

- 1) **MOU**
- 2) **New Grants**
- 3) **Regional job opportunity**
- 4) **ISAM Awards**
- 5) **Garlic Mustard Challenge**
- 6) **Update on NIWP training**
- 7) **Clean Boats Clean Waters Program**
- 8) **Request for Information about Roadside Plant Monitoring Protocol**
- 9) **Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey**

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**1) MOU**

We now have 27 signatory partners and one non-signatory partner: Algonquin Township Road District, Campton Township, Cardno Entrix, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Park District, Chicago Wilderness, Frankfort Square FPD, Friends of the Forest Preserve, GRAEF, Great Lakes Alliance, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Integrated Lakes Management, Kendall County FPD, Lake County DOT, Lake County FPD, Land Conservancy of McHenry County MCCD, McHenry County Land Conservancy, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Midwest Groundcovers, LLC, Pizzo & Associates, Tallgrass Restoration, The Field Museum, Upland Design, USFS-Midewin, Village of Algonquin, Village of Glenview, and Winnebago County FPD

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**2) New Grants** (see our website- [http://niipp.net/?page\\_id=98](http://niipp.net/?page_id=98))

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grant Program (NFWF) **Deadline: October 27, 2011.**

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard Grants Program (NFWF) **Deadline: July 29, 2011**

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**3) Regional job available**

Liberty Prairie Conservancy is looking for a Land Stewardship Coordinator  
[http://niipp.net/?page\\_id=100](http://niipp.net/?page_id=100)

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**4) Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month Awards**

May 2011 is Invasive Species Awareness Month in Illinois!  
 It is also an opportunity to recognize the great work of volunteers, organizations, businesses, and professionals who work prevent and manage invasive species in Illinois.

The first annual ISAM Award announcement and nomination form can be found at [http://niipp.net/?page\\_id=1039](http://niipp.net/?page_id=1039). If you know of an individual, group, organization or business that deserves recognition for their work on invasive species issues, please take the time to fill out and submit a nomination form. **Nomination forms are due by May 15th.** Award winners will be announced at the end of May with a ceremony to follow in the summer.

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### 5) **Garlic Mustard Challenge**

We have 21 events scheduled for May. Please come out and join us! A listing of the events can be found at [http://niipp.net/?page\\_id=866](http://niipp.net/?page_id=866). So far 10,800 lbs of garlic mustard have been pulled, but only one event has submitted a total!

The Garlic Mustard Challenge has also made it into the news! Please click these links for the most recent articles (with thanks to Mike Sula at The Chicago Reader)-  
<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/omnivorous-garlic-mustard-challenge/Content?oid=3678005>

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/cocktail-challenge-mike-ryan-sable-mustard-garlic/Content?oid=3684050>

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleader/archives/2011/04/28/what-iliana-regan-can-do-with-garlic-mustard-greens>

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### 6) **Update on New Invaders Watch Program Training**

So far this year 125 people have attended New Invaders Watch Program (NIWP) training workshops and 18 people have signed on to become NIWP volunteer monitors. If your organization would be interested in hosting a training workshop please contact Cathy McGlynn at 847-242-6423 or [cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net](mailto:cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net).

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### 7) **Clean Boats Clean Waters Program**

NIIPP is now a partner of the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Program and is currently working with IL-IN Sea Grant to develop and establish the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program (<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/cbcw/>) in Lake County, IL and Lake County, IN. We are looking for volunteers to help with education and outreach during this boating season. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping out please contact Cathy McGlynn at 847-242-6423 or [cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net](mailto:cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net).

## **8) Request for Information about Roadside Plant Monitoring Protocol**

Terri Treacy has been coordinating a volunteer “weed watch” monitoring program in southern Illinois. She has some older volunteers who want to be involved but the terrain can be tough in the heat of a southern Illinois summer and she is looking into the idea of ID via the car to monitor roadsides that border or are near natural areas. She traditionally has the volunteers use a GPS unit to capture the data, but there are not enough to go around and she has to deal with different kinds of GPS units.

Do any partners have any experience with this type of monitoring? Are there any better ways (non GPS) to have volunteers collect location information? Please email any suggestions or ideas to Karen Tharp of the VSN at [ktharp@tnc.org](mailto:ktharp@tnc.org). Thank you!

## **9) Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey**

I am coordinating the Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey ([www.garlicmustard.org](http://www.garlicmustard.org)), a unique large-scale collaborative project in invasion biology, and probably the largest demographic survey of any invasive plant species in the world. I am writing to you because we would very much like to be able to include more data from Italy, and since you are an expert on Invasion Biology we thought you might be interested in this project and able to contribute one or a few populations from your area.

One of the most common assumptions in invasion biology is that invasive plants perform better in their introduced range than in their native range. However, even though this assumption is underlying several key hypotheses in plant invasion biology, there are still surprisingly few hard data to support this claim. The aim to the Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey is to collect comprehensive field data to test this assumption for garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), a European plant that is currently one of the most problematic plant invaders in temperate North America.

We have designed the Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey as a "citizen science" project with a simple standardized sampling protocol (see website). The protocol takes a few hours per population, it can be easily completed by scientists, students and non-scientists, and it can also be included in undergraduate courses. So far, we have received data from almost 200 populations, with more than 50 contributors (scientists and non-scientists) from many countries (see map on website). The project started in 2009, and 2011 is planned to be the final year, after which we will start analysing and publishing the data. Our goal is that academics who contribute data will also have the opportunity to contribute as a coauthor on scientific papers.

If this project sounds good to you, then please take a look at [www.garlicmustard.org](http://www.garlicmustard.org) and consider sampling in your area.

If you know other people or groups at your institution or in your area that could be potential contributors to this project, then it would be great if you could pass on this email to them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments.

Kind regards, Oliver

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