



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

2021 DCIST Update



Photo courtesy of Sam Koyen.

The 2021 field season was a busy one! Door County SWCD expanded efforts to identify populations of European marsh thistle, purple loosestrife, and non-native bitter sweet. These efforts focused on areas deemed as having high ecological importance and being most susceptible to these invaders through a variety of data. Every property that submitted a permission slip on time received a site visit by an SWCD intern. Over 5,000 acres were surveyed through these efforts! Additionally, SWCD was able to do some control work but do the overwhelming interest of this project by the public SWCD was not able to address all populations inventoried. Next year SWCD will utilize the existing inventory to prioritize control efforts.

These efforts were in conjunction with prohibited early detection efforts including follow up control on porcelain berry, 5-leaf akebia vine, and black swallow wort. Additionally, SWCD performed inventory and control efforts associated with the priority four species, phragmites, Japanese knotweed, teasel species, and wild parsnip.

In 2021, DCIST was able to inventory and treat approximately 55 acres of *Phragmites*, 3.5 acres of teasel, 3.5 acres Japanese Knotweed, 23 acres of wild parsnip, and 1.1 acres of prohibited invasive species (black swallow-wort, porcelain berry, and 5-leaf akebia vine). Additionally, 284 acres of non-priority invasive species (European marsh thistle, garlic mustard, etc.) were treated. For a total of 370+ acres of invasive species treated this year.

Field staff utilized inventory data to treat invasive species populations identified within project boundaries throughout the county, including public and private lands. Later this year the data will be shared on the county web map (<http://map.co.door.wi.us/map/>).

Public outreach and education strategies were still modified due to COVID-19 protocols. Door County Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) participants were able to inspect 839 boats and provide aquatic invasive species prevention messaging to over 1,681 people, while taking proper health safety precautions. These efforts were in addition to several web presentations, in person presentations, and hands on training DCIST offered throughout the year. Additionally, the Town of Sister Bay adopted a Noxious and Invasive Species Weed Ordinance increasing the total amount of municipalities with ordinances to 12 out of 19.

This year's significant efforts by DCIST partners and seasonal staff would not have been made possible without the Door County community. As we head into winter, DCIST will be preparing for another successful year of invasive species education, monitoring, and control efforts in Door County for 2022!



Photo courtesy of Sam Koyen.

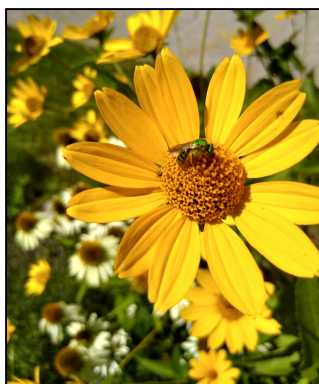


Photo courtesy of Sam Koyen.

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Native Species Highlights

Wisconsin Native Species Spooky edition!

Door County is home to many beautiful native plants. Below are a few species that you might see in Door County as you get our and enjoy the crisp fall air. These species highlight the importance of maintaining our native ecology. While you are outside enjoying the natural areas in Door County, help halt invasive species by reporting any populations on the GLEDN app and as always try to landscape with native species!

Witch grass/witch's hair (*Panicum capillare*): This annual grass has hairy stems and hairless leaves that can be up to 10" long. The explosive seed heads appear in late summer to early fall lasting about two weeks, then detach from the plant and roll across the ground like a tumble weed. The seed heads with their wild nature earns this plant its common name witches hair/witch grass.



Photo on the left courtesy of Sam C. Strickland
Photo on the right courtesy of Frank Richards.



Dolls eyes (*Actea pachypoda*): This peculiar plant earns its common name for the unusual eyeball-like fruit it bears. Another common name for this plant is white baneberry. This plant is found in upland woodlands.

New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*): Is a beautiful aster with pink to purple petals and a yellow center. The plant was included in our Halloween edition because what is more terrifying then a plant who reminds us of the New England Patriots and the Minnesota Vikings during football season? The genus name comes from the Greek *symph* meaning "coming together" and *trich* meaning "hair," in possible reference to the flower structure.

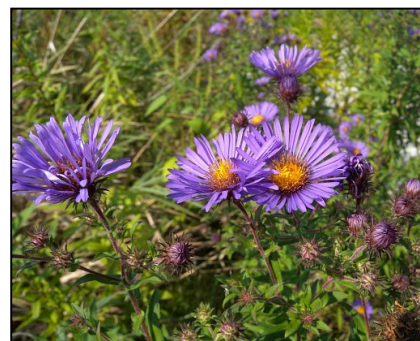


Photo courtesy of Illinois Wildflowers.



Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*): This shrub is not named after witches, rather it comes from the middle English word wych or Wyche, meaning flexible, in reference to the plants flexible branches. Common witch hazel blooms in October/November. There are a few spring-flowering witch hazels that start blooming in February/March.

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 November 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 Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities

Get to Know Wisconsin's Bats

October 21st

Curious about Wisconsin's bats? Want to know more about White Nose Syndrome?

