



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

2022 Black Swallow Wort Inventory



June 30th Ridges staff, along with a volunteer, and the Door County Invasive Species Team headed out to map all populations of black swallow wort. Black swallow wort has been documented in Baileys Harbor since 2012. This year’s monitoring effort revealed several control successes in locations with historic populations, and illustrated the need for continued efforts, as new populations were identified along 42/57 through Baileys Harbor. DCIST has used these inventories to target control efforts.

Black swallow wort is not commonly found throughout the northern Wisconsin. These plants are so uncommon in northern Wisconsin that they are listed as prohibited meaning under the Wisconsin Invasive Species Law NR40 it is illegal to have these plants, and control is required. There is only one area in Door County with populations of black swallow wort, Baileys Harbor.



Monarchs are dependent on milkweeds as a nursery or host plant for their eggs and larvae. Without milkweed, the larva would not be able to develop into a butterfly. Monarchs use a variety of milkweeds, but there are several introduced milkweed plants called swallow-worts which are also eaten by monarchs. Swallow-worts have similar chemical properties to common milkweeds (Asclepias genus), which fool monarchs into laying eggs on them. Unfortunately swallow-wort species are not suitable food for monarch larvae and monarch caterpillars fail to develop into pupae when feeding on them.

DCIST, The Ridges, and other partners will continue to monitor for this plant. Early detection efforts for these small isolated populations are key for potential eradication. If you suspect you have this plant or know of a population please reach out to DCIST.

DCIST previously worked with the Master Gardeners to eradicate another prohibited species, 5-leaf akebia vine in Sevastopol, at the Garden Door. This lone population was the only documented population of 5-leaf akebia vine in Door County. Based on monitoring for this year, DCIST is able to boast this population appears to have been successfully eradicated.

Black swallowwort flowers and vine taken June 30, 2022 in Baileys Harbor by Sam Koyen.

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 and much like milkweed when damage the plant oozes a white milky sap. The flowers have a floral scent much like a lilac.



Photo on left taken by Iowa plants. Photo on right taken by Al Schneider.



Photo on left taken by William Justice. Photo on right taken by J. S. Peterson.

Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica* L.): This stunning plant can be found in wetland and along creek corridors. The plant can get 2-3 ft tall and has distinct Showy, bright blue flowers the 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 taken by Peter Dziuk.



Photo on left taken by Minnesota Wildflowers. Photo on right taken by Jennifer Garrett.

Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*): This plant is found in prairies, dry slopes, open woods, pastures and fields. It goes 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.

Invasive Species Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities

European Frog Bit Inventory Efforts Washington Island

August 17th, 2022 9 am – 12 pm

Join DCIST in monitoring for European frog bit (EFB). EFB was first detected in Oconto county last August. Help monitor for this aquatic invader and enjoy getting out along the lake shore and learn more about this new invader to the bay of Green Bay. For more information please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/washington-island-european-frog-bit-monitoring-tickets-392795159897>



Photo taken by Leslie J. Mehroff,
University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Webinar: Why do anglers release baitfish? An application of the Theory of Planned Behavior

August 17, 2022 @ 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm CDT



This NAISMA webinar explores whether the illegal release of live baitfish, a common behavior among recreational anglers that risks the spread of invasive species and pathogens, could be explained by the Theory of Planned Behavior. Researchers implemented a survey of licensed recreational anglers in Minnesota, USA and analyzed the results with structural equation modeling to assess the relationships between attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control and intent to release live baitfish. Speaker is Margaret McEachran.

For more information Please visit: <https://naisma.org/event/webinar-w-samantha-yuan/>

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC)

October 25th-27th

The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) is a biennial conference that addresses all taxa of invasive species. In 2022, UMISC will celebrate 14 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: <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/upper-midwest-invasive-species-conference-2022-hybrid-2138584912?resp=on&dateid=2138364540>



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.

Invasive Species and Conservation News!

Later Alligator!



