

June 4, 2015

**Olbrich
Botanical Gardens**

Madison, WI

**Wisconsin's 11th Annual
Invader Crusader Awards**

**Presented by
Wisconsin Invasive
Species Council**

and



Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species
and the
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
present

Wisconsin's 11th Annual Invader Crusader Awards

Master of Ceremonies

Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Extension

Welcome

James Kerkman, Member, Wisconsin Invasive Species Council
Kurt Thiede, Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Presentation of the 2015 Invader Crusader Awards

Christal Campbell, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Professional Individual
Bill Jaeger, Volunteer Individual
Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association, Organization
Jamie Kozloski, Volunteer Individual
Paul Mozina, Volunteer Individual
Lee Shambeau, 4-Control, Professional Individual
Kaycie Stushek, Golden Sands RC&D Council, Professional Individual
Sherry Speth, Volunteer Individual
Friends of the MacKenzie Center, Volunteer Group

Presentation of the 2015 Protect the Places Where You Play Video Contest

Tim Campbell, University of Wisconsin-Extension

Concluding Remarks

Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Extension

Refreshments

Garden Tours

Jeff Epping, Olbrich Botanical Gardens
Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species

Bill Jaeger
Volunteer Individual

Bill Jaeger is a true Invader Crusader. He recognizes invasive plants in his community and works hard to control and remove them wherever they are found. For example, since 2012 he has been conducting what one nominator described as “a one-man war” against wild parsnip in the Town of Crescent. He has volunteered an immeasurable number of hours on multiple projects which he initiated himself.

Bill is on the front lines, attacking the plants before they go to seed. Mr. Jaeger also understands that the ability for invasive species to spread does not end after the plant has been removed from the earth, so he burns the plants in a contained unit on his own property where he is able to monitor and control against further transmission. By all accounts, Bill has a reputation of being tenacious, dedicated, independent and passionate about devoting his energies toward the battle against invasive plants.

Jamie Kozloski
Volunteer Individual

Jamie Kozloski is founder and director of Kingdom Animalia Exotic Animal Rescue (KAEAR) in De Pere, WI. She and her volunteers accept and care for exotic pets surrendered by their owners, which may have otherwise been let loose into the environment to cause problems. She is very aware of the importance of terrestrial invasive species control and works to educate the public on the impacts of released exotic pets through outreach events for members of the community of all ages. She connected with the national “Habitattitude” campaign led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to raise awareness about the consequences of released pets, and brings the message of the program to a local level.

Paul Mozina
Volunteer Individual

Paul Mozina has been involved in invasive species outreach and control since 1996. He is currently a volunteer at the Kettle Moraine State Forest’s Southern Unit. Paul is leading an effort to restore about 137 acres of land surrounding the Scuppernong Springs Nature Trail by removing all invasive plant species from the area, including buckthorn, garlic mustard, phragmites, spotted knapweed, and purple loosestrife, to name a few. His work in this area is part of the overall management of the Scuppernong River Habitat Area, which is the largest native wet prairie east of the Mississippi River. In 2013, he and approximately 11 volunteers contributed about 1,400 hours of labor. Paul and his fellow volunteers are no stranger to hard work; it’s a real labor of ecological love, plus a few shovels.

According to one of Mr. Mozina’s nominators, he works “year-round, virtually non-stop, including the unforgiving winter months” and is an inspiration to both his peer volunteers and those who learn from his work. In fact, many of the volunteers who work with Paul first learned about invasive species issues in Wisconsin when they ran into him working along a trail, wondering what he was up to.

Sherry Speth
Volunteer Individual

If you need help with species control or education in Sheboygan County, Sherry Speth is your go-to gal. She is a dedicated volunteer, having committed her time and energy to every aspect of the cause for over ten years. Sherry is a volunteer at Kohler-Andrae State Park. Thanks to her, the park has been able to develop and enhance their gardens and to confront the many invasive plants that are endangering the native vegetation in the park’s landscape. Due to her hard work, Sherry was awarded the park’s Volunteer of the Year award in 2010. Since then, she has continued her efforts to work on both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species both in the park and on other public and private lands.

One nominator wrote, “Sherry’s past efforts have produced direct benefits to the environment, provided outreach and education to an unmeasurable number of youth and adult groups and provided invasive population maps to roadway crews. Her experience, expertise, energy and dedication will continue to positively impact this region for years to come.”

