

# Door County Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Prevention, and Planning Final Report

Project Number: AEPP-421-14  
 Project Period: October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015

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The Nature Conservancy was contracted through the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department as the Door County Invasive Species Team Coordinator for the calendar years of 2014-2015. This document outlines the accomplishments of the Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD), Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) pertaining to aquatic invasive species education and community outreach in 2014 and 2015. Funding was also obtained in 2014 from the USFS to conduct additional aquatic and terrestrial invasive species education and control. Within the report there may be times that aquatic invasive educational work overlapped with terrestrial, as it was of paramount importance to spread the awareness of invasive species. All terrestrial invasive work that was conducted was funded through the aforementioned forestry grant.



Photo: (from left to right) Invasive species display presented by DCIST at the Bay Shore Property Owners Annual Meeting in September 2014. Kari Hagenow presenting to the Door County Master Gardeners Organization in early 2015 on newly regulated plants under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule (Chapter NR-40, left). TNC Seasonal Staff aide mapping Phragmites on the shoreline of Arbter Lake in the Township of Sevastopol

For this project it was SWCD's intent to maintain and improve both the water and habitat quality of Door County's shorelines, wetlands, and inland lakes. Goals were to be achieved through mapping of invasive species, organizing public workshops for education, conducting water craft inspections, and developing prioritized control plans for NR 40 and other high concern invasive aquatic plants.

The following goals and accomplishments are primarily reported by the DCIST coordinator as required in the Door County contract to coordinate invasive species education. This report will focus on each of the categories and deliverables mentioned in the original application and grant agreement, and will highlight activities and accomplishments for each of the two grant period years.

### 1. DCIST steering committee meetings.

The DCIST organized and held meetings with the members of the steering committee on the third Thursday in 2014 of the following months: January, March, April, June, September, November, and December. In 2015 DCIST coordinator organized and held meetings with the members of the steering committee on the third Thursday of the following months: January, February, March, April, July, August (coordinator not able to attend), September (short meeting following public presentation), and October. Meetings in June and November were cancelled.

For each meeting, the coordinator drafted an agenda that included coordinator updates, agenda topics provided by the coordinator and/or members, and agency updates if pertinent. Attendance by regular DCIST partners at our meetings has declined. The coordinator suggests that we continue to deliberate on how we can further engage steering committee members and find a meeting time and frequency that works best for all. The coordinator has drafted a document containing suggestions for the steering committee structure/meetings based on both her ideas and those of other Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the State. This document has been submitted with this report for review.

### 2. DCIST email and message line.

The DCIST coordinator checked the message line and email account on a weekly basis if not daily. Inquiries were handled promptly and when necessary, inquirers were directed toward applicable agencies (i.e. SWCD, Wisconsin DNR) to have further questions answered. Most forwarded inquiries from the message line were in regards to Phragmites treatments that took place in 2014-2015. In 2014 the DCIST coordinator fielded approximately 20 messages left on the line from Door County landowners and interested parties in regards to invasive species. Four of these messages resulted in site visits by the DCIST coordinator with the landowner on their property. In 2015 the DCIST coordinator fielded approximately 25 messages left on the line from Door County landowners and interested parties in regards to invasive species and numerous emails. Eight of these messages/emails resulted in site visits by the DCIST coordinator with the landowner on their property. Those who were communicated with through the message line or email account were listed in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with additional persons who DCIST connected with.

### 3. Public educational meetings.

The coordinator was tasked to provide aquatic outreach activities, as presentations/activities. However, both aquatic and terrestrial invasives would frequently overlap, throughout the year. Again, terrestrial efforts were funded through USFS funding. Educational efforts continued throughout the County in 2014 and 2015- outreach consisted of public meetings and speaking engagements with community groups and homeowner associations. Invitations to these meetings were sent to applicable, priority groups that included community organizations, property owners associations, lake associations, private landowners, businesses, and municipalities, as well as the general public.

