



MIPN Newsletter

Midwest Invasive Plant Network, www.mipn.org

Fall 2011 Volume 6, Issue 2

What's new with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network? by Kate Howe, MIPN Coordinator

It's a busy time for the Midwest Invasive Plant Network. We have many new and on-going projects in the works, and we have managed to keep our heads above water during these challenging financial times, which seems like no small feat to us.

To help with all the projects we have underway, MIPN has hired two additional part-time staff members, Jennifer Hillmer and Kari Maxwell. Many of you may already know Jennifer; she served as a MIPN board member for six years before beginning a paid position with MIPN this summer. Kari is a recent graduate of Butler University and began volunteering for MIPN in January 2011. She joined our staff in August. You can read more about Kari on page 2.

Here are some of the projects that MIPN is working on.

- Our **annual meeting** will be held December 14-15 at the North Central Weed Science Society Conference in Milwaukee. This year we are teaming up with the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) to host a two-day symposium on invasive plants in the Midwest, including



talks on science, policy, and management of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants. For more information, see page 5 of this newsletter and visit www.ncwss.org.

- MIPN is collaborating with the University of Wisconsin on the creation of the **Great Lakes Early Detection Network**, a web-based system that will allow users to report sightings of invasive plants and sign up for e-mail alerts for notification of new species in your area. Alerts can be customized by species or geographic location, so users only receive information they want.
- We are putting the finishing touches on a **searchable database of invasive plant control information** that will allow users to compare and contrast chemical, biological, mechanical, and cultural control methods for a particular species or habitat. The database is designed to help users select the best methods for their particular circumstances. The database should be available for use by the end of the year.
- We are in the process of **updating our popular Keep a Lookout for New Invasive Plants in the Midwest flyer**. We will be adding some new species and updating range maps to provide the most current information.
- MIPN continues to provide **training and support for Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs)** along the Great Lakes and throughout the MIPN region. This spring, we completed an updated version of our CWMA Cookbook: A Step-

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Meet Our Board of Directors.... & Staff!

Alan Blowers has been the Biotechnology Project Manager at Ball Helix (IL), a division of Ball Horticultural Company, since 1998. Prior to joining Ball, he held the position of Senior Scientist at Sanford Scientific, Inc. (NY), a startup ornamental plant biotechnology company that maintained a joint venture with Ball during the mid-90's. While there, he also served as a project consultant to Scotts Miracle-Gro (OH) in the area of turfgrass biotechnology. While his research interests at Ball Helix are quite broad, to date he has focused heavily on the development and implementation of an array of DNA-based molecular markers applications for floricultural crops. One of these markers programs, DNA barcoding, can be employed when necessary to investigate the taxonomic identities of plants that are suspected of being an invasive species. Alan received his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry/molecular biology from the University of Rochester (NY), and later held post-doctoral positions at Harvard U. and Cornell U.

Alan lives in the Fox Valley region west of Chicagoland with his wife and three children. He is an avid sports fan and his hobbies include landscaping, gardening and reading (he's definitely old-school by still preferring printed newspaper and books).



Alan Blowers



Kari Maxwell

Kari Maxwell is a recent Butler graduate with a BA in Science, Technology, and Society with a focus on Environmental Studies. Kari was an intern with the Butler University Center for Urban Ecology for two and a half years, working on projects from rain barrel research to organizing river clean ups. She completed an internship with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Hoosier Riverwatch program for a summer, getting to know her benthic macroinvertebrates and helping with workshops.

After graduating, she spent this past summer working in the Friesner Herbarium at Butler University, where she helped with new projects and kept continuing projects going. Kari began volunteering with MIPN in January of 2011, just a few hours a week packaging up publication orders and whatever else Kate needed help with. Nowadays, she spends her free time figuring out this thing everyone calls 'real life' and where, and in what subject, she wants to get her Masters degree. She enjoys photography, playing with her dog, and riding and taking care of her horse.

What's New With MIPN? (continued from page 1)

by-step Guide on How to Develop a CWMA in the Eastern U.S. Visit our website (www.mipn.org) to download it for free. Over the next year, we will be partnering with the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council to teach CWMA workshops in West Virginia and Delaware to help increase the number of CWMAAs to the east.

- Our newest project is **outreach to green industry** (growers, distributors, and landscapers) about invasive plants through the creation of a video about invasive plants in natural areas. The video will be shared with businesses in an effort to open a dialogue about species in trade that are harmful to native species and ecosystems. As a

companion to this project, we are turning our brochure, called "Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants of the Midwest," into a smart phone application that will allow users to access information about invasive plants to avoid, as well as preferred alternatives, while they are shopping.

Your support of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network through your generous donations, attendance at our annual meeting, participation in the MIPN listserv, and distribution of MIPN educational materials has helped our work tremendously. We hope you will continue to participate and renew your membership each year to help us provide more and better services and information.

IPAW Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

For the past ten years, the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) has educated the public about invasive plants and encouraged their control. Their goal is to promote better stewardship of the natural resources of Wisconsin by providing people with the information and tools they need to tackle invasive plants.

