

NIIPP Bulletin July 2012

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1. **Fermilabs Discovery Day**

On July 14th, Fermilab Natural Areas will be offering guided tours of some of the lesser known natural gems of Fermilab. The 'Discovery Day' event offers local nature enthusiasts a rare opportunity to explore areas of the lab not normally open to the public.

The tours will visit four premier locations: award winning Nepese Marsh where the site steward will cover its history and point out some current residents such as the secretive sora and the little blue heron. The next stop should delight any plant or butterfly lovers as the guides introduce guests to the diversity of Big Woods North and species such as the mullein foxglove and the tiger swallowtail butterfly. The tour at Indian Creek Woods will give visitors an opportunity to explore Fermilab's wetland mitigation site and see how (with a little work!) ospreys are now soaring over what was once a major construction project. Finally, no tour of Fermilab's natural areas would be complete without a stop at the Main Ring Savanna. Guides will point out some of the species such as the red-headed woodpecker and pale indian plantain which help make this such a special wild area.

There is no fee for the tours but there is a suggested donation of \$5 per person to cover the costs of the day. Lunch will also be available for purchase. Visitors should be prepared for walking over uneven surfaces, should bring insect repellent and sunscreen and wear closed toe shoes. Participants may enter the lab via the Batavia Road or Pine Street entrances and follow signs to the Kuhn Barn in the village. (Please see attached flyer for additional information.)

2. **Garlic Mustard Challenge**

This year's Garlic Mustard Challenge yielded over 66,182.5 lbs. The top three pullers are Chicago Botanic Garden (36,150lbs), Lake County Forest Preserve District (8,100 lbs), and Lake Forest Open Lands (7,200 lbs). Special thanks to everyone who participated and reported their totals: Morton Arboretum, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Riverwoods Preservation Council, Fermilabs Natural Areas, The Field Museum, Waukegan Park District, Illinois State Beach Volunteer Stewards, and the Village of Lincolnshire.

3. **Live Web Meeting: USACE hosts meeting on use of local genetic sources of plant material (July 25th)**

ECoP Initiative Description:

Please Join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, for a daylong meeting on the use of local genetic sources of plant material for ecosystem restoration projects. The meeting will be held in Chicago, District Offices and available as a webinar on July 25th (8:30-5:00pm Central). Presenters include restoration practitioners, researchers from academic institutions and nursery professionals. The purpose of the meeting is to explore the associated costs, potential benefits, and the trade-offs of sourcing local material. Also, how far away should one source material for their restoration site?

DATE and TIME:

- * Start Date/Time: Jul 25 2012 08:15 AM CDT, Wed
- * End Date/Time: Jul 25 2012 05:15 PM CDT, Wed
- * Duration: 9 hr 00 mins
- * Total Ports: 150

AUDIO CONFERENCE ACCESS INFORMATION:

- * USA Toll-Free: (877)322-9654
- * HOST CODE: 951928
- * PARTICIPANT CODE: 351370

WEB MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION:

- * Web Meeting Address: <https://www.webmeeting.att.com>
- * Meeting Number(s): (877)322-9654
- * HOST CODE: 951928
- * PARTICIPANT CODE: 351370

4. Species publications will soon be accessible on the NIIPP website

Thanks to the efforts of CW intern Mia Bryan, NEIU interns Angela Spinasant, Kim Szollosi, and most especially Damon Nichols, the invasive plant species pages on our website now have links to publication abstracts. If you find a paper you're interested in and the pdf status is "available" please email Cathy McGlynn and she can send it to you (cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net).

(I just wanted to acknowledge the considerable amount of work that Damon Nichols did on this database and the great globe thistle research at Morton Arboretum that he is currently helping out with. I also want to mention that he recently graduated from NEIU with a degree in environmental studies and is now in the job market.)

5. Mark your calendars! Joint NIIPP-CW NRM Team meeting

The 2nd annual NIIPP meeting is slated for the morning of Thursday, September 27th at the Morton Arboretum. The afternoon will follow with a Chicago Wilderness Natural Resource Management Team meeting. Cathy McGlynn will be recruiting speakers for the NIIPP meeting soon!

