



Volume 3  
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# Unwanted Invaders

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ISCM Workshop &  
Annual General  
Meeting !

November 19-20

Portage la Prairie,  
MB

See Page 2 for details

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## Three New Invasive Threats to Manitoba: EDRR Alerts

By: Sandi Faber Routley, ISCM Invasive Species Technician

The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba is developing our new Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program. In the past few weeks we have received 3 EDRR alerts on new invasive species: Curly leaf pondweed, Zebra mussel, and Kudzu vine. Kudzu vine has been found on the edge of Canada in southern Ontario, and considered a level 2 priority alert or lower risk for entering Manitoba in the immediate future (see page 3 for info on Kudzu vine). Curly leaf pondweed and Zebra mussel, however, have been found on the edge of Manitoba across the US border and therefore are considered level 1 priority alerts.

### Curly Leaf Pondweed

North Dakota Game and Fish staff have recently confirmed the identification of curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) from the US side of Lake Metigoshe in southwest Manitoba. This invasive aquatic species has, to date, not been listed for waterways in Manitoba. A fragment of the plant was found on October 1st during the hauling of a gill net



Curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). Photo credit: L. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)

gang from the lake. The specimen was fresh, so it was probably dredged up by the net. The closest population of this invasive species is in the Missouri River just south of Lake Metigoshe, likely the original source.

Lake Metigoshe is located in the Turtle Mountain area of southwestern Manitoba. Closest towns are Deloraine and Bois-sevain. Curly leaf pondweed can cause significant environmental impacts by reducing aquatic biodiversity, interfering with boating and recreation, increasing algal blooms, and contributing to fish decline.

### Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), another aquatic invasive, were found in Pelican Lake, Minnesota by a local resident in mid-September. Pelican Lake eventually drains into the Red River, which flows into Manitoba. This is the first known occurrence of live zebra mussels in the Red River basin. Once zebra



Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) samplings in Minnesota. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

mussels are established in a lake or river, there are no control methods to eliminate them. They pose serious ecological and economic threats to Manitoba's lakes and rivers. Heavy infestations can kill native mussels, impact fish populations, interfere with recreation, and increase costs for industry, including power and water supply facilities. The Province of Manitoba is working with their partners to enhance signage at boat launches and initiate monitoring for zebra mussels along the Red River. More information on page 3.

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual  
North American Weed Management Association Conference  
Kearney, Nebraska, September 21 to 24, 2009**



By: Cheryl Heming, ISCM Coordinator

The NAWMA conference in Kearney was well attended with a total of 250 people attending – the largest since Calgary in 2006.

Focus of the session was on the Riparian Invader Program along the Platte and associated rivers in southern Nebraska.

Driven by drought and water compact losses, habitat improvement as well as weed control factors, a huge program was delivered in 2007 to mid 2009. Large tracts of riparian banks and sandbars were treated and controlled for salt cedar and Russian Olive (east region) and invasive alien Phragmites (west region). This was a successful



program which integrated aerial helicopter spraying and mechanical mowing, chopping and brush clearing of salt cedar, Russian olive and some western red cedar. Removal of these invasives increased water flow in many streams as well as restoring open areas for wildlife such as cranes and waterfowl. An increased capacity for channel flow occurred. Multiple techniques were demonstrated in a great tour including a Phragmites identification session which delineated the field differences between native and alien invasive Phragmites.

Other speaker topics of interest included EDRR with Randy Westbrooks as well as state reports on EDRR progress. I was asked to report briefly on EDRR in Canada with regard to the federal EDRR committee as well as what we are doing in Manitoba.

An additional session was an analysis of noxious weed management laws across states and provinces. Excellent information which should be considered for any input we might have into our NWA revisions.

This conference was well run with excellent facilities, reasonable room rates (\$69). Most meals were included with the \$150 registration fee.

