



# 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

### Prohibited Species Efforts in Door county

This summer DCIST, the Ridges, Master Gardeners, and a handful of dedicated private citizens took on several prohibited species identified in Door County. Prohibited species are those rarely found in Wisconsin, with the exception of small pioneer populations that are isolated, but which, if introduced into the state, are likely to survive and spread, potentially causing significant environmental or economic harm or harm to human health. Under NR 40 individuals cannot transport, possess, transfer, or introduce prohibited species without a permit. DCIST along with these private citizens and organizations, made efforts to control porcelain berry, black swallow-wort, and 5-leaf akebia vine.

All three of these species are vines. Each were introduced as ornamental plants and managed to spread from beyond the garden bed into the native landscape. They colonized and degraded natural areas which resulted in them being categorized as invasive species. This story is not uncommon and highlights the importance of planting and utilizing native species when landscaping.

Porcelain berry is a woody vine from east Asia and is used in landscaping. Its fruits are eaten by birds, who in turn, spread seeds which start new populations. As it grows, it climbs up shrubs and trees, cloaking them and shading out the plants below. It can completely blanket yards and parks, killing most other plants.

5-leaf akebia vine is a woody vine from east Asia and is used in landscaping. Its other common name is chocolate vine, due to its deep purple/red flowers and the chocolate scent they produce. This vine primarily spreads vegetatively through its roots. Similar to porcelain berry, as 5-leaf akebia vine grows, it climbs up shrubs and trees, cloaking them and shading out the plants below.

Black swallow-wort is in the milkweed family and was originally introduced to the Harvard Botanic Garden and other properties in Massachusetts as an ornamental plant in the mid-1800s. Black swallow-wort is similar to our native milkweed species, resulting in monarchs laying their eggs on this impostor plant, unaware that the plant is toxic to its unsuspecting offspring. Similar to 5-leaf akebia vine and porcelain berry, black swallow-wort also shades out and out competes native vegetation.

**Remember if you see one of these species in Door County, be sure to report it to DCIST or using the GLEDN app!**



*On the left is a photo of 5-leaf akebia vine post treatment. On the right is a photo of summer growth of 5-leaf akebia vine, photo courtesy of James Miller.*



*On the left is a photo of black swallow-wort flowers in bloom. On the right is a photo of the entire plant. Photos courtesy of Kelly Kearns.*



*On the left is a photo of porcelain berry vegetation. On the right is a photo of the pastel colored berries porcelain berry produces, photo courtesy of David Eagan.*

## 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 the natural areas in Door County, help halt invasive species by reporting any populations on the GLEDN app and landscape with native species!

**Closed Bottle Gentian** (*Gentiana andrewsii*): This flowering plant blooms from August through October. Flowers appear to be inflated air sacs that range in color from purple to white. Only strong pollinators, such as bumble bees, can force the flower open to get at the nectar and deposit pollen, earning this plant its common name.



Photo on the left curtesy of Mark Mittelstadt.  
Photo on the right curtesy of Emmett J. Judziwicz.



Photo curtesy of C. Peirce.

**Stiff-leaved Godlenrod** (*Solidago rigida*): This beautiful late blooming flower has light green and pubescent leaves (like the skin of a peach) and has a flat top of vibrant yellow flowers. This plant earned its common name for having leaves and stems that “stiffen” up throughout the year.

**Heath Aster** (*Symphotrichum ericoides*): This late blooming aster can be white, light blue, or pale pink with a yellow center. The genus name comes from the Greek *symph* meaning “coming together” and *trich* meaning “hair,” in possible reference to the flower structure. This plant resembles heather with its woody-like stems, narrow short leaves, and spikes of flowers; giving this plant its species name (*erica* meaning heather) and common name, heath aster.



Photo on the right curtesy of Terry Glase. Photo on the left curtesy of Marvin G. Bloomquist.



Photo on the right curtesy of W.D. and Dolphia Bransford.

