

MCISWG Outreach meetings:

Monroe Co Highway Dept. Staff Meeting 7.30 -9.30 a.m. August 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

Mic Armstrong and Ben Johnson from MCISWG, Kelly Kearns from DNR.

Mic was introduced and used the slide show "invasive or not?" as an icebreaker/ educational presentation about NR -40, plant ID and a little on mapping. Plenty of feedback from the 35 or so Highway Dept. staff.

Kelly and Ben put together a table full of plant material for a show and tell of most of the invasive terrestrials in the area as well as few more uncommon ones we should be watching for.

Kelly showed slides, talked about invasive plants with good photos and got more specific to the group regarding best practices for roadside managers.

There was plenty of time for questions after the talks. Some were about problem plants on their home properties and others more specific to roadsides in the county.

Many offered to help map invasive populations. I said to contact me and/ or their supervisor

Wisconsin Towns Association August 17<sup>th</sup> Greenfield Town Hall. 6-9 pm

Mic Armstrong followed a talk by Monroe Co. Emergency Management.

Using the slide show "Invasive or Not?" Mic showed pictures of invasive plants and some natives and even introduced non-native ones too. The idea is to get people guessing or using knowledge of plant ID to get a correct answer. It also introduces the NR-40 rule to the audience. No-one in the room of 72 local people knew about the rule. Each of the slides in the presentation ends with the correct name of the plant and its status in the rule. For example Asian Hops is a restricted species in the two most south western counties in WI but prohibited in the rest of the state.

There was plenty of time for questions at the end of the talk and there was a lot of strong emotions on Invasive species such as wild parsnip and the spread that has been aided by mowing at inappropriate times of the growing cycle. There were two members of a township that could not identify a particularly aggressive weed they were dealing with. It literally dulled the mower blades every time they tried to wack it. I asked where it was, the when they said Millstone road I was able to give them a flier for management of Japanese knotweed because I know that site. I first mapped the population in 2011. It has got worse since then and There now are also some nasty patches on Cty Z.

Hopefully these 2 outreach efforts have helped inform these key roadside management groups and they now at least have a way to find out more specifics about the weeds they are battling.

The mowing/shoulder width rules and practices still seem to allow for invasive plants to be spread to devastating effect and should be an ongoing topic of concern to MISWG.



Japanese Knotweed infestation Millstone Road 2011