



Volume 7  
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# Unwanted Invaders

## **Invasive Species Council of Manitoba**

c/o 5006 Roblin Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3R 0G7

Ph: (204) 232-6021 Fax: (204) 986-7236

### **The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba 2013 Annual General Meeting**

The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) will be hosting its 2013 AGM and Annual Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Workshop on April 11, 2013 starting at 1:00 PM. Our EDRR workshop this year will include topics from many different areas of interest.

Candace Parks from Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship - Fisheries Branch, will speak on aquatic invasive species in Manitoba focusing on those already present as well as species that are at our doorstep. This talk will be very informative for anglers, boaters and anyone who is concerned with the effect of aquatic invasive species in our lakes and want to learn about prevention methods.

The Purple Loosestrife Project has been monitoring the effect of several species of beetles as biological control agents here in Manitoba. This plant is capable of forming dense infestations in wetlands and subsequently degrades habitat for wildlife. We will have Rob Au present to provide an update on the effect of biological controls on Purple Loosestrife populations in Manitoba.

Lastly, found in similar habitats as Purple Loosestrife, Reed Canary Grass can negatively affect biodiversity. Rob Officer will explain his research on the effect of Reed Canary Grass on native plant populations and the effectiveness of various control treatments.

This event will be on April 11 at the University of Manitoba Agricultural Auditorium (Room 130). For more information please call ISCM at 204-232-6021, email us at

[info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com) or stay tuned for more information on our website!



**Reed Canary Grass**

Photo Credit: Jill Swearingen, USDI National Park Service



**Invasive Phragmites**

Photo Credit: Jamie Nielsen, University of Alaska Fairbanks

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Would you like to help spread the word about invasive species?

ISCM is now on Facebook!



[www.facebook.com/ISCM](http://www.facebook.com/ISCM)

Visit and like us today. Stay in the loop on invasive species in Manitoba!

Email us at [info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com) for pamphlets, pens, brochures and more!

Remember: Report all invasive species sightings.

## An unwanted invader is a new resident in Manitoba's largest lake

By: Candace Parks, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Fisheries.

A very small, silent invader has quickly infested Manitoba's largest lake. They did not exist in Manitoba prior to 2009 and in three years these fast-reproducing aquatic invasive species made their way through the Winnipeg River system from Ontario and now are residents of Lake Winnipeg.

Spiny Waterfleas are very small invertebrates (1-1.5 cm) with long, barbed tails (60 per cent of their body size). These tail barbs protect Spiny Waterflea from predation by small-sized fish. They can reproduce rapidly, and their large appetites for zooplankton, such as *Daphnia* the main food source for commercially important fish can lead to deteriorating aquatic ecosystems. Spiny Waterfleas are a nuisance. They will clog fishing nets, and their tail barbs can attach to fishing lines, ropes, downrigger cables and even clothing. By hitchhiking in or on various gear, Spiny Waterfleas move unnoticed and can infest new water bodies. They can easily be moved in bait buckets, totes, live wells, bilge or on any fishing equipment, nets, and any water-based gear.

The invasion of Spiny Waterflea demonstrates how fast new aquatic invasive species can move and establish in Manitoba. It only takes one Spiny Waterflea to start a new infestation and eradication is not an option once aquatic invasive species, such as Spiny Waterfleas, become established.

You can help protect Manitoba's waters and resources by taking a few important precautions before and after boating, or before moving any water-based gear, for example, nets, ropes, buoys, fishing equipment, life jackets, and anchors between water bodies. Prevention starts with you.

**CLEAN** and inspect watercraft, trailer and all water-based equipment and gear. Remove all plants, animals and mud. Rinse using high pressure, hot tap water – preferably 50°C (120°F).

**DRAIN** all water from watercraft and all water-based gear including the motor, live well, bilge, bait buckets prior to transporting.

**DRY** watercraft and equipment for at least 5 days in the hot sun, 18 days in the spring/fall or freeze for 3 days (if rinsing is not available). *Drying everything that has come into contact with water completely for at least 12 hours is the most effective way to prevent the spread of Spiny Waterflea.*

**DISPOSE** of unwanted live bait and worms in the trash, and dump all water from bait buckets and totes on land.

If you find a Spiny Waterflea:

**Report the sighting** to 1-877-867-2470 (toll free), or visit: [manitoba.ca/StopAIS](http://manitoba.ca/StopAIS) for more information.

**Note the exact location**, provide GPS co-ordinates and take pictures and submit to [fish@gov.mb.ca](mailto:fish@gov.mb.ca), if possible.

