July 2020

# 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

### 4th of July Water Enthusiasts Help Halt the Spread of Invasive Species

Over the last week and through July 4th weekend, DCIST participated in the Wisconsin DNR's Landing Blitz and Drain Campaign. These efforts highlighted the DNR messaging about aquatic invasive species and worked as a reminder to water enthusiasts to **inspect** their boats, trailers and equipment, **remove** all attached plants or animals, **drain** all water from their boats, motors, live-wells and other equipment, **never move** live fish away from a waterbody, and **dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash. In true Door County fashion, all water enthusiasts greeted DCISTs efforts with a warm welcome and were excited to learn how they could help halt the spread of invasive species. Staff worked hard to maintain social distancing and promote awareness about aquatic invasive species. A total of 303 boats were inspected over the course of the long weekend.

*DCIST staff discussing aquatic invasive species with boaters during the July 4th weekend.*

*Volunteers pulling dames rocket and various other invasive species on Cana Island and along Spring Rd.*

### Volunteers out in Force During the Month of June

In June DCIST participated and hosted several volunteer events. These events included a dame's rocket pull with the Door County Maritime Museum on Cana Island, a follow up volunteer day addressing dames rocket and additional invasive species on Cana Island, and a mustard pull along Spring Road in Gibraltar addressing primarily dames rocket and garlic mustard. Between the three events, a total of 17 volunteers committed a total of 37 hours of service alongside DCIST staff. A big thank you to all volunteers, the Town of Gibraltar, the Door County Maritime Museum, and the Door County Facility and Parks Department for prioritizing control of invasive species. For the most up to date information about volunteer opportunities and workshops please check out our website at https://doorinvasives.org or follow us on Facebook.

### Got Woody Invasive Species? WIGL Collaborative is Here to Help!

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has just launched their Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes (WIGL) Collaborative. WIGL is focusing its initial efforts on 28 species that are regulated as invasive by at least one Great Lakes jurisdiction. Through the new website, land managers, green industry professionals, gardeners, homeowners, and educators can use the website to get information needed to identify, manage, and replace invasive woody plants and restore habitat for native plants and wildlife around the Great Lakes. The WIGL Collaborative is a project was funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. For more information please visit: **www.woodyinvasives.org**.

WIGL
WOODY INVASIVES OF THE GREAT LAKES COLLABORATIVE

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!

**Spreading Dogbane** (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*): This plant can be found in open woodlands, old farm fields, and field edges. The leaves of this plant are opposite. As with milkweed, the plant oozes a white milky sap when damaged. The flowers have a floral scent similar a lilac.

*Photo on the left curtesy of Iowa plants. Photo on the right curtesy of Al Schneider.*

*Photo on left curtesy of William Justice. Photo on right curtesy of J. S. Peterson.*

**Great Blue Lobelia** (*Lobelia siphilitica L.*)*:* This stunning plant can be found in wetlands and along creek corridors. The plant can get 2-3 ft tall and has distinct showy, bright blue flowers that form a spike cluster on a leafy stem. Each flower is split into two lips - the upper lip has two segments and the lower lip has three.

**Smooth Oxeye sunflower** (*Heliopsis helianthoides)*: A 3-5 ft. perennial with stiff, branched stems and sunflower-like heads. Resembling a small version of a yellow sunflower with opposite, toothed leaves. The yellow flower heads are 2 in. across and have raised, yellow centers.

*Photo on left curtesy of Peter Dziuk.*

*Photo on the left curtesy of Minnesota Wildflowers. Photo on the right curtesy of Jennifer Garrett.*

**Whorled Milkweed** (*Asclepias verticilata*): This plant is found in prairies, dry slopes, open woods, pastures, and fields. It grows to be 2.5’ tall and has long needle- like leaves. Like other milkweed, when the plant is damaged it oozes a white milky sap.

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## Invasive Species Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities

### Space-making in the Native Landscape

**Recording available**

This discussion-based presentation will be looking at the ecological benefits of native plants, especially in human-dominated landscapes where ecological function may be an afterthought, with a special emphasis on the design considerations that can ensure a long-lasting habitat. In addition, the presentation will include new developments in grading and drainage in the home native landscape!

