



# MIPN Quarterly Newsletter

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

Summer 2007 Volume 2, Issue 3

## MIPN Annual Meeting and Invasives Symposium to Be Held in Cleveland in October

Each year, MIPN organizes a symposium on invasive plants and our annual meeting in conjunction with another conference in the region. This year we will be meeting at the Natural Areas Conference in Cleveland, October 9-12.

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) and the Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC) have teamed up to put together a special session on invasive plants in the Midwest, with information on a broad range of topics, including developing an early detection program; interactions between pollinators and invasive plants; garlic mustard biocontrol; working with the nursery industry to prevent plant invasions; determining whether cutlivers of invasive plants are safe to plant; and Cooperative Weed Management Areas.

In addition to the MIPN/OIPC session, there will be several other events of interest to MIPN members:

- ☛ Our MIPN annual meeting. This is your chance to learn what MIPN is working on and provide input on our activities for the coming year. We will provide lunch and give away door prizes to attendees-- what more could you ask for?
- ☛ A workshop on developing an invasive plant management plan, taught by Ellen Jacquart (Director of Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana and MIPN President)
- ☛ A symposium on the cascading ecological consequences of invasive species in forests
- ☛ Additional contributed talks and posters on invasive plants
- ☛ A workshop on the National Institute for Invasive Species Science (NIISS) database system for information on invasive plants

☛ Field trips throughout the state to see some of Ohio's most beautiful natural areas and view the results of successful and on-going invasive plant control efforts

Additional information about speakers and workshops is posted on the MIPN website at [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org).

Registration for the conference is \$75 for one day and \$190-230 for the whole meeting if you register by September 7. Student rates are \$40 for one day and \$130 for the whole week. Rates increase on September 8, so act now! For more information or to register for the conference, please visit the Natural Areas Association website at <http://naturalarea.org/07conference/>.

We believe we've put together a great program and encourage everyone interested in invasive plants in the Midwest to attend. Many thanks to the U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry and BASF for providing funds in support of this meeting.

For more information contact Kate Howe, at (317) 951- 8818 or [khowe@tnc.org](mailto:khowe@tnc.org).



Some members of the MIPN board at Chicago Botanic Garden

## Meet Our Board of Directors

**Gary Knosher** has been involved with the nursery industry for 30 years. He is currently President of Midwest Groundcovers, located in St. Charles, Illinois, a regional nursery serving garden centers and landscapers throughout the Midwest with container grown groundcovers, perennials, shrubs and native plants. Gary has been with Midwest Groundcovers for 28 years and has experience in most areas of production and sales.

Gary has a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Illinois and an M.B.A. from North Central College. He has been a board member and President of the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois; a board member of the International Plant Propagator's Society, Eastern Region; and has served on various committees for the Illinois Nurseryman's Association and the American Nursery and Landscape Association.

Gary is currently a board member for the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council, and is a member of the Michigan Invasive Plant Council. He has been active in the area of invasive species for the past five years by giving presentations, attending seminars, and working on various projects involving invasive species.

Gary's wife also works in green industry as a plant breeder, and they have two grown children. He is a "proud grandparent" and spends his free time enjoying gardening, music, and bike riding.



Gary Knosher



Kelly Kearns

**Kelly Kearns** helped get MIPN launched by organizing a "scoping meeting" at the invasive plant conference at Chicago Botanic Garden in 2002. A huge attendance at the meeting proved that there was a need for a regional invasive plant group. A few years later MIPN was formally organized at the Natural Areas Conference in Madison. Kelly has been a key member of MIPN from the beginning, representing Wisconsin on the board and co-chairing the Education Committee.

Kelly has a B.S. in Horticulture from Purdue University and an M.S. in Restoration Ecology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. She has worked at the Bureau of Endangered Resources in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources since 1984, and has been in her current position as Plant Conservation Program Manager since 1990. For the last decade she has been coordinating DNR activities regarding ecologically invasive terrestrial plants. She works extensively with the Wisconsin DNR Invasive Species Team, Forest Invasives Leadership Team, Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species, Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, and MIPN. Although there are plenty of invasives in Wisconsin, Kelly is glad to be in the north where many of the southern invaders have not yet taken over!

