Assistant
Development Staff Member

Link to apply: [Careers - Door County Land Trust](#)



The Ridges Sanctuary

Summer Naturalist Intern

Link to apply: [Employment – The Ridges Sanctuary](#)

Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department

LTE Conservationist (Invasive Species)

Link to apply: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/codoor>



Got Phragmites?!

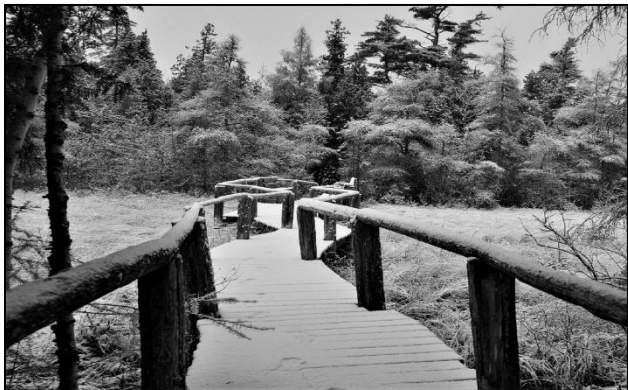
Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD) has secured funding through Wisconsin DNR's Surface Water Grant program, Forest Service's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program, and funding through the American Rescue Plan Act funds to address non-native phragmites on all private properties throughout the County. Funds are anticipated to last for 3-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.



Partner Events!

The Ridges Sanctuary

Winter Guided Hikes



Join a naturalist for an exploration of the Sanctuary in the winter. We will head out on the trails to learn all about the Sanctuary, explore some winter adaptations, search for animal tracks, and more! If conditions allow, we will utilize snowshoes for our hike. You can rent snowshoes from our nature store for \$5 per pair. Fee: Public \$10 | Member \$7 | 16 & under

Location: [Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center](#), 8166 State Hwy 57
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202 United States

Link to learn more about dates please visit:

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

Crossroads at Big Creek – Book Club

February 21 @ 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Crossroads Book Club meets the 4th Wednesday of the month (10-11:30), at 10am in the Collins Learning Center. February we're reading A Sand county Almanac by Aldo Leopold. Crossroads will have a few copies of the book available to borrow if needed. Whether you've read the book yet or not, we would love for you to join us as we explore the stories, ideas, and concepts shared within the pages of these awesome books!

Location: 2041 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Link to learn more: [Crossroads Book Club: A Sand County Almanac - Crossroads at Big Creek](#)



Door County Land Trust Webinar: Basics of Bird Identification

February 12 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm



Wait! What was that? Interested in learning how to identify those wonderfully winged creatures we call birds? Join us for an online presentation on the basics of how to identify them. We will cover the best tools to use, how to think taxonomically, and, if there is time, tips to identify some of our most common birds by sight and sound. This webinar is intended to be used in tandem with DCLT's earlier webinar on how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

Location: Online

Link to learn more and register: [Events - Door County Land Trust](#)

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Restoration Management Tools

The Prairie Enthusiasts

Makutu Herbicide Stick Applicator



To treat stumps:

The Makutu (derived from the Maori term for a magic that kills) Herbicide Wand is a tool that contains herbicide within a reservoir. A valve controls the flow of herbicide from the reservoir to the wick assembly. When used according to the instructions, the Makutu:

Makes very efficient use of herbicide;
Will not drip (if cautious), causing collateral damage;
Minimizes the likelihood of herbicide coming into direct contact with the skin of the user.



It is designed to apply herbicide to cut stems and stumps of woody vegetation but may also be used for basal bark applications and for spot-treating basal rosettes of plants such as teasel, Canada thistle, and spotted knapweed.

The Makutu is sturdy and its wick is durable and both inexpensive and easy to replace.

Link to learn more visit: <https://theprairieenthusiasts.org/product/makutu-herbicide-stick-applicator/>

The Prairie Enthusiasts

Parsnip Predator

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is one of the most common and irritating plant pests in southern Wisconsin.

The biennial grows first year rosettes bearing leaves about six inches tall. It develops a long, thick taproot, which is edible. The second year the plant produces a single, thick (1 inch diameter) stem, rising up to 5 feet, with hundreds of yellow umbellate (carrot-like) flowers. [source: WDNR – Invasive plant species – Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)]. It favors open sunny areas like roadsides, pastures, and fallow fields. Hikers learn the watery blisters on their skin came from wild parsnip; the rash is easily confused with poison ivy.

The Parsnip Predator cuts the taproot to stop the plant from growing.

Link to learn more: [Parsnip Predator - Prairie Enthusiasts \(theprairieenthusiasts.org\)](https://theprairieenthusiasts.org/product/parsnip-predator/)



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>

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Invasive Species Profile: Jumping Worms

Jumping worms (*Amyntas* spp.), also known as crazy worms, is a name that encompasses 51 species of invasive earthworm from the genus *Amyntas* that can damage landscapes and forests of the Midwest. These earthworms are native to Southeast Asia. In Wisconsin, they cause damage through rapid consumption of leaf litter and mulch layers leading to exposure of soil and roots. They can also cause the soil to be less suitable for native plants and seedlings. They were first found in Wisconsin in Madison in 2013. In 2014 they were found widespread in metropolitan areas of Madison and Milwaukee. In 2015, a further 20 counties were found to have populations. Once introduced to an area, jumping worms spread much more quickly on their own than European earthworms because of their higher activity and more frequent reproductive rate. Adult worms are not able to survive Wisconsin's winters, but unfortunately their cocoons (which are impossible to see without a microscope) do.

Jumping worms are spread through potted plants, balled and bur lapped nursery stock, soil, compost or mulch. They are also available online under many different common names for use as bait or in composting systems. Adult worms live on the surface and are very active and easily found when present. They jump and thrash when handled, and behave more like a threatened snake than an earthworm. Jumping worms can be anywhere from 1.5 to 8-inches long and the narrow band around their body (clitellum) is milky white and smooth, unlike other species that have a raised band.

You can help prevent the further spread of jumping worms through the following best management practices:

- Arrive clean, leave clean. Clean soil and debris from vehicles, equipment, gardening tools and personal gear.
- Educate yourself and others to recognize jumping worms.
- Only use, sell, plant, purchase or trade landscape and gardening materials and plants that appear to be free from jumping worms.
- Only sell, purchase or trade compost that was heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols for reduction in pathogens (see Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 502.12).

Jumping worms are listed as a restricted species in Wisconsin's Invasive Species rule (Chapter NR-40). Restricted status means that they are becoming more common throughout the state and poses great environmental and/or economic impacts. Restricted species cannot be purchased, bought, introduced, shared or spread within the state. For more information on Jumping Worms in Wisconsin,

Visit [Jumping worms | Amyntas spp. | Wisconsin DNR](#)



Above: Close-up of Jumping Worm.
Photo: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



Above: The soil in this plant plug is grainy, dry and almost looks like coffee grounds. Plants may have difficulty growing in this type of soil, which jumping worms create. **Below:** Close-up of light-colored narrow band. Photos: Wisconsin DNR.



The Door County Invasive Species Team – Brooke Dreshek, Coordinator

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

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