Left: Phragmites or Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). Photo courtesy of L. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)

The 2010 conference will be held September 27 to 30, 2010 in Pueblo, Colorado at the Pueblo Convention Centre. Associated hotels are the Marriott and Cambridge. Conference rates will be extended to one day before and after the conference. Feature focus includes Cooperative Weed Management Areas as well as management of salt cedar and yellow star thistle.



Salt Cedar (*Tamarisk* sp.). Photo courtesy of S. Dewey, Utah State University, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)

I raised Manitoba's interest in hosting a future NAWMA conference. Currently BC in partnership with Washington is being considered for 2011. Manitoba is on a short list for future conferences.

## ISCM Workshop and Annual Meeting, Nov. 19-20, 2009

**Canad Inns**

**Portage la Prairie, Manitoba**

*Lunch will be served*

**RSVP: (204) 232-6021 or email:  
[info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com)**

### Agenda:

#### Thursday, November 19th

Evening - EDRR Committee Meeting

#### Friday, November 20th

AM - Executive Committee Meeting

- *Coffee Break*

- Risk Analysis for Manitoba Workshop, Cory Lindgren & Doug Cattani

Noon - *Lunch*

PM - Presentation & Annual Meeting



Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

## Zebra Mussels are nearly knocking at Manitoba's door

By: ISCM, with information kindly provided in part by Manitoba Water Stewardship

The threat of zebra mussels invading Manitoba's waters has become increasingly real in recent weeks. On September 13, 2009, zebra mussels were found in Pelican Lake, Minnesota approximately 50 km south east of the Fargo-Moorhead area. This is the first known incidence of zebra mussels in the Red River Basin and the Hudson Bay Drainage Area. All water that originates in the Red River Basin eventually flows into Lake Winnipeg.

Zebra mussels were likely transported into Pelican Lake by unsuspecting boaters who previously launched their boat in zebra mussel infested waters.

Since the initial introduction in Lake St. Clair in the mid-1980s, zebra mussels have infested the Hudson River and the Mississippi and the Laurentian Great Lakes drainage areas and have cost the North American economy billions of dollars to control.

The Province of Manitoba has been preparing for the arrival of zebra mussels since 1989. With this new discovery, it will

now accelerate monitoring of the Manitoba-portion of the Red River, increase public education, expand its summer boat and trailer inspection program at the Canadian / United States border crossings and points within the Whiteshell. The Province will continue to work with Minnesota and North Dakota to put in place all reasonable measures to help delay the arrival of zebra mussels into the province.

Experience from the Laurentian Great Lakes has found, once zebra mussels are established, they cannot be eradicated. The best method of control is to prevent accidental introduction of zebra mussels from one water body to another. Taking a few extra precautions before leaving or before launching any watercraft and /or using any equipment coming from in-



Zebra mussel infestation impeding the movement of a native crayfish. Photo credit: Ontario Department of Natural Resources.

festated waters can help stop the spread.

### Boaters' Checklist

- **Clean** your watercraft, all equipment and gear. Remove all visible plants, animals or mud.
- **Rinse** with hot tap water (>40 °C) and/or spray with high pressure water (250 psi). Scrape off 'grainy' surfaces (they could be young zebra mussels).
- **Drain** water from your boat including motor, livewell, bilge and bait buckets. Dispose of unused bait and water on land and never release live bait. (Please Note: It is illegal to bring live bait into Manitoba and normally illegal to use or possess live bait).
- **Dry** your boat for at least 5 days in sun before moving to another water body.

To report zebra mussel sightings in Manitoba immediately call Water Stewardship at (204) 945-7095, toll free (800) 282-8069 (ext 7095).

### Kudzu Vine: The vine that ate the south is here! Dreaded invasive kudzu vine has been found in Ontario.

Sent by Rachel Gagnon, on behalf of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council

It has been taking over fields, roadside signs, fences, trees, and even houses in the United States for years, but now, the kudzu vine (*Pueraria montana*) has been discovered in Ontario, on the shores of Lake Erie near the town of Leamington. The kudzu vine is a native of Eastern Asia, and was first brought to North America in 1876 for a centennial exhibition. It was later used for erosion control and promoted as a forage crop. Eventually, it took over much of the southern states and despite attempts to stop it, has continued to spread northward.