The following public and organizational meetings were conducted by the DCIST coordinator:

2014

- **February 18th – Presentation for Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee**  
Presented basic invasive species information. Then discussed species that we have mapped in Fish Creek, such as *Phragmites*, and the surrounding area and how we can work together for further control of these species by the Township and with landowners.
- **February 19th and 20th –Hikes for groups with The Clearing Folk School in Bailey’s Harbor**  
The hike took place at TNC’s Meissner Preserve (headwaters of Piel Creek) with approximately 25-30 participants each of the two days. Invasive species topics discussed included managing reed canary grass in wetlands, identifying non-native *Phragmites* from native *Phragmites*, and the large scale control of *Phragmites* in Door County funded by USFS.
- **April 23rd – Gibraltar Schools Earth Day Symposium**  
The DCIST coordinator set up an education booth with hands-on activities, and invasive plant and animal samples, such as the Sea Lamprey, for the students of the Gibraltar schools. The symposium was also open to members of the public and lasted approximately four hours, during which students and others could listen to educational lectures or explore booths for DCIST or other non-profit, local, state agencies and groups. An estimated 150 students and 20 community members stopped at the DCIST booth and/or took invasive species brochures or information during this event.
- **May 2nd – “The Importance of Early Detection” Workshop with UW-Extension, Bailey’s Harbor**  
Workshop was hosted by DCIST and included a 45-minute lecture on early detection species by the DCIST coordinator as well as a mapping segment presented by Anthony Summers from UW-Extension Weed Science. Anthony’s hands-on portion demonstrated the latest online resources, like the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN), and provided instruction on new technology/software that enables volunteers to map invasive species establishment using their smartphone. The workshop was very well attended with approximately 40 participants of the general public.
- **September – Bayshore Property Owners Association (BSPOA) Annual Meeting at Horseshoe Bay Golf Course, Egg Harbor**  
Spoke briefly at annual meeting about DCIST in conjunction with discussion of BSPOA’s 50/50 grant program where members can apply for a grant from the Association that will pay 50% of the cost to hire a local contractor to control invasive species on their property. Organized and brought display to meeting that included live examples of common invasive species in the Bay Shore Drive area. Stayed throughout meeting and talked to more than 10 members (plus their spouses/family in some instances) afterwards about invasive species identification and possible control options on their properties.
- **October 4th – Wetland Landowner Event with Wisconsin Wetlands Association**  
The DCIST and SWCD were present providing DCIST educational materials to the, approximately, 25 wetland landowners that participated. Both SWCD and the DCIST coordinator answered landowner questions about invasive species before and after the formal program. The DCIST coordinator provided a brief overview about the role of DCIST during the lecture portion, and answered landowner questions during the discussion portion of the program.

- **February 5<sup>th</sup> – Presentation for Brown County Conservation Coalition (Issac Walton League)**  
 Because this presentation on Phragmites and buckthorn control was to a group outside of Door County, staff time to conduct it was not funded by the grant from the Door County SWCD. The presentation is notable though because there were a number of landowners present at the meeting that also own forested land within Door County and asked specific questions about control of invasive plants on those parcels.
- **March 5<sup>th</sup> – Presentation for Door County Master Gardeners**  
 This presentation was specifically on Wisconsin’s Invasive Species Rule and new invasive plants that began being regulated in 2015. The coordinator highlighted many early detection invasive species that are also sold as ornamentals that are hardy for our region. Approximately 40 Master Gardeners attended and an informational booth at the presentation included our DCIST brochure, top Door County Invasives brochure, compost with care handout, and NR-40 species lists. Three new individuals signed up to receive the DCIST newsletter.
- **April 13<sup>th</sup> – Presentation for Lady Bug Garden Club in Brown County (DePere)**  
 Because this presentation was to a group outside of Door County, staff time to conduct it was not funded by the grant from the Door County SWCD. The coordinator was approached by this group because members had been at other presentations in Door County and many are landowners within the County as well. Approximately 30 members were present for the hour-long presentation on why we care about invasive plants and common invaders in our area.
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Festival of Nature “Good Plants, Bad Plants” Hike**  
 The DCIST coordinator led an invasive species focused hike at the Shivering Sands Natural Area as part of the Door County Festival of Nature. The hike discussed common Door County invasive species and how they move from one location to the next. Eight participants took part in the two- hour hike, which was very well received.
- **June 13<sup>th</sup> – Wetland Landowner Event with Wisconsin Wetlands Association**  
 The DCIST coordinator assisted as member of the planning committee for this day-long event and coordinated a discussion/presentation portion on invasive species in wetlands. Although the coordinator was not able to attend to present, Mike Grimm was able to speak on behalf of the DCIST program. DCIST brochures and other wetland invasive plant information were provided to those that participated. The ‘classroom’ portion of the event took place at Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay and a field portion visited a private property in Sevastopol owned by Greg Meissner. A total of 32 participants took place in the event.
- **August 19<sup>th</sup> – Presentation for Door County Land Trust Washington Island Annual Meeting**  
 The coordinator gave a presentation to a group of about 40 Washington Island residents as part of the Door County Land Trust’s Annual Meeting on the Island. The presentation focused on why invasive plants are detrimental, how they invade, invasive plants known to be common on the island, and what can be done to control these plants both with and without herbicides. Ten new landowners signed up to receive the DCIST newsletter at this event, and it sparked further conversation between the coordinator, Krista Lutzke and landowners about what more can be done to combat Phragmites and other invasive plants on the Island, such as an adopt a lakeshore movement.

