

# WHIP

Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership

## Partner Update

*Highlights from a year of activities*



### Our 2020 Annual Meeting

Thanks to our speakers  
who were willing to share  
their stories:

Marcia Obukowicz

Linda Williams

Marjy Brzeskiewicz

Andre Virden

Quita Sheehan

Baerbel Ehrig

We want to thank everyone for their support, after a tough decision to cancel our face-to-face meeting on March 18 in light of the coronavirus pandemic. So **instead of a presentation, our annual update is taking the form of this "newsletter."** As MOU partners, we want to keep you updated on our activities, so here are a few highlights!

I am currently figuring out ways to adapt and meet our grant targets moving forward, whether by working in solitude or by creatively distancing. I look forward to touching base with many of you in the coming months. Stay safe and enjoy the season!

Rosie Page, WHIP Coordinator

# SPRING 2019

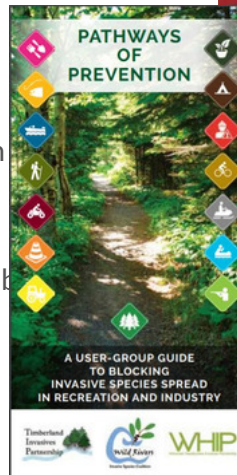


- This spring, for the third year, WHIP participated in fieldwork to control the spread of invasive European Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), along County Road A in the Phelps area.
- This unique species is invading from the north and east in Wisconsin (not south) and is split-listed under NR40 (designated Restricted in our region).
- We slashed stems, removed developing flowers, and pulled rosettes where possible. Thank you to Cathy Higley and Justin Bournoville for organizing control on these five miles of road (both sides) within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest!



Vilas County's Cathy Higley with freshly pulled marsh thistle on County A in Phelps

- On April 24th, the coordinators of both WHIP and TIP (Timberland Invasives Partnership) travelled to Oconto Elementary School to share information with 3rd graders about the ways that invasive species spread. The students enjoyed sharing their own stories of outdoor recreation, while learning from the Pathways guide-- recently published in partnership with the Lumberjack RC&D Council.
- Pathways guides are available for your group by contacting WHIP, or download at [www.lumberjackrcd.org](http://www.lumberjackrcd.org) any time!



TIP coordinator Alix Bjorklund shows students invasive species pathways

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- WHIP was a part of Three Lakes' Pollinators Festival (June 14-15) and in addition to our display table we presented a session on dealing with invasive buckthorn in the area.
- Both Vilas and Oneida Counties invited WHIP to give presentations at their spring Clean Boats Clean Waters workshops, to encourage boat inspectors to identify and report terrestrial invasive species as well as aquatic.
- Throughout the early spring of 2019, WHIP assisted in the process of revising the Vilas County Invasive Species Management Plan, to give input on the Terrestrial and Wetland sections .





- 2019 marked the third year of our purple loosestrife biocontrol project on Tenderfoot Lake in northern Vilas County. Locally captured beetles proved hardy and showed successful predation, with fewer invasive loosestrife plants!
- WHIP's work here will continue in 2020 as part of Vilas County's recent DNR AIS grant.
- Thank you to Dan Hanneman, Rod Sharka, and Cathy Higley for valuable assistance.



Volunteer Dan Hanneman places biocontrol beetles on the island



- Our work with the Town of Newbold continues! In 2019, WHIP helped present a final Town workshop and a training for the Town Road Crew on reporting invasive plants on their roadsides.
- We also participated in Newbold's first Invasive Plant Workday, held on July 9 at their Disc Golf Recreation Area, where volunteers gathered to pull thistles and spotted knapweed, and then enjoyed a picnic lunch.



Volunteers pull invasive plants at Newbold's Rec Area

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- On July 24th WHIP joined Conserve School students at the library in Land O'Lakes to help clear the adjacent recreational trail of invasive honeysuckles. Thanks to Ian Shackleford (USFS) for organizing!
- We celebrated our Steering Committee member (a founder, in fact) Rod Sharka, receiving a state Invader Crusader Award for all the hard work he does in Vilas County to combat invasive plant species. Nominations and support came from his peers at The Nature Conservancy, WHIP, Lumberjack RC&D, Natural Lakes, Vilas County, and Partners in Forestry.
- WHIP did a media piece with Ch.12 WJFW on the importance of not moving firewood to prevent spreading hidden invasive species.
- For the second year, WHIP received a donation of \$2000 for youth invasive species education from our partner Conserve School. Thank you so much for this contribution, which will help us reach many students across our region!



WHIP member Rod Sharka holds his 2019 Invader Crusader award





- In fall 2019 WHIP worked steadily with the landowners of the Natural Lakes and Frontier Lakes Private Preserves, under our DNR grants. Both groups held multiple control workdays and shared a rented chipper to dispose of invasive brush! We continue to be impressed with their drive and dedication at conserving their land, situated at the largely undeveloped northern edge of Vilas County.



- WHIP collaborated with the Wisconsin DNR to carry out recon surveys for the highly invasive Amur Cork Tree (designated Prohibited statewide) in the NHAL state forest near Woodruff. This work will continue into spring 2020.



Colorful Cork Tree sections



Mary Bartkowiak (DNR) shows us a young Cork Tree



Distinctive foliage glows pale yellow in October

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- After completing DATCP certification and licensing, WHIP can now utilize chemical control where appropriate as part of our management toolbox for hardy invasives. In 2019 we completed our first herbicide applications: at the first known site of Cut-leaved Teasel in Oneida County, and also on patches of Canada Thistle in the Natural Lakes Private Preserve north of Boulder Junction. These sites will be checked in spring 2020 for follow-up.
- WHIP received funding from the WDNR's Weed Management Area grants to undertake invasive plant surveys at the Samoset Scout Council's properties at Crystal Lake north of Rhinelander. This grant continues into 2020 so we can aim to involve scouts and families.
- WHIP, TIP, and Oneida County Land & Water Conservation have collaborated to develop a published set of best practices to help conserve pollinators during invasive species activities.
- WHIP had display booths again at Trees for Tomorrow's ForestFest on July 27, and at the Minocqua Lake association's Labor Day Pig Roast Picnic, two of our most popular events!



# RECENT



- We are excited to share that **WHIP has expanded to include Lincoln County!** After expressing interest in a partnership, Mitchell McCarthy attended WHIP meetings to lead the conversation, and in September our bylaws were changed to officially expand to three counties. We have grant funds from the Ruffed Grouse Society to support invasive species activities in Lincoln.
- Watch for coming media pieces and new outreach signs supported by our largest grant ever, from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, using the messages of [PlayCleanGo](#) to inform travelers about invasive species as they enter the Great Lakes Basin.
- Beginning in March 2019, WHIP's coordinator Rosie Page was invited to sit on the statewide species assessment group to evaluate the status of herbaceous ornamental plants that may be regulated under the next NR40 update. The group has met twice and continues to give input on approximately 30 species currently under review.
- On January 30, 2020, WHIP's fiscal agent Lumberjack RC&D voted to commit \$10,000 of budgetary support to WHIP for the next three years without requiring reapplication. We are extremely grateful for this funding, which allows all of our activities to run smoothly, and we continue to value our unique relationship with Lumberjack.
- In late March 2020, WHIP was successfully awarded a second GLRI grant, winning \$18,600 for invasive species detection and control in the areas of our counties that lie in the Great Lakes watershed. We look forward to putting these funds to good use over the next two years!



Looking northward over Madeline Lake during Amur Cork Tree surveys, October 2019



**STOP INVASIVE  
SPECIES IN  
YOUR TRACKS.**  
[PlayCleanGo.org](#)







Frontier Lakes volunteers chip honeysuckle brush



Honeysuckle brush ready for the chipper



Scouts at Tesomas Camp have a headstart on invasive species signage!



Cut-leaved Teasel in fall



Hardy Japanese knotweed roots trying to survive after two years of herbicide treatment.



Volunteers at Natural Lakes enjoy a well-deserved apple fritter after chipping their invasive honeysuckle brush



WHIP display at 2019 ForestFest