

# Plants Out of Place



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## President's Notes: Evolution

2018 has arrived and it is already spring! As I look back on 2017 I realize it has been a year of evolution for IPAW. Things have been moving along well for IPAW, so the board of directors decided to take a good look internally. This internal evaluation started with a board of director's retreat on July 17, 2017. We met for a daylong meeting at Rib Mountain State Park in Wausau. During the retreat, we covered many important topics some of which you've seen changes in the last several months. Keep in touch, others yet to come. These efforts have kept the board working hard and very busy. Here's a summary of the retreat:

We had the *passing of the torch* of board members. Some directors left us after many years of service and new enthusiastic board members have joined. You can see the new list of board of directors on the [last](#) page of this newsletter and the IPAW [website](#). Read about some of our new recruits [below](#).

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"The earth's vegetation is part of a web of life in which there are intimate and essential relations between plants and the earth, between plants and other plants, between plants and mammals...."

*Rachel Carson, Author and Conservationist*

## President's Notes Continued

Unanimous board of director's decision to *update the Bylaws and standard operation procedures (SOPs)*. As members, on October 11, 2017 an email was sent requesting your input to the Bylaw changes. Then on November 13, 2017 the board of director's approved the new version of the Bylaws. The new [Bylaws](#) have been posted to our website. In the meantime, we continue to work hard on updating the SOPs and are just about complete. Watch for the new SOPs to be posted to our website.

We also spent time *strategic planning*. We reviewed past planning goals and performed a Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Treats (SWOT) analysis. From our discussions, we found these to be our top four priorities for 2018:

- *CISMA education and outreach*
- *Holding field days*
- *Development of more social media outreach*
- *Continuation of public outreach and education*

Efforts towards these goals are already underway. Not only have we been exhibiting and educating folks at several events since the beginning of 2018, we also held IPAW's annual meeting and CISMA meeting on March 7, 2018 at Beaver Creek Reserve in Creek Falls. You can view our 2017 [annual report](#) on the IPAW website. As well, we are under way planning field days for the 2018 season. See below for information for the coming field days and stay tuned for more to come!

Thanks,  
Christa Schaefer, IPAW President

## Welcome Anne! A New IPAW Board Member



Hello! My name is Anne Pearce and I'm happy to join IPAW! I grew up in Duluth (don't worry, I'm a Packers fan) and spent much of my childhood roaming the shores of Lake Superior and visiting relatives in the northwoods of Wisconsin. After completing a B.S. in Soil Science and Biology at UW-Madison, I spent several years teaching environmental education and working on conservation projects around the country. Some of my favorite stops included teaching at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in northern Minnesota, leading a high school trail crew in Lake Clark National Park, and working on prairie and oak savanna restorations as a Prairie Partners intern here in Wisconsin.

I recently returned to Madison to complete an M.S. in Water Resources Management. In 2016 I worked on a new invasive plant management project at the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve. I currently coordinate the Wisconsin First Detector Network, a

statewide citizen science network for invasive species monitoring and education. In this position I've had the pleasure of meeting people all over Wisconsin who want to get involved in invasive species efforts, and I'm excited to meet even more people through IPAW!

In my free time, I like to be outside as much as possible. My husband and I are avid birders and have been exploring lots of trails this year in Dane County. I also lead volunteer restoration work parties at the UW Arboretum and teach adaptive ski lessons in the winter. When I'm stuck inside, you might find me working on a knitting project, canning vegetables from my garden, or writing letters to far-flung friends.

## Introducing Our New Board Member and Treasurer - Mark Renz

I am an Associate Professor and Extension Weed Specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At the university I conduct research on invasive plants and how to effectively and economically manage them while minimizing impact to the environment. In addition to research I focus a large portion of my efforts on education and outreach to assist in invasive plant management activities/decisions. I have over 15 years of experience with invasive plant management throughout the nation and am currently the president of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network and Co-Chair of the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference.

My goal in becoming Treasurer of IPAW is to continue the great success of this organization in preventing the spread of invasive plants in Wisconsin and hopefully engage more members to actively manage and educate others about invasive species.



## Yellow Iris in the St. Croix River

By: Sophia Koch, AIS Intern - St. Croix River Association



In an effort to assess the distribution of the invasive yellow iris, four interns from the St. Croix River Association have been paddling the St. Croix for a monitoring project.

Native to Europe, Western Asia, North Africa and the Mediterranean region, the yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) was brought to the U.S. as an ornamental plant for water gardens. It now causes problems along shorelines, crowding out native vegetation like wild rice and native iris species. Control is difficult once a population is firmly established, and so it is important to monitor the river for young infestations that might be easily removed.

