

Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group (MCISWG): Notes 6/27/17

Invited Attendees: Bob **Micheel**, MCLCC; Mic Armstrong USDA NRCS; Joey **Esterline**, landowner, Horticulturist; Ben **Johnson** SWISC, (Kickapoo), Resident/Volunteer; Megan **Mickelson**, DNR Forester; Andrew **Haffle**, DNR Wildcat Tim **Wilder**, Fort Mc Coy; Jim **Raiten** Center for Environmental Management Colorado State University (Fort McCoy); Bill **Halfman**, UW Extension Sparta; Sharon **Folcey**, Chair of Monroe Co. Board and Director District 2, WI Towns Assoc.; Dave **Ohnstad** MCHD;

Not present: Dave **Texley** Fort McCoy Pest management; Matt **Modjeski**- DNR Conservation Officer; Chad **Zeigler** MC Forester; Brad **Gilbertson** City of Sparta; Michelle **Komiskey** NRCS;

Micheel opened with a recap of the last meeting, Sharon **Folcey** complimented the scribe!

Armstrong attempted to explain what a CISMA was (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) and why it would be a good idea-formal organization to apply for grants, umbrella for volunteer activities, 'Hold harmless Agreement' tool trailer, Mission statement, 'Hold harmless Agreement' Agreed

Micheel will invite another CISMA representative to come and talk about their story (Dunn County).

Discussed the need for a Chair person- agreed to wait for next meeting.

Armstrong summarized the Amur Maple pre-meeting held at the bike trail earlier in the day

- Acer ginnala (Amur Maple) is a widely used ornamental shrub/small tree, can be found on just about every street in Sparta. This location is on the sides of the bike trail just east of Speeds Bike shop. It is spreading among the trail east.
- Has been mapped in Gledn up to about 2 miles from Speeds. I tried to see the map of these locations on EDDMapS but the site was down.
- There is a Northern States Power "Substation" property on the corner too where you can see Amur maple is the dominant plant on much of the acreage. This could be an opportunity for a joint project to control/ education of this invasive plant. Emailed note from Ben...'at the CISMA meeting last spring one of the groups told of a partnership with a power company to control JKnotweed....CISMA supplied the herbicide and the power company made the application...I think. Come to think of it, it may have been Chris Gaetzke's group'.
- Fort McCoy identified and treated a population about 15 years ago. Wilder and Raiten will return to the site and see if there is any there.
- **Haffle** will try to cut trees that overhang the trail to minimize further spread.
- A second site was visited the large Bike trail parking lot off (Imac Ave) has some mature trees growing on a site with standing water, exemplifying the adaptability of the plant. It is spreading south and east through state and private owned areas including wetlands.
- NR-40 Wisconsin's invasive species rule assessed and classified Amur Maple (Acer tataricum subsp. Ginnala) as Restricted 5/1/ 2015 (all cultivars exempt) meaning that control of the species is encouraged but not required but it can no longer be sold, bartered, given away (after a grace period of 5 years from the date of classification). We are unaware of any research to test invasive potential of the exempt cultivars which all have abundant seed production and are still

promoted and sold by nurseries and landscapers.



AMUR MAPLE AT THE SPARTA ELROY BIKE TRAIL PARKING LOT, IMAC AVE, SPARTA

- Local lunch site recommendation-Denny's Market for fresh homemade Deli sandwich just west of the tracks on Walrath Street.

It was recommended the next pre-meeting start at 11.30 and that we bring pamphlets about the species, as well as prescriptions and BMP's for management. Invite the media. We will meet by the covered bridge behind Sparta Library to look at Japanese Knotweed, then motor/ car pool down to Perch Lake to a site below the dam on the north side of the La Crosse River. (Behind Kenworthy's).

Action Updates:

- **Mickelson** reported that Andrew **La Chance** (Vernon County Forest Administrator) received a \$20,000 grant to inventory Vernon County forests. She would like to see if something similar could work (using the same contractor for Monroe Co. They will inventory species, density, plot/acre, a controlled meander, high traffic areas and points of intersect with the forest, a spring survey and another in fall. Megan will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Fort McCoy **Wilder** successfully applied for a grant and **Raiten** is now running the largest crew ever and making progress with all invasive species on the base, several crew members are certified (Right of Way) applicators and one also has the Aquatic certification. Garlic Mustard