On advice of the Province of Manitoba, we may ask you to **retain a sample** to be submitted for identification purposes



Photo Credit: Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant College Program

A Spiny Waterflea



Emily DeBolt, Lake George Association

Spiny Waterfleas attached to fishing line

## Birds Hill EcoRegion Project Expands its Focus

By: Jonathan Kornelsen, ISCM

As you may already know, the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) has partnered with Friends of Birds Hill Park (FoBHP) to eliminate Leafy Spurge and Spotted Knapweed from Birds Hill Provincial Park. Thanks to the generous funding provided by the Walmart-Evergreen Green Grant, FoBHP and ISCM have coordinated multiple volunteer weed pulls and have developed a public awareness campaign for park visitors and adjacent residents.

However, invasive species know no boundaries and it is important to take a landscape approach to their management. To deal with this fact, the awareness campaign has expanded its scope to include the broader region surrounding the park; an area we are calling the Birds Hill EcoRegion (BHER). In this growing drive to prevent further infestation of natural areas in the region, we welcome the Native Orchid Conservation Inc. (NOCI), Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (LSSG) and Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association as a new project partners.

The ISCM is happy to see an expansion of this vital project and expects to see an increase in interest from concerned stakeholders within the region.



## Spring Invasive Species

By: Jessica Wood, ISCM

With spring fast approaching we need to begin keeping our eyes open for invasive plant species. There are several invasive species that emerge early in the season. One of the characteristics of a good invader is being able to colonize early, taking valuable space and resources away from our native plant species. Some early risers include: Ox-eye Daisy, Leafy Spurge, Dalmatian Toadflax and the shrub European Buckthorn.

Starting to think about your garden? Get yourself a copy of Grow Me Instead, ISCM's very helpful brochure providing alternatives to invasive species that are often sold in greenhouses around Manitoba. It can be downloaded from our website (check page 5) or you can request a hard copy by calling 204-232-6021. Available in both French and English. Lots of native plant seeds can be obtained right here in Winnipeg—check out Gardening Saturday for local, sustainable seeds for gardeners in our province. It will be held March 23th at the Canadian Mennonite University, South Campus, Winnipeg. Visit their website for more information:

[www.gardensmanitoba.com/GardeningSaturday.cfm](http://www.gardensmanitoba.com/GardeningSaturday.cfm)



Ox-Eye Daisy

## White Nose Syndrome in Bats—Confirmed in P.E.I.

CBC News online

Diagnostic tests conducted at Charlottetown's Atlantic Veterinary College confirm the presence of bat white-nose syndrome (WNS) in Prince Edward Island's bat population.

The first dead bat was found in the Bonshaw area, west of Charlottetown, in early February.

"While this finding was expected, it is more bad news for bats in eastern North America," said provincial biologist Rosemary Curley in a news release Wednesday.

"Since it was first discovered in the US in 2006, WNS has decimated bat populations and unfortunately there is little that can be done to protect them from this disease."

White-nose syndrome is a fatal fungal infection that causes bats to wake up frequently during hibernation. Because there are no food sources available, they die from starvation and hypothermia.

Since the first report in early February, government officials have received 19 reports of dead and live animals from 10 locations across the province. Staff were able to collect eight bats for testing.

Over the last several years, it is estimated that more than six million bats in eastern North America have died from the disease which continues to spread into new regions. In New York state, where the disease first appeared in North America, it is estimated 90 per cent of the population has died.

The public is being asked to report any further observations of bats out in the winter, whether they are alive or dead.

## 2012 Canadian Weed Science Society National Conference

Winnipeg was host to the national conference on weed science organized by the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) on November 15, 2012. The CWSS is an association of researchers concerned with plants that negatively affect agriculture and the environment. Originally formed in 1929 as the Associate Committee on Weed Control, the CWSS reports on weed legislation, herbicide trials, research challenges and invasive species. The meeting brought together weed researchers from across Canada to share their discoveries.

The ISCM displayed a poster on invasive watershed weeds and sent our winter intern, Jonathan Kornelsen, to attend talks on weed biology. The theme of this year's meeting was herbicide resistance with topics ranging from the invasive mile-a-minute weed in South-East Asia to the effect of weeds on soil fertility. For more information on the CWSS and CWSS publications check out: [www.weedscience.ca](http://www.weedscience.ca)



**Flowering Rush beginning to flower**

Photo Credit: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut



**Flowering Rush roots**

Photo Credit: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut

## Purging the Spurge: The R.M. of Stanley Sees Results with Biological Controls

By: Jonathan Kornelsen, ISCM

Some of you may already be aware of Leafy Spurge- this plant costs the Manitoba economy over \$40 million a year. It forms dense stands in right-of-ways and on range lands. In Manitoba's south-west, there is already a high level of infestation and the best option is to manage the population to reduce the spread. The Stanley Soil Management Association has been working hard to manage Leafy Spurge using biological controls, and they are seeing some fantastic results.