For more information visit:
https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/webcasts/?fbclid=IwAR3ClkhWhTA_NMreiwlkdyc8_usLIPnRHAabBDpq--JGmc0cgGKXo-iUKfA

### WIGL Webinars

**July 16th 2-3pm & July 28th 10-11am, 2020**

These webinars (same content) will demonstrate features of the WIGL Collaborative website. Space is limited, so sign up today. Can't make either date? We will record, so no worries. Click links below to register. For more information and to register please visit:

Thursday, July 16:
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtduuhrT0rHtBPgc8ewNlt1GnjTZ_2nfD5
Tuesday July 28, :
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElcuCgqTsoGtOgtSR1Em5MlstfiUNabC9O

### Bridge Snapshot Day

**August 15th, 2020**

Join other water enthusiasts at a location near you for the annual statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day. Learn how to check for invasive species that can harm waterways. At some sites friendly waters will beg you to wade in to get a better look, while at other sites volunteers will be asked to simply search from the safety of the shore with binoculars and rakes. Help from the shoreline or by wading into the water. It's up to you! More information about what the event will look like and how to register coming soon! For more information please visit:
https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/snapshot-day/

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## Invasive Species Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities

### 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

### Boot Brush Stations Along the Ahnapee

Help DCIST, along with the Door County Facility & Parks Department, to prevent the spread of invasive species this summer. Facilities & Parks has installed three boot brush stations along the Ahnapee Trail. Two boot brush stations are near the Forestville Dam County Park, and the third is at the trail head on Neenah Ave. These stations ask recreationists to clean their clothes, shoes, equipment, and pets of seeds and mud prior to and after walking the Ahnapee Trail. These stations are one of the components of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grant the Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department secured in 2019. This grant also provided funding for the CD3 boat cleaning stations at Carmody and Pinney Park. These prevention efforts aim to empower Door County citizens and visitors to help halt the spread of invasive species. Remember an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

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/.

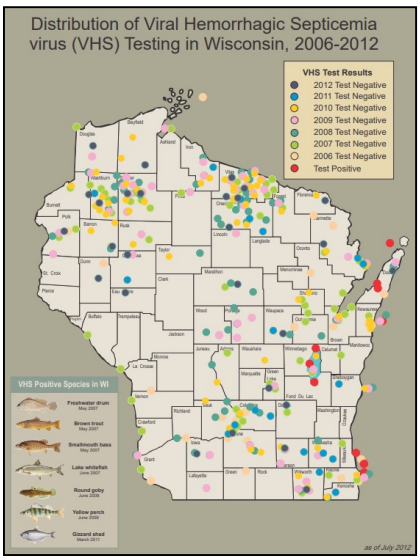
Keep an eye out for our August Newsletter and keep up to date on our DCIST website at **https://doorinvasives.org.** We will be posting any and all additional training opportunities & educational materials as we receive them.

# VHS, which we could rewind!

**Invasive Species Profile:** viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) An invader of Door County

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a deadly fish virus and invasive species threatening more than 25 fish species including muskies, walleye, whitefish, yellow perch, bluegill, Chinook salmon, and burbot. It is not a threat to people who handle infected fish or want to eat their catch. VHS was diagnosed for the first time ever in the Great Lakes as the cause of large fish kills in Lakes Huron, St. Clair, Erie, Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River in 2005 and 2006.

VHS was found in European freshwater trout dating to the late 1930s and continues to cause epidemics in European trout farms; it first appeared on the U.S. West Coast in 1988 in marine trout and salmon, and started to be noticed in marine fish off the eastern Canadian province of New Brunswick from 2000-2004. The virus found in Wisconsin is a new genetic strain that's most closely related to the virus found in the Pacific Northwest, rather than the strain found in Europe.




*Map curtesy of the Wisconsin DNR*

Scientists are not sure how the virus arrived in the Great Lakes. It may have come in with migrating fish from the Atlantic Coast, or it may have hitch-hiked in ballast water from ships. Currently Lake Michigan is the only waterbody in Door County with VHS reported. Symptoms of VHS include: Hemorrhaging (bleeding), Bulging eyes, Unusual behavior, Anemia, Bloated abdomens & Rapid onset of death. These symptoms could apply to many fish diseases; therefore, VHS must be confirmed by lab results. Additionally, some infected fish may not show any signs and transporting these fish to new locations could spread the disease to new waters. Like many invasive species, prevention is the key to halt spread.

*VHS infected Gizzard shad phot curtesy of Mohamed Faisal*

Infected fish shed the virus in their urine and reproductive fluids. The virus can survive in water for at least 14 days. Virus particles in the water infect gill tissue first, and then move to the internal organs and the blood vessels. The blood vessels become weak, causing hemorrhages in the internal organs, muscle, and skin. Fish can also be infected when they eat an infected fish. Fish that survive the infection will develop antibodies to the virus. The antibodies are short lived as the concentration of antibodies in the fish will drop over time and the fish may start shedding virus again. This may create a cycle of fish kills that occurs on a regular basis.

*VHS infected Pacific Herring photo curtesy of USGS*

To prevent the spread of VHS, remember to drain your boat and live-wells completely. Do not transport live fish or fish eggs, except for Minnows purchased from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer. Minnows may be transported and used again if they are used on the same body of water or no river/lake water or other fish were added to the bucket. For more information about preventing VHS please visit: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/vhs/vhs_prevent.html