sites that were good last year blew up this year (wet spring?). Leafy Spurge control on N. Post using Perspective herbicide which doesn't damage surrounding plants and can be used in Karner Blue areas. Wild parsnip treatments on all mapped acres. Starting treatments of cow and crown vetch. Next week St John's Wort and spotted Knapweed. Found some mites attacking St John's Wort. They released some 10 years ago but these may be unrelated to that release. Responding to a question on the history of invasive species control on Fort, it started in the 90's and include biocontrol of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed as well as herbicide programs developed by Kim **Mello**. Yellow clover was recently noticed spreading on the Badger drop zone, control measures will be initiated due to the high number of native species that could be impacted if the clover takes a hold. It was noted that they have more or less given up with efforts to control buckthorn with the exception of the regularly used compass course areas.

- **Esterline** told a story about the Farmers Market- she brought some Dames Rocket to try to show it was an invasive plant and how to recognize it only to get into somewhat heated discussion with two other vendors who brought it to sell. *Scribe note- Dames Rocket *Hesperis matronalis* has been Restricted by the NR-40 rule for more than 3 years and it would therefore be illegal to sell, barter or give away, but OK to have for educational purposes as long as viable propagules were not allowed to escape).
- **Folcey** would like someone to come to a Towns Association Meeting August 17th in the evening. Armstrong would see what he could do, check back after reviewing calendar. Will be there Presenting slide show 'Invasive or not?'
- **Ohnstad** initiated a discussion about timing of mowing to minimize spread of invasive plants. There is a State deadline for mowing to be completed by July 1st. See link for map and BMP's <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-bus/real-estate/roadsides/mowing/rural.aspx> Monroe Co. will attempt to do the same. Someone commented on the importance of keeping mowing equipment cleaned off regularly. Wilder said Fort McCoy recently signed a contract with the contractor to mow between June 1st and Mid July. Scribe note. Phone call from Raiten clarified that there are different classifications of roads on Fort, some mowed when veg reaches 6", some 9" and the rest used to be somewhat of a free for all- these are now Jun1-July1.
- **Ohnstad** would also like to have a meeting set up geared to the mowing crews on plant ID and BMP's. **Armstrong** would look into. Date in Aug/Sept to be arranged Kelly **Kearns**, DNR Invasive plant specialist and **Armstrong** will present
- **Johnston** organized a successful Garlic Mustard pull along the bike trail west of Norwalk and has conducted some spot spraying near Wilton. Has contacted a landowner with a teasel pop. With intentions of zapping it. Conducted a canoe survey of the Kickapoo (south of Wilton to Nisswa Rd) for Purple Loosestrife (none found) but identified Japanese Knotweed -locations forwarded to Gledn staff for GIS entry. Also discovered a new pop. of the rare native Northern Monkshood *Aconitum noveboracense*.

Public awareness, how do we sell/convey invasive message to the public?

- Link county webpage to UW learning store on Invasives
- One on one contacts if you see invasive provide handouts or complete action.
- School Curriculums

- Use of plastic invasive plants for year round demo's(http://www.weedcenter.org/store/weed-models/overview_weed_models.html) We have Leafy spurge and Spotted Knapweed available for demos.

Action Plan for next Quarter

- Towns Association Meeting on invasives Aug 17th **Folcey/ Armstrong**
- Farmers Market Invasive display- **Esterline**-(emailed note by Ben...Kelly Kearns DNR says she has display materials for farmers markets...."We/DNR have lots of photos, laminated materials, posters, etc., as well as handouts that you are welcome to if you need them. Also the folks at Northwood's CWMA have done Farmers Market tabling off and on for several years. Let me know if you want some contacts for the group. They might have some tips for interacting with the shoppers. Live specimens is always a draw." Also I have a small stack of brochures coming from DNR. I will share some with Esterline et al.
- Late summer training for County and town patrolmen- **Ohnstad/Armstrong/Halfman/Renz or Kearns**
- Pre-meeting highlighted in Sparta and Tomah Paper- **Micheel**
- County land grant application- **Mickelson**

Next Meeting

September 28th, Thursday 1p.m.

Invited guest **Chris Gaetzke** from Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership

- Pre-meeting 11.30a.m. Covered Bridge behind Sparta Library.

*(f) A person may transport or give away a restricted invasive species for the purpose of identification, education, control, or disposal without a permit issued by the department under this chapter, if no viable individual specimens or propagules are allowed to escape or be introduced. This paragraph does not apply to terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates or fish species.