

Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin

There are less than 20 days until Thanksgiving, which kickstarts the holiday season. Now is the time to keep an eye out for annual meeting invitations, newsletters, and holiday programming from your favorite environmental organizations and non-profits! You can get a better idea of what these organizations do and accomplish during the year, and potentially network your way into volunteer activities, and even serve on boards and committees!

Give Gifts and Plan Visits That Spread Joy and Not Invasive Species!

Businesses have started their holiday sales pitches for winter holiday decorations, travel, and gifts! Below are tips on how to prevent the spread of invasive species during the holiday season. Boxes! How many of you order something that came in a box, and think “this is a sturdy box that I can use later”, then proceed to toss it in your garage next to the firewood, in the basement or drafty storage area. Maybe you bought a gift on sale earlier this summer to gift later? Insects love laying eggs on boxes, or in the packing peanuts/paper. Michigan has Japanese beetles, balsam woolly adelgid, hemlock woolly adelgid, marmorated stink bug, and spongy moth that may not be found in other states! Especially keep an eye out for spotted lantern fly. It would be a good idea to give a cursory inspection of all boxes and packing material before shipping, especially if you know there are newer species such as spotted lantern fly in your region. If you are selling or importing products, similarly, check wooden products or pallets for egg masses before shipping! On the topic of gifts, make sure you are not “surprise gifting” animals, and check state laws before you purchase or transport live animals across state lines. Refer to the scientific name when purchasing pets as suppliers may purposefully/accidentally mis-label species!



Check boxes for egg masses!



Trees may contain pests or diseases!

Buying Christmas trees are another important holiday tradition. Buying from local or from reputable stores, and choosing healthy trees can decrease the chance of spreading invasive species to new locations. Do not use invasive plants or berries as a part of your holiday decorations as you can drop berries when transporting them, or birds will eat and distribute them for you! If you plan on driving to warmer climates, your vehicle may also contain egg masses, insects, plant materials, and seeds that can fall off! Check and brush hiking shoes, gear, and any travelling pets. Some species are spread via ice fishing! Lastly, do not bring fresh fruit, vegetables, or meat from other countries as they may contain bacteria, viruses, and insects! With care and vigilance, hopefully you won't give or receive the gift of invasive species this year!

Upcoming Events

November 15th—Thanksgiving: A Potawatomi Perspective (6:30pm—8:00pm). Registration required: wpl-lib-in.libcal.com/event/9753584

November 16th—NAISMA webinar: Invasive Mussel Collaborative Tools and Accomplishments. Registration required: naisma.org/event/webinar-november/

December 6th—Invasive Species Centre: Coming in Hot: Early Detection and Rapid Response Priorities in SE Michigan Virtual. (11am to 12pm). JLW CISMA presenter! Registration required: us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MX_pIDESKG5KXfs4K1cXg



Website of the Month

PBS has a nature themed page called “NOVA” that covers a variety of environmental topics. Viewers can read articles and view educational videos. To facilitate viewers, some videos have a transcript posted of the video.

pbs.org/wgbh/nova/topic/nature/

Invasive Species Spotlight—Amur Honeysuckle

- *Lonicera maackii* is native to Asia
- A hollow multi-stemmed perennial shrub that can grow up to 15' tall
- Leaves are opposite, 2-3 in. long, and smooth with a pointed tip
- Mature fruits are red and form at leaf axil, remains on plant into winter
- Shade out native species
- Fruit are mildly poisonous to humans, with laxative properties



Photo Credit: S. Singh

Native Species Spotlight—Wild Turkey

- *Meleagris gallopavo* have a lifespan of 3 to 4 years, and were reintroduced in the 50s due population decline
- Has clutch size of 10-14 eggs
- Can reach speeds of up to 55 mph
- Flocks can range from 5 to 50 birds
- A group of turkeys is called a “rafter”
- You can help conservation efforts by controlling weeds and planting crops like corn or nut bearing trees

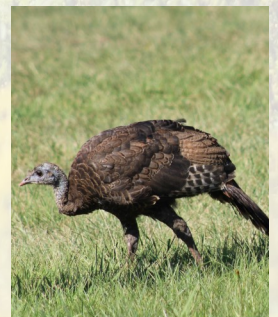


Photo Credit: S. Singh

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

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