

## **MCISWG Fieldtrip\_ Honeysuckle\_Tomah School Forest, Lemonweir**

**Megan Mickelson** already had articles published in both local newspapers prior to the pre-meeting. Great work!

Megan had an agenda, map and handouts on and honeysuckle and herbicides printed for us. Megan Flynn a reporter from the Tomah Monitor Herald was on site. Wow!

**Dave Stutzman** (Director of Buildings and Energy) from the Tomah Area School District opened up the building for us and Megan started the meeting with introductions.

**Sean Davison** (DNR), **Michelle Komiskey** (NRCS), **Dan Rasmussen**, (interested landowner), **Chris Barlow** (interested landowner), **Tim Steele** (interested landowner) and your scribe **Mic Armstrong** (NRCS) completed the group.

Megan and Mic explained the history of MCISWG.

Megan talked about the management plan for this wooded site in urban Tomah. The Ho Chunk have traditionally harvested black ash for basketry from the site and have a long term agreement for this. However the ash trees are now in trouble having gone through ash yellows, water table issues- plus reed canary grass in the marsh, and now the final bullet- EAB. They harvested all of the prime ash earlier so this is no longer part of the management goals. The Ho Chunk forester has been assisting in the planning process.

Megan led the group on a walk in the woods and talked along the way about red Pine decline, public perception (high visibility site), honeysuckle, buckthorn, barberry (did not see any but it is present). The Ag teacher has been using the site for class and FFA activities for years and Christine Walroth brought the issues of invasive species to the attention of the landowner (Tomah School District) so now Dave Stutzman and his crew of certified applicators are taking an active role and will be spraying invasive plants such as honeysuckle, garlic mustard and buckthorn.

Megan and Dave outlined the 3 options- do nothing, clear cut or something in between, working manageable areas, controlling invasives in the understory removing unproductive trees then planting native species once the site is ready. This will also be great for the educational process.

During the walk there were discussions from our three landowners on their specific problems and experiences as well as an explanation of the EQIP program by Michelle **Komiskey**, which include some warnings that it is not for everybody as there are, for example, agreements to maintain practices for 5 years. **Davison** explained the DNR WFLGP grants and that there is a waiting list apply for one.

**Armstrong** showed how to do a GLEDN observation report with **Stutzman** for Amur Honeysuckle

We adjourned for the MCISWG core group meeting at the DNR ranger station.

**Handouts:** Eurasian Honeysuckle: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/fr/fr0448.pdf>

Crop Production Services Herbicide Recommendations:

<https://westcentralwisconsininvasiveplantmanagement.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/2016-herbicide-recs.pdf>

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