

# Managing Invasive Species on Wisconsin's Door Peninsula



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DCIST**

# Managing Invasive Species on Wisconsin's Door Peninsula

- Geographic Context
- Biodiversity
- Invasive Threats to Our Native Landscapes
- Genesis of DCIST
- Partners & Collaborations
- Funding
- Needs

# The Niagara Escarpment



**North America's Great Arc of Biodiversity**

# North America's Great Arc of Biodiversity

- **Global Position**
  - Parallel 45, seasonal changes
- **Climatic Tempering – Microclimates**
  - straddling Great Lakes
- **Carbonate Bedrock**
  - caves, springs, fens, alvars, alkaline soils
- **Landscape Diversity**
  - bluffs, dunes, swales/ridges, islands

Diverse landscape structure

+

Microclimate affects

=

Ecosystem variety, habitat diversity

=>

Biological Diversity

=

**Biodiversity**

# Biological Diversity

=

# Biodiversity

The sum total of all the plants and animals in a given area.



Door County is one of  
the most  
**biologically diverse**  
counties in the entire  
Midwest.

Door County is home to more  
rare, endangered and  
threatened plants and animals  
than any county in Wisconsin

Lake Iris  
Hines Emerald Dragonfly  
Dune Thistle



# remnant Pleistocene land snails

[http://www.lwatrous.com/missouri\\_mollusks/](http://www.lwatrous.com/missouri_mollusks/)



# remnant Pleistocene land snails

[http://www.twatrous.com/missouri\\_mollusks/](http://www.twatrous.com/missouri_mollusks/)



# The Niagara Escarpment



**North America's Great Arc of Biodiversity**



# New Real Estate



# New Real Estate



# Waves of Invaders



# garlic mustard

- edible
- biennial
- stays green throughout winter
- lots of seeds
- poisons the soil
- stunts tree seedlings



# wild parsnip

aggressive member of parsnip family

- long taproot
- juices from the plant cause a chemical burn: phyto-photo-dermatitis
- spread by mowers





# common and glossy buckthorn

- prolific fruit
- makes birds sick
- choke woodlands
- sold as ornamental



# purple loosestrife



- Brought from Europe as garden plant (late 1800s)
- Crowd out native wetland species
- Little food/habitat value
- Produce > 1 million seeds annually



# phragmites

- monster grass
  - can grow 15 feet tall
- extremely aggressive
- dense root structure
- chokes wetlands
- poor bird habitat



# japanese knotweed & european marsh thistle





# 165+ Aquatic Invasives in Lake Michigan







# **Door County Invasive Species Team**

**~ ~ ~ DCIST ~ ~ ~**

# Door County Invasive Species Team

~ ~ ~ DCIST ~ ~ ~

- Began in 2000 : Cooperative effort among citizens, agency staff and not-for-profits
- Purple loosestrife beetle release
- Grant funding to print brochure and build website
- Meetings somewhat sporadic
- 2005, DNR AIS grant funding to support coordinator
- More frequent meetings and communication

# Door County Invasive Species Team

~ ~ ~ DCIST ~ ~ ~

## **Mission:**

To sustain diverse ecosystems for future generations by preventing monocultures of invasive plants in Door County.

# Door County Invasive Species Team

~ ~ ~ DCIST ~ ~ ~

Through **public and private partnerships**, DCIST is committed to educating, preventing, minimizing and eradicating invasive plants thus reducing the negative impacts to Door County's natural resources, economic viability and human welfare.

This partnership promotes an **open information exchange**, public and private sector coordination, citizen involvement and **comprehensive local resource management guidance** that is intended to protect biodiversity.

# Door County Invasive Species Team

~ ~ ~ DCIST ~ ~ ~

## Steering Committee

- Door County Soil and Water Conservation Dept.
- The Nature Conservancy
- Door County Land Trust
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Also:
  - The Ridges Sanctuary
  - County Property Owners Groups

# Summer Internships

## AIS outreach

- Local Environmental Group:



*Supporting solutions through community*

[www.lnrp.org](http://www.lnrp.org)