Kelly lives with her husband, Tom, and children, Kylan and Liana, in Madison. She spends time coaching soccer, gardening, and supporting her family's avocations of unicycling, juggling, trapeze, soccer and training for the Ironman and other triathlons.

# 10 Tips For Emerging Invasive Plant Management Groups

contributed by Jennifer Vollmer, BASF Environmental Resource Specialist

From floods and droughts to wildfires and rapid land development, our lands are subjected to constantly changing conditions that can escalate the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. These weed problems are growing — literally and figuratively — every year.

An increasing number of concerned groups and individuals are joining forces to stop the spread of weeds. In some places, cooperative weed management areas (CWMAs) are forming to confront invasive weeds head-on. These groups know firsthand the difficulties — and the rewards — of managing invasives.

With help and insight from Janet Clark, director of the Center for Invasive Plant Management, here are 10 tips for emerging invasive weed management groups.

**1) Focus on outcomes.** Focus on the outcome of a successful program, rather than merely killing weeds. What exactly are you trying to accomplish? Biodiversity? Habitat restoration? Aesthetic value? Improved recreation? Once you have clearly defined your goals, you'll have a strong base from which to build a strategy. Also, when you know what you're working toward, you'll be better able to inspire others to join you.

**2) Be clear about the problem.** You know you have to deal with the weeds. But what lurks beneath the surface? A weed infestation may be symptomatic of something else — perhaps a land-use or policy issue. For example, if a Department of Transportation uses gravel on roadsides from a pit contaminated with weed seed, the roadside weeds are a symptom of the larger gravel pit contamination problem. Solving the weed problem will require managing the gravel pit. Taking time to identify all of the issues that contribute to the invasive weed problem will yield more successful solutions.

**3) Social dynamics are important.** Often, the

social dynamics of partnerships and coalitions can be as challenging as the biological issues of vegetation control. Effecting change requires uniting people to collaboratively develop goals. Sometimes, just assembling participants in the same room to discuss problems and potential solutions is an accomplishment in itself! Remember that a mutual problem can bring together even the most diverse group of individuals.

**4) Communication is key.** To be successful, communication is crucial. You must work at both internal communication—keeping direct contributors in the loop—and external communication — engaging the public and telling success stories. Both are important and require attention.

**5) Prevention is more economical than management.** Not only is weed prevention more economical than management, it's also more successful. A proactive “let's make sure this weed doesn't come into our area” approach is generally easier and more cost-effective than reacting to weed infestations after the fact.

**6) Involve policy makers.** Involve local and state government officials in organizing committees. When policy makers have first-hand knowledge of weed issues, they are better able to communicate your concerns to other policy makers on a peer-to-peer basis. Another option is to host a weed tour — complete with demonstrations — for legislators and local media. This setting provides attendees a hands-on opportunity to learn the extent of the problem, as well as project successes and needs.

**7) Avoid excessive meetings.** Some newly formed groups experience a dramatic drop in attendance after only a couple of meetings. One way to counteract this is to appoint subcommittees that meet separately from the group to deal with specific, short-term tasks.

## 10 Tips For Emerging Groups (continued from pg. 3)

Such organizational strategies can refocus and re-energize a group, contributing to its overall success.

**8) Remain flexible.** Groups that are flexible in both management and organization are better able to adapt to change and respond to emerging issues. Effective land management practices involve periodic monitoring and evaluation. Be willing to revise your plan accordingly. The right approach for any given site or situation is not always readily apparent. Think it through. Then try your best idea. Implement a program and see what happens. Keep what works and change what doesn't.

**8) Be prepared: funding can be frustrating.** Short-term funding often undermines the need for long-term planning. Anytime

you're dealing with a location's ecology, you should aim for long-term management. But that can be difficult when you must rely on short-term funding. Someday, perhaps, a stable, long-term funding mechanism for weed management groups will be in place. In the meantime, be prepared to work with what you can get.

