



# MIPN Quarterly Newsletter

Midwest Invasive Plant Network, [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org)

Summer 2008 Volume 3, Issue 2

## MIPN Annual Meeting and Symposium to Be Held in Indianapolis, December 2008

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the North Central Weed Science Society's (NCWSS's) conference December 10-11 in Indianapolis. As we have in the past, MIPN is planning a two-day program, starting with a symposium of invited talks on current research on invasive plants. Speakers lined up for the symposium include Tom Stohlgren of the U.S. Geological Survey talking about global climate change and invasive plants; Scott Meiners from Eastern Illinois University talking about invasive shrub impacts on tree seed predation; Susan Kalisz from University of Pittsburgh speaking about how deer affect invasive plants; and Kay Havens from Chicago

Botanic Garden reporting on research comparing the invasiveness of different horticultural cultivars of invasive plants. In addition to the symposium, the program will include contributed talks and posters and a wide variety of workshops on topics from control of invasive plants to forming Cooperative Weed Management Areas to fostering collaboration between scientists and land managers. MIPN will also hold its annual membership meeting during the conference to report on our accomplishments from the last year and get input on our future directions. For more information on the meeting program visit [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org) and [www.ncwss.org](http://www.ncwss.org). We hope you will plan to attend!

## Pocket Naturalist Guide to Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States Completed

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has completed a new field guide through Waterford Press's A Pocket Naturalist® series. The guide, entitled, "Invasive Plants of Eastern North America: An Introduction to Problematic Non-Native Species" provides color drawings and species descriptions for 69 of the worst invasive plants in the eastern part of the country. The Pocket Naturalist is a fold-out laminated guide that fits easily into a glove compartment, backpack, or pocket for easy use in the field. All MIPN members will be receiving a free copy in the mail in thanks for your continued support. Additional copies may be purchased by contacting Kate Howe ([howek@purdue.edu](mailto:howek@purdue.edu)). The list price is \$5.95, but discounts will be available to MIPN members.



## Meet Our Board of Directors

**Lisa Brush** has worked in the environmental field in Michigan for the last 15 years. She is currently the Executive Director of the Stewardship Network and has been involved with the Network since its inception more than 10 years ago. She has a wealth of experience helping non-scientific people understand scientific issues. Prior to her work with the Network, Lisa worked with the Huron River Watershed Council on drinking water protection, land use planning, and communication programs. Lisa has also spent years working on the cherry orchards of northern Michigan; working with severely and profoundly handicapped children; planting trees; and running workshops of all kinds. Lisa's life at home, at work, at play, and personally is guided by her desire to help people connect with their environments in a hands-on way. The solutions she seeks to implement through the Stewardship Network are found by listening on a daily basis to the people who actively care for our natural lands and waters and discovering the tools and knowledge needed. Lisa has a M.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan and a B.A. (Science in Society) from Wesleyan University.

When she's not working Lisa loves playing with her four children ranging in age from 7 to 19 and looking for that spare moment when she can help out on a prescribed burn, make a quilt, sneak in a run, or, even rarer these days, catch a game of ultimate Frisbee.



Lisa Brush



Jody Shimp

**Jody Shimp** has been working in Illinois natural areas for the past 22 years as a volunteer, researcher, ecologist, and administrator. He completed his M.S. in Plant Ecology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1996. He has experience working for county, state, and federal land managing agencies, and the control of invasive species to improve natural area quality has always been his area of interest. Currently, he works as an administrator for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Heritage. In this position, he is responsible for the administration, management, and implementation of programs for non-game wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and natural areas for a 28-county region in Southern Illinois. He is very interested in the challenges of invasive species management and has spent much of the past few years working on large-scale control projects in Illinois. He has served on the Board of the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and chaired NAA's Management and Technology Development Committee. He is currently serving on the Board of the Illinois Invasive Plant Council and is the Illinois DNR's representative on the River to River CWMA steering committee.

## 2008 New Invaders Watch Program Challenge: GPS/Digital Camera Give-Away! contributed by Debbie Maurer, Lake County

### Forest Preserve District

The New Invaders Watch Program is kicking off a new incentive program to reward those participants that submit the greatest number of reports of target invasive species in 2008! The Challenge is open to all program participants, including: volunteers, land managers, agency staff, citizen scientists and the general public.\*

#### CHALLENGE RULES:

- Reports will be tallied on an individual basis (not for an agency or group).
- Reports must be made between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.
- Reports must be confirmed by the Illinois Natural History Survey Herbarium; therefore, a digital image or voucher is required with your report.

#### GIVE-AWAY AWARDS:

1st Place – Your choice of a Magellan Meridian Gold Handheld GPS Unit or an Olympus Camera D-435 Digital Camera (5.1 megapixel).

## Iowa Holds Invasive Species Field Day contributed by Deborah Seiler, The Nature Conservancy

Iowa had a field day when the newly created Hawkeye Cooperative Weed Management Area announced its latest plan for outreach – literally. On June 26, the CWMA attracted over one hundred participants for its free Invasive Species Field Day.

The day's agenda was designed with the average citizen in mind – such as farmers, land owners, or developers – in order to raise awareness about the state's invasive species and the importance of managing them.

Johnson County weed commissioner Chris Henze said, "This year's field day has really been brought about by interest in forming a Cooperative Weed Management Area and working to educate local landowners and resource managers about invasive species."

2nd Place – A new copy of "Invasive Plants; Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species" by S.R. Kaufman and W. Kaufman, 2007.

3rd Place - A new copy of "Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest; An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control" by E. Czarapata, 2005.

The top three winners will also be featured in the January 2009 Issue of Gatherings Online Newsletter and on the New Invaders Watch Program Website!

Awards will be announced in January of 2009.

\* To participate, you must have attended a New Invaders Watch program training and signed up to report new populations online. If you have not received training and would like to participate, please contact Debbie Maurer @ 847-968-3285.

The young CWMA hopes this approach helps get their message out, as well as potentially involve more supportive stakeholders in the region. Henze explains, "We decided to work on the education aspect of invasive species as we are getting formed and recruiting members and later focus on grants, equipment, and "on the ground" management as our organization really starts gathering speed."

The Field Day agenda included information sessions on how to identify and manage aquatic, woodland, and prairie invaders, as well as a special session exclusively on garlic mustard. From the prevention perspective, attendees were also advised on native plants they can substitute for invasives in gardening.

## River to River CWMA Gets Two Summer Interns contributed by Jody Shimp, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Guy Schmale and Cassandra Wilcoxon are both Southern Illinois University students who landed summer internships with the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (RtRCWMA). Guy and Cassandra are working with RtRCWMA Coordinator Chris Evans on a wide variety of invasive species projects this summer. The positions are being supported by CWMA partners the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and Southern Illinois University. Guy and Cassandra are spending the summer conducting terrestrial invasive species inventories on State Nature Preserves, State Parks, USFWS refuges and Forest Service Natural Areas. They are also involved in a RtRCWMA-wide effort to inventory area waters by collecting aquatic invasive species data at public boat ramps. So far, they have discovered several species that are of concern to CWMA land managing partners. In response, the Forest Service and IDNR will be working cooperatively to install prevention signage and educational materials at ramps to inform users of the hazards of accidental species translo-

cation. Chris has also made them available to work with some private landowners which has been a very positive experience for the students, landowners and CWMA. Finally, Chris is working with the interns and SIU to test the effectiveness the EZ-Jet Herbicide Lance Injector at controlling Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). Guy and Cassandra will be presenting the results of their study at the Natural Areas Conference in Nashville, TN in October.



River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area summer interns, Guy Schmale and Cassandra Wilcoxon, conduct boat ramp surveys for aquatic exotic invasive species.

## A new invasive plant partnership in Wisconsin

The newly-formed Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Cooperative (SEWISC) was established to collaborate on invasive species efforts in an eight-county area. The group includes a wide range of partners, including the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Extension, Wisconsin Department

of Transportation, Wisconsin Energy Corporation, local land trusts and other local non-profit organizations, and several county and city government agencies. The focus of SEWISC is promoting efficient and effective management of invasive species, including both plants and animals. For more information on SEWISC, contact [SEWISC@townandcountryrcd.org](mailto:SEWISC@townandcountryrcd.org).

### COMING SOON!

MIPN's new "Field Guide to Invasive Plants of the Midwest" will be available soon. The guides are at the printer and should be completed by the end of the summer. Stay tuned for more details.

## Upcoming Meetings

### The Stewardship Network Conference

After an enthusiastic response to their well-attended inaugural annual conference in January 2008, The Stewardship Network is planning their 2009 conference. The conference will be held Jan. 23-24 in East Lansing, Michigan and will focus on "The Science, Practice, & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems". The keynote speaker will be Henry Lickers, Director of the Department of Environment for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

To learn more about the events that are planned, to submit an abstract for a talk or poster, or to register for the conference, visit [www.stewardshipnetwork.org/2009conference](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/2009conference).

### Stewardship Network Conference 2009



The Science, Practice & Art of  
**Restoring Native Ecosystems**

### 2008 Natural Areas Conference-- Natural Areas Revival In Music City: Tuning into a changing climate and biological invasion at The Doubletree Hotel - Nashville, Tennessee, October 14 – 17, 2008

The 2008 Natural Areas Conference will be a joint conference of the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC). The conference will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the NAA and will be an inaugural national conference for NAEPPC. The conference will focus on ecological management themes with an emphasis on invasive exotic species issues.

To register, visit [www.naturalarea.org/08conference](http://www.naturalarea.org/08conference). The rates will go up after September 15, so register now!



MIPN's 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the North Central Weed Science Society Conference, Dec.10-11 at the Hyatt in Downtown Indianapolis. See [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org) and [www.ncwss.org](http://www.ncwss.org) for more information.

