

MCISWG Field day June 14th 2018. Pine view Campground Fort McCoy

This was the first real public event put on by the MCISWG and was a great team effort between various members of the core group that has evolved over the last year. **Megan Mickelson** took the lead and it went like clockwork.

There were over 30 landowners in attendance as well as agency people and guest speakers.

It was an interesting agenda. Groups of 15 or so rotated between a couple of picnic shelters, an outdoor “room” by the Equipment and the “Invasive or not” walk along the edge of the woods.

Everyone received a Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants in WI and also helped themselves to Fact sheets and “Wildcards” on specific Invasive species.

The Equipment display included a couple of UTV’s rigged for spraying larger swathes (on Fort McCoy) and an ASV rigged with a Fecon Head forestry mower. **Jim Raiten** walked the group through the line with additional technical commentary from herbicide guru **Rick Schulte**.

We learned about woodland management from Fort McCoy Foresters, **Charles Mentzel** and **Jim Kirkman**. They covered a lot of ground, including some on tree maladies such as oak wilt and red pine root disease. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/AnnosumRootRot.html>

The foresters stressed the importance of inventorying/mapping invasive species and coming up with a plan before embarking on a timber harvest. Charles demonstrated the portable power washer they use to make sure logging equipment is cleaned of seeds and other propagules prior to work, between sites and before leaving the sale.

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Mapping invasives using a cell phone was demonstrated by **Anne Pearce** of the First Detector Network. Anne had 3 tablets she loaned out so that attendees could get the hang of this powerful tool.

<https://www.eddmaps.org/midwest/> Anne showed how to find species on the list, add data, points (on the google map image) and how to make a polygon for an occurrence. She stressed that you check the photos you upload are not blurry. Remember she will be trying to do the ID from her desk. Take a few shots from different distances away, as well as good close ups.

Jim Raiten led the guided walk identifying both good and bad plants talking about their management on Fort McCoy. He had sprayed some areas of Garlic mustard a couple of days prior for comparison with a living infestation. Jim covered several invasive species showing maps of too, as well as some native plants we should learn to recognize.

Rick Schulte of Crop Protection Services led a couple of discussions on Best herbicide practices for specific invasive plants, hard water, volatisation (don't use cheap surfactants-oil based are best) and the importance of timing for effective control. Rick gave out handouts with his prescriptions by species and talked about the difference between herbicides and insecticides, although both are pesticides one will kill beneficial insects such as bees, the other is designed to only kill plants. Demonstrating a versatile hand sprayer he talked about small scale equipment suitable for landowners doing vegetation management. What to look for in a sprayer?-Viton seals, adjustable brass nozzle. He answered many other questions including one this group has puzzled over. Is there a way to kill garlic mustard and not kill the grass? And can you do that when GM is still green, after freeze up, in late fall? Yes. Use

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Garlon at recommended rates, you can even keep going into below freezing temps by switching to an oil based carrier.

Chad Ziegler and **Ben Johnston** shared the outdoor classroom and talked about the how, when and why of mechanical and chemical invasive species management. Chad is more of a back pack and chainsaw guy and Ben is a practitioner of the hand saw and Buckthorn Blaster method. <https://landscape-restoration.com/product/buckthorn-blaster/>

Ben also showed the “Buckthorn Baggie” a tool that may be useful in some school projects where herbicide may not be an option. Chad showed a hypothetical property map and got participants thinking about how to prioritize their efforts.

Tim Wilder demonstrated the ease of peeling a fresh cut piece of glossy buckthorn and demonstrated how to make your own walking stick. Light and strong, once sealed with polyurethane these are excellent bits of kit. Several attendees were seen peeling and artfully scraping the extra sticks Tim provided while listening to the final presentations, and what a finale it was!

Michelle Komiskey touched on a couple of potential sources of funding from USDA NRCS that may be a fit for landowners doing invasive species management. **Sean Davison** outlined the potential funding available through the DNR and **Mark Pfost** of the Necedah Wildlife Refuge explained the Partnership program he administers for the Fish and Wildlife Service. There were lots of questions for them all.

Landowners **Joey Esterline** and **Scott Geraud** manage property in Coles Valley that includes a few different areas of native species planted for pollinators and wildlife. They have been fighting invasive plants for

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many years. Joey has been very active in outreach efforts including writing newspaper articles and more recently a demonstration at the Sparta Farmers market. They recently discovered some large buckthorn in a seldom traveled area of the farm which they treated last winter with a more frugal herbicide mix than those usually prescribed. They use a 30-50% solution of Glyphosate in window washer fluid sprayed onto the outer ring of freshly cut stumps. They like the (Kwazar) hand sprayer because it is robust, inexpensive, orange so it is hard to lose and the brass nozzle can be pointed down

<https://www.theisens.com/products/compression-sprayer-1-5-liter/31520038/>

Scott went back out last week located the dead stumps and cut them off at ground level to “show and tell” with us. They were very large diameter buckthorn, they were very dead.

Lively discussions took place on topics such as grazing goats -DNR might amend their Managed Forest rules to allow it; prescribed burning - burning two years in a row may help control honeysuckle and Barberry as long as there is enough material for fuel; bumblebees; butterflies, biological control of knapweed and leafy spurge; vectors of invasive plants such as boots and the importance of keeping them cleaned off.

Megan Mickelson and **Randy Poelma** passed around and gathered comment cards and we adjourned with new information, new acquaintances met and the makings of a buckthorn walking stick for anyone that wanted one.

For added excitement, on the way home, **Ben Johnston** found a large white flowered Umbel behind the guard rail just past the Sand Mine on Hwy 21. Ben gave a detailed description via email of what appeared to

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be an invasive species. Ben isn't a techy by any means and without a camera all we had was his words until Anne Pearce chimed in that she too had seen the "rotten plant" and had uploaded pictures to GLEDN. **Mark Renz** confirmed it as Poison Hemlock, as indeed Ben had conjectured, even if the site seemed to be much drier than its usual haunts. In the meantime the working group sprang into action, Ben started organizing a Saturday morning outing to cut, bag and spray the plants and was about to apply for the DOT permit when **Jim Raiten** contacted the Unimin Tunnel City Sand Mine and explaining the situation to **Jeremy Niemeier** (Senior Environmental Specialist) who immediately directed his maintenance guys to mow the population and Unimin would continue to monitor and spray as needed.

Kelly Kearns (DNR Madison) congratulated us on a great rapid response and sent recommendations on management of poison Hemlock.