Get to know Wisconsin's bats with us on Thursday, October 21st! Listen to a presentation by a Conservation Biologist from the Wisconsin Bat Program at 2:00pm. Then, at 3:30pm, join us for a bat house building workshop!

The Bat Workshop will take place at The Ridges Nature Center from 2:00-5:00pm. For more information visit: <https://www.ridgessanctuary.org/event/get-to-know-wisconsins-bats/>



Photo courtesy of WI DNR.



Join a Ridges naturalist every Thursday at 10AM on a hike out to the oldest ridge and swales that you can access from the Ridges sanctuary's hiking trails. Experience the differences between the ridges and swales as you navigate from the youngest to oldest ridges. 2.5-mile hike with moderate difficulty. \$8 Public | \$5 Members | Free Under 18
Preregistration required: <https://www.ridgessanctuary.org/event/solitude-swale-guided-hike-2/2021-10-21/>

Solitude Swale Guided Hike

October 21st & 28th

Habitat Healers

October 23rd & 29th

Cross Roads is looking for volunteers of all ages are invited to help with their land restoration efforts. Instruction will be given. Equipment and gloves provided along with cookies and lemonade. Please wear clothing that can get dirty and wet and appropriate footwear. Meet at the Workshop/Nursery at the northeast corner of the main campus of the Cross Roads parking lot at 2041 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay. For more information please visit: <https://crossroadsatbigcreek.org/event/habitat-healers-45/>



UW Arboretum Launches Community-based Research Survey on Jumping Worms

Ends of November 15th



If you would like to participate, please follow the "Take the survey" link below to the UW–Madison Arboretum 2021 Community Survey on Jumping Worms. This link will take you to a page with more information about the study and a consent form. If you consent to participate in the study, you will then be directed to the survey. The survey will be open through November 15. You could also have the option to participate in a virtual focus group to learn more specifics about your observations and experiences with jumping worms.

For more information please visit: https://arboretum.wisc.edu/news/arboretum-news/jumping-worm-survey-launch/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=enews_october-news-2021&fbclid=IwAR2Ij2JtKA9t3zAuPOI7HpJSu4v3KzBSjnutXonfJBXR4eTT9_sXknREaEc

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Seeing Stars?

Invasive Species Profile: Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtuse*) An invader of Door County

Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtuse*), native to Europe and Asia, is a submerged aquatic macrophyte (algae) known for growing in dense mats. A relatively new invader, it was first found in the Great Lakes in 1983 and starting in 2006 starry stonewort rapidly expanded across inland lakes in Michigan. In many infested lakes, this alga impedes navigation, limits growth of beneficial plants, and covers valuable fish habitat and spawning areas. Inland lakes infested with starry stonewort often develop very clear water as it prevents the re-suspension of particulate matter in the water column. Starry stonewort was first recorded in Door County in 2016 in Lake Michigan. No populations of starry stonewort have been documented in any of Door County's inland lakes.

Starry stonewort is similar in appearance to a native species known as *Chara*. It has tiny, star-shaped, tan-colored reproductive structures called "bulbils" that are firm to the touch when compared to its soft branches. The presence of bulbils is one way to distinguish between starry stonewort from *Chara*. Starry stonewort has whorls (leaves that encircle the stem) of 4-6 long branchlets, with blunt tips. It is more robust than most members of its family and can grow to over 6.5 feet tall. Starry stonewort's branches look and feel gelatinous, unlike *Chara*, which feels brittle and scaly. It typically grows in alkaline lakes with marl sediments, up to 30 feet deep.

Starry stonewort is typically an annual but can behave as a perennial during mild winters. Because it lacks roots, it can be dislodged from the bottom without much difficulty. However, manual removal of starry stonewort is difficult and probably impractical on a large scale. Abundant bulbils on the rhizoids can dislodge if disturbed and will sprout new individuals. Starry stonewort can also regrow from pieces of plants that are chopped off but not harvested. Manual removal efforts must emphasize careful removal of these bulbils and plant parts. Chemical treatments have been used with mixed success but could also pose problems for other aquatic life. To prevent the spread of starry stonewort from Lake Michigan to inland lakes make sure to **INSPECT** your boat, trailer and equipment, **REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants or animals, **DRAIN** all water from boats, motors and all equipment, and **NEVER MOVE** live fish away from a waterbody. For more information on starry stonewort please visit: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/StarryStonewort.html>

In Wisconsin, starry stonewort is listed as a prohibited species under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule Chapter NR 40. Prohibited species are those that are not yet present in the state or only in a few places, are likely to cause environmental and/or economic harm, and could be feasibly eradicated. The NR 40 Rule makes it illegal to transport, possess, transfer, or introduce without a permit. **If you find starry stonewort in Door County, be sure to report it to DCIST or using the GLEDN app!**



Photo of a "bulbil" found at the Sister Bay Marina



Photo of a mat of starry stonewort. Photo courtesy of MN DNR.



Photo of an underwater mat of starry stonewort. Photo courtesy of Paul Skawinski.

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