



Woodland Dunes Nature Center  
And Preserve  
PO Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241  
920-793-4007  
woodlanddunes.org

### **Expanding Invasive Species Identification in Manitowoc County, WI Project Report**

This project, the goal of which is to increase awareness of and knowledge about terrestrial invasive plant species in Manitowoc County, was begun in July 2009. At that time coordinators (Tom Ward and Jim Knickelbine) met to plan activities and a timeline for the project. In August and September 2009, Susan Crowley, County Forester with the Dept. of Natural Resources, and Gladwyn Doughman of the Lakeshore Chapter of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers met with the coordinators. This group identified the most relevant invasive species to be targeted for survey, and outlined training and survey methods and materials. The coordinators then developed training materials, monitoring kits, and a training program for volunteers, and advertised the project locally. Four training sessions were presented to volunteers, after which they were encouraged to survey for the selected invasive species in the field. After their survey activities, volunteers returned their kits as well as their survey data for inclusion in a county invasive species map. Because some species do not become easily visible until midsummer, data is still being submitted, and the county map is still being developed at the time of this writing but will be finished in time to be presented in poster form at the fall Citizen-Based Monitoring Conference.

#### **Specific Project Activities-**

- September 2009 presentation made to Manitowoc Sportsman's Club outlining project and soliciting volunteers to monitor.
- September 2009 – develop training materials, assemble monitoring kits (ID materials, clipboards with monitoring forms, GPS units)
- September 2009- flyer developed and sent to approximately 900 households advertising fall bus trip to tour Manitowoc Co. watersheds with an emphasis on invasive species and soliciting volunteers for invasives mapping project.
- October 1 2009 first training session with 7 volunteers. Volunteers were given monitoring kits, survey begins.
- November 2009- first invasives survey data submitted, kits returned, survey continues
- December 15 2009- second training session with eight additional volunteers, who begin second round of surveys.
- December- January 2010- survey continues during winter bird count days (4) and on other dates – two additional volunteers participate.

- February 21 2010- third training session at Friends of Branch River meeting, followed by invasives survey along Branch River, with 12 additional volunteers.
- March- June- field surveys for invasives continue for easily visible (phragmites, Japanese knotweed) and early-emerging (honeysuckle, buckthorn) species
- May 2010, purchased 350 copies of Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants in Wisconsin, to be distributed to project volunteers and other interested persons.
- Conducted a field training session/ program to highlight Invasive Species Month in Manitowoc Rapids Twp., attended by 20 people.
- June 2010- field surveys continue for spring and summer emergent species (e.g. garlic mustard, wild parsnip). Plot surveyed species on county map, develop two-page brochure for most important invasives, identification and control (in progress).
- Hartlaub Lake Association meets June 8, presented IS plants of concern, members decide to map IS throughout Weyers Lake and Hartlaub Lake watersheds and contact private landowners to conduct an inventory, as a result of this project. Summary of their inventory will be completed in July.
- Publicity: Oct. 2009, news release of the project and “Help Wanted article”; Feb. 2010; news release in Friends of the Branch newsletter on the River Walk and local news paper; May announcement of Field Tour to kick off June as Invasive Species Awareness Month; June 2010- article on invasive plants, highlighting dame’s rocket and other early season invasives, written and published in Herald-Times Reporter

Summary- Response to this project has been very positive, with more than 50 people in addition to the coordinators receiving training in identification and monitoring for terrestrial invasives. Information has and will continue to be disseminated through local news media. It is the goal of the project coordinators to use information gathered through this project to educate and motivate local citizens and officials to take action to curb the spread of terrestrial invasives. It was the original intent of the coordinators to work with the local Wild Ones group to facilitate the next phase of such work, but that chapter has recently disbanded. If another entity does not take such action, Woodland Dunes will consider assisting in coordinating future efforts to control invasives.

Summary of expenses:

Materials purchased:

- For 10 survey kits: plastic 15 qt bins with lids,
- 10 copies of *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest* by Czarapata,
- 3-ring binders ,
- 350 copies of *A Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants in Wisconsin* by Boos et al. (GPS units, two on loan from DNR and two owned by Woodland Dunes were included in four of the kits for use by volunteers who did not have their own GPS.)

Total for materials: \$1008.26 (for monitoring kits and reference materials)

Printing/ mailing- \$375.31

Salary- Manitowoc Co. Lakes Association Invasive Species Coordinator (Tom Ward)-  
\$987.50 (39.5 hours)

Salaries- Woodland Dunes staff (Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director, Susan Knorr, Assistant  
Director, Jessica Johnsrud, Marketing Coordinator)- \$2575.00 (103 hours)

Total expenses- \$4946.07