July 2022 Issue 1 Volume 7

Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin

We've passed the longest day of summer here in Michigan and so it's hot days ahead! This means lots of Michigan wildflowers are in bloom like various milkweeds (see below), coreopsis, and coneflowers. More nefarious plants like poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, and giant hogweed are also around, which can cause skin irritations or burns, so hike carefully! Often times we are asked about what type of app do we use to identify plants we don't know! Depending on who you ask, the response will be different. We asked our technician Chris to take over this month's bulletin and list some good apps and describe their features!

Identifying Plants and Citizen Science:

Get an Assist and Pass it Forward with iNaturalist, *Seek,* and *MISIN*!

It's happened to us all: you've been out hiking, and while wandering the woods you spot a butterfly. What is that butterfly called? What is that flower it's sitting on? Is that invasive? What kind of tree is that? What if we told you there is a great way to help you identify flora and fauna on the go, and contribute to citizen science!

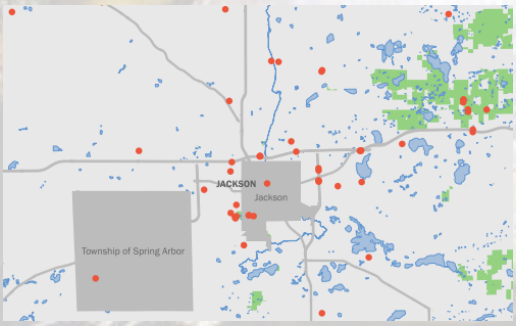
The **iNaturalist** (www.inaturalist.org/) organization has created an app that can identify life with just a smartphone. By either taking live video or by importing an old photo, this device can help you identify flowers, trees, insects and any other live form you can get on camera!

Their **Seek** app also has a button that allows you to "share with iNaturalist". This will anonymize your location and share your photo(s) with an online community of naturalists who can help confirm your data. This information becomes part of a free and open dataset used by naturalists and scientists all around the world, and can help us track for example, infestations, blooming seasons, or migration.

Seek App identifying Japanese knotweed.

Another app that is helpful for scientists is created by **MISIN** (Michigan Invasive Species Network: www.misin.msu.edu/). If you are already familiar with invasive species, you can use MISIN's app to report and track those species in your area. This data is shared with naturalists and scientists all over the state. It also has pictures to help you identify the species.

So the next time you are looking for help identifying something, consider paying it forward and sharing it to one of the apps above to help scientists and researchers!



Data from iNaturalist and MISIN submission visualized: Japanese knotweed locations in and around Jackson.

Upcoming Events

July 21st—National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar: The Trouble with Lionfish (6pm to 7pm). Registration: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3576798610047861260?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

July 29th—JLW CISMA mobile boat wash event at Portage Lake, Waterloo Recreation Area (10am to 3pm).

August 4th—JLW CISMA mobile boat wash event at Wamplers Lake, Hayes State Park (10am to 3pm).

Website of the Month

We have a variety of marine sanctuaries in the United States, and surprisingly two in the Great Lakes region. Visit this site to learn more about them and to plan your future trips!

sanctuaries.noaa.gov

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

Invasive Species Spotlight—Japanese Knotweed

- *Fallopia japonica* is native to Asia
- Grows tall and wide, overcrowding native trees, plants and crops
- Alternate pear-shaped leaves, red stems while young grow tough and bamboo-like
- Spreads by underground stems called *rhizomes*. Don't mow this over! Each broken piece can grow into a new plant
- Seeds can spread the plant quickly several blocks away


Photo Credit: S. Singh

Native Species Spotlight—Swamp milkweed

- *Asclepias incarnata* is native to the great lakes region
- Despite the name "weed", it has collections of fragrant purple to pink flowers called *racemes*
- Three to five feet tall
- Grow on waters edges, near swamps, lakes, and rivers, but also in meadows
- Important to the monarch caterpillar and butterfly—plant to attract them!
- In the fall, seed pods open and hundreds of silky threads come out.


Photo Credit: S. Singh

If you have questions, please contact 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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