



Overview

With the cold and snow rolling in there hasn't been much work to do on the ground but TIP is defiantly staying busy. December work consisted primarily of compiling data from the WMA surveys for the report, preparing for the annual meeting in February and getting ready for the GLRI application. The Steering Committee also met in December. Topics discussed include the plan for the annual meeting and the current financial outlook of the organization. Potential future work with MTE and Oconto county came up as well so look for updates regarding those projects in the future. Due to holidays and limited number of working days TIP was unable to perform any buckthorn treatments in December but will certainly be out there next month.

December Reach Review

Educational Outreach

The demand for knowledge regarding invasives seems to slow down in the winter months, but that doesn't mean the issue is not relevant. TIP took to the airwaves to spread the word that invasive species matter just as much in the winter as they do in the summer. The coordinator appeared as a guest on the Breakfast Club with Gary Hartl. A radio morning show featured daily on 106 FM. The coordinator highlighted a number of areas of concern. Snowmobilers were advised to avoid muddy patches if possible as these are known hot beds for invasive seed banks, such as garlic mustard. Riders were also encouraged to take ownership of their trails by cleaning their machines every time they leave the trail. Ice anglers were also advised to follow the same principles as summer fishermen; inspecting lines and gear for plant and animal material and never transporting live fish away from the lake.

If you have any interesting invasive species stories you wouldn't mind sharing, contact TIP and we'll see about sharing it!

Inventory & Control

December Review:

Due to the snow on the ground and the lack of live plants this time of year very little inventory or control work was done in December. Efforts focused primarily on arranging the annual meeting, compiling data collected in the summer and grant application work. Treatment during the winter months is not possible for most plants however Buckthorn and Honeysuckle can be treated regardless of temperature. During January and February there should be enough time for TIP to work on some control of these plants.

Invasive Species Spotlight: New Zealand Mudsnail

The New Zealand Mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) is a small trapdoor snail which is present in the Great Lakes as well as a handful of Dane County waterways. The New Zealand Mudsnail is prohibited in Wisconsin, meaning that it is not yet established in Wisconsin. These snails reproduce both sexually and asexually making them prolific breeders. Asexual reproduction means that it only takes one snail to produce a population and actually all the introduced populations are clonal. Since they are able to reproduce in such great numbers they are able to out compete native aquatic grazers for food resources, ultimately having a negative impact on Wisconsin aquatic ecosystems and fisheries. Studies performed in the western US suggest that mountain white fish will eat them but brown trout and sculpin do not, possibly because they offer little nutritional value to those fish. Mollusks are also known to carry diseases harmful to waterfowl populations.



Image courtesy WDNR

The snails are quite small, averaging only 4 to 12 mm in length with 7-8 right handed coiling whorls on the elongated shell. Shells are typically gray to light and dark brown in color. The small size and inconspicuous color of these snail's shells make them difficult to notice on gear such as waders or boots, so outdoor enthusiasts should take extra care to make sure they catch these sneaky bivalves.

The full extent to which New Zealand Mudsnails is not yet understood. Recent routine checks by the Wisconsin DNR turned up mudsnails in two additional streams in Dane county, the Mt. Vernon and Rowan Creeks. Both are classified trout streams making the discovery particularly unsettling in light of the early trout season opener January 6th.

Funding & Organizational Development

December Financial Outlook

There is not much to note on the financial status of TIP for December. Due to the holidays labor costs were lower which is as to be expected. January 8th the Town of Rolling will be meeting to make a decision on an agreement with TIP to potentially perform inventory and control work on the wild parsnip infestation in their township. January 5th is also the date the GLRI CWMA Grant proposals are due so much of the preparation work for this grant as preformed in December.

	Costs
Labor	2,817.92
Mileage	0
Supplies/ Meeting	0
Total	2,817.92

Looking Forward

Coordinator's Focus

Going forward the coordinators focus will be on compiling field data collected over the season and preparing for the next field season. As well as organizing the annual meeting. Another main area of focus will be seeking out additional grants and arranging for a seasonal tech position to assist with field work next season.

Coordinator's Availability

I will be available most days on my regular schedule for the foreseeable future but may have to cut back temporarily in the next couple months. I am always able to schedule appointments though and regular check my office phone line as well as email.

Do you have a mystery plant? Or a suspected invasive species?

TIP and our partners are more than happy to help you identify any mystery plants you have.

Just give the TIP Coordinator a call (715-799-5710 ext. 3) or email (timberlandinvasives@outlook.com) with your contact information.



LUMBERJACK

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

Serving Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano & Vilas Counties in Northeast Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Important Dates

January:

25: Lumberjack Council Annual Meeting

February:

27: TIP Annual Meeting

Check out the TIP Calendar Online at www.timberlandinvasives.org for more events!

How Can You Get Involved?

Action Teams

Action teams are meetings to discuss invasive species issues and plan treatment relevant to the member's area of interest. Who is a member of an Action team? Anyone willing to attend the meetings.

Volunteering

Volunteers help in the manual removal of invasive species from public lands and ditches within the CISMA, and are most welcome! Scheduling is flexible so please contact TIP Coordinator at the information below to establish a date and time you would like to volunteer.

Donations

For monetary donations, please contact Tracy Beckman at (715)369-9886.

Stay informed

Follow us on Facebook, visit our website (timberlandinvasives.org), or sign up for TIP's email list.



Contact the Coordinator

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