

As you sip your chai or hot chocolate, we invite you to learn about invasive species related topics at a couple free seminars that we are hosting/co-hosting! And while you may not be gardening anytime soon, it is not too early to start planning what trees and plants you want to grow. Many local Conservation Districts are having their annual tree and native plant sales, so get your orders in before they run out of stock! In this issue we will discuss things to think about when buying a pet, and learn about an invasive insect that harms hemlock trees!

Aquarium Pets: Considerations Before You Bring Home a New Pet

According to a survey done by American Pet Products Association, 14% of those surveyed got a new pet during the pandemic. New pet owners purchased fish, dogs, birds, small animals, cats, reptiles and horses. In the event you or a family member is interested in becoming a pet owner, there are a few things to first consider. Over time, people's capacity to care for new pets can potentially change. In the event you have to move out of state or anticipate moving home after school, you will need to check state regulations for importing exotic pets and even certain dog species. Caring for aquarium pets can be deceiving, from unexpected heating expenses, buying water treatment supplies, specialized food, needing bigger tanks as pets grow etc. Are you able to adapt to these needs? While most wouldn't dream of releasing a dog into the wild, land managers have seen many other pets and plants released at local parks, preserves and lakes.



Non-native pets released into the wild can result in diseases being introduced and native species being driven out!

Releasing pets into the wild can result in diseases being introduced, plants taking over aquatic environments, and pets outcompeting native species. In the event you can't care for your pets and aquarium plants, there are a few alternatives. Plants can be bagged and disposed of in the garbage, you can give or trade pets with another hobbyist, or contact a pet store or zoo for rehoming. If you can't find a new home for your pet, contact a local vet for humane euthanization.

Invasive Species Spotlight—Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

- *Adelges tsugae* is a small aphid insect that harms hemlock trees
- They are sap sucking insects who's feeding activities prevent nutrients from reaching twigs and leaves
- Adults are about 2 mm long, and females lay eggs at the base of the leaves (resembles small white woolly cotton balls)
- Signs and symptoms include yellowing or greyish leaves, decreased canopy, and eventual tree mortality



Photo Credit: USDA Forest Service

Native Species Spotlight—Eastern Hemlock

- *Tsuga canadensis* is the only native hemlock found in Michigan, about 40-60 ft in height
- Needles are about 1/2 in long, flat, and individually attached to twig
- Cones are about 3/4 in long and hang downwards
- Bark is dark brown to grey, deeply grooved with flat topped ridges
- Due to the bark containing high concentrations of tannic acid, it was used to tan hides



Photo Credit: State of Michigan

Upcoming Events

February 28th—JLW Cisma Partner meeting (9am to 10am).

March 15th—JLW Cisma Japanese knotweed seminar (6pm to 10am). Scan QR code to register or visit link: www.tinyurl.com/jlwcisma1



March 18th—Spring Invasive Species Summit (virtual, 10am to 12:30pm) hosted by several South East CISMAs: www.oaklandinvasivespecies.org/summit/

Website of the Month

Wisconsin Invasive Species Calendar is a wonderful site where you can see what part of the plant or invertebrate life stage is occurring in any given month. It also provides a detectability probability for those species!

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn/tools/wisconsin-invasive-species-calendar/>

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089. Or visit our website: www.jlwcisma.weebly.com



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