**9) Tap into the expertise of universities.** Universities conduct diverse and valuable research, so keep them in mind when you're looking for experts to speak at meetings or events, or to contribute to land management plans. Extension services have been crucial to weed control efforts. The weed specialists at land grant universities can provide key insights and helpful direction. Their involvement often spans many years and provides valuable perspective.

## Knotweed Knocked Out! contributed by Carmen Chapin, National Park Service, Exotic Plant Management Team

Seventeen volunteers helped remove Japanese knotweed in Bayfield, Wisconsin on July 11. The group made a dent in the knotweed population on the Brownstone Trail and several other local landmarks and public lands. This project was sponsored by a grant from the Travel Green Wisconsin Program. Remaining funds will be used to purchase tools for a community tool chest so landowners can continue to wage the war against this monstrous invader.

Japanese knotweed is a rapidly growing plant that is quick to shade out native species and garden cultivars. It takes over roadsides, residences and community recreation areas, threatens stream banks and increases fire danger.

Homeowners who would like more information on controlling this invasive plant, also known as elephant ears or bamboo, can see the 2-page *Homeowner's Guide to Japanese Knotweed Control* available on-line at [http://www.north-](http://www.north-woods-wisconsin.org/)

[woods-wisconsin.org/](http://www.north-woods-wisconsin.org/) or by requesting a copy from the Bayfield Regional Conservancy.

The Knotweed Knockout was sponsored by Apostle Islands Realty, Bayfield Regional Conservancy, National Park Service, Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area and Wisconsin's Travel Green Program. For more information contact the BRC at 715-779-LAND (5263) or see [www.brcland.org](http://www.brcland.org).



Volunteers removing Japanese knotweed.

## Best Management Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants Being Developed in Wisconsin contributed by Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin DNR

Under the direction of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and dozens of partners and stakeholder groups are working on developing prevention practices to slow the spread of invasive species. Initially focused on forests, this effort looks not just at plants, but also forest pests, such as the emerald ash borer. There are four separate sets of best management practices (BMPs) being developed by separate groups of experts for different vectors of spread: forestry; recreation; urban forestry, landscaping, and gardening; and rights-of-way.

Forestry practices including tree planting, fire management, building skid trails, harvest and post-harvest restoration are all being examined for ways to minimize the spread. Representatives from all aspects of the forest industry, as well as landowners, land managers and other stakeholders are on the advisory committee. This forestry group is developing a document that will be helpful to anyone in the forest industry or any forest landowners.

The recreation group has an advisory committee made of representatives of the various groups that recreate in wild areas, using a

range of equipment such as ATVs, horses and mountain bikes. This group will be developing not only the recommended practices, but will work on outreach to their user groups and will try to minimize the spread of invasives by all manner of outdoor recreationalists.

The two other groups are still being assembled. One will deal with the whole world of urban forestry, landscaping and gardening. The last group will work on BMPs for rights-of-way and develop recommendations for altering mowing schedules, minimizing spread during construction, plowing, cable laying and other disturbances.

As we develop these BMPs we will be looking for input from any interested parties. We hope to develop a model and ultimately create outreach materials that will be of use to other states planning to develop their own BMPs. For more information contact [Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov) or [Thomas.Boos@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Thomas.Boos@wisconsin.gov).

