



Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin

Currently the Michigan region has passed “fool’s spring” and is in the middle of second winter! Hopefully this cold snap hasn’t harmed your spring tulips or daffodils. However, second winter means early invasives are emerging; they are successful because they emerge earlier than most natives and can tolerate broader conditions. Some of the first invasives starting to appear include honeysuckle and garlic mustard! Now is a good time to see just how large invasive infestations are in your local park or woodlot!

Callery Pear: What it is and why we should consider alternative species!

As you drive into many Michigan towns, you may notice many of the trees planted in the city are beginning to flower, and they might be Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*). Introduced in the 1900s, this landscaping tree has many cultivars (Bradford pear being one of the more popular ones), and was popular with landscapers and municipalities. It’s flowers are white with 5 petals and about 3/4 inch wide, with alternating green leaves (flowers appearing before leaves!). Wild trees have twigs with thorns, but cultivated ones do not (sprouts growing from feld cultivated trees at the base may have thorns).



Downtown street lined with callery pear trees (A), blooming flower (B), weak branches make this tree a hazard (C), and examples of spouts at base of a callery pear tree (D).

This species was popular due to its ability to grow quickly and have showy flowers; however, it has since been recognized as being invasive. Cultivated to be sterile, it was found to spread when planted alongside a variety of different self-sterile cultivars due to cross-pollination. Since it grows quickly, it can take over natural areas, especially when birds deposit undigested seeds. There are also safety and stability issues as there is a tendency for the limbs that join at the trunk to develop “weak crotches” that can snap when it gets windy or due to the weight of accumulated snow. This can in-turn damage homes, injure people, and create a mess along busy roads and sidewalks. It also has a bad smell that has been compared to vomit, semen, and dead fish! On a positive note, Ohio was the first state to ban this species, with bans set to start in 2024 in Pennsylvania (February) and South Carolina (October). Michigan homeowners can help by planting native alternatives such as flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*). You can also contact your local unit of government to see if a local ordinance to prevent future plantings can be adopted!

Upcoming Events

April 25th—Not MI Species (EGLE): Vampires of the Great Lakes: A review of the binational sea lamprey control program; 9:00am to 10:00am. Registration required:

us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EptjHS3RQNKf4h744kqpKQ#/registration

May 10th— Invasive Landscape Pests on the Horizon: Box Tree Moth and Beech Leaf Disease, Dr. David Lowenstein (MSU Extension); 6:30pm to 7:30pm. JLW Cisma hosted event!

Registration required:

tinyurl.com/BoxBeech



Website of the Month

BirdCast is a live bird migration map that shows nocturnal bird migration population intensities. This information allows us to take actions when bird populations are at their highest, such as turning off lights at night, or putting decals on windows to prevent crashes. It also shows us when optimal days for birding might be!

birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/

Invasive Species Spotlight—Garlic Mustard

- *Alliaria petiolata* is a biennial herbaceous plant from Europe
- Forms basal rosettes in the 1st year, and can grow up to 4 ft tall in the 2nd year
- Has white flowers and triangular leaves with scalloped edges
- When crushed, leaves smell like garlic
- Produces allelopathic compounds that limit other species from germinating



Photo Credit: S. Singh

Native Species Spotlight—Blanding’s Turtle

- *Emydoidea blandingii* are a medium sized turtle that can live up to 70 years
- Considered a species of special concern
- Dark domed shell with yellow spots and hinged ventral shell; yellow chin
- Females reach sexual maturity around 18 years, and lay 6 to 15 eggs per nest
- Invasive species such as autumn olive can alter habitat and destroy nesting sites

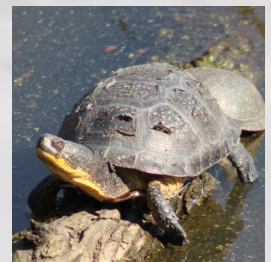


Photo Credit: S. Singh

If you have questions, please contact JLW Cisma Coordinator Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089.

Visit our website for more events and resources: jlwcisma.weebly.com



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