Biological control involves the intentional use of the invasive plants natural enemies to suppress its population. Insects from Europe, which feed only on Leafy Spurge, have been brought to Manitoba and are effective at weakening and limiting the spread of leafy spurge. The most effective control agents in Manitoba have been multiple species of flea beetle (*Aphthona*). These little insects are capable of causing substantial damage to Leafy Spurge. The adults feed on the leaves during the spring and summer. In late August, the larvae emerge from their eggs and burrow below ground to feed on its roots. This stresses the plant and often infested plants won't flower the year after larval infestation.

Stanley Soil Management Association (SSMA) has been using these flea beetles in the R.M of Stanley since 1997. There have been over 200 release sites across the R.M. with 14 sites being monitored for effectiveness over the last five years. Overall, these release sites have seen a 90% reduction in the Leafy Spurge population with one patch being completely eliminated in a five year period!

With the proper soil conditions, these biological controls can be effective but still take an effort to collect, release and monitor. It is important to take an integrated management approach when dealing with Leafy Spurge. This means using the most appropriate and available chemical, physical and biological techniques in combination. And as always, prevention is vital. To limit the spread, make sure to check vehicles, livestock forage and seed stock for leafy spurge seeds and plants.

*For more information on biological control of Leafy Spurge contact Richard Warkentin of Stanley Soil Management Association at 204-362-0352. Stanley Soil Management is producer-directed not-for-profit that promotes sustainable agriculture through projects in the R.M. of Stanley*



Leafy Spurge Infestation before flea beetles

Photo Credit: Richard Warkentin, SSMA



5 years after flea beetle introduction

Photo Credit: Richard Warkentin, SSMA

## Upcoming Invasive Species Events

### March 2013

- 20 7th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Invasive Plant Council will be held in Lacombe, AB. This years theme is; Invasive Threats: Meeting the Challenge. Visit their site for more information [www.invasiveplants.ab.ca](http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca)
- 23 Gardens Manitoba invites you to talk to the experts at Gardening Saturday, Manitoba's largest gardening tradeshow and symposium. Looking for the latest in products and outdoor accessories? Be the first to learn about the newest trends in gardening and what will be available at your local garden centre for the 2013 growing season. Come join at the Canadian Mennonite University, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg. Visit [www.gardensmanitoba.com](http://www.gardensmanitoba.com) today!

### April 2013

- 2- 4 The University of Kentucky is holding their 3rd Conference on Invasion Biology, Ecology and Management, this year featuring Charles C. Mann, renowned science author. This event is free and open to the public. Visit [www2.ca.uky.edu/environment/enviro\\_event\\_2013](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/environment/enviro_event_2013) for more information on other events taking place at UKs Environmental issues Event.
- 11 The ISCM holds its 2013 Annual General Meeting and Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Workshop. Come and join us at the University of Manitoba Agricultural Auditorium (Room 130). Visit our website for more information!
- 15-18 The 2013 Noxious Weed Short course will be held at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland, Colorado, USA. This is an intensive study of current technologies and best management practices associated with noxious and invasive weeds in the Western United States. Designed for professionals interested in current advances, this event is a wealth of knowledge. Visit [www.mountainwestpest.com/ShortCourse.html](http://www.mountainwestpest.com/ShortCourse.html) for more information

### Sept 2013

- 23-25 BIT's 3rd Annual World Congress of Agriculture - 2013. This major international event will be held in Hangzhou, China. Aiming to be one of the world's leading conferences in the field of Agricultural Biotechnology, this event brings together people working in the area of agriculture to discuss the latest scientific advances in agriculture and future directions of the associated technologies. Visit their site at: [www.bitconferences.com/wca2013/](http://www.bitconferences.com/wca2013/)

## Check this out!

This really neat website was put together by the Royal BC Museum on invasive species in British Columbia. Whether you call beautiful British Columbia home or are just passing through, please report any invasive species sightings to their website. Check it out! [alienspecies.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://alienspecies.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

## Websites

Invasive Species Council of Manitoba: <http://www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com>

EDDMapS, Prairie Region: <http://www.eddmaps.org/prairieregion/>

Prips (Mapping): <http://prips.usask.ca/>

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group: <http://leafyspurge.ca/>

Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project: <http://www.purpleloosestrife.org/>

## ISCM Executive Board 2013

### Who we are...

*The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) is a non-profit organization providing a centralized and coordinated province-wide leadership body adopting a collaborative approach to invasive species in Manitoba.*

### Vision...

*Maintain a healthy, bio-diverse landscape through the prevention, early detection, and education and awareness of invasive alien species management practices in order to eradicate or limit further spread.*

#### Cheryl Heming

ISCM Executive Director

#### Jane Thornton, Vice-Chair

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

#### Glen Campbell

Manitoba Beef Producers Association

#### John Johnston

Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association

#### Candace Parks

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Fisheries

#### Beverly Dunlop

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada  
Agri-Environment Services Branch

#### Bill Gardiner

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

#### Cory Lindgren

CFIA's Invasive Plant Programme

#### Lisette Ross, Secretary-Treasurer

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#### Wybo Vandershuit

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#### Michele Ammeter

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#### Julie Pelc

Nature Conservancy of Canada  
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#### Fiona Ross

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Forestry

#### Doug Cattani

University of Manitoba

#### Cameron Meuckon

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

### The ISCM would like to thank our funding sources and partners, without whom we would not exist:

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch (formerly Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration)
- Agriculture Sustainability Initiative, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- A Rocha
- Assiniboine Watershed Network
- City of Winnipeg
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Dow Agrosiences Canada
- Fisheries Enhancement Fund
- Friends of Birds Hill Park
- IASPP Fund—Government of Canada
- Integrated Vegetation and Management Association Manitoba/ Saskatchewan
- Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI)
- Manitoba Beef Producers
- Manitoba Conservation
- Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project
- Manitoba Urban Green Team, Province of Manitoba
- Manitoba Water Stewardship
- Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association
- Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Region
- North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA)
- Pembina Valley Conservation District
- Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve
- Riding Mountain National Park
- Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council (SIPC)
- Service Canada Summer Jobs, Government of Canada
- Stanley Soil Management
- T & T Seeds
- University of Manitoba



For more information Contact:

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# STOP THE INVASION



**BOTH PLANTS CAN AGGRESSIVELY INVADE GRASSLAND AND PASTURES WHERE THEY FORM DENSE MONOCULTURES AND DISPLACE NATIVE VEGETATION.**

## UNWANTED PLANTS

### Origin

The oxeye daisy (perennial) and scentless chamomile (annual, biennial, or short-lived) are non-native plants of European origin that were originally introduced as a garden plant or as seed contaminant.

### Status

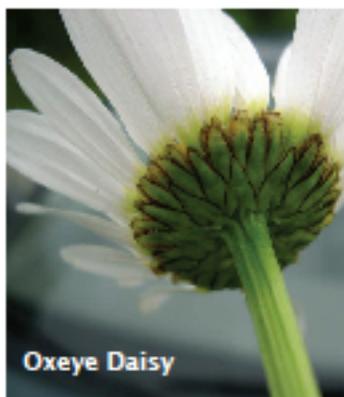
Scentless chamomile was introduced to Canada in the 1930s, oxeye daisy in the early twentieth century. Since their introduction both plants have had negative effects on the development of field crops in Manitoba.

### Impacts

Invades habitats and decreases species diversity. They are prolific seed producers and outcompete field crops and native species.

### Where to Look

Common along fence lines, roadways and fields in Manitoba. Can also be purchased in a "wildflower" seed mix.



Oxeye Daisy



Scentless Chamomile

### LOOK FOR:

- ◇ WHITE AND YELLOW FLOWERS, 1 METER IN HEIGHT.
- ◇ OXEYE DAISY HAS A SOLITARY FLOWER ON EACH STEM WHILE SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE HAS SEVERAL TO MANY FLOWERS ON EACH BRANCHING STEM.
- ◇ SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE LEAVES ARE FERN-LIKE AND FINELY DIVIDED WHEREAS OXEYE DAISY LEAVES ARE SPOON SHAPED AND NOTCHED.

### PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD!

Oxeye daisy has no chemical control and is difficult to control. One method of control for both species is hand pulling the first plants before flowers are fully formed, or doing spot treatment with a residual selective herbicide works on small initial infestations of scentless chamomile. Get rid of it early to prevent spread!

**Report a Sighting:**

[info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com)

(204)232-6021

**Canada**

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**Invasive Species Council  
of Manitoba**

c/o 5006 Roblin Boulevard

Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3R 0G7

ph: (204) 232-6021 fax: (204) 986-7236

Photo Credits: Banner photo: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org; Oxeye Daisy showing bracts: Tom Heutte, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; Scentless chamomile: Michele Ammeter, Medonald Weed District.