- September 9<sup>th</sup> – Learning in Retirement Course at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College**  
 This afternoon course was created and presented by the DCIST coordinator as part of NWTTC's Learning in Retirement Program. The class size limit of 40 was reached during the advanced registration period. The coordinator presented for 2-hours on invasive plants and animals within the Door County including why they are bad, how they spread, and what landowners can do about them. Of the 40 pre-registered for the presentation, approximately 30 attended and six new landowners signed up to receive the DCIST newsletter. Feedback from the course attendees was overwhelmingly positive with many requesting that DCIST host a course again next year (preferably with multiple sessions on different types of invasive plants).
- September 24<sup>th</sup> – Wisconsin's First Detector Network Training on Invasive Plant Mapping**  
 This hands-on workshop brought in Tony Summers, an educator from UW-Extension in Madison, to talk about using technology to map invasive plants. Specifically he focused on projects that citizen scientists can get involved with and the use of smartphone applications to map invasive plants and animals as landowners find them. This training is part of a larger series of trainings being held by UW-Extension as part of the Wisconsin First Detector Network (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn>). Training was poorly attended.
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Presentation for Door County Land Trust's Land Policy Committee**  
 Gave presentation for approximately 15 members and staff of the Door County Land Trust on invasive species in Door County and what DCIST is doing to help combat the problem of invasive plants in the County.

Although not considered a community meeting, the DCIST coordinator prepared and organized an educational display about DCIST and invasive species that was shown at the Sturgeon Bay Branch of the Door County Public Library during the entire month of April. In addition, as part of a November "Learning in Retirement" presentation to 40 Door County residents, TNC staff shared DCIST information and materials and promoted DCIST as a resource for landowners. Staff fielded several questions from interested residents about invasive species control and available assistance.



Photos: A volunteer helps remove floating, broken-off pieces of Eurasian watermilfoil from Kangaroo Lake during a July 2015 workday (left). Coordinator Kari Hagenow hand-pulls Eurasian watermilfoil plants from Kangaroo Lake with the help of TNC staff during August 2015 (right).



Photos: Left – April display at the Sturgeon Bay Branch of the Door County Library. Right – Educational materials for children and members of the public at the Gibraltar Earth Day Symposium on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **4. Equipment loan program.**

The DCIST coordinator worked to promote the DCIST equipment loan program to volunteers, landowners, homeowner associations and community groups whenever the opportunity arose. It was also promoted in the DCIST newsletter and other publications (e.g. homeowner association newsletters). Information about the program and tool examples were displayed at workshops hosted by the coordinator and the specific information about the program was provided to private landowners during visits on their property. The coordinator again dispersed a number of DCIST handouts to public locations (i.e. libraries, parks) in the County in 2015 that included a small insert that was created in 2014 which described the equipment loan program specifically.