"We have been watching the kudzu vine move toward Canada for some time now, with great apprehension. Our colleagues in the south have been fighting a tough battle with this invader, so we need to take immediate action in Ontario to stop

kudzu in its tracks," says Rachel Gagnon, Coordinator of the OIPC (Ontario Invasive Plant Council), a collective of organizations collaborating to address the spread of alien invasive plants in Ontario.

"Fortunately, it's been found early, so unlike previous invaders, such as dog strangling vine, we have the potential to eradicate kudzu and protect Ontario's biodiversity. Controlling this menace is critical to maintaining our native plants and wildlife habitat. If we let kudzu become established, it will cause untold ecological and economic damage."

Like all other invasive species, when the vine takes to its new environment it spreads quickly at the expense of native species, including trees, which are girdled by the vine; broken by its weight; or killed by lack of light. The kudzu grows at an astounding rate of 30 centimeters (one foot) per day, and in a single season can grow up 30 meters (90 feet) in length.

Control measures include hand cutting, mowing, controlled burns and herbicide. Grazing animals, such as goats and pigs

have also been effective at containing the spread of the vine over the long term.



Kudzu vine (*Pueraria montana*). Photo credit: C. Lewallen, Oklahoma Biological Survey, [www.biosurvey.ou.edu/okwild](http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/okwild)

To report a sighting of the kudzu vine or any other invasive species in Ontario, call the OFAH/MNR. Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711. Visit [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca) to download a fact sheet on the kudzu vine, or to learn more about other invasive plants.



## 60,000 Leafy Spurge Beetles find New Home in Manitoba

By: Ryan Gibson, Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

The Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group coordinated a one-day beetle collection trip to North Dakota on July 16 in conjunction with the Benson County Weed District (North Dakota). A group of eleven people including local producers/land owners, Canadian Forces Base Shilo, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Hydro, and the Stanley Soils Management Association participated in the collection. The collection process was challenged due to high winds; however, approximately 60,000 *Aphthona* beetles were collected and transported back to Manitoba. The leafy spurge beetles have been re-distributed to areas of leafy spurge infestation across the province.

*Leafy spurge* (*Euphorbia esula* L.) is a threat to biodiversity in nature lands and agricultural lands in Manitoba. The noxious weed annually costs Manitobans in excess of \$20 million. Listed on the World Conservation Union's list of 100 worst

invasive species, leafy spurge arrived in Manitoba via contaminated seed grain from Eastern Europe in the 1800s. Based on the 1999 Leafy Spurge Economic Impact Assessment over 340,000 acres were affected. Through the Prairie Region Invasive Plant Species research project, it

is estimated the 2008 leafy spurge infestation in Manitoba is nearly 700,000 acres.

For more information on the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group please visit [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html).



Members of the Leafy Spurge beetle collection trip to North Dakota on July 16, 2009.

## Care about our Manitoba landscape?

**Volunteer Monitoring Workshop**  
**7 PM, Wednesday December 2, 2009**  
**Holiday Inn Airport West, Winnipeg**

**Feature Speaker: Dr. Randy Westbrooks, US Geological Survey, USGS EDRR**

Please call the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba at (204) 232-6021 or email [info@invasivespeciescouncilmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciescouncilmanitoba.com) for more information or to register.

This workshop made possible through the support of the Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association.



### Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

#### Our Objectives:

1. Focus on prevention and coordination of a system of early detection and rapid response, investigate possible control or eradication
2. Improve cooperation between stakeholders
3. Establish a digital provincial directory
4. Identify and promote coordinated monitoring and research
5. Promote public awareness and understanding
6. Operate in a spirit of partnership and collaboration

**NEW ISCM Fact Sheets & Booklets Available!**

## Upcoming Invasive Species Events

### **November 2009**

- Nov 3-5 Workshop by Fred Provenza, Brandon Research Centre, Brandon, MB  
Using animal behaviour to improve production and landscape health workshop  
Contact Linda Ryckman @ 204-483-2153 or Linda.ryckman@gov.mb.ca to register
- Nov 19-20 ISCM Workshop and Annual General Meeting, Canad Inns, Portage la Prairie, MB

### **December 2009**

- Dec 2 Introduction to volunteer monitoring workshop with Dr. Randy Westbrooks, Holiday Inn Airport West, Winnipeg.  
Please call ISCM Coordinator Cheryl Heming at 232-6021 or email info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com to register
- Dec 3-5 Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association Fall Training Seminar. Holiday Inn Airport West, Winnipeg.  
Contact www.manitoba.weeds.ca for more information.

### **January 2010**

- Jan 12 2010 North Dakota Department of Agriculture Commissioner's Weed Forum, Mandan, North Dakota.  
http://www.agdepartment.com/calendar/display\_event.asp?ID=1
- Jan 19-20 Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia, 5th Anniversary Celebration and Public Forum. Register online at  
www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca or call 1-888-WEEDSBC or (250) 392-1400 for more details or to register

### **February 2010**

- Feb 25-27 9th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference, Winnipeg, MB  
Information at 204-253-8623, or www.pcesc.ca

## Conservation Volunteers Put a Stop to Invasive Aliens!

By: Cathy Shaluk, Regional Education and Communications Coordinator, Nature Conservancy of Canada – Manitoba Region

This summer, the ISCM and the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Conservation Volunteers joined forces in the battle against some of Manitoba's invasive alien plant species. NCC's Conservation Volunteer program is designed to engage people in the protection of Canada's biodiversity while providing a meaningful, hands-on educational experience in ecologically significant natural areas.

This year, NCC coordinated the launch of the national *Conservation Volunteers* program to coincide with the United Nations sanctioned International Day of Biological Diversity. May 22<sup>nd</sup> theme for this year was fittingly 'Invasive Alien Species' identification and eradication.

The *Conservation Volunteers* program for 2009 offered scores of ways for Canadians to fight the alien invaders. From "Broom-pulls" (*Cytisus scoparius*) in BC, to "Periwinkle" (*Vinca* spp.) removal in Ontario as well as Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) pulls in Manitoba, volunteers collected and removed over 285 garbage bags of alien invaders from our natural landscapes.

NCC is already planning for another successful season and is looking forward to working with ISCM on many more projects tackling our invasive alien species. Call or visit the Nature Conservancy of Canada's website for information on our conservation and stewardship programming and future volunteer opportunities. [www.natureconservancy.ca](http://www.natureconservancy.ca) (204) 942-6156.



Conservation Volunteers pulling Leafy Spurge at the Stony Mountain Prairie Preserve, Manitoba.

**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.*

**ISCM Executive Board\* 2009**

**Cheryl Heming**  
ISCM Coordinator

**Garth Ball**  
Manitoba Conservation

**Doug Cattani**  
MAFRI

**Bill Gardiner**  
MAFRI

**Glen Campbell**  
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

**Ryan Gibson**  
Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

**John Johnston**  
Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association

**Julie Sveinson Pelc**  
Nature Conservancy of Canada-Manitoba Region

**Ron Moss**  
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration

**Wendy Railey**  
Manitoba Water Stewardship

**Karen Rempel**  
Rural Development Institute

**Lisette Ross**  
Ducks Unlimited Canada

**Jane Thornton**  
MAFRI

**Wybo Vandershuit**  
Riding Mountain National Park

**Linda Christianson**  
Manitoba Conservation

\*Other Executive members to be confirmed.

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

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
- Assiniboine Watershed Network
- Centric Productions
- City of Winnipeg
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Dow Agrosiences Canada
- ECO Canada
- Evergreen-Unilever Aquatic Stewardship Grant Program
- Integrated Vegetation and Management Association  
Manitoba/ Saskatchewan
- Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program  
A Government of Canada initiative
- Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI), Agriculture Sustainability Initiative
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives
- 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
- Rural Development Institute, Brandon University
- Service Canada Summer Jobs, Government of Canada
- Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, Manitoba



For more information Contact:

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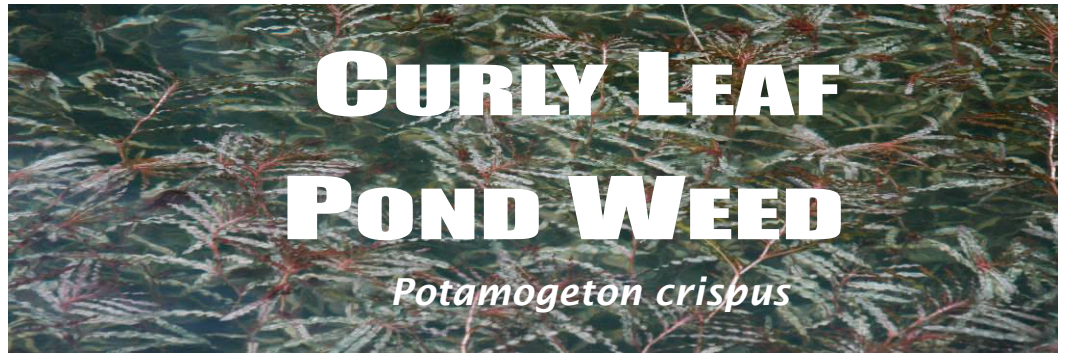
E-mail: [info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com)



# STOP THE INVASION

# CURLY LEAF POND WEED

*Potamogeton crispus*



**CURLY LEAF POND WEED HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH LEVELS OF PHOSPHORUS LEADING TO ALGAL BLOOMS.**

## UNWANTED PLANTS

### Origin

Native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. Introduced to North America in the 1800s for use as an aquarium plant.

### Status

Currently, it is found throughout North America. Sightings have been reported in Manitoba and throughout neighbouring states and provinces.

### Impacts

Interferes with boating and other recreation activities.

Prevents native plants from growing and reduces biodiversity.

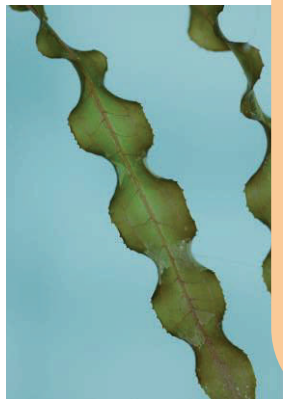
Increases phosphorus, algal blooms, and can kill fish.

### Where to Look

Curly leaf pond weed grows underwater in lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

The plant can grow in low light, low temperatures and prefers water that has a lot of nutrients.

It is used as an aquarium plant.



### LOOK FOR:

- ◆ **FLOWERS:** WHITISH, TINY, AND HAVE 4 PETAL-LIKE LOBES FOUND ON SPIKES RAISED ABOVE THE WATER.
- ◆ **LEAVES:** REDDISH-GREEN, CURLY WITH TINY TOOTHED EDGES. OLDER LEAVES LOOK LIKE LASAGNE NOODLES.
- ◆ **STEM:** UP TO 1 METER LONG AND ARE FLATTENED.

## PREVENT THE SPREAD INTO MANITOBA

Remove all vegetation from boats and equipment before it is moved to another location.

Never discard aquarium contents into water bodies.

## Report a Sighting!

**E-mail:** [info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com)

**Phone:** (204) 232-6021



Funding for this project was provided in part by the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program, a Government of Canada initiative.



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