Led by intern Sean Griffin and armed with kayaks and Global Positioning System (GPS) units, the four aquatic invasive species interns have been heading out onto the river on kayaks to look for yellow iris ever since it first began to flower towards the beginning of June. When in bloom, the irises are easy to identify by their yellow flowers, which distinguish them from their purple, native counterpart, the blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*). Each clump of the invasive plant is marked as a point on the GPS units, which Griffin can later import onto a computer and organize. With this information readily to hand, it will be easy to determine the extent of the yellow iris problem on the St. Croix River and where eradication efforts would best be concentrated in the future.

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## Yellow Iris Continued

More monitoring needs to be done, but so far the interns have determined that the iris has most densely invaded the stretches of the river south of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. North of that point, there is no sign of the invader for most of the length of the river, save for one extremely infested site at the headwaters of the St. Croix River in Solon Springs, Wisconsin.

# Survey of the Use of Invasive Plant Prioritization Tool for Monitoring

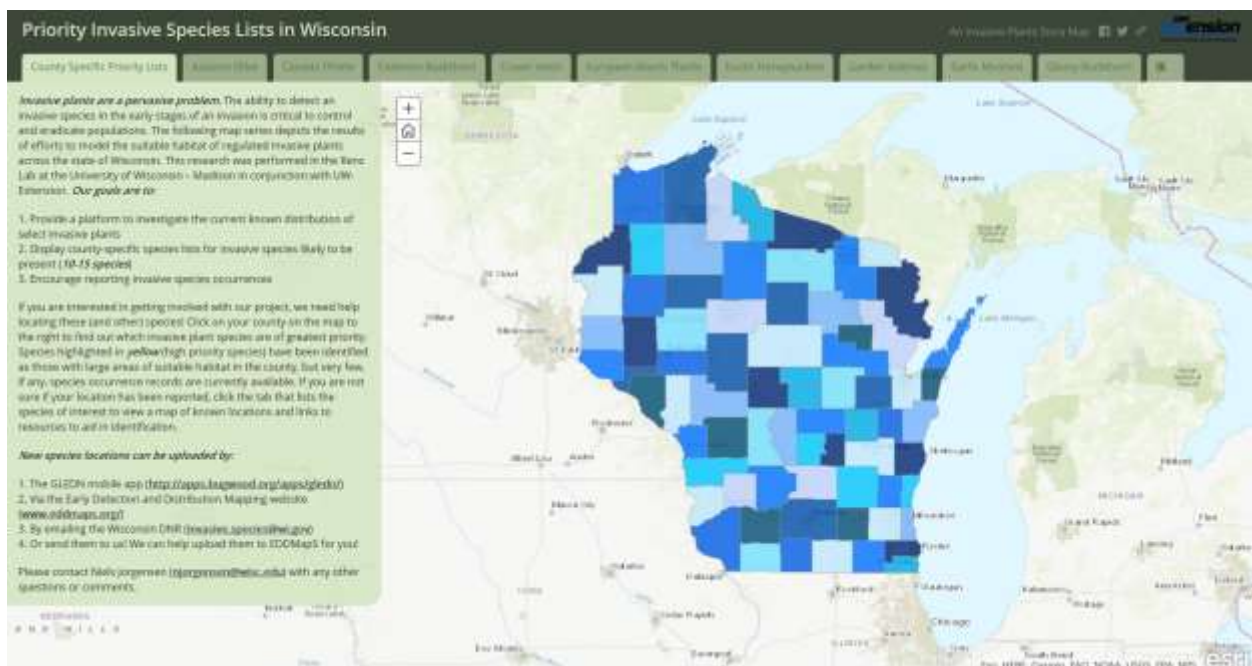
By: Mark Renz & Niels Jorgensen, UW-Madison

Interest in invasive plant monitoring continues throughout the state, but stakeholders have asked for help in prioritizing which species they monitor for, as over 130 species are regulated in Wisconsin. Based on research and data collection over the last two years we have created such a resource (<http://arcg.is/1TFjsdN>). This tool ranks invasive plants that have suitable habitat by county. Lists were generated using twenty-two habitat suitability models developed through research efforts. Users also have access to maps that depict known locations in Wisconsin, identification videos, and factsheets on control. This resource was intended to help users improve efficiency in monitoring efforts.

*We are interested in surveying individuals about the utilization of this resource and your reporting efforts.* Your responses will be used to improve our future educational efforts. We estimate the survey to take *no more than 10 minutes*. If interested, please use this link ([https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9Xfe9giwajkUrXL](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Xfe9giwajkUrXL)) or contact us directly by email [Niels Jorgensen](mailto:Niels.Jorgensen) or [Mark Renz](mailto:Mark.Renz), or 608-233-9570. Thank you in advance for your time.