Photo on the left curtesy of Julie Makin.

**Button blazingstar/rough blazing star** (*Liatris aspera*): This pink/purple flower creates vibrant spikes of color. The Latin name *aspera* translates to “rough.” The clustered flower heads earn this plant its other common name, button blazing star due to the cluster resembling buttons. As with many *Liatris* species, it is a favorite amongst butterflies for its nectar.

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!

## Local Highlights

### Stewarding the Land

Recently DCIST, along with the Door County Land Trust, had the privilege of being invited by a landowner, to look for potential invasive species on their property. This story is very common and reflects the support the Door County community has for DCIST; however, unlike many landowners, this landowner's home is located along a swath of land, home to a handful of federally and state protected species associated with coastal dune habitat.

Walking through the dunes, the landowner's passion for the land and desire to learn more about the ecology of the property was evident from the questions they asked and in the stories they told about growing up in this unique landscape. The land was a family property where they grew up playing in the dunes building sand castles and decorating them with all sorts of shells, rocks, and plants. Spectacular castle designs called attention to the variety of species native to the dune habitat, creating the perfect playground for learning. As we walked, the landowner pointed out various species and identified them by their castle décor function, such as a clump of native field sagewort (*Artemisia campestris*) as little trees. They recalled a passing ecologist commenting to their mom about the "rare Pitcher's thistle" and that it needed to be protected. Looking out at the property you could see why this statement seemed so odd to the family, the rolling dunes are covered with the silvery blue/green leaves of the Pitcher's dune thistle.

This simple statement about the "rare Pitcher's dune thistle" led the family to become stewards of their land and they worked to preserve the coastal dune habitat. Many hours were spent hand-pulling invasive species and educating themselves about the various threats to the dune habitat. These invaders to the dune habitat include spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculate/Centaurea stoebe*) (restricted), bouncing bet/soap wort (*Saponaria officinalis*) (non-restricted), common reed/phrag (*Phragmites australis*) (restricted), Helleborine orchid (*Epipactis helleborine*) (restricted), bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* Spp.) (restricted), and common Saint John's-Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) (non-restricted). The landowner talked about the ease of hand-pulling some species, such as spotted knapweed, and the frustration associated with other species, such as bouncing bet, which often times breaks off when pulling plants. Even with these frustrations the family's efforts have never wavered.

This family highlights the ecological focus of Door County residents and demonstrates how people can become stewards by protecting and enhancing their own property. DCIST partner, the Door County Land Trust, will be supporting dune landowners to steward their property near the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Preserve through funding provided by a multi-year US Fish and Wildlife Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant which focuses on coastal dune habitat restoration. The Door County Land Trust will help landowners with management techniques and potential funding to help preserve the dune habitat.



Field sagewort, on the left is the flowering structure on the right is the basal leaves.



Pitcher's dune thistle.



Bouncing bet, photo curtesy of Gerald C Williamson.



Spotted knapweed, photo curtesy of Idaho Fish & Game.

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## Invasive Species Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities



**NAISMA**  
NORTH AMERICAN INVASIVE SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

**Annual Conference**  
Virtual | Oct. 6-8, 2020  
Jumpstart your career in invasive species management!

- Daily plenary sessions
- 96+ presentations
- Live Q&A at each session
- Recordings available for 1 year
- 9 live networking sessions

**Discounted Student Rate**  
Student members: FREE  
Student non-members: \$40  
\*All non-member registrants will get 1 year NAISMA student membership with registration

[NAISMA.org/conferences](https://naisma.org/conferences)

### North America Invasive Species Management Association October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Each year, NAISMA hosts an annual conference connecting terrestrial and aquatic invasive species management, research, policy, and outreach initiatives and opportunities across North America.

This year's virtual conference pricing is a great deal for anyone who does invasive species management, research, policy, or outreach and education who are looking for an affordable professional development opportunity. The conference agenda will include at least 18 sessions at 90 minutes each, 3 Keynote presentations, and several virtual networking opportunities.

