

### Field Trip to Soper Creek Delaware Avenue

**Clint Gilman Forester**, Tomah Ranger Station, **Eric Ressel**, NRCS Conservationist, **Luke Romance**, Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever, NRCS Sparta Field Office, **Jessup Weichelt**, Threatened and Endangered Species Biologist; **Jessica Salesman** Invasive Species Coordinator, Natural Resources Branch NRB, Fort McCoy; **Rikki Ratsch**, Colorado State University, serving Fort McCoy Wildlife Dept, **Brandy Enders**, Goats on the Go, La Crosse, **Randy Poelma** Env. Sciences Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Env. Health, **Nick Risler** Arborworx/Zielies, **Andrew Senderhauf**, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Gold Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, **Tim Mclean** Little Falls landowner, **Connie Weedman**-interested citizen; **Mic Armstrong**, Soil Conservation Technician and MCISWG Scribe, Natural Resource Conservation Service; **Lily Lefebvre**, Soil & Water Conservationist and Scribe, Monroe County Land Conservation Department

**Gilman** passed around a map of the Soper Creek Seed Sale of January 2021. A 70 acre parcel which he explained was part of a long, narrow 1400 acre property stretching near Cataract encompassing Big Creek, Soper Creek, and Rathbone Creek. Lots of Pine. Jack Pine matures at 50 -60 years. This was a planned regenerative harvest with advanced regeneration present. Leave Islands of red pine were not cut as they were not at rotation age. After windstorm damage the state planted some pines.

The site contained Red pine, white pine, jack pine, black oak, and black cherry seedlings and saplings.

Clint left Jack Pine & Black Oak seed trees as well as the red pine islands. In pre-settlement times there would have been pockets, clumps of forest. This site mirrors this with areas of younger vegetation and mature pockets. Eventually they will cut all the way to Highway I. Two-thirds of the sale has been completed.

Lot of natives, oak stumps plus advanced regeneration, lots of seedling oaks, cherry and white pine.

Whenever they do a regeneration harvest the state must check for invasive plants. There is a Regen. Fund that helps pay for management. The project was bid out and Arborworx was contracted. The site was Buckthorn heavy, treated pre and post-harvest.

**Nick Risler** of Arborworx and Zielies added they used mostly foliar treatment (targeted to the glossy buckthorn), and basal treatments post-harvest. They were able to use a tank mounted skid steer with a 300 foot hose moving across the area in a grid pattern. The majority was treated basally stem by stem.

**Gilman** continued with detail that the timber sale was bid for Jack pine and black oak, mostly for pulp. The proceeds on this property go back into a Fish and Wildlife fund.

When Buckthorn gets thick, the good natives don't grow back.

Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) restrictions were in place to treat red, white, and Jack pine (stumps) as a cautious approach. In the past, the state just treat red pine.

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When were treatments? Foliar August, Basal treatments were in September. Basal was oil based, foliar treatments applied in aqueous solution.

A quick ID session of common versus glossy buckthorn followed, pointing out the distinctive, thin grey bark of glossy buckthorn versus the thicker brown bark of common buckthorn, and the difference this makes when treating with the basal method. The group discussed lookalikes for buckthorn, cherry, alder, ninebark, winterberry-all have similarities, so correct ID is important to avoid collateral damage to natives.

Other discussions to note: Brandy of Goats on the Go had recently heard that earthworms were considered invasive. **Armstrong** answered saying that there have been instances where discarded night crawlers escaped into Sugar Maple woods and ended up destroying the layer of leaf litter these trees depend on for natural regeneration. They are not native here. Jumping worms are an even worse problem, a frequent target of the Farmers Market Invasive of the Week. The link here is from Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin doesn't have much other than Jumping Worm info.

[Earthworms | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us/dnr/education/earthworms)

**Ressler** mentioned his company received the successful bid to treat the Amur Maple on Xcel property by the bike trail at the substation area. We compare notes a little on that infestation.

**Tim Mclean**, (Sparta), has buckthorn on a Little Falls property and saw our flier and came just to learn about treatment options. His questions were answered by our professionals.

**Brandy Enders** has 50 goats kidding right now, no, not making jokes, he needs to be there watching the annual miracle of new goat stocking and took off to be there.

## Core Meeting @ Cataract Sportsmen Club

**Clint Gilman**, Forester, Tomah Ranger Fort McCoy; **Jessup Weichelt**, Threatened and Endangered Species Biologist, Natural Resources Branch NRB, Fort McCoy; **Rikki Ratsch**, Colorado State University, serving Fort McCoy Wildlife Dept; **Jessica Salesman**, Invasive Species Coordinator, Natural Resources Branch(NRB), Fort McCoy; **Karen Williamson**, Sparta Township; **Matt Modjeski**, Conservation Warden, Tomah Ranger Station; **Randy Poelma**, Env. Sciences Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Env. Health; **Joey Esterline**, Adrian Township and Monroe Co. District 15. Supervisor; **Connie Weedman**, Sparta; **Andrew Senderhauf**, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Golden Sand RC&D; **Shelby Adler**, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for WI DNR; **Tyson Langrehr**, Monroe County Highway; **Mic Armstrong**, Soil Conservation Technician and MCISWG Scribe, Natural Resource Conservation Service; **Lily Lefebvre**, Soil & Water Conservationist and Scribe, Monroe County Land Conservation Department

Introductions/New Faces: Agendas passed around, went around the room for introductions.

Agenda Additions: **Williamson** with Chainsaw/1st aid course.