In early 2015, the steering committee discussed options for improving the visibility of the equipment loan program. It was again suggested that the trailer is moved and parked throughout the County at different times during the field season – along with having advertised dates and times when there is someone present at the trailer to loan equipment. In addition, having the trailer and equipment visible during parades and other community events that typically take place on weekends and outside of normal office hours would be advantageous, though with the coordinator being available only on a part-time basis to do this work and the other invasive species outreach and education that occurs in the County, there is very little staff time remaining to be present at these events. The coordinator suggests that the SWCD or partner organizations commit a small portion of their limited-term or seasonal staff time to these efforts in the future.

#### **5. Website management.**

The DCIST coordinator checked the DCIST website for outdated material. As in the past, links continue to be checked periodically as a number of links to Wisconsin DNR webpages were again inoperative. DCIST newsletters and other monthly updates were posted to the webpage as well which highlighted important invasive species topics for the County (i.e. Phragmites, Clean Boats Clean Waters) and our current volunteer opportunities. In discussions with the steering committee about early detection and

reporting the website is still a tool for reporting, but goes relatively unused as many landowners make invasive species reports via email or phone.

The coordinator believes that our website should be updated to be more user-friendly in terms of navigation and include more information on current and past projects among other things. The coordinator highly recommends that we seek to include an interactive calendar of events on the website that would help with both scheduling, keeping volunteers informed, and allowing both partners and the public to see upcoming activities and meeting.

The DCIST coordinator has also been working on a proposal for the use of social media by the DCIST group. The use of social media would not replace our website, but would be a forum on which we can put time-sensitive information (e.g. meeting agendas and “What’s blooming” alerts), remind volunteers of upcoming opportunities, and share the work that DCIST and others are doing around northeast Wisconsin and the State to combat invasive species. This would also be a means by which we can reach more landowners and engage more volunteers and local organizations. There are currently six CWMA’s in the State, seven Door County media outlets, more than 25 Door County homeowner groups/non-profits/other organizations, and eight statewide organizations that we interact with frequently (e.g. Wisconsin DNR, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin) that maintain pages and interact via Facebook and other social media.

#### **6. Compile/create and distribute informational factsheets.**

During the public meetings, landowner visits, events, and workdays described in this report the coordinator made available brochures and informational factsheets. At a minimum, the coordinator provided the Door County Invasive Species brochure that describes what invasive plants are (including but not always limited to AIS), why property owners should care, information on the equipment loan program, and who/what DCIST is, as well as the “Keep a Lookout for Invasive Plants in Door County” brochure that pictures Door County’s top 15 invaders. Volunteer log sheets and donation forms were also made available in most instances. The DCIST brochures and the “Keep a Lookout” brochure was also distributed to libraries around Door County in early 2014 and 2015.

The DCIST newsletter, sent out during 2014 and 2015, kept the 800+ local and regional people on our mailing list informed not only about our volunteer opportunities, but also about local events and actions, statewide invasive species happenings, and relevant activities at a regional scale with the ultimate goal of generating further interest in the natural environment and invasive species management. Each newsletter contained a monthly plant profile that included that plant’s identifying characteristics, as well as why it is invasive, how it spreads, and its status in Wisconsin under the NR-40 rule. If applicable, native look-alikes and alternatives were also discussed.

The coordinator also generated a number of factsheets to provide to private landowners, community organizations and other stakeholders. One example of the materials that the



coordinator generated in 2014-2015 are single page sheets that describe each of the invasive plants that are now regulated by Chapter NR-40 (revisions were approved by NRB on December 10th) that are currently found in Door County. A number of factsheets that show pictures of newly regulated prohibited plants – broken down between aquatic and wetland.

Another example of outreach material development includes a packet for mailing to Door County nurseries, landscapers, and water garden suppliers. Each packet has a cover letter (shown below) that addresses each industry, a complete NR-40 plant list, and a summary of pertinent NR-40 regulations, and another information sheet specifically catered to that facet of the industry (e.g. water garden supplier). The coordinator compiled the packets for review by the SWCD in August 2015. The coordinator also compiled a list of landscapers, water garden suppliers, and nurseries within the County for mailing that was reviewed for completeness by the steering committee.



Photos: Exposed Phragmites rhizomes along shoreline of South Lake Michigan Drive after treatment and major wave events – for use in educational materials and trainings (right. ), and coordinator holding a Phragmites runner extended out approximately 30-feet across the marsh at North Bay in September.



Photo: Installation of a new boot brush to prevent the spread of invasive species at the North Bay State Natural Area in September.





## The Door County Invasive Species Team

Message Line: (920) 746-5955

Email: [dcist1@email.com](mailto:dcist1@email.com)

Website: <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive>

DATE PLACEHOLDER

Dear Door County Nursery or Garden Supplier,

The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) would like to inform you about recent changes to Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule (Chapter NR-40). DCIST is a group of natural resources professionals and concerned citizens working to reduce the spread and abundance of invasive plants that threaten the Door Peninsula's high quality natural areas and scenic beauty.

As you may already be aware of, Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule took effect on September 1, 2009. At that time, Chapter NR-40 classified 128 plant and animal species as invasive in Wisconsin. It also categorized these species as either *prohibited* or *restricted* based on their current distribution and potential to do environmental or economic harm. Each category comes with associated regulations and control requirements. There is more information included in this packet about Chapter NR-40 and what these categories mean.

In early 2015, updates to Chapter NR-40 were proposed by the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council, and after going through the legislative process, these changes were signed into law on May 1, 2015. The updates include listing an additional 49 plant species as prohibited and 35 as restricted. Many of these newly regulated plants are common in the landscaping and nursery industries. Plants added to NR-40 on May 1, 2015 as restricted may still be sold (for three years if an herbaceous species and five if a tree/shrub species) in order to allow nurseries to sell existing stock however; no further importation or propagation is allowed. Plants added on May 1, 2015 as prohibited can no longer be propagated, imported, or sold.

We wanted to make you aware of these recent changes to Chapter NR-40 and encourage you to look over the enclosed materials to ensure you are in compliance with the law. Included in this mailing is a current list of all of the plants regulated under Chapter NR-40. The list shows when a given plant began being regulated, which is important since the phase-out period does not apply to those listed prior to May 1, 2015. A more detailed list (which includes synonyms for the common and scientific names of each species) is available from the Wisconsin DNR website at [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/Nursery\\_plantlist.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/Nursery_plantlist.pdf).

DCIST is available to answer questions regarding Chapter NR-40 and offers training sessions to staff or volunteers on invasive species in Door County. We also have brochures and publications available for your display or use. We hope that you'll join us in the fight against invasive species.

Thank you for your time,

Kari Hagenow  
Door County Invasive Species Team Coordinator

## **7. Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for aquatic species that may materialize in Door County.**

Work is being done to produce an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) plan for the Door Peninsula in cooperation with DCIST partners. The EDRR plan is composed of a scope and purpose, along with definitions on what early detection and rapid response mean. The overall goal of the plan is to guide local resource managers and DCIST members when responding to newly discovered invasive species and to offer a consistent reporting recommendations for doing so. The plan also offers recommendations for how DCIST can continue to educate landowners and interested parties about early detection species before they can physically see them on the land.

The bulk of the plan is a communications protocol for when new invasive species are found on the Peninsula. This includes offering reporting recommendations for what to record to document the infestation, what means are available for reporting (e.g. online regional databases), and whom the reports should be directed to locally. The communications protocol also identifies how the occurrence will be verified and who on DCIST will make the verification. Once verification has been done, the plan attempts to identify whether or not further notification may need to occur - for example, notifying the Department of Natural Resources if it is a species that is prohibited in Wisconsin. This may also include notifying landowners, associations, or other parties that should be engaged outside of DCIST members.

Aside from an initial communications protocol regarding the finding of an early detection species in Door County, the plan also outlines further assessment needs for new occurrences and attempts to identify potential funding sources for control of the infestation. Further assessment needs may include inventory or mapping, evaluating the threat that the species possess to conservation opportunity areas on the Peninsula, assessing the need for public or targeted outreach, and determining what state and/or federal permits are necessary to conduct control of the infestation. The plan also makes brief recommendations for actions post-treatment and stresses the need for continued monitoring and evaluation at sites where a rapid response action has taken place (i.e. setting up a small team of volunteers or LTE's that will assess these sites each of the following years for five years).

