



Love is in the air with this month having had Valentines Day in it, so it only makes sense that we celebrate our love of invasive species this month as well! National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) takes place at the end of the month (February 26th - March 3rd), and we plan on sharing some cool facts and species on our social media!

Our Native Species That Are Invasive Elsewhere!

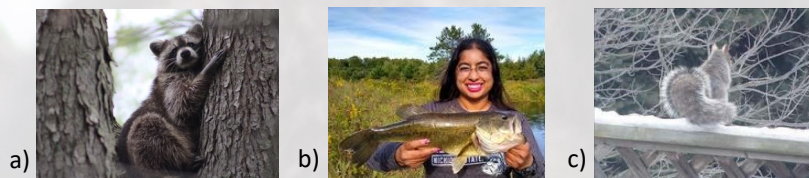
Those of you who subscribe to our bulletin know that invasive species can cause harm to human health, the environment, and cost a lot of money to manage. We are familiar with a variety of species that cause us problems that have arrived from Europe, Asia, and South America. Did you know that our species cause problems in other regions of the world? Lets take a look at a few of them!

Raccoons (affectionately known as trash pandas) are considered extremely invasive in both Europe and Asia! These loveable bandits were imported en masse to Japan due to the popularity of the Japanese cartoon “Rascal the Raccoon”. People released them in forests when they became violent or too large to care for. They became an agricultural pest and preyed upon native species, some which are endangered. They were also brought to Germany in the 1920s for the fur industry, where some were released and others escaped.

Both smallmouth and largemouth bass can adapt to a variety of freshwater habitats, and many people here enjoy fishing for them in ponds, lakes and rivers. They were introduced into South Africa in the early 20th century where they remain a popular sport fish. Their large size and lack of predators make them a top predator, and outcompeted endemic fish in the Cape Floristic Region (largemouth even made the global top 100 invasive species list).

The eastern grey squirrel is native to the eastern half of the United States (region extends a bit north into Canada) and was introduced into Australia (extirpated by 1073), Britain, Ireland, Italy, and South Africa for resident enjoyment. Unfortunately they outcompeted the native red squirrels and introduced diseases. Some folks also tried to introduce them to city areas along the west coast of Canada and the United States.

Other species such mink, American bullfrogs, alligator gar and Jack-in-the-bush are also our species that are invasive! So the next time you feel frustrated trying to clear invasive species, remember that our friends across the ocean also have their hands full!



North American species that are invasive in other regions of the world include a) raccoons, b) largemouth bass, and c) eastern grey squirrel!

Invasive Species Spotlight—Purple Loosestrife

- *Lythrum salicaria* is a perennial woody plant native to Europe and Asia
- Imported in the 1850s as an ornamental plant
- Has square woody stems ; 4 to 10 ft. tall
- Magenta flowers with 5-7 petals
- Found to have evolved to bloom 24 days earlier compared to 100 years ago



Native Species Spotlight—DeKay’s Brownsnake

- *Storeria dekayi* is a small non-venomous snake native to most of eastern United States, parts of Ontario, and the eastern part of lower North America
- About 6-15 in. long, brown to tan in color, dots on side of body, with a diagonal line behind the eyes
- Habitat ranges from urban to forests to wetlands, and sometimes agricultural areas



Upcoming Events

February 27th—NISAW/Sea Grant: The Invasive Species Language Workshop (hybrid); 1:30p-6pm EST.

Registration required:

naisma.org/event/nisaw-webinar-the-invasive-species-language-workshop/

February 27th & 28th—NE RISSC 2024 Symposium (virtual and FREE); 11am – 3pm. Registration required:

[cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvduqsqDIqG91yTZEifn6cX7teAVXe-TQAi#/registration](https://cornell.zoom.us/join/join/join/register/tJMvduqsqDIqG91yTZEifn6cX7teAVXe-TQAi#/registration)

March 21st—Not MI Species Webinar: I Wash My Bottom, Do You? Engaging the Boating Industry in AIS Prevention (virtual); 9am-10am.

Registration required:

us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3jXlMAhCTA2AjcKnrxi71A#/registration



Website of the Month

This statewide program encourages garden professionals and associations to prioritize native species and for-go selling invasive ornamental plant species. They have a variety of resources such as native alternatives and invasive species disposal information!

www.gobeyondbeauty.org/

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: jlwisma.weebly.com



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