

**Bob Micheel**, Director, Monroe County Land Conservation, **Tim Wilder** Fort McCoy Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept. **Jim Raiten** (CSU-Fort McCoy), **Ben Johnston** Volunteer, Landowner, **Mark Pfost**, Private lands Biologist, USFWS Necedah, **Scott Giraud** (Adrian TSP), **Matt Modjeski** -Conservation Warden, DNR, **Pete Quirin**, landowner, neighbor to Howard Garves, **Andre Paquett**, Landowner Jefferson TSP **Michelle Komiskey** -District Conservationist, USDA NRCS, **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

**Megan Mickelson** (MCISWG chair) is on Fire duty in Canada. **Howard Garves**, (Vice Chair) is celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary. **Randy Poelma** sent an email explain he couldn't make the meeting working with a large Americore crew in the former Badger ammo plant in Sauk Co.

**Bob Micheel** agreed to chair the meeting.

**Mic Armstrong** reported on the Field pre meeting. New member **Andre Paquette** beat the group out there and had already identified an important invasive plant we had not included in our agenda as well as the targets- parsnip and teasel. There was some Purple loosestrife on the creek bank. Armstrong mapped the population using the Gledn app which **Paquette** went on to download. Chad, Shawn, Michelle, Andre and your faithful scribe then went on to discuss parsnip and teasel..... Handouts on the two terrible plants were distributed. We noted the wild cucumber everywhere and agreed that that vine was having a very good year. **Sean Davison**- DNR Forester **Chad Zeigler**-Monroe Co. Forester sent apologies to the group meeting (absent).

ID Session/Field Meeting in Scott Township. The town patrolman came to our Pine View campground field day at Fort McCoy and requested we have a meeting up in the Northeast corner of the county focusing on mapping, invasive plant ID and management. At the last core meeting we agreed to put together an event for this fall. **Ben Johnston** volunteered to help, including a pre meeting scouting trip around the venue and **Michelle Komiskey** said if **Mic Armstrong** had time to get out there and do some mapping that would be great. Armstrong was assigned to contact **Anne Pearce** and **Lee Shambeau**. **Micheel** would contact the Township Hall.

Next Meeting will be September 6 at the Scott Town Hall. Agenda will be sent out with time to meet and a map. There could be a field pre-meeting to look at invasive species identified by the team in the immediate area of the hall and a discussion about incorporating them into the training.

Pulling Session. **Ben Johnston** lamented that his vision of having two teams pulling garlic mustard (GM) stems in June along the bike trail between Cty T (near Norwalk) and the Flume was not to be in 2018. Ben is in communication with the DNR regarding locations to target. A small group filled less bags in the same area as was pulled last year, possibly indicating progress. **Armstrong** commented that it was the same day as the Butterfest parade which may have affected turnout.

Ben told the story about when he and **Ron Lueth** tried to enlist help from the 'Friends of the Bike trail' but were denied the chance to talk as they were not on the agenda. It is a fun event though, usually naturalists are on hand to chat about different species encountered along the historic railway line and there are usually enough cookies to go around. We discussed ways to better promote the event next year.

We briefly discussed Ben's plan to do some spraying of a Garlon mix on GM along the trail near Norwalk after freeze up. A couple of neighboring landowners have been approached and are more than happy

for us to spray GM on their property. Ben cautioned this was still experimental but based on **Rick Schulte's** professional opinion it should work and not kill the grass as do most other herbicides recommended for GM.

Local High Schoolers, Boy Scout Groups.....no report on the Tomah High School project. **Micheel** is working with a group of scouts cutting and treating brush on a CREP easement on the Little La Crosse River.

Promote events. **Micheel** was looking into purchasing a web platform just for the LCD that would include MCISWG. Social media sites would follow. Decided we needed to meet on an Annual Plan of Action and an annual calendar for all of these things, we thought December would be ideal.

