

NIIPP Bulletin May 2014

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1. **Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month** begins today. Governor Quinn has signed the proclamation so it is official! See proclamation here <http://www.niipp.net/illinois-invasive-species-awareness-month-2014> More than one hundred events related to invasive species will take place this month throughout the State of Illinois. Check here for a comprehensive list <http://www.invasive.org/illinois/> Please note that we have our first Illinois Invasive Species Symposium on May 29th from 9:30 am -3:30 pm in Springfield, IL. The agenda will be finalized and circulated by next week.

Another more local event that might be of interest to you is the **Invasive Issues in Trees Workshop** that will be held at Morton Arboretum on Thursday, May 15th from 8 am to 3pm. More information can be found here <http://www.mortonarb.org/courses/invasive-issues-trees>

2. **New Invaders Alerts**

We recently had a bulk upload of data to New Invaders Watch Program from the Plants of Concern Program so here is the region wide summary: (many thanks to Susanne Masi, Rachel Goad and POC staff for getting us this information!)

Cook County

35 reports of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
47 reports of Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
1 report of Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)
11 reports of Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
7 reports of Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria/Ficaria verna*)
96 reports of Lyme Grass (*Leymus arenarius*)

DuPage County

31 reports of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
22 reports of Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
5 reports of Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)
11 reports of Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
3 reports of Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

Kane County

4 reports of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
19 reports of Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
6 reports of Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)
1 report of Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

Lake County

70 reports of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
21 reports of Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
13 reports of Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)
12 reports of Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
1 report of Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria/Fiacria verna*)

90 reports of Lyme Grass (*Leymus arenarius*)

4 reports of Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

McHenry County

7 reports of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

13 reports of Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

2 reports of Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)

Ogle County

1 report of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

Will County

6 reports of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

3 reports of Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

10 reports of Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)

3. Clean Boats Crew

The aquatic invasive species (AIS) education and outreach program in Illinois (Lake and Cook Counties) and Indiana (Lake and Porter Counties) has hired five site leaders for the coming season. We will be offering a training session for site leaders and volunteers at the Chicago Botanic Garden on Saturday, May 10th from 3-5pm. Our season kicks off on Saturday, May 24th and lasts until Sunday, August 10th. If you are interested in volunteering some time to talk with boaters and anglers about AIS please review the outreach schedule on our webpage and contact us with some dates that would work for you!

<http://www.niipp.net/clean-boats-crew-aquatic-invasive-species-education-and-outreach-illinois-and-indiana>

4. Illinois Hydrilla Task Force

The Illinois Hydrilla Task Force will soon be hitting the air and digital waves with reminders to keep a lookout for this soon-to-arrive-in-Illinois aquatic superweed. Last year we received six email reports which did not turn out to be Hydrilla, but we are glad that people are looking! Education and outreach materials are available for distribution (contact the NIIPP Coordinator at cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net) and files for all of these products can be downloaded from the Hydrilla Hunt! website at

<http://www.niipp.net/hydrilla> In addition, the Early Detection/Rapid Response Plan should be finalized by early summer and made available online soon after.

5. Invasive Plant Education and Outreach in the Hispanic Community

Our education and outreach pilot project in the Hispanic community of Waukegan is about to begin. The Waukegan Park District and NIIPP will be hosting several bilingual events in the month of May. Flyers for these events are available in both English and Spanish. Please contact the NIIPP Coordinator (cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net) if you would like pdf files of these documents.

Calendar of events:

Saturday, May 17th: **Bilingual Garlic Mustard Pull** at Roosevelt Park, 520 South McAlister Avenue, Waukegan from 9am to noon. Refreshments provided.

Tuesday, May 20th: **Bilingual Invasive Garden Plant Workshop**, Schornick Theatre, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Entrada norte al Bowen Park, Waukegan from 6-8pm. Refreshments and native plant samples will be provided.

Tuesday, May 27th: **Bilingual Invasive Garden Plant Workshop**, Schornick Theatre, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Entrada norte al Bowen Park, Waukegan from 6-8pm. Refreshments and native plant samples will be provided.

Saturday, May 31st: **Bilingual Invasive Garden Plant Workshop**, Lilac Cottage, 1911 North Sheridan Road, Entrada sur al Bowen Park, Waukegan from 10 am to noon. Refreshments and native plant samples will be provided.

Thanks in advance to Georgina and Martin Valenzuela, Windsor Aquirre, Liz Tavitas, and Lana Panitch for volunteering to be interpreters for these events!

6. Garlic Mustard Challenge

We have a chance to win back our “crown” from 2012! If you would like post a garlic mustard related event on the Challenge webpage (<http://www.niipp.net/garlic-mustard-challenge-2014>) please send the NIIPP Coordinator your information! Otherwise, please send your garlic mustard totals at the end of your events so we can compile and send them to the USDA Forest Service. Thanks!

7. Illinois Coastal Grants 2014 – Reminder!

The Illinois Coastal Management Program is pleased to announce that we will once again be accepting applications for Illinois Coastal Grants!