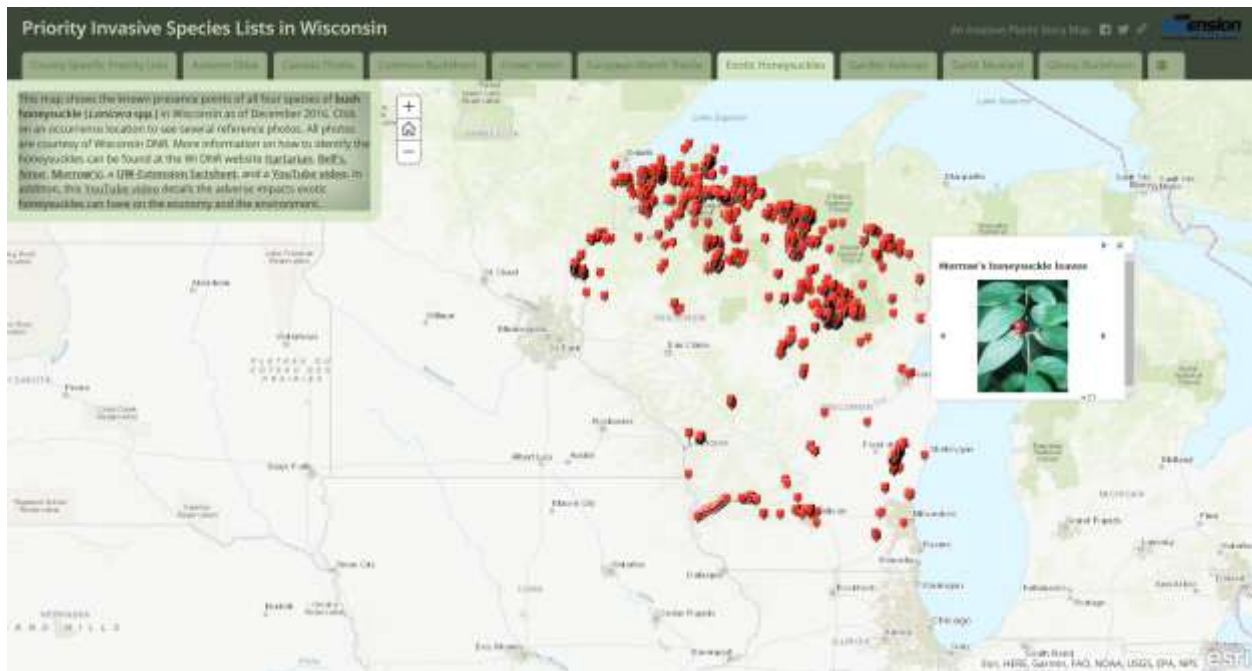
*Screenshots that can be used in the article, if there is room:*

1. Landing page for the ESRI Story Map



## Survey Continued

2. One of the species specific pages (this particular page is for the exotic bush honeysuckles)



## There's a New LEAG in Town!

By: Marci Hess, LEAG

SW Badger's Lafayette Environmental Action Group (LEAG) is formed to support Lafayette County and its conservation work! The LEAG is a group of interested citizens working to improve the quality of life for humans and wildlife in Lafayette County.

Native plants along our roadside are important for our native insects and pollinators. Much of Lafayette County is under agricultural production, making these uncultivated areas along the roadsides especially significant. Insects are critical to our well being and livelihoods; they pollinate our food crops, they digest and decompose waste, and they are an essential protein source for the growth of other wildlife. Insects depend on native plants as food and shelter for their young. When non-native plants displace the native plants, insects die off. In May 2017, it was reported America is experiencing an 80% decline in our insects over a 24-year period. When over 75% of our food is pollinated by native insects, this is alarming.



The LEAG will document locations of non-native (aka invasive) plants, such as thistles, purple loosestrife, and bird's foot trefoil then determine control and management methods. We will also document the location of patches of native plants (aka remnants) along the roadside. As the name implies, these remnants are remaining patches of native plants found here in the late

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## LEAG Continued

1800s. Our aim is to protect the remaining remnant patches by reducing non-natives through chemical and manual treatment and encouraging the growth of native plants by not mowing them. We'll have "no mow" signs available for the native areas and volunteers willing to control the invasive plants in these areas. In this remnant patches, continual mowing will decrease native plants and spread non-natives.

If you're interested in becoming part of the LEAG, email [Marci Hess](#) or call her at 608-577-8283.

Funding for this project has been made available through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and Green/Rock Audubon Society.