Social Media, still need a lead. Tie into action plan

Logo/Slogan. Importance of branding, open up to schools? **Michelle Komiskey** :

*"Know it before you grow it or mow it"*

**Armstrong** had been talking to **Brad Gilbertson** of the City of Sparta about the new addition of over a mile of trail between Amundson Park and Hammer road. Armstrong mapped it even found new populations of barberry and multiflora rose near the wall of Common Buckthorn we have visited in the past in Amundson Park. The new section of trail is pretty much pristine oak woodlands, one barberry was mapped in over a mile of trail, then, when you get within a couple of hundred yards of 'civilization', you are once again abruptly surrounded by a wall of exotic honeysuckles and buckthorn. The concern here, obviously, is the probability that these berry laden invasive shrubs will quickly take over in the new area of trail. Brad could provide some resources, we could coordinate with the sand mine too, but what is needed is labor, Brad does not have enough staff to do more than they already do. The Frisbee golf group already cut some brush, but no one treats the stumps. Some of these sites are more suited to using a Fecon forestry mower (probably using a lighter ASV on frozen ground) followed by herbicide treatment of the resprouts. We agreed, at the least, to add to our action plan for 2019.

Outreach plan: put on agenda for September.

Don't forget! Send pictures of your events to [Megan.Mickelson@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Megan.Mickelson@Wisconsin.gov)

**Jim Raiten** reported on an apparent problem they have encountered at Fort McCoy regarding gravel and other fill brought in by outside contractors. They have been noticing new infestations of invasive species such as wild parsnip in areas that have been mapped as clear, and the common denominator seems to be product from nonmetallic mines in the county. Jim has been doing a little background research and found that there is no (weed free) certification program in WI for either mulch or rocks and gravel. **Tim Wilder** Tim also commented that archeology are also concerned about any artifacts that could be transported on to base as well, as they have detailed searches on most areas and some new bone fragments or something could have major repercussions for their workload. Also there are detailed contracts signed that state the fill must be weed free etc. but that it is hard to monitor every dump truck coming in and out like forestry does with their contractors. **Raiten** arranged a pit visit with Gerke Excavating and the first one they visited in Sparta (the Jackson Pit- Jim noticed around and in the pit there were black locust, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, bull thistle and spotted knapweed. Taylor was Jim's guide; he told him that different rock types came from different quarries- the Jackson pit is used

for holding different materials. A discussion followed; there are states out west that have mechanisms that result in the availability of “certified weed free fill”. **Micheel** said that this state has no regulations on quarry management other than presiding over the reclamation plans when pits are closed. He suggested we draft a letter to the State Non Metallic Mining Committee.

**Mark Pfost** mentioned that in some western states such as Nebraska they have Weed Commissioners and regulations giving them some “teeth”. **Armstrong** was assigned to find out how other CISMAS were dealing with the problem.

On a related subject **Ben Johnston** worried that mulch available for landscaping may be a vector for the invasive jumping worm. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/jumpingWorm/index.html> it has been identified in Vernon County, brought in from a plant swap possibly at the Madison Arboretum.

**Armstrong** reported that the MOU and Strategic plan were sent to potential participants. One signature sheet was returned, signed from the Necedah Refuge, USFWS.

**Micheel** reported that there was one applicant so far resulting from the letter sent to attendees at the last Field Day. They are eligible for 50% cost share on up to a \$600.00 grant to help manage invasive plants on private land. The deadline is August 17<sup>th</sup>. A volunteer will professionally ground truth the projects for ranking. The grant will be awarded as part of our next meeting.

**Scott Giraud** wondered about the need to be a certified applicator to apply herbicides on private property. During the discussion that followed we agreed that it was not needed for non-restricted use (RU) product applied on a landowners own land. A private applicators certification allows you to apply RU pesticides. In the case of volunteers applying herbicides on public lands or private land they do not own, even if not doing it for profit the appropriate category is now the “Right of way and Natural Areas”. The book is a necessary purchase to take the exam at \$47.00, now apparently you can save \$5.00 by purchasing it as a pdf. <https://fyi.uwex.edu/pat/certification-categories/>. We weren’t sure but thought you need to go to DATCP in Madison to take the test. **Michelle Komiskey** suggested that Bill Halfman explain the ins and outs- possibly at our next Field day.

**Matt Modjeski** had sent Mic an email asking for help identifying an orange plant on the berm of the Angelo dam, he had scoped it from the opposite bank. **Armstrong** asked if it looked like orange string. Sounds like dodder. Dodder <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/dodder/> To be continued.

**Giraud** brought in two vases with live plant material for a show and tell. One we identified a Garlic Mustard, the mystery look alike plant was native Mitrewort. <http://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/taxa/index.php?taxon=1016>

Update on the Poison Hemlock on Hwy 21 near the Tunnel City Sand Mine. **Jim Raiten** reported via phone that Unimin personnel sprayed glyphosate on June 23rd. They will keep watching it and if needed spray again.

