

NIIPP Bulletin May 2013

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1. **New Invader Alert**

An infestation of Black Swallow-wort/Dog strangling vine (*Cynanchum louiseae*) has been confirmed in Cook County, IL. The record can be found here

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3398&id=us_IL_17031. More information about this species can be found at http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=CYLO11.

2. **NIIPP and Whole Foods still working together to raise funds**

During May, and June of this year every time customers bring in their own bags for carrying purchases Whole Foods will donate ten cents to NIIPP to help support our programs. Only purchases from the Whole Foods store on the corner of Church Street and Chicago Avenue (1640 Chicago Avenue: <http://wholefoodsmarket.com/store-locations?store=6535>) in Evanston are eligible so if you happen to be in Evanston please stop by Whole Foods to support us!

3. **Green Industry Education and Outreach update**

Recently NIIPP shared a booth with IL-IN Sea Grant at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show. We were able to talk with more than 800 people about invasive plants and provide resources for making informed choices for gardens. The smartphone app that provides a digital version of the MIPN Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants in the Midwest brochure was popular and is still available online at the Apple Store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/landscape-alternatives-for/id559865258?mt=8>. The video documentary of the impacts of Callery pear, Japanese barberry, and Burning Bush on natural areas that is being produced by MIPN will be completed shortly and available on YouTube.

4. **Clean Boats Crew prepares for 3rd season**

During the past two seasons Clean Boats Crew has talked with more than 3,500 people about the issue of aquatic invasive species and their accidental transport. IL-IN Sea Grant and NIIPP are preparing for a 3rd season of aquatic invasive species education and outreach. We've hired four site leaders who will be

working in Illinois from May 25th – August 11th and one site leader to work in Indiana from June 1st-June 30th. This year we'll be focusing on one inland site and one Lake Michigan site in Lake and Cook Counties in Illinois. Our complete schedule can be found here http://niipp.net/?page_id=1176. If you have a few hours to spare on a Saturday or Sunday and would like to support the new amendment to the Boat Registration and Safety Act (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0850>) which prohibits transport of aquatic animals and plants please join us! We will be providing training workshops for volunteers at the Chicago Botanic Garden on May 15th (6PM) and May 18th (2PM). Please contact Cathy to RSVP (cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net/847-242-6423).

5. Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month – A Call to Action

This May is the 4th Annual Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month. In honor of this event NIIPP will be participating in its third USFS Garlic Mustard Challenge and defending its title! You can find more information here <http://www.phcwpma.org/GarlicMustard.cfm>

Please participate in our partner work days posted on the NIIPP website http://niipp.net/?page_id=1534

If you have work days, garlic pulls, or other events planned for this month please send the information to Chris Evans and, if you'd like your events posted on the NIIPP website, to Cathy McGlynn. More information about this very important month can be found at http://niipp.net/?page_id=1016

6. Conservation Plainfield Expo 2013

This Saturday, May 4th, Plainfield hosts their spring conservation expo in the Field House at Plainfield Central High School, 24120 W. Fort Beggs Road, Plainfield, IL 60544. Events include a rain barrel sale, native plant sale, and the “Traveling World of Reptiles.” More information can be found at <http://www.conservationplainfield.com/>

7. Calumet Summit

This year's Calumet Summit takes place at Marquette Park Pavilion, Gary, IN on May 14-15th. More information about the event (including registration) can be found here <http://blog.chicagolandh2o.org/event/calumet-summit-2013-connecting-for-action/>

Both days' activities will include project presentations, open table discussions, and poster sessions, structured with the goal of producing an action agenda of “next steps” to be taken at the bi-state regional scale. Congressman Pete Visclosky, Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, and President and CEO of the NW Indiana Regional Development Authority Bill Hanna join a group of twenty speakers on the program.

The convening and planning of the Calumet Summit 2013 is being coordinated by the Calumet Stewardship Initiative (CSI). For more information about CSI, visit <http://calumetstewardship.org/>. The Summit registration fee is \$25 and can be paid by credit card or PayPal (through the Calumet Heritage

Partnership). The registration fee includes breakfast and lunch on both days. Space is limited, so early registration is strongly advised.

8. Invasive Plant of the Month

Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) is an herbaceous perennial in the mustard family (yes, it's related to garlic mustard!) that is a prolific self-seeder. It was first introduced to North America in the 1600's as a garden ornamental and for medicinal purposes. It is a native of Eurasia and grows from 1-3 feet high with multiple branches and serrate ovate to lance-shaped, alternate, dark green leaves. Its fragrant purple or white four-petal flowers bloom May-June (see pictures below).

Dame's Rocket is listed as a Noxious Weed in Colorado and is prohibited in both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Non-invasive alternatives: *Phlox paniculata* 'Katherine,' 'Shortwood,' and 'David' (summer phlox) and *Phlox carolina* 'Reine du Jour' (Summer phlox)

Its distribution map can be found here <http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/usstate.cfm?sub=5702> and <http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/usstate.cfm?sub=5702>.

More information about its natural history can be found here <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/plant-finder/plant-details/kc/d200/hesperis-matronalis.aspx> and <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=hema3> and http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/invasive_species/hesmat01.htm

