NIIPP Bulletin

October 2012

1. Joint NIIPP-Chicago Wilderness Natural Resources Team Meeting

The 2nd annual NIIPP meeting was attended by more than 65 people representing 40 organizations. Many audience members also attended the NRM Team Meeting and contributed suggestions for round tables and additional projects. The majority of the day’s presentations can be found here: [http://niipp.net/?page_id=1844](http://niipp.net/?page_id=1844)

2. New Invader Alerts

**Japanese hops** (*Humulus japonicus*) is reported in Cook County at Burnham Prairie. The full report can be found at [http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=10091&id=us_IL_17031](http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=10091&id=us_IL_17031)

Information about this species can be found at [http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=HUJA](http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=HUJA) and [http://www.newinvaders.org/species/Japanesehops.pdf](http://www.newinvaders.org/species/Japanesehops.pdf)

**Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus armeniacus*) is reported in Will County along I-55. The full report can be found at [http://www.newinvaders.org/distribution/point.cfm?id=2418993](http://www.newinvaders.org/distribution/point.cfm?id=2418993) More information about this species can be found at [http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=RUAR9](http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=RUAR9) and [http://www.newinvaders.org/species/himalayan%20blackberry.pdf](http://www.newinvaders.org/species/himalayan%20blackberry.pdf)
3. **Arundo donax** biofuel

As of September 30th the Federal Office of Management and Budget was in the final stages of approving an EPA rule which would allow Arundo donax, a highly invasive species, to qualify as an “advanced biofuel feedstock” under the Renewable Fuel Standard. This would mean that federal incentives would go towards the cultivation of a species that even USDA has characterized as highly invasive- a species for which there are very clear and documented ecological damages that have resulted from its invasion in Texas and California.

Several measures have been taken in an effort to prevent the approval of the rule:

1) Scientists have been signing on the letter to the Obama administration asking federal agencies to evaluate the potential of biofuel feedstocks to become invasive before providing incentives for their cultivation. The letter can be viewed here [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BxdVhmWWQK-pY3E5RGhxSkxVdzA/edit](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BxdVhmWWQK-pY3E5RGhxSkxVdzA/edit) and folks can sign on to this letter until October 10th (go to [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEJMbE1xdFUxS2FzOTdTaHh4c08yWnc6MQ&ifq](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEJMbE1xdFUxS2FzOTdTaHh4c08yWnc6MQ&ifq)).

2) A group letter signed by ninety-six organizations (including MIPN and NIIPP) was presented at in person meeting on Friday, October 5th

3) In person meeting with OMB on October 5th where some of the environmental groups joined with the Weed Science Society of America to go into the meeting together and express their opposition. There has been no news yet about how the meeting went.

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4. **Transportation, Trees, and Vegetation Workshop**

The Morton Arboretum and IDOT District 1 are hosting a workshop on “Transportation, Trees, and Vegetation” on Wednesday, October 24th, 9:00AM - 4:30PM

IDOT, District 1 Offices
201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, IL
$25, includes lunch, morning and afternoon snacks
To Register: Call 630-719-2468

Please see the attached flyer for more details!

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5. **S234 Ignition Operations Course available at Morton Arboretum (Illinois Fire Service Institute instruction)**

Do you supervise prescribed burn operations or are you preparing to supervise prescribed burn operations at your site? Then this course is for you.
S-234 Ignition Operations introduces the roles and responsibilities of a firing boss (FIRB), common firing devices, and general firing operations and techniques. This intensive workshop will describe the roles and responsibilities of the FIRB for planning, execution, safety, and coordination of an ignition operation on a wildland or prescribed fire. We will cover specialized firing devices, their characteristics, applications, safety and transportation requirements, maintenance needs and availability. The course will also review desired fire behavior, firing techniques, necessary resources, and risk management to meet wildland or prescribed fire objectives; emphasizing safety, coordination, communication, and evaluation. The field demonstration section of the course will include live fire exercises on The Morton Arboretum’s grounds. Field exercises will consist of introducing the student to alternative firing devices, firing patterns for varying conditions and prescriptions, sequencing and coordination with holding resources and controlling fire intensities through lighting techniques.

Save the date: If inclement weather interferes with our ability to hold field exercises, we will reschedule to Nov 7, 8 & 9.
Prerequisites: S-130/190 or permission of the instructor
Certification Information: NWCG S-234
S234. Tuesday, Oct 30 – Thursday, Nov 1; 8 am – 5 pm. The Morton Arboretum, Visitor Center, Sycamore Room. $420 per person. Limit 30.