An American alligator was found in Long Lake in Fond du Lac County. The alligator was netted by the Osceola Boat Patrol and handed over the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR Conservation Wardens then contacted J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue (JRAAR), who was able to accept the Alligator. "Legally," says John Moyles of JRAAR, "we are able to take in Alligators up to 30 inches long, and this guy is much less than that. We are fortunate that we are in a position to help this animal either be legally reunited with his owner or sent to a sanctuary." J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue was able to help rehome the alligator to the Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary in Athens, Michigan. J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue's purpose is to give people options for their pets other than releasing them into the wild. If you have a pet that you cannot care for, you can contact them, and they will help! To learn more please visit: www.jraar.org

Migratory monarch butterfly now Endangered - IUCN Red List

July 21, the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) updated their Red List of Threatened Species to include the monarch butterfly, listing the species as Endangered. "Today's Red List update highlights the fragility of nature's wonders, such as the unique spectacle of monarch butterflies migrating across thousands of kilometres," said Dr Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General. "To preserve the rich diversity of nature we need effective, fairly governed protected and conserved areas, alongside decisive action to tackle climate change and restore ecosystems. In turn, conserving biodiversity supports communities by providing essential services such as food, water and sustainable jobs."

The IUCN is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Currently US Fish and Wildlife Service does not have monarch butterflies listed under the Endangered Species Act however, the monarch is a candidate species. US Fish and Wildlife Service does encourage all people take advantage of any opportunity they may have to conserve the species.

For more information on FWS please visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/monarch-butterfly-danaus-plexippus>

For more information on the IUCN Red List Story please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/press-release/202207/migratory-monarch-butterfly-now-endangered-iucn-red-list>



Adult monarch butterfly. Photo taken by Joe Schelling



Newly hatch monarch caterpillar. Photo taken by Samantha Koyen

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!

European Frog Bit

Invasive Species Profile: European Frog Bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) An invader of Door County

European frog bit (EFB) is a small floating invasive plant that can invade shallow or slow-moving waters. EFB can form large colonies of dense floating mats that can drastically reduce light that native plants need and restrict movement of large fish and diving duck. EFB was first found in Oconto County in 2021. It is a popular plant in the aquarium trade. Two EFB plants were found in Door County on June 19, 2022, in the Little Sturgeon area.

EFB is a free-floating, aquatic plant that can form dense mats of interlocking plants. The leaves are leathery, measure 0.5-2.5" across and are round to heart-shaped. EFB produces small white three petal flowers in mid-summer. This plant rarely reproduces through seed, instead relying on vegetative reproduction.

EFB looks most similar to American frog-bit (*Limnobium spongia*) which is a native frog-bit found in the southern United States. EFB is smooth, often dark purple underneath, with tissues containing air pockets located mostly along the midvein.

Due to the recent discovery of this species in Wisconsin there is not much known for control options. The only known effective control method currently for this plant, is manual control. All known populations are being controlled through hand-pulling and ensuring the entire plant is removed. For more information please visit the Wisconsin DNR page at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/EuropeanFrogbit.html>. DCIST and the WDNR is asking the public to join in efforts for monitoring for this species.

European frog bit is a prohibited species under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule Chapter NR 40. Prohibited species are not currently found in Wisconsin or are found in very low density and few areas. Prohibited species are likely to cause significant environmental and economic harm or harm to human health. The NR 40 Rule makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce invasive species listed as a prohibited species in Wisconsin. **If you find knotweed species in Door County, be sure to report it to DCIST or using the GLEDN app!**



Photo taken by Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

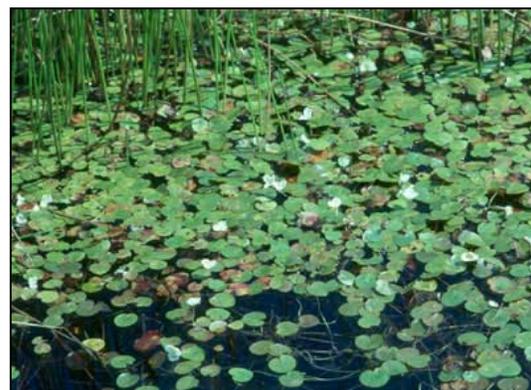


Photo taken by Erich Haber



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