Outreach Media: **Weedman** has given updates to the Facebook page and newspaper regarding meetings. She will continue to run rough drafts by Gilman or Armstrong to ensure accurate information. She is looking for anybody else in the group to write something if they would like to.

Last Meeting Recap: A short summary of the pre-meeting field trip was given by **Armstrong** to the members that couldn't attend. **Armstrong** gave a recap of the Spring Bank field trip/meeting in December. Most notably that **Salesman** was appointed Vice Chair and will take Gilman's position after his term is up.

Annual Report: **Armstrong** provided an attached document summarizing the past year. Discussion of meetings, county cost-share recipients, vice chair, field trips, outreach events, and the Invasive Persuader award. The QR code for the website was created and placed at the 2 trailheads in the county with podium boot brushes. There were many working projects with a variety of invasive treatments used. A report of invasive mapping was given by Johnston at the last meeting. **Senderhauf & Adler** discussed how they could help with invasives. Some patches of phragmites were found and discussed what to do with them next.

Revise 2019 "Lead Individual's" list: New individuals were added to the list of events/programs. **Esterline** will cover boy scout groups. A few priority lands were discussed including the county's open space Volden property, Amundson Park, La Crosse fishery area, and SW corner of Ruland's Creek (DNR property). Creating a teaching opportunity for Cashton School with these priority lands was discussed. **Esterline** will continue to head the Farmer's market and Garden clubs. **Armstrong** will continue to present "Invasive of the Week" at the farmer's markets. Brad Robson (county agronomist) will take care of the Monroe County Fair and Dairy Breakfast. **Armstrong or Gilman** will keep in touch with libraries to look for programs.

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Chainsaw/1st Aid Course: **Williamson** stated that there will be a chainsaw/1st aid course on March 7th at 1pm. There will be WDNR Level 1 courses coming up on March 23rd and at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve on April 7th and May 4th. Discussion of where to have the course on March 7th was discussed, possible the Barney Center. **Williamson** will continue to work with Wildcat Mountain for a course, with details to follow.

Jackson County CISMA: Conclusion was that Jackson County didn't have enough leadership. They will continue to be a partner but no CISMA will be developed at this time. Will revisit in 2025 MOU. Jackson County will still be invited to events, and the group will still hold a meeting at the Cranberry Research Center.

Mapping Monroe County Highways: **Johnston** has not sent over the map to Monroe County Highway Department so no update until that happens. **Langrehr** discussed the endgame is that once mapped, the county can determine what sprayer to use and where to establish spot sprays. The county plans to spray plant growth regulator reducing the need to mow down once a year, rather than a couple times a year. Concerns of pollinator habitat being affected were brought up. Will see the effects after a few years.

Amur Maple Reduction/Committee: **Armstrong** stated that there have been 3 events since December. March 9th will be the last event with help from the Challenge Academy.

Monroe County Cost Share Applications: 1 application from last year that will be revisited. Looking for more applicants.

Purple Loosestrife: **Esterline** will raise cella bugs again this year. A plan will have to be established as to where they release them.

Play Clean Go Signs/Scrushers: **Micheel** would like an inventory of signs/scrushers that we have and the use of them. **Armstrong** had hoped the county would eventually purchase around a dozen crushers, which would be installed with the Play Clean Go signs we have in inventory. Looking for more locations to put them. Currently the podium versions are located at Amundson Park and Tri-Creek.

**Senderhauf** will get Aquatic Invasive signage for Perch Lake, Brinkman's Landing, Angelo Pond, and Amundson Park. Will need to coordinate with the city.

Fort McCoy Updates: **Ratsch** has been treating glossy buckthorn with basal treatments. They will be using the shredder on a young stand of black locust, autumn olive, and honeysuckle.

Callery Pear: Land Conservation Department building has Callery Pear in lot next to them. **Armstrong** mapped on Ed Maps. Next step is to talk to the owner to get permission to kill seedlings in the field with herbicide.

Front Line Updates: **Gilman** included the timber sale for the Tomah School. Revenue to treat buckthorn was discussed. **Armstrong** has been mapping the bike trail. Autumn olive was very prevalent in Rockland. Common buckthorn and Eurasian honeysuckle were found along the entire trails, often to the detriments of erosion preventing grasses. Scattered populations of black locust, multiflora rose, and

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flossy buckthorn were also mapped. Hopefully this summer a cycling **Armstrong** will try to get garlic mustard and, more importantly, wild parsnip and other herbaceous invasives, not visible in winter, on the map. **Esterline** discussed the County Board resolution to allow forestry funds that could be utilized for invasives work. **Poelma** outlined work on tribal land in Sauk County.

Field Days: June 13th will be Pineview Campground field day. August 8th will be Cranberry Research Center Field Day.

Invader Persuader: Ballots will be distributed next June and also posted on Facebook and the website.

Future Field Day Ideas: Talk of the group attending towns meetings and having field days in different parts of the county.

West Salem Schools Outdoor Education Center: Tour with John Sullivan. Possibly late May for a date. **Armstrong** will reach out.

Fire Fly Farm: Tour with Andre Paquette in Cashton, no date was set.

Tomah Walking Trail: **Armstrong** brought up buckthorn and honeysuckle issues along the Upper Lemonweir River. **Armstrong** thought we should invite the City of Tomah to a future field trip from Butts Park to Superior Avenue and back to discuss the problem.

Esterline Visit: **Esterline** would like to make the tour of her property an annual meeting. No date was set.

Meeting was adjourned before 4 pm.