The plan being developed does not specifically address the process to control individual plant species. The control methods that will ultimately be used to respond to the infestation of a new invasive plant after it is identified could depend heavily on the time of year, location of the occurrence, density and size of the occurrence, NR-40 status, and multiple other factors. The plan does however provide information on 25 selected species (both prohibited and restricted by Chapter NR-40) that are in closest proximity to the Door Peninsula but have not yet been found here (or found in very low densities such as black swallow-wort). These species are both terrestrial and aquatic plants that were selected due to their current distributions. Distributions were determined by talking to local and state resource managers and data mining on large regional invasive species databases such as EDDMaps. The information provided for these species also includes their pathways of introduction (e.g. plant nurseries) to best target outreach on these species to applicable parties.

**8. Obtain volunteer hours related to aquatic invasive species control.**

Volunteer hours were tracked and shared as volunteer effort sheets were provided to DCIST. A total of 441 aquatic invasive species volunteer hours were collected for work done in Door County. Common aquatic species activities included Eurasian Water Milfoil mapping at Kangaroo Lake, Phragmites mapping, and mapping of Japanese knotweed. Of the total above, 42 of the aquatic hours were also garnered at our early detection and mapping workshop hosted in Bailey’s Harbor – many of the early detection species discussed were those of aquatic habitats (i.e. wetlands) and the mapping methods taught were applicable to any habitats.

**9. Work cooperatively with DCIST Limited Term Employee (LTE)**

The DCIST coordinator presented a two-hour Clean Boats, Clean Waters training for six LTE’s over two growing seasons (Two SCWD interns and one TNC intern each season) and answered questions from LTE’s as needed throughout the field season. The coordinator also communicated with LTEs during the planning of work parties to keep them informed of upcoming work and to avoid the same area twice by staff and then volunteers. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program altered its data collection sheets and print materials for the 2014 field season and materials that the SWCD had on-hand were out-of-date after a number of other revisions that had taken place in the past three years. The DCIST coordinator put together an updated 2014-2015 Clean Boats, Clean Waters handbooks for LTEs and County Staff and created a new handout to be used by boat inspectors that explains where common invaders are found in Door County waters (shown on right).

In the summers of 2014 and 2015 Door County participated in two statewide AIS watercraft inspection events, the “Drain Campaign” weekend and the “Landing Blitz” weekend. The DCIST and the SWCD arranged for the delivery of AIS ice packs (provided by the Wisconsin DNR) that were handed out to boaters during both events. All of the Door County SWCD’s



LTEs participated in the Drain Campaign and the Landing Blitz weekend, as well as the DCIST coordinator and TNC’s LTEs. In Door County, during 2014 a total of 144 boats were inspected and 293 persons contacted and in 2015 a total of 74 boats were inspected and 118 persons contacted with AIS prevention messages during Landing Blitz weekend. The Clark Lake Advancement Association, Kangaroo Lake Association, and Newport Wildness Society were all contacted directly to participate in the Landing Blitz, but no volunteers came forward. Local lake associations have a number of ways in which they participate in this event – for example, hosting an educational booth at their boat landing(s) and/or

conducting watercraft inspections. We will continue to try to work with these and other groups (property owner associations near boat launches) in the County that may have interest in helping with the Clean Boats, Clean Waters efforts. With a commitment from groups to participate, media releases could be utilized to advertise their involvement in the effort.



Photos: AIS informational booth at the Toyota Bassmaster Tournament in Sturgeon Bay – staffed by both DNR employees and DCIST/SWCD representatives throughout the three day tournament.