For more information visit: <https://naisma.org/conferences/>

### 2020 Southern Illinois Conservation Workshop September 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

The third annual Southern Illinois Conservation Workshop has been converted to a week-long, virtual webinar series this year. This workshop brings together professionals with expertise on different aspects of landowner conservation to offer an opportunity for local land managers and landowners to learn, make connections, and ask questions.

Join us online via Zoom, September 21-25, 2:00pm-4:00pm CDT each day. If you cannot attend the in-person webinars, they will be recorded and posted to YouTube for later viewing. Topics include: Stream restoration in southern Illinois, wildlife benefits of native shrubs, What's the plant?, Herbicide sprayers and best practices 101, and so much more. For more information and to register please visit: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22467>



### Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) November 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

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](http://www.umisc.net)



**UMISC**  
Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference  
**2020 ONLINE**  
Pathways to Success:  
Partnership and Purpose

Join us for the largest  
**INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE**  
in North America!  
NOVEMBER 2-6, 2020

**Registration Opens June 1st**

Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), Minnesota  
Photo by Chris J. Benson

A week of learning & networking for under \$100 - details to follow  
[www.umisc.net](http://www.umisc.net) | [cryan@umisc.net](mailto:cryan@umisc.net)

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](mailto: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 October 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.

## A Thorn in Door County Ecology

### Invasive Species Profile: Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) An invader of Door County

Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), also known as alder buckthorn, is a deciduous, understory shrub that was introduced from Europe as an ornamental plant. It aggressively invades wetlands including swamps, bogs, fens and sedge meadows. While it prefers wetlands, Glossy buckthorn has a wide habitat tolerance that can include upland areas with full sun or deep shade as well. It exhibits a rapid growth rate, extensive root system, and abundant production of flowers and fruits throughout the growing season. Impacts of glossy buckthorn invasion include a loss of native plant diversity, inhibition of tree and shrub regeneration, and limited recreational opportunities due to dense thickets that can form.



Photo courtesy of Gary Fewless.

Glossy buckthorn can be identified as a small tree or shrub up to 20' tall with gray-brown bark and lightly colored lenticels that give the bark a speckled appearance (Note: native plums and cherries have a similar bark). Cutting the stems of this plant reveals a distinctive yellow sapwood and bright orange heartwood. Leaves are oval-shaped and slightly wavy, 2-3 inches long and shiny on the upper surface. They have prominent veins that come straight out from the midrib and curve slightly toward the tip. The leaves emerge early in the growing season and remain late into the fall which aides in identification of the species.

Mechanical methods such as hand-pulling and digging can be effective on small populations/plants if care is taken to remove the as much of the root system as possible. Larger plants can be removed using a leverage tool such as a weed wrench. For more dense or established populations, chemical control in the form of a cut-stump or basal bark treatment may be most effective. For more information please visit UW Madison Renz Lab Invasive Plant Factsheet at: <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Flearningstore.uwex.edu%2FAssets%2Fpdfs%2FA3924-02.pdf> and the Wisconsin DNR at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/GlossyBuckthorn.html>.

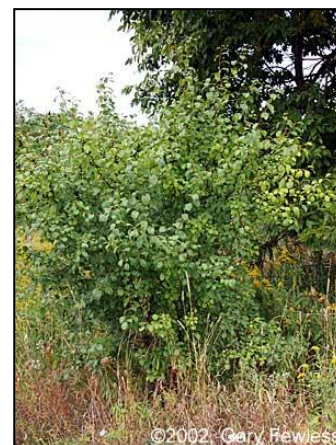


Photo courtesy of Gary Fewless.

In Wisconsin, glossy buckthorn 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 and 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 find glossy buckthorn in Door County, be sure to report it to DCIST or using the GLEDN app!**



Photo courtesy of Gary Fewless.

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