Project W.O.W.: the War On Weeds!

WHO ARE WE? Our group is called the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership, or "WHIP". We exist to coordinate invasive species efforts amongst our partner groups. By pooling our resources, we can (1) promote and educate about the presence of invasive species in our region, and (2) control these species whenever possible. Our projects are supported by grants from both government and private agencies. WHIP's formal partners are:

- Oneida and Vilas Counties
- United States Forest Service
- Wisconsin DNR and DOT
- Trees for Tomorrow and Conserve School
- Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
- Partners in Forestry Co-op
- Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

- Lac de Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter
- Northwoods Land Trust

THE PROJECT: Entering and tracking locations of invasive species in Wisconsin can identify the "leading edge" of invasive plants heading our way, and allows land managers to control them while the populations are still small. Specifically, Project W.O.W. asks participants to watch for invasive plants in northern Wisconsin, and use a very simple **free**"app" to report them. The app is a feature of the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) that can be downloaded to any smartphone or tablet. Once downloaded, the GLEDN app offers information, photos, and maps, to help you in the field, and does not need an internet signal to function. Your location is automatically recorded using the GPS locator already in your device!
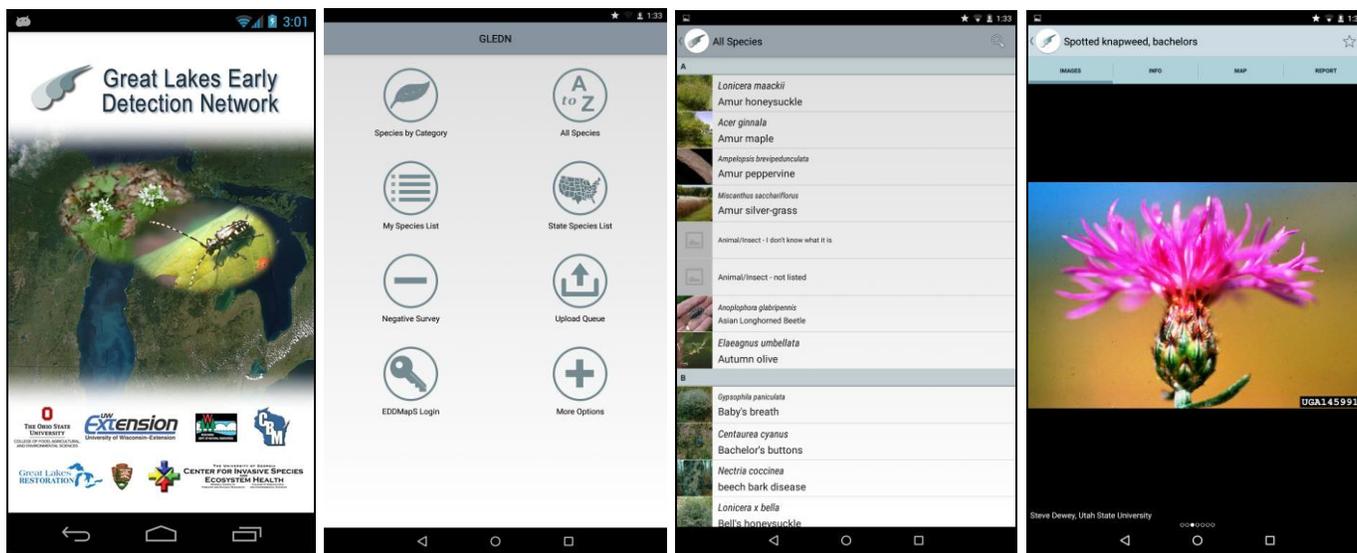
STEPS: Here's how to get started.
1. On a desktop computer or laptop, go to the website www.eddmaps.org and register with a username and password for you or your group.
2. Download the free GLEDN app onto your phone or tablet, from Google Play or the Apple Store (type Great Lakes Early Detection Network into the search bar and it will pop up).
3. Open the app on your device and login with the username you chose on the website.
4. You're now ready to head out and find some invasives!

USING THE WHIP TABLETS: Each tablet is a Google Nexus, made by Asus. They should be fully charged (battery is 8+hours) when you receive them, with the wall charger in the backpack. To begin, open the cover, and swipe one finger up on the screen. They should spring to life and bring you the home screen, where you can simply tap the GLEDN app and proceed to the next step on this page. Feel free to use the camera app on the tablet (bottom right) to capture detail of a plant if needed. Photos are automatically backed up to our WHIP Google+ account. If needed, the volume and power buttons are along the righthand side of the tablet. **Note: tablets are not impact or waterproof, so**

please treat with appropriate care. If the GLEDN app ever asks you to re-enter the login info, it is whipinvasives@gmail.com, password is knapweed1.

REPORTING A SPECIES:
Once you have encountered a potential invasive species, open the GLEDN app. From the home screen, select "A to Z" and type the first few letters of the species, then select the right one. The menu bar along the top offers preloaded "Images" or "Info" to help you confirm the species' identity. Tap "Report" for the reporting screen, and enter the information required. The camera icon will take you directly to the tablet or phone's camera, and then back to the reporting screen. Your location will be recorded automatically but it may take a few minutes for the satellite signals to confirm. The following images show the screens you will see.

FUNDING:
Project W.O.W. is supported by a grant sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network (www.wiatri.net/cbm). Since 2004, this partnership has enabled citizens and scientists to work together to monitor and evaluate Wisconsin's natural resources, from plants and animals to water, weather and soils. Project W.O.W. invites participation from students, gardeners, homeowners, campers, trail users, and any other volunteers who enjoy getting outside!

JOIN US:
We are seeking volunteer citizen monitors willing to explore any lakeshore, park, schoolyard, or private property, mapping invasive plants and submitting their data either on their own smartphones and/or tablets, or on WHIP tablets which we have available to lend for monitoring or educational purposes.

MORE INFO:
Contact Rosie Page, WHIP Coordinator, anytime at rpage19@gmail.com or 715-282-7269. A WHIP representative is available for classroom visits, and presentations on topics such as using the GLEDN app or invasive species identification anytime. For moreinformation about the Great Lakes Early Detection Network, start at www.eddmaps.org or at the Wisconsin First Detector Network http://fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn

Thank you for helping protect Wisconsin's native species and habitats!