The DCIST Coordinator also worked Krista Lutzke and TNC seasonal staff to complete Phragmites inventories for treatment in cooperation with Duck’s Unlimited and the Wisconsin DNR. Inventories collected in 2014 for South Lake Michigan Drive, Sawyer Harbor, and Lake Forest Park Drive were compiled in early 2015 by the DCIST coordinator and provided to the Wisconsin DNR as part of this project. The coordinator also helped survey shorelines of Washington Island over three days in 2015 for inclusion in the treatment area of the project. In addition, in early 2015 the coordinator completed an “inland” Phragmites inventory of Northern Door County that was provided to the SWCD.

While the SWCD coordinated much of the county-wide efforts and planning for *Phragmites australis* (e.g. sending out letters and contractor hiring), the coordinator supported these efforts through public education, landowner follow-up, and mapping efforts. Of note in 2015 are support efforts working with the Shores of Jacksonport Association, as well as the Town of Jacksonport. Jacksonport adopted a noxious weed ordinance in 2015 requiring *Phragmites australis* be treated and removed from personal property. The Association saw a need to assist the community to continue Phragmites treatments on the shoreline of Jacksonport post County treatment. They approached DCIST and The County for help with how to do a project like this and following the format used by the SWCD, the coordinator helped draft letters and materials that were sent to landowners, trained volunteers to do the mapping, and compiled all of the collected inventory data. The Association agreed to pay for the treatments and do the contractor hiring, and also urged the Township to enforce the new Phragmites ordinance should landowners have Phragmites present and not return a letter of permission. Because of the joint effort between DCIST and the Shores of Jacksonport Association, all of the shoreline of the Township was treated for Phragmites in 2015 at no cost to the County. The effort also raised awareness and provided a model to expand on into the future throughout the County.



During the final months of the grant period the coordinator is continuing to inventory priority areas going into 2016 including the Highway 57 corridor for *Phragmites*, a re-inventory of Nasewaupée *Phragmites* (partially complete) to provide to the township to aid in the application of their noxious weed ordinance, and a complete invasive species inventory of Gibraltar (completed). What has been completed of these inventories will be added to the County WebMap for viewing.

The following illustrates SWCD *Phragmites* program accomplishments in 2014-2015.

- In 2014 SWCD staff met with 5 Town/Village boards and in 2015 7 Town/Village boards to discuss past successes and future work
- In 2015 9.6 acres of *Phragmites* inventoried along the shores of Sevastopol, Town of Sturgeon Bay, and Washington Island
- 33.84 acres of *Phragmites* treated (25.84 acres were follow up treatments) utilizing the USFS grant
- In 2014 education letter packets were provided to 2,273, and in 2015 similar packets were provided to 2,543 shoreline landowners
- In 2014 private landowners donated \$15,040 to DCIST and its invasive efforts; in 2015 \$6,671 was donated to DCIST again for its invasive efforts
- In 2014 \$4,150 was donated from Town governments to DCIST and in 2015 \$11,494 was donated to DCIST
- From 2010 to present day the entire shoreline of Door County has now received at least two years of treatment for *Phragmites*



Photos: Volunteer Ryan Pesch helps map Eurasian Water Milfoil on Kangaroo Lake on July 31<sup>st</sup> (left) and the DCIST coordinator explains how to identify Eurasian Water Milfoil to volunteers doing hand-removal of the plant on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Additional activities:**

All of these activities were used as opportunities to distribute information on identification, monitoring, and control techniques for aquatic invasive species relevant to Door County.

#### 2014

- January 29th – Mapped invasive plants at Dunes Lake for treatment under NAWCA grant
- February 18th – Presentation on invasives for Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee
- Library display on DCIST and invasive species for month of April
- April 23rd – Participated in Gibraltar Schools Earth Day Symposium
- August 26th – Educational booth at the Sustainability Fair in Martin Park, Sturgeon Bay
- May 7-8th – Attended the statewide AIS Partnership Meeting in Steven’s Point, WI
- May 23rd – Educational display for the Festival of Nature in Bailey’s Harbor
- May 30th – Developed educational handout about the spread of invasive species by birds (and birds as invasive species) that was given to participants in the Door Island Bird Festival on Washington Island during the weekend of May 30th.
- June 13-15th – Drain Campaign weekend
- June 18th – Attended public hearing for NR-40 rule revisions in Green Bay
- June 27th – Mapping of Eurasian Water Milfoil in Kangaroo Lake
- June 28th – Joint workday with the Door County Land Trust at Kangaroo Lake
- July 3rd-6th – Landing blitz weekend
- July 5th – Spoke briefly about DCIST and invasive species at the Kangaroo Lake Annual Meeting
- July 7th – Mapping workday along Logan Creek and Clark Lake Shorelines
- July 16th – Spoke at BSPOA board meeting about expansion of their 50/50 grant program to include aquatic species
- July 24th- Wisconsin First Detector Network training
- July 31st – Mapping of Eurasian Water milfoil in Kangaroo Lake with volunteers
- August 1st – Mapping of Eurasian water milfoil in Kangaroo Lake
- August 28, September 4th – Manual removal of Eurasian water milfoil from Kangaroo Lake with KLA volunteers
- September 13th – Clark Lake Phragmites fest
- September 27th – Bay Shore Property Owners Annual Meeting
- October 7th – Attended Upper Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference in Marquette, MI
- October 8th – Attended AIS partnership meeting in Steven’s Point, WI
- Participation in CWMA/CISMA statewide phone conference(s) that will continue in 2015
- Invasive species article submitted for South Lake Michigan Drive’s Spring Newsletter
- On-going advertising of our public meetings and volunteer opportunities in the Peninsula Pulse, Door County Daily News, and periodically via other media outlets.

## 2015

- January – Narrow-leaved cattail mapping in priority wetlands of State Natural Areas under TNC management
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – Participant in partner meeting for the Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area, a new CWMA encompassing Kewaunee County to the south.
- April 23-25<sup>th</sup> – Attendance at the WI Lakes Partnership Convention
- April 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and May 7<sup>th</sup> – Inventory work on Washington Island



- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Phragmites kick-off meeting with the Shores of Jacksonport Association
- July 9<sup>th</sup> – Phragmites mapping workshop with volunteers
- July 21<sup>st</sup> – Eurasian watermilfoil workday on Kangaroo Lake
- Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> – Japanese knotweed inventory and control at Mink River Preserve (TNC)
- Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> – Eurasian watermilfoil control workday at Kangaroo Lake
- Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> – Japanese knotweed inventory and control workday in Ellison Bay
- Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> – Attended Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee meeting on behalf of DCIST
- Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> – Eurasian water milfoil control workday at Kangaroo Lake
- Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> – Japanese knotweed workday at Mink River Preserve (TNC)
- Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> – Phragmites volunteer workday at North Bay, Bailey’s Harbor
- Sept. 3, 10, and 21st – Meeting with Southern Door Landowner(s) and volunteer workdays to treat Phragmites on their properties
- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – Clark Lake Phragmites Fest
- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Portage Park Phragmites treatment workday
- Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Private landowner volunteer Phragmites treatment, Red Cedar Lane in Sevastopol
- Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> – Toyota Bassmaster Tournament Outreach
- Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Phragmites volunteer workday off Crescent Lane, Town of Liberty Grove
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – Participated in Statewide AIS Coordinators Meeting in Steven’s Point
- Oct. 21-22<sup>nd</sup> – Upper Peninsula Invasive Species Conference in Marquette, MI
- Nov. 13, 16-17<sup>th</sup> – Invasive species inventory work in Gibraltar
- Dec. 9-10<sup>th</sup> – MIPN Invasive Plant Symposium in Indianapolis, IN
- Participation in CWMA/CISMA statewide phone conference(s) that will continue in 2016
- Invasive species articles in Kangaroo Lake Association and Bay Shore Property Owners Association newsletters in 2015.
- On-going advertising of our public meetings and volunteer opportunities in the Peninsula Pulse, Door County Daily News, and periodically via other media outlets.

In 2014, the DCIST program also received statewide recognition from the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council with an “Invader Crusader” award in the professional group category. DCIST also nominated the Bay Shore Property Owners Association for an award in the volunteer group category. BSPOA did not receive an award, but will be considered for next year as 2014 was the most competitive year that the Invader Crusader Awards had seen.