Applications will be accepted for environmental education and outreach projects and sustainable coastal planning projects. <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/pages/grants.aspx>

Application materials will be available at Illinois Coastal Grant Program Website starting April 18, 2014.
Applications will be accepted through 5pm on Friday, May 30, 2014

8. Regional Native Plant Sales

Citizens for Conservation is holding their 18th Annual Native Plant, Tree, and Shrub sale on May 3rd and May 4th. You can order online prior to the sale event. Check here for more information <http://www.citizensforconservation.org/>

Lake County Forest Preserve District will be hosting a native plant sale the weekend of May 10th and 11th http://www.lcfd.org/preserves/index.cfm?fuseaction=preserves.viewActDetail&object_id=38451

The Forest Preserve District of Will County and Possibility Place will be hosting their second annual native plant sale on May 31st from 9am – 3pm at Sugar Creek Preserve. http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/calendar/events/5-31-2014/Bringing-Nature-Home-Plant-Sale_S2014

Conserve Lake County will be hosting their native plant sale Monday through Saturday (Closed Sundays) May 16 - 31, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. <http://www.conservelakecounty.org/native-plant-sale/>

There are many more native plant sales that will be happening in the next few months. Please have a look at Possibility Place's event calendar for a list <http://www.possibilityplace.com/news-events/>

9. Regional Success Stories – Calumet Invasive Species Conservation Corps

Five members comprise the Calumet Invasive Species Conservation Corps – the Corps are solely dedicated to controlling invasive plant species at four high quality remnant natural areas located in the Calumet region on the south east side of Cook County (Dolton Prairie, Eggers Woods, Beaubien Prairie, and Kickapoo Prairie). Owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, these unique sand prairies, wetlands and savannas harbor rare plants as well as provide habitat for birds including many threatened and endangered species. Unfortunately, these areas are also threatened by aggressive invasive species including Common Reed and Purple Loosestrife as well as new invaders to the region such as Spotted Knapweed.

The crew is run by Friends of the Forest Preserves, a local environmental non-profit that works with the Forest Preserve to restore natural areas and engage local communities in conservation work. Since the program started in 2011, the five member crew has already helped restore over 200 acres as well as eradicate new invaders previously unknown at the sites. The crew has transformed areas covered by dense stands of brush back to prairies and wetlands. Monitoring results have seen native species richness almost double at the sites with a 70 to 90% reduction in invasive shrub density. The crew has also gained valuable job skills to pursue careers in conservation. Two members have already secured jobs with professional environmental contractors. This program is supported by the U.S. EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

(Coordinator's note: Alice and the Crew were recipients of Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month Awards in 2013)

(Article written and photos taken by Alice Brandon, Conservation Director, Friends of the Forest Preserves)



The Crew



Dolton Prairie in 2011



Dolton Prairie in 2013

10. Illinois Department of Natural Resources requests your help to save the Monarch butterfly

“Forty years ago, Illinois schoolchildren convinced the Illinois General Assembly to adopt the monarch butterfly as Illinois’ state insect,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller. “Help us honor that legacy by working with us to conserve habitat for the monarch, and make our state parks and backyards safe harbors for these amazing, long-distance travelers.”

“The fate of the monarch in Illinois is tied to the fate of the milkweed, the host plants used by its familiar striped caterpillars. In Illinois, there are 19 species of milkweeds that mostly grow in prairies, though some can be found in woodlands, untilled fields, roadsides, and ditches.”

Here’s how you can help:

- Include milkweed and native flowering plants in your landscaping. Don’t mow or spray herbicide on milkweed patches.
- Reduce mowing where possible. Milkweeds grow readily along roadsides, field edges, fallow fields and other untended places. Cutting back on mowing saves fuel and time, and provides habitat for many other species of grassland birds, mammals and insects.
- Many communities hold native plant sales during the spring (see item #8 above). Additionally, the IDNR annually offers a Schoolyard Habitat Grant Program. Visit our grants page to see if your organization qualifies: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>
- Become more educated about monarch conservation. The IDNR offers a variety of resources for schools and educators that can be found here: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/insecttrunk.htm>

The entire press release from IDNR can be found at

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/IDNRAsksForHelptoConserveTheMonarchButterfly.aspx>

11. Changes to Invasive Species Rules in Wisconsin

The Minneapolis Star Tribune ran a story recently about changes to Wisconsin’s invasive species rules.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/254104301.html>

12. Invasive Plant of the Month – Winter honeysuckle

Chris Evans recently found winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) at Carlyle Lake in Clinton County. This is the first report of this species in Illinois. Winter honeysuckle is native to China and should be in full bloom soon (as opposed to late spring/early summer for the other members of the bush honeysuckle group). The flowers occur in pairs in the axils with the corolla fused into a 4-lobed lip and a 1-lobed lip. The flowers are creamy yellow with a fragrant lemony scent. The pith is not hollow and the stems are hairless. Leaves are opposite, simple, 1-3 inches long, and elliptical shaped with a bluish-green color. This species does not occur in Mohlenbrock, so Chris used Weakley to key it out (See Nov 2012 edition page 1128 for key).

Additional information about this species can be found at <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/l/lonfra/lonfra1.html> and its distribution map can be found here <http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/usstate.cfm?sub=3038>



(Photo taken from Missouri Botanical Garden)



(Photo taken from Wikimedia Commons)



(Photo taken from Dave's Garden website)