

MCISWG 5/17/18

Pre meeting Pineview Campground Fort McCoy

**Jim Raiten, Dan Rasmussen, Megan Mickelson, Tim Wilder, Tim Steele, Jim and Bernie Arena, Mic Armstrong.**

### **Field Day Preparations**

We met at the parking lot for the main Shelter Tim has booked for the Field day June 14<sup>th</sup>. Tim and Jim had walked the La Crosse River trail and did not find many invasives, plus the bridge to do a circular walk was still under construction, we decided to do a shorter "Invasives trail" around the shelter area, we could bring in samples of invasive plants and set up stations along the trail to talk about each one. In the event of rain there is a second shelter we could utilize, Tim thought the chances of anyone else using it were pretty low.

There is no buckthorn nearby, so we will bring some in to demo. There is Garlic Mustard and honeysuckle we could use to demo treatments. **There is also Spotted Knapweed (station on Bio control??)**

Jim will have a (Fecon) shredder and a UTV set up for spaying as well as back pack sprayers.

Forestry will bring a power washer

We looked at the main shelter it is a good size and has electric outlets at every pillar so we could set up for a projector if needed.

Tim / Megan will bring extra tables for the stations

Megan plans on being there the day before to set up stations.

### **Garlic Mustard**

**Armstrong** demonstrated reporting the occurrence on his phone using the Gledn app. But it was hard for anyone in the group to see the screen out doors.

Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata* (GM) has been present around the campground for a long time. **Jim Raiten** has been treating it for 10 years and there were many annual efforts at management before that. Crews treat every occurrence in the campground area often multiple times per season and it still keeps coming back.

The 2 main chemical treatments being used are Glyphosate- with additives like surfactants and watersoft. Oust is used by making a stock solution with Liberate and ammonia. Glyphosate has no residual effect (post emergent) but it will kill everything green at the time of application. Oust has residual effects (post and pre-emergent) and usually where it was sprayed there is a spot devoid of any vegetation for 1-2 years.

Jim and Bernie **Arena** have GM in their prairie and wondered if the glyphosate would kill their forbs. Yes but it was pointed out that GM starts growing very early in the year so it should be possible for an application to be made before their good plants emerge.

**Armstrong** wondered why no one has come up with a protocol that uses a broad leaf herbicide that would control GM but allow grass to grow, possibly choking out the GM. No one knew. **Armstrong** will be sure to bring that question up at the field day with **Rick Schulte** the herbicide expert.

Here is a link to the most current pamphlet from UW Extension.

<https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Garlic-Mustard-P1646.aspx>

Fort McCoy is home to the Challenge Academy. They come out and do hand pulling of the Garlic Mustard which is bagged timed and disposed of in such a way that seeds are not spread. In the past soldiers were somehow involved in hand pull efforts and campers were offered rental incentives from the campground. These programs have been discontinued.

The seed of GM is very tiny, plants are prolific and seed survives in the ground for a long time. **Raiten** noted that there was evidence that seeds are transported by porcupine (find populations of GM below trees showing porcupine damage), deer (find along deer trails) and other wild life as well as human vectors such as soldiers and hunters. Not mentioned was the movement on vehicles such as tracked vehicles and logging equipment all of which will be likely topics at the GM station at the Field Day.

After the rather depressing history of the GM management efforts around the campground **Raiten** noted that where they were able to apply a more integrated approach with prescribed fire in the mix they were having more success at control.

**Tim Steele** mentioned that he was recently at an ATV Trail Ambassadors training session and they talked about invasive plants, sparking a conversation about off road ATV trails and the difference between them and the snowmobile trail system in Monroe County and if the snowmobilers ever get training (in Invasive species).

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