Friends of the MacKenzie Center
Volunteer Group

The MacKenzie Center is part of a 619 acre property in Columbia County owned and operated by the Wisconsin DNR. The Friends of MacKenzie (FOM) is a non-profit volunteer organization, dedicated to supporting environmental education activities at the Center. They are the longest-running such group in the state.

While the Friends has been active on the property for many years, over the past year, FOM has dedicated hundreds of hours of work towards controlling invasive species at the MacKenzie Center property. FOM works with MacKenzie’s staff to hold monthly work days which have done much to improve the trails, habitats and facilities at the Center through invasive plant removal and restoration projects. Thousands of students have seen them in action and become aware of invasive species issues, and hundreds have joined service-learning projects themselves. The Friends group is a model for cooperative property management through its close engagement with the local community, outreach and education efforts, and innumerable hours of plain-old hard work in the field.

Christal Campbell
Professional Individual

Christal Campbell was the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education Specialist at the Wisconsin DNR and UW Extension through May 2015. She provided assistance to AIS stakeholders on education and outreach issues, developed initiatives, provided consistent and accurate outreach messaging, and advised the DNR on educational and outreach needs; all with a positive attitude towards aquatic invasive species control.

Christal is considered a leader in the invasives education community in part by serving as a technical resource for information and outreach issues. Her opinion is highly sought, and Christal is an expert developer of behavior-changing initiatives. Her passion is contagious and has helped foster excellent long-lasting relationships among AIS partners. Christal recently developed a series of short informative video clips that can be shared by a variety of mediums, which is a first for the AIS partnership and an important outreach medium in the age of social media.

Lee Shambeau
Professional Individual

Lee Shambeau is the owner of 4-Control, a professional application company specializing in control of noxious weeds, nuisance weeds, brush and invasive plants. 4-Control maintains a small fleet of specialized vehicles to selectively apply herbicides that suppress invasive plant species, including many ATVs and trucks with sprayers. Lee has been on the forefront of the invasive species education and control effort since 1990, when he was one of the first advocates of awareness and treatment. He has worked tirelessly with public and private landowners, providing his expertise on how best to manage invasive species. Lee continues to increase his knowledge on invasive species by testing new herbicides and application rates on various invasive species, always with the goal of using as little herbicide as possible to achieve control over time.

His commitment to invasive species control goes well beyond his business model. On his own volunteered time, he has coordinated about thirty invasive species workshops throughout Wisconsin educating and updating landowners, land managers and foresters and federal agencies on the most current application techniques, equipment, laws and regulations, personal protection equipment, and herbicide use.

Kaycie Stushek
Professional Individual

Since 2008, Kaycie Stushek has served as the Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Specialist at the Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council in Stevens Point. Through her work, she has made a significant difference in the spread of aquatic invasives by reaching a large number of individuals through a variety of media, as well as by organizing volunteer groups for direct removal missions.

Organizations that Kaycie has worked with through her outreach initiatives include school groups, volunteers, hunting and fishing organizations, as well as new audiences like the Rawhide Boys Ranch and the Wisconsin River Academy, both of which provided many volunteers that were eager to learn about invasive species and help reduce its impacts in central Wisconsin.

An example of Kaycie's volunteer leadership includes training volunteers to identify and remove Japanese knotweed and common reed from wetlands and lakeshores. A Waupaca County resident reported a population of Japanese knotweed along the shore of Round Lake, and was eager to do something about it. Kaycie led a team of volunteers to the site, who made quick work of removing the entire patch and carefully applied herbicide to the cut stems. By the end of the project, the team removed over 1,000 pounds of invasive plant material.

Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association
Organization

The Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association (FCLARA) receives the Invader Crusader Award this year in the Organization category for their dedication to invasive species issues in northern Wisconsin and the immense amount of volunteer work that has been performed thanks to the organization. FCLARA is a participating member of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition, part of 23 professional agencies, organizations, and businesses that make up the formal partnership that addresses invasive species prevention and management planning and activities.

The Association provides environmentally sound leadership and encouragement to area landowners, outdoor enthusiasts, and lake organization members. Association members have volunteered time toward supporting natural resource education programs, invasive species monitoring, rapid response activities, and have maintained long-standing cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.

Association members have helped with the statewide Boat Landing Blitz campaign, built informational boat landing kiosks, assembled zebra mussel sampling plates and aqua viewers, maintained a boat-wash unit, and published dozens of informational and educational articles related to preserving the high quality forest and water resources enjoyed in northern Wisconsin. The organization makes a considerable contribution to the important education dimension of invasive species control and has reached thousands of citizens of many demographics, from boat owners to high school students.