To register, click: http://bit.ly/VVsCaI, email: Registrar-Ed@mortonarb.org or call: 630-719-2468 (8 am – 4 pm, Mon – Fri).

A Janet Meakin Poor Research Symposium, Friday, October 26, 2012

In this symposium, international experts in fire ecology will examine the history of natural fires, current fire research, and future trends. Further information can be found at http://www.chicagobotanic.org/school/symposia/symposia_JMP

7. North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course Webinar Series
2012-2013 NAIPSC WEBINAR SERIES September 30, 2012. Organizers of the North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) have announced the schedule of speakers for October through December 2012. Check out the NAIPSC website (http://ipscourse.unl.edu) for all the details and get instruction on how to join the NAIPSC online community.
The NAIPSC webinar series is designed to inform participants who are involved in invasive plant management, research, and/or policy and provide an online venue for sharing resources, ideas, and information. Registration in the NAIPSC community is good for life. Don’t miss out! Sign up today!
Please contact Steve Young at steve.young@unl.edu with questions.

June 16-20, 2013
Bloomington, Indiana
Call for Abstracts

Please join fellow researchers and land managers to discuss basic and applied ecological research in forests throughout North America. Fragmentation is a pervasive issue in forest management. Nowhere is the issue as pronounced as in the Central Hardwood Region where agriculture and urbanization continue to reduce the forested land base. This conference will not only highlight ecology of these hardwood ecosystems, but will also include concurrent sessions on:

* disturbance ecology
* forest management effects on wildlife
* invasive species management
* climate change impacts and carbon storage
* forest restoration
* temperate and tropical silviculture
* long-term forest ecological research
* fire ecology and management

The conference will include day-long tours of the following (others to be announced):
* Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment - a long-term forest and wildlife management study
* Donaldson's Woods - an old-growth forest remnant
* The Hoosier National Forest - oak ecology and silviculture

DEADLINES:
Selected papers from this workshop will be published in a special issue of Forest Science in mid-2014. Authors who wish for their presentation to be considered for this issue should submit an extended abstract. Please visit the website for abstract submittal guidelines and online submission.

January 15, 2013 Presentation abstracts (300 word maximum) and extended abstracts (1500 word maximum)
March 1, 2013 Poster abstracts (300 word maximum)
May 15, 2013 Early registration deadline

For more information see www.nafew.org or contact msaunder@purdue.edu.
9. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference
Will be held in LaCrosse, WI on October 29-31, 2012. Information about registration, presentations, and workshops can be found here http://www.umisc2012.org/ This meeting is a great opportunity to learn about research and applied invasive species work in the Midwest!

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10. Invasive Plant of the Month - Field Garlic
This month’s invasive plant was suggested by a conversation about problematic species that took place at the 2nd Annual NIIPP meeting. Field garlic (Allium vineale) is exhibiting invasive tendencies at both the Chicago Botanic Garden and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Monitoring cultivated areas containing this plant is recommended. It is currently found in every county in Illinois and is listed as a noxious weed in Arkansas, California, and Hawaii. It is drought tolerant and can grow in a variety of soil types. If you have information about best management practices for control of this species and/or would like to report your own observations please contact Cathy McGlynn (cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net or 847-242-6423).

Allium vineale is native to Europe, North Africa, and Western Asia. It is a perennial that grows 1-3 feet high with a central, unbranched hairless stem that ends with a cluster of flowers or aerial bulbets. Flowers are ¼” long, may be green, white, or light purple; and bloom from late spring to mid-summer (2-3 weeks). The bulbets are green to dark red, 1/3” long, and oval. Leaves grow on the lower half of the stem; are alternate, tapered, linear, and cylindrical (hollow) near the base and often flop over. Field garlic can reproduce via aerial and underground bulbets as well as seeds. Mature bulbs produce two kinds of underground bulbets: soft-coated bulbets (1/3-2/3” long) are white and teardrop-shaped and can germinate the first autumn while the hard-coated bulbets (1/2” long) are light brown, oval, and flattened on one side and can germinate the following spring.

“Similar Species: The native wild onion (sometimes called 'wild garlic', Allium canadense) can be distinguished from wild garlic by the fibrous-matted outer coating on the bulb, flattened solid leaves, star-shaped pink or whitish flowers and an onion-like taste. In addition, wild onion does not produce dormant hard-coated underground bulblets, and its stem leaves are attached to the lower 1/5 of the stem.” (borrowed from Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/singlerecord.asp?id=190).

Additional information about this species can be found at
http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=alvi
http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/field_garlic.htm
http://www.missouriplants.com/Bluealt/Allium_vineale_page.html
http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=5071
(images borrowed from www.invasive.org)