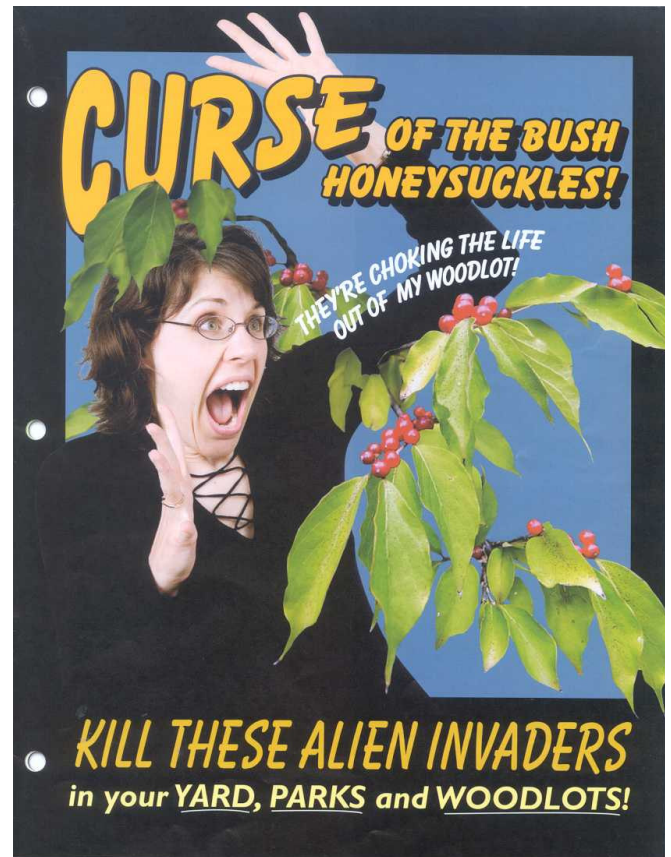
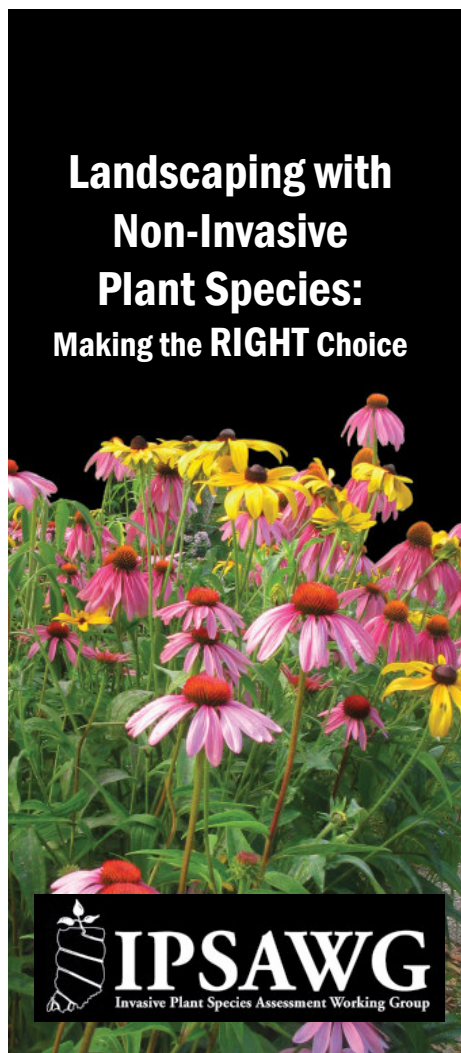
## Garlic Mustard Weed Out Day in Ann Arbor Is a Success

The City of Ann Arbor, Michigan hosted its 9th annual Garlic Mustard Weed Out Day on May 5th. It was a great success with 138 volunteers joining in to pull garlic mustard plants in eight different urban natural areas. Together they removed a total of 2400 pounds of garlic mustard! Good work, volunteers! For more information about Natural Area Preservation in Ann Arbor and their volunteer activities, visit [www.a2gov.org/nap](http://www.a2gov.org/nap).



## Two New Brochures on Invasive Plants Are Now Available

For the past four years, Indiana's Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (IPSAWG) has been working on assessing the invasiveness of plants that threaten natural areas in Indiana and developing recommendations regarding the use of those species. IPSAWG has now created a brochure entitled "Landscaping With Non-Invasive Plant Species: Making the RIGHT Choice" to publicize their recommendations for 33 species currently used for ornamental plantings in Indiana. The brochure will also highlight some native alternatives that can be planted in place of these invasive plants. To obtain a copy of IPSAWG's brochure, contact Ellen Jacquart at [ejacquart@tnc.org](mailto:ejacquart@tnc.org).



The Missouri Department of Conservation has created a new 8-page brochure on Asian bush honeysuckle called "Curse of the Bush Honeysuckles!", which explains how to identify and control invasive honeysuckles. It also provides extensive information about native Missouri shrubs that can be used as alternatives for planting and lists resources for further information. To get a copy of the brochure, contact Brian Canaday at [Brian.Canaday@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Brian.Canaday@mdc.mo.gov).