- Americorps



**DCIST website**

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

# Collaboration & Cooperation



# **Perpetuating a Necessary Cultural Shift**

Municipal Responsibility

Commercial Responsibility

Landowner Responsibility

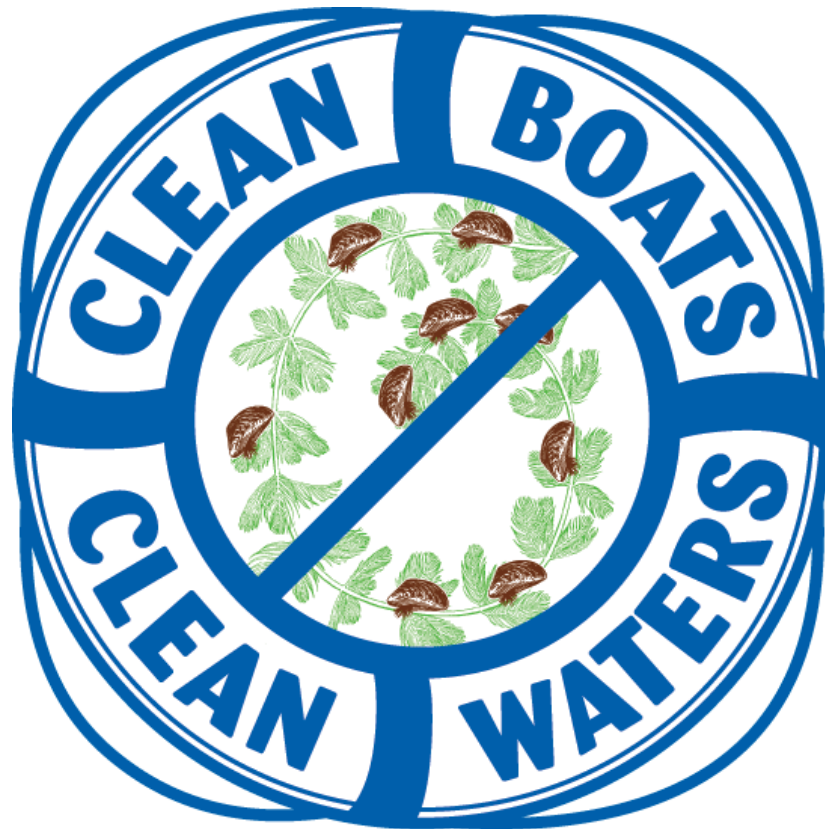
# **Perpetuating a Necessary Cultural Shift**

- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Firewood Movement
- Clean Boats Clean Waters Message

# Partnerships:

- **Agency Collaboration:**
  - **UW-Extension**
  - **County Land & Water Department**
  - **Highway Department**
  - **Parks Departments**
  - **Department of Corrections / Sheriff**
  - **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
  - **WDNR- Bureau of Endangered Resources**
    - **Regional Ecologist**

# Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection Program



# Partnerships:

- **Community Collaboration:**
  - Friends Groups
  - Property Owners Groups/Lakes Associations
  - Service Organizations
  - Youth Groups
  - Conservation Groups
  - Land Trust
  - Nature Conservancy
  - Community Service
  - Wild Ones - natural landscapers

# Neighborhood Work Parties





# Demonstration Work Parties



# Demonstration Work Parties





# School Groups & Community Service Projects



# Volunteers

- High School
  - Community Service Requirements
- Scout Groups
- Fraternal Organizations
- Huber Volunteers (public lands only)
  - local Sheriff
  - do not need law officer

# Correctional Facility Programs

- Low pay opportunity for Rehab patients and near end of term inmates
  - Not restricted to public land
  - Can be contracted by anyone
  - Come with law enforcement supervision

National

Service

???

# **Funding Sources:**

- **DNR Aquatic Invasive Species**
- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation**
- **Wisconsin Coastal Management**
- **State Wildlife Grant**
- **Industry Grants – BASF, Inc.**
- **Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Inc.**
- **Community Foundations - Raibrook**
- **Citizen Donations**

# Cost-Share Control Programs


- 2007 Phragmites Control  
\$10,000 BASF Grant



# Needs & Trajectory

- Solid, consistent funding
- Mapping
- BUY-IN and ACTION From Municipal entities
  - Highway and Parks Dept
- Improved nurturing and mgmt. of Volunteer base
  - TRACKING HOURS
- Administrative roles
  - Improved database and newsletter outreach
  
- Off to a Great start
- Maintain a strong and well coordinated partnership -or- Integrate DCIST into an institution:
  - Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department
  - Door County Land Trust
  - other





Every County  
Needs and Deserves  
Organized Help  
to Manage the many  
Native Landscapes of  
Wisconsin

*“Our Native landscape is our home,  
the little world we live in,  
where we are born and where we play,  
where we grow up, and finally where  
we are . . . laid to eternal rest. It  
speaks of the distant past and carries  
our life into the tomorrow.  
To keep this pure and unadulterated is  
a sacred heritage, a noble task of the  
highest cultural value.”*

Jens Jensen, Landscape architect, (1860-1951)

***THANK  
YOU !!***

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# Photo credits

- Whitefish Dunes State Park - wisconsinbirds.org
- Ridges Sanctuary - shamus785
- Peninsula State Park fall - Dhar Balwani
- Cave Point - Adam Grim
- Peninsula State Park shore - thatchdd

# Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan

