

NIIPP Bulletin March 2015

- 1. New Invader and EDDMapS Alerts**
- 2. Funding Opportunities**
- 3. NIIPP featured in Garden Glories**
- 4. Update on New and Common Invasive Plant Workshops**
- 5. Garlic Mustard Challenge 2015**
- 6. Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month**
- 7. Invasive Plant of the Month – lesser celandine/fig buttercup**

1. New Invader and EDDMapS Alerts –

No new reports this month!

2. Funding Opportunities

Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation- Chicago Region Land Conservation Grant Proposals
<http://gddf.org/land-conservation/chicago> **Deadline April 3, 2015**

3. NIIPP featured in Garden Glories (Garden Clubs of Illinois) Winter 2015 edition

Pinky Riffle interviewed NIIPP about the issue of invasive plants-
<http://www.niipp.net/files/niipp/files/Garden%20Glories%20Winter%202015.pdf>

4. Update on Common and New Invasive Plant Workshops

NIIPP held its third free Common and New Invasive Plant Workshop at the City of Evanston's Ecology Center on February 19th. The workshop was attended by 40 people representing Cook County Master Gardeners, City of Evanston, Skokie Park District, Friends of the Forest Preserves, Integrated Lakes Management, and Lincoln Park Conservancy. A big thank you to the Ecology Center for hosting!

We are offering multiple workshops in March. Please see below. **Note the change in location for March 11th from the Brushwood Center to the Welcome Center!**

Location: Welcome Center at Ryerson Woods, 21850 North Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, IL
Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Date: Wednesday, March 11th

Location: Glencoe Park District, Takiff Center, 999 Green Bay Road,
Glencoe, IL
Time: 9:00 am - noon
Date: Friday, March 13th (snow date) Monday, March 16th

Location: Wilmette Park District, 3555 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, IL
Time: 9:00 am - noon
Date: Tuesday, March 24th (snow date) Thursday, March 26th

Registration for these workshops is free. Please spread the word and ask folks to contact NIIPP if they would like to register (847-242-6423/cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net)

5. Garlic Mustard Challenge 2015

Spring will be here soon (really)! If you are planning to host garlic mustard pulls and would like additional volunteers please send your information to the NIIPP coordinator at cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net/847-242-6423. She will post your event on the NIIPP website.

6. Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month

EVENTS: Local events, presentations, workdays, and field tours are needed across the state to help make Awareness Month a success. Please consider planning an Invasive Species Related event in 2015 in Illinois. To have your events listed as part of Awareness Month and included on the ISAM calendar and website, please contact Chris Evans, ISAM coordinator at - Email: chris.evans@illinois.gov, Fax: [618-439-7376](tel:618-439-7376), or Mail: 11731 State Hwy 37, Benton, IL 62812. Include the following information about your event: event title, date, time, event location, driving directions, description of event, contact information, and any other relevant information.

AWARDS: As part of the many activities that will be occurring throughout the month, the ISAM Committee will select Awardees, honoring Illinois citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to prevent or manage invasive species that harm Illinois's land and water. We will accept nominations for individuals, groups, and organizations for their exemplary efforts at addressing issues surrounding terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, including animals, pathogens, plants, and forest pests. Please consider nominating adults and youth that you work with or know who are worthy of this award.

Event forms and award nomination forms can be found here <http://www.niipp.net/illinois-invasive-species-awareness-month-2015>

7. Invasive Plant of the Month – Lesser celandine/Fig buttercup

Soon spring will be here and lesser celandine will follow soon after. Lesser Celandine or Fig Buttercup (*Ranunculus ficaria* var. *bulbifera* or *Ficaria verna*) is a small, perennial herbaceous plant that continues to cover many acres of regional natural areas. We have 18 populations reported to the New Invaders Watch Program database <http://www.newinvaders.org/distribution/viewmap.cfm?sub=3069>

Lesser celandine was introduced to the United States as an ornamental plant from Eurasia and spreads by seed or vegetatively. It can form dense mats that bloom in March and April, producing single-stalked yellow flowers with 8 - 12 petals. Leaves are shiny, dark green; kidney or heart shaped, and grow in the form of a basal rosette. Some varieties of Lesser celandine have flowers with more than 12 petals and leaves that are variegated. Each plant produces tiny bulblets in the stem axils and fingerlike tubers from its roots. *F. verna* is a threat to wet woodlands, forests, ravines, and floodplains. It is banned in Connecticut and prohibited in Massachusetts.

Native look-alikes:

Marsh marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) are more robust with thick stems 8 or more inches in height that support yellow flowers with 5 – 9 petals (actually sepals). Marsh marigolds do not produce bulblets or tubers.

Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) and **Celandine poppy** (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) also appear similar, but their flowers have 4 petals.

Additional Information can be found here:

EDDMapS: <http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/usstate.cfm?sub=3069>

Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania:

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010251.pdf

New Invaders Watch Program: <http://www.newinvaders.org/species/fig%20buttercup.pdf>

Plant Conservation Alliance: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/rafi1.htm>

USDA Plants Database: <http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=RAFI>



(Leslie Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood)