



2019

Invader Crusader Awards

presented by

The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council

Official Nomination Form and Instructions

June is Invasive Species Action Month! The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council announces the 15th annual Invader Crusader Awards, honoring Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species that harm Wisconsin's lands, waters and wetlands.

The Council is requesting nominations for individuals, groups or organizations for their exemplary efforts at addressing issues surrounding terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, including plants, pests, animals and disease-causing organisms. The Invader Crusader Awards will be presented to both volunteers and professionals. Please consider nominating adults and youth you work with or from your community.

Award winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony on **Wednesday June 5th at Olbrich Gardens in Madison, WI**. All nominators and winners will be notified by mid-May and invited to attend the ceremony. Details will also be shared on the Invasive Species Invader Crusader webpage (<http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness-month/awards/>) and in the news media.

Although Invader Crusaders will be chosen primarily from the strength of the submitted nomination form, you may attach collaborative documentation for consideration. Fully completing the nomination form will assist the selection committee in making the most informed decision. Multiple applications for the same nominee will be accepted and considered together. Non-winning nominations from 2017 and 2018 will be automatically considered for 2019 awards. If you nominated previously and would like to provide an update, please fully complete the 2019 form and mark your form as an "updated nomination" in the provided space at the top of the page.

To submit a nomination, download and complete the application on the following pages. Once completed, email the application to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov. Nominations are due and must be received by **Monday, April 1, 2019**. Submissions via email are strongly preferred, but if this is not possible, please **call Bernie Williams at 608-444-6948** for mailing instructions and an earlier due date. The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council will review the nomination materials and select the award winners. All nominators and the winners will be notified by mid-May.

Other Invasive Species Action Month Activities...

Do you have an invasive species event you would like to advertise on our online invasive species activity calendar? Email the details to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov. Find more information and look for upcoming events at <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov>.

2018 Invader Crusaders

Volunteer Individual

Ruth Marshall

Milly Thissen

Jim Reinartz and Jill Hapner

Volunteer Group

Friends of Festge Park

Professional Individual

Katelin Anderson

Tim Gerber

Brad Herrick

Professional Group

Johnson's Nursery,

Menomonee Falls

**Invader Crusader Award
Nomination Application 2019**

Please re-save the following form and 6 questions with a new file name and return completed.

INSTRUCTIONS - Please fill out this form (including your last name and the nominee's last name), scan it and email it to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov by **April 1, 2019**. Be sure to provide all information requested. You may attach additional pages if needed.

- New nomination OR
 Updated nomination (please tell us the year of your most recent submittal for this nominee: _____)

Nominee: Chad Abel; Gabrielle VanBergen		
Employer/Organization: (if applicable) Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa		Position: (if applicable) Division Administrator, Project Coordinator
Street Address: 88455 Pike Rd.	City: Red Cliff	Zip Code: 54814
Work/Cell Phone Number: 715-779-3795	Home Phone Number:	Email Address: chad.abel@redcliff-nsi
What time period did the nominees actions take place? The actions occurred from May 2016 to the present		

Nominator (Your Name): Andrew Teal		
Employer/Organization: (if applicable) Bayfield County LWCD		Position: (if applicable) AIS Coordinator
Street Address: 615 2nd Ave. E PO Box 126	City: Washburn	Zip Code: 54891
Work/Cell Phone Number: 715-373-6167	Home Phone Number: 715-350-1954	Email Address: ATeal@bayfieldcounty

Describe your relationship to the nominee:
I am a mutual partner with Red Cliff in the Northwoods CWMA, and also partner on a few AIS projects

Check all boxes that apply to the nominee

<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education/Outreach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group/Organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveys/Inventory
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Detections
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Control
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species in 2001. The Council is charged with providing recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on invasive species classification and allocation of funds of invasive species control and conducting studies of issues related to controlling invasive species.

**Invader Crusader Award
Nomination Application 2019**

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Support for Nomination

1. What geographical locations are impacted by the nominee's action (local, regional, statewide)?
Locally, the Cities of Bayfield and Washburn, Red Cliff Reservation, and the shoreline of Chequamegon Bay (including the Apostle Islands) are impacted. Regionally and statewide the areas that are impacted are shoreline, estuaries, streams, and wetlands along the Lake Superior coast, and the remaining wastewater treatment plants across Wisconsin that use non-native Phragmites in their dewatering process.
2. Provide a brief description of what the nominee has done to earn your nomination.
Natural Resources Division Administrator Chad Abel and Project Coordinator Gabrielle Van Bergen (much credit to Todd Norwood for getting this project off the ground) from the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa sought out and secured funding in the multi-million dollar range and brought together diverse partners for an original, highly ambitious project. Their plan was and is to eradicate, remove, and replace non-native Phragmites at the wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in the Cities of Bayfield and Washburn, and on the Red Cliff Reservation. This meant working not only in other jurisdictions, but outside tribal boundaries entirely.

3. What is the ecological impact of the nominee's actions?
These actions have eliminated three genetically-confirmed pioneering seed-source populations of non-native Phragmites from WWTPs. They will be monitoring for the next three years to ensure none of it grows back at the WWTPs, no new populations are reported along the hauling routes, and the populations that popped up around Chequamegon Bay are kept under control or eradicated entirely. The GLRI funds included protection for 14,000 acres of Lake Superior wetlands. Their efforts also protected Lake Superior shoreline from repeated non-native Phragmites introductions, which kept happening before this project was implemented.

4. Describe how the nominee has shown leadership or influenced people's actions or understanding of invasive species. Include approximate number of people influenced including ages (youth or adult) and type (professional, citizen, landowners, students, etc.) when possible.

Red Cliff staff have given several presentations about how the project planning began and transitioned to actions taken. Gabrielle Van Bergen presented on this topic to approximately three dozen curious citizens and professionals at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center during an Invasive Species ID Day in September, and again to dozens more at a conference in Houghton, Michigan. These presentations presented an opportunity for the public to engage in the conversation and learn more about the purpose of a constant stream of dump trucks moving through their community. Most people seemed to support these events and the project, though. The health of Lake Superior and its watershed(s) have a direct effect on people's lives and livelihoods.

5. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated innovation, if at all, in their impact on invasive species (for example, reaching a new or novel but critical audience, utilizing cutting edge technology, management tools or outreach tools, etc.). This entire project was innovative, if for no other reason than it had not been attempted before, to my/our knowledge. Replacing non-native Phragmites with native Phragmites at municipal WWTPs had been floated as a possibility and an option in the past, but due to the staggering cost associated with it, had not been pursued.

and containment effort
This project also successfully proved that non-native Phragmites plants can and do in fact spread by seed. This is contrary to the previously held notion that they would be contained by the concrete walls of the WWTP facilities

6. Describe any other aspects of the nominee that are worth noting and **not already mentioned above**. (Consider things directly relating to invasive species such as: involvement in public or organizational policy, landowner group involvement, unique outreach efforts, vision for lasting impact of efforts, etc.)

Chad and Gabrielle secured GLRI funding (through EPA and BIA) and contracted with a construction/engineering firm to create an incredibly detailed plan for all three WWTPs. Everything from where to source the native Phragmites to preserve genetic integrity, to power washing crevices in the concrete cells to remove non-native seed and rhizome pieces, to three years of follow-up monitoring along disposal hauling routes were considered.