

# Conservation Matters

by the Monroe County Land Conservation Dept.

## Spotlight on exotic Eurasian honeysuckles, local CISWG

By MEGAN MICKELSON

Invasive plants and tree species in Monroe County have come under scrutiny this year and are now the target of several conservation organizations housed in the county.

A Cooperative Invasive Species Working Group, otherwise known as a CISWG, is being reinvigorated to identify invasive species in Monroe County (MCISWG). The aim is to encourage both control and eradication of invasive species present within the area through education and coordinated outdoor work days.

Partnering with the MCISWG are several agencies, including the WI Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Land Conservation Department, Monroe County Highway Department, Wisconsin Towns Association, the Monroe County Forest, Fort McCoy, and several private landowners. Through coordination and collaboration, these partners strive to get Monroe County residents interested and active in helping to stem the spread of invasive species in the county, such as Eurasian Honeysuckles.

In fact, there are already several species of Eurasian Honeysuckle present in Monroe County. These invasive and exotic honeysuckles were initially introduced into the United States from Europe and Asia as ornamental plants in the early 1700s. The honeysuckles were widely enjoyed for their sweet-smelling flowers and attractive red-orange colored fruits. They have also been used historically as aids in reducing erosion in sensitive soils and slopes, however these plants escaped yards and are now on encroaching woodlands, prairies, and open lots.

Identification can vary slightly depending on the species, however they are generally medium to large sized and have multiple hollow older stems. The leaves are deciduous, but are often one of the last shrubs to lose their leaves in the colder months. They often form thick colonies in a forested understory and their small flowers vary in color from white to red/orange. Depending on their location, the invasive honeysuckle flower in late May to early June and are strongly fragrant.

This invasive species is a major threat to Wisconsin forests. Due to their large size, they often compete successfully with native grasses and forbs by shading them out. This becomes a problem when trying to regenerate tree seedlings. Honeysuckles are also notorious for degrading wildlife habitat by creating a dense and impenetrable understory layer. Currently, Wisconsin land managers are battling invasive honeysuckles from spreading to the northern reaches of the state, but the plant is steadily spreading mainly via the seed ingestion and evacuation of birds.

Helping to control this species is pertinent. Landowners and land users can help in several ways, starting with recognizing the plant's presence and reporting it to property managers if on public lands. Honeysuckle grows not just in the forest, but in city parks, neighboring yards, empty lots, and fallow fields. For landowners that locate it on their property, honeysuckle

clothing, and sometimes by our pets. Being a conscientious recreationist will also help in mitigating the spread of other invasive species that travel in this manner, such as garlic mustard.

Lastly, volunteering at educational outdoor work days is a great way to help your community in controlling honeysuckles and other invasive species. The MCISWG will be working on coordinating events in the future for residents to get their hands dirty.

There will be a discussion on Eurasian Honeysuckle and treatment methods at the Tomah School Forest's W.O.L.F. Den on December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. Attendees can participate in the conversation on successful treatment methods for Eurasian Honeysuckle and post-removal planting.

Learn more about invasive



Megan Mickelson

honeysuckles at:

[http://dnr.wi.gov/search "invasive plants"](http://dnr.wi.gov/search/invasiveplants/), <http://www.ipaw.org>, or <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Bush-Honeysuckles-P1642.aspx>

**About the author:** Megan Mickelson graduated from UW-Stevens Point and worked in private forestry consulting for two years setting up timber sales and treating invasive species before joining the WI DNR family as a forester. She has several years of experience in treating invasive species in multiple counties in Southern Wisconsin and has been active in teaching groups invasive species identification and control methods. She currently works out of the Tomah Ranger Station in both forestry and wildfire suppression. Contact Mickelson at (608) 372-6241 or email [Megan.Mickelson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Megan.Mickelson@wisconsin.gov)

## LEGAL NOTICES

December 11

### NOTICE

The Executive Committee of Erv's Sparta Area Fire Protection District will meet on TUESDAY, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. at District Station 1, 202 E. Oak St., Sparta, WI.

Agenda items:  
Meeting Minutes  
Review and payment of monthly bills  
Review Telephone options  
Chief's Report  
Set next meeting date  
Steve Treu, Chairman  
Erv's Fire District

WNAXLP

December 11, 18, 23

### STATE OF WISCONSIN

### CIRCUIT COURT

### MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Case No.: 17CV011091

### PERSONAL INJURY-AUTO

Code No.: 30101

This claim exceeds \$5,000.00  
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

### ALEXANDRIA WALTON

Plaintiff,

vs.

### GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE

COMPANY, JACK R. HERKOWSKI,

GEICO CASUALTY COMPANY,

STEPHEN STARK

8033 County Highway B

Sparta, WI 54656

Defendants.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO:

STEPHEN STARK, DEFENDANT.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within 45 days after December 11, 2017, you must respond within a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Courthouse, 901 North 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233, and to HAUSMANN-MCNALLY, S.C. plaintiffs attorneys, whose address is Suite 2000, 633 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Complaint within 45 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything this is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this

## LEGAL NOTICES

December 11

### PUBLIC NOTICE

### TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS

The board will meet in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall.

Agenda: Discuss proposed highway budget amendment; Discuss Board of Adjustment Hearing for Kimberly Ahnen-Gals Longbranch; Discuss status of Caribou Avenue; Appoint election workers for 2 year term; Review and adopt town treasurer ordinance; Review and discuss employee payroll guidelines and approval of bills. Discussion and action may occur on any of the above agenda items.

Donna R. Heuer  
Clerk

WNAXLP

December 4, 11

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### CREATION OF

### TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCE

### DISTRICT #9

### City of Sparta

201 W. Oak Street

Sparta, WI 54656

December 18, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Public notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Sparta will hold a public hearing on December 18, 2017 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 201 W. Oak Street, Sparta, Wisconsin. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a proposal to create Tax Incremental Finance District (TIF) No. 9 for the City of Sparta. TIF No. 9 is being proposed as a "Mixed Use" TIF District and generally includes the area south of I-90, east of WIS 27, north of Idylview Ave. and west of Ideal Rd. within the City of Sparta. The purpose of TIF No. 9 is to facilitate the creation of a new business park. Developer incentives, including cash grants or loan interest loans, are