## Stay Tuned for IPAW Field Days in 2018!

By: Anne Pearce, IPAW Board Member

Last fall, the IPAW field days committee sent surveys to IPAW members, friends, and CISMAs to gather feedback on what they would like to see at an IPAW field day. Many thanks to everyone who responded! With the responses in hand, we've been working on planning field days to take place in multiple locations across the state this summer.

Save the date for the following field days:

**Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Barron:** in partnership with St. Croix-Red Cedar CWMA, Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership, and Upper Chippewa CWMA, among others.

**Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Madison:** in partnership with the UW-Madison Arboretum.

Stay tuned for additional details and registration information! Planning is also in progress for 2018 field days in Rhineland, Sheboygan, and Stevens Point and for 2019 field days in additional regions of the state.

## It's Invader Crusader Award Nomination Time!

Do you know an Invader Crusader? The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council would like to honor 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 professionals and volunteers. Please consider nominating adults and youth you work with or from your community. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Award Ceremony will take place at Olbrich Botanical Gardens located at 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI 53704 on June 6, 2018. Nominations must be received no later than **April 27, 2018**. Click [here](#) for more information and a copy of the nomination form.

**The 2018 Video Contest – Protect the Places Where you Play** – is also open to everyone. This is your opportunity to let your inner director out, showcase your acting skill and create a short video illustrating why you care about invasive species and how easy, and even fun, invasive species prevention can be.

Submit your less-than-two-minute video showing how to protect the places you play to the **Wisconsin DNR Facebook**. Contest rules and guidelines can be found there. Videos must be submitted no later than **April 30, 2018**. Visitors to their Facebook page will be able to vote on their favorite video throughout the month of May. The video with the most votes wins! The first place winner's video will be shown at the Invader Crusader Award Ceremony. Good luck!

## Tribute to a Founding IPAW Member, Rolf Utegaard

Sadly, IPAW lost one of its founding members, Rolf Utegaard. We recognized Rolf at our annual meeting by giving his wife, Sharon, a buckthorn plaque for his leadership and extensive outreach efforts.

From 2001 until 2014 he served on IPAW's Board of Directors. He was the Vice President for many of those years. For many years he helped to get IPAW's message out by generating mailing labels, getting the newsletter printed and mailed out to it's members. Rolf maintained an archive of past newsletters, allowing them to be on the IPAW website today.

Rolf's major contribution was representing IPAW by taking his display board and publications to many dozens, if not hundreds, of conferences and workshops for gardeners, arborists, lakeshore owners, native landscapers, and more. He informed thousands of people throughout the state about IPAW and the impacts of invasive plants through his efforts. Rolf was an active Master Gardener for much of his life, and is responsible for having many of them trained and working on invasive plant projects. He drove thousands of miles and put in hundreds of volunteer hours to share our work and to come to Madison for board meetings.

With his booming voice, suspenders and gentle persona, Rolf was an excellent spokesperson for our mission. His efforts are greatly appreciated.



Rolf Utegaard



Don't forget to Like IPAW on Facebook!

You can support IPAW each and every time you shop at [AmazonSmile!](#)





**UMISC**  
Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference

**NAISMA**  
North American Invasive Species Management Association

**2018 JOINT CONFERENCE**

JOIN US FOR THE  
LARGEST INVASIVE SPECIES  
CONFERENCE IN NORTH AMERICA!  
**October 15-18, 2018**  
Mayo Civic Center | Rochester, MN  
[www.umisc.net](http://www.umisc.net)  
**SAVE THE DATES**

## IPAW Board Members:

Christa Schaefer, IPAW President,  
Wisconsin Department of  
Transportation

Diane Schauer, IPAW Vice  
President, Calumet County

Mark Renz, IPAW Treasurer, UW  
- Madison, Associate Professor &  
Extension Specialist

John Lunz, IPAW Secretary, The  
Park People – Weed-Out Program,  
The Wild Ones, Preserve Our Parks

Mic Armstrong, Armstrong  
Landscaping

Greg Bunker, Stockbridge-Munsee  
Community

Jeremy Chiamulera, Compass  
Land Consultants, Inc.

Angelique Dahlberg, St. Croix  
River Association

Heidi Kennedy, SEH, Natural  
Resources Scientist

Anne Pearce, Wisconsin First  
Detector Network Coordinator

Patricia Trochlell, Retired,  
Wisconsin Department of Natural  
Resources

## Newsletter Information:

*Plants Out of Place* is a periodic  
newsletter distributed to Invasive  
Plants Association of Wisconsin  
members.

Send comments, suggestions, and  
articles that you think may be of  
interest to IPAW at [info@ipaw.org](mailto:info@ipaw.org)

## IPAW's Mission:

*"To promote better stewardship of the natural resources of Wisconsin by advancing the understanding of invasive plants, preventing their introduction, and encouraging the control of their spread."*