6. Goats used to control Phragmites

Phragmites.org Newsletter #115 – June 24, 2012

Goats have been enlisted to clear phragmites on Staten Island, NY! An article from Staten Island Live says goats are “being employed over the next six weeks to clear two acres of wetlands of invasive phragmites. The plan is for the creatures, whose insatiable appetite is well-known, to munch on and weaken the weeds that choke the shoreline, the first step in ridding the land of the tenacious rhizomes in order to prepare the ground for the cultivation of native grasses.”

The complete article is available online

at:http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/06/goats_make_beautiful_music_at.html

If you are considering cutting or “munching” on your phragmites this summer to weaken them remember that you should stop about four to six weeks prior to your planned herbicide treatment in the fall so there is enough green growth at the time of spraying to take in the herbicide. Also, cutting or munching without the herbicide treatment will not kill the plant, only weaken it for this season. If the goats are not on site next year the phragmites will return as strong as ever.

7. Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative Webinar

USGS and Great Lakes Commission introduce the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative, a communication initiative for invasive Phragmites.

Please join us for a webinar on July 19th for an overview of the project.

Problem statement: The establishment and rapid spread of invasive Phragmites across the Great Lakes poses many challenges for habitat managers, private landowners, researchers and other entities. Several local initiatives have been initiated to address Phragmites management in discrete geographic areas; however, there are few opportunities to communicate with others, share successes and challenges, and catch up on the latest research. Further, there is no comprehensive resource dedicated to Phragmites management and research throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Project overview: The Great Lakes Commission is partnering with the USGS – Great Lakes Science Center and Ducks Unlimited to develop an interactive website and webinar series to encourage technology transfer, information sharing, and network building. The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative will engage the natural resource community, provide resources and tools to improve collaboration, and lead to more coordinated, efficient and strategic approaches to Phragmites management and restoration.

Throughout the year our ongoing webinar series will include topics such as:
Current research on Phragmites control

Management techniques and case studies
Monitoring and assessment protocols
Regional management initiatives

Initial Webinar Schedule: 1. July 19th Topic:

Invitation to participate in the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative
Heather Braun, Project Manager at the Great Lakes Commission
Kurt Kowalski, Research Ecologist at the USGS - Great Lakes Science Center

At this first webinar representatives from the Great Lakes Commission and the USGS - Great Lakes Science Center will 1) provide an overview of the project including its purpose and objectives, 2) discuss the types of tools and resources that could be developed and distributed via the website, and 3) solicit input on potential content of the website.

★ Register here <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/613639190> for July 19th!

2. Date TBD (mid-August)

Topic: Community input on content of GreatLakesPhragmites.net
Heather Braun, Project Manager at the Great Lakes Commission
Kurt Kowalski, Research Ecologist at the USGS - Great Lakes Science Center

We will be inviting the community to provide feedback on the website: GreatLakesPhragmites.net. The website will include five main content areas: biology, management, research, resources and tools, and multimedia. We will discuss proposed products including scalable monitoring protocols, a community database for data aggregation, mapping and decision support tools. We will also provide an introduction to our Twitter and Facebook pages where we hope to engage people in helpful dialogs and build collaborative networks across the Great Lakes Basin. During this webinar we look to you to provide input on the need and relevance of the current content, the tools we plan to develop, the user interface, and to help inform other products or services that might be of use.

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8. Invasive Plants of the Month- Common and Cutleaf Teasel

Common Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) and Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris/D. fullonum*) should be flowering within the month. Both species are from Europe and are frequently found along roadsides in Illinois. Teasel forms rosettes in its first year of growth and flowers and sets seed in its second year. The rosette leaves have a prickly mid-rib and the second year plants have a prickly stem and deeply lobed leaves with prickly hairs along the edges. The leaves are also jointed and opposite (what appears to be a single, continuous two pointed leaf pierced by the stem). Water often collects in the cup-like area of leaf tissue around the stem. In summer cylindrical flower spikes with very distinctive bracts grow at the end of the stems of 3-10 foot tall plants. Common teasel has purple spikes and cutleaf teasel has white spikes. The dried flowers from both species are still used in flower arrangements (often spray-painted gold or silver) particularly during the holiday season. In some cases people leaving flowers arrangements in cemeteries has resulted in the establishment of new populations of teasel. More information about these species can be found at common teasel

http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=DISY and cut-leaf teasel

http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=DILA4.



Cutleaf teasel *D. laciniatus* (D. Maurer)



Rosette (D. Maurer)



Common teasel *D. sylvestris*/*D. fullonum* (dnr.wi.gov)