In June IPAW celebrated its 10th anniversary with an event at the Swamplovers Sanctuary near Black Earth, WI. Recipients of the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species' 2011 Invader Crusader Awards were recognized

at the event. Mark Renz, MIPN President, received an Invader Crusader Award for his invasive plant research and extension work, going "above and beyond the traditional academic route to work with land managers, foresters, landowners, farmers and students." Kelly Kearns, one of the driving forces behind the creation of both IPAW and MIPN, was surprised with an engraved buckthorn plaque, recognizing the critical role she has played as a champion for the organization for 10 years. Congratulations to Mark and Kelly for their awards and to IPAW for a successful first ten years!



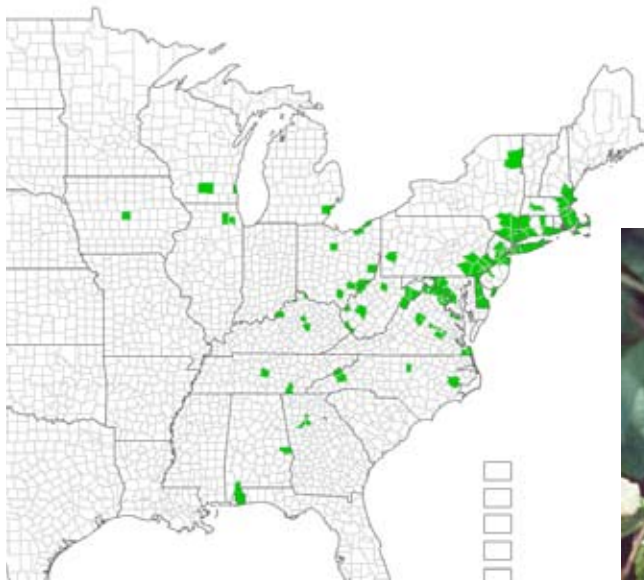
A cake from the IPAW 10th anniversary celebration in Black Earth, Wisconsin, June 2011

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) Alert

by Kari Maxwell, Midwest Invasive Plant Network

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) is a perennial, woody vine native to north-east Asia. Porcelainberry was cultivated by the horticultural trade as an ornamental landscape plant in the 1870s, and is still used today. The cultivar *A. brevipedunculata* 'Elegans' is more popular in the landscape trade today because of its smaller, variegated leaves. Porcelainberry grows well in moist soils and has become an aggressive invader in both open and woody areas. It is widespread in much of the eastern United States from New England south to North Carolina. Porcelainberry has also been reported in the Midwestern states of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Kentucky. The colorful fruits attract wildlife that eat the berries and disperse the seeds. The abundance of porcelainberry in riparian areas downstream of large infestations suggests it may be dispersed by water as well. Porcelainberry's colorful fruits appear in September or October and range in color from a light lilac,

to bright blue, to green. Porcelainberry is often misidentified as a native grape, but it can be distinguished by its white pith, compared to the brown of grape, lenticels on the bark, where grape has none, and bark that does not peel, where grape does. Porcelainberry has alternate leaves that are broadly ovate and heart shaped with 3-5 lobes that are coarsely toothed. The variety *A. brevipedunculata* var. *maximowiczii* has leaves that are more deeply lobed, but is equally as vigorous in growth. As with many invasive species, porcelainberry is pest resistant and tolerant of adverse conditions, though it is less tolerant of heavy shade and therefore less likely to be found in the interior of mature forests. It is currently prohibited in Massachusetts and listed as potentially invasive in Connecticut, though not banned there. Other common names for porcelainberry are Amur peppervine, creeper, and wild grape. Keep an eye out for porcelainberry in your area.



Porcelainberry: distribution in the US (left, map courtesy of EDDMaps); photo (below, www.invasive.org)



Upcoming Meetings

Nov. 1-4 38th Annual Natural Areas Conference Tallahassee, FL

The Natural Areas Conference brings together professionals from across the country who are concerned with the conservation of natural areas. This year's program features sessions on invasive species every day, with an emphasis on invasive plants. A full-day cogon-grass workshop will be held on Thursday and is included in the full conference registration price. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.naturalarea.org/11Conference/>.

Dec. 14-15 Invasive Plants Symposium at the North Central Weed Science Society Conference, Milwaukee, WI

This year, MIPN's annual meeting will be held at the North Central Weed Science Society's conference, bringing together weed scientists, invasive species biologists, and natural resource professionals and volunteers to discuss common problems and solutions. The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has teamed up with the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin to plan a two-day meeting on the ecology, policy, and management of invasive plants. We have a fantastic program planned, and we hope that you will join us. Registration rates are \$150 for both days or \$100 for one day.

Schedule:

Wednesday morning

Plenary Session, including talks from

- Jim Reinartz, UW-Milwaukee on the Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Cooperative
- Chuck Barger, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at U. Georgia on Early Detection through CWMA's and EPPCs
- Gordon Brown, U.S. Dept. of Interior on national policy on invasive plants
- Barney Caton, USDA APHIS on screening

plant imports for invasive species
- Jeff Dukes, Purdue University on how climate change is affecting invasive plants

Wednesday afternoon

- Contributed papers
- Cooperative Weed Management Areas

Thursday morning

- Early Detection and Rapid Response Initiatives
- Control of Woody Invasive Plants
- Planning and Prioritization of Invasive Plant Management

Thursday afternoon

- Control of Invasive Aquatic Plants
- Innovative Approaches for Managing Invasive Plants Across Land Ownership Boundaries
- Assessing Invasion Potential of Invasive Species in Trade
- Control of Herbaceous Invasive Plants

To register for the conference, visit www.ncwss.org. For more information, contact Kate Howe at howek@purdue.edu.

