



Montmorency Conservation District
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Invasives: Early Detection/Rapid Response



Jennifer Muladore of Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development was the special speaker at the Montmorency County Conservation Club's monthly meeting on Tuesday night. Her specific topic was the invasive Phragmites, but touched on all types of invasives. Phragmites is an invasive reed that displaces native species. It came from Eurasia and grows from 6-15 feet high. Its presence in Montmorency County has been confirmed. Because it is a major problem in the Saginaw Bay, Huron Pines is hoping to catch the stands that are moving north before they choke out wetlands.

Huron Pine's program is centered around an early detection and rapid response approach to control the spread of invasive species. "Early detection-rapid response is just what it sounds like: we find invasive species as soon as they begin to invade an area and treat them before they become a destructive, expensive problem," said Jennifer. "When caught early the cost of treatment is much lower and the success rate is much higher." Northeast Michigan's natural resources are known for their high quality, and their goal is to keep them that way!

A 4-person Invasive Species SWAT Team was created to inventory, monitor and remove key nonnative problem species in Northeast Michigan during the past summer. GPS and GIS technologies were utilized in the efforts to locate and eliminate these invasives. Much was accomplished in educating the public, locating the invasives, mapping, and coordinating volunteer efforts.

But 4 people are not enough. In order to effectively accomplish this goal of early detection-rapid response it is necessary to have as many individuals as possible on the lookout for these plants; therefore volunteer networks are being formed. Volunteers will be trained to recognize and identify the invasive plants. Then anytime they are out hunting, hiking, fishing, etc. and happen across something they suspect of being an invasive, they can mark its location and hopefully take a photo. This information will be submitted to a centralized point for verification and mapping.

Tracking the spread of new invasives before they are well-established is a critical first step. If you are interested in volunteering for this effort, please contact the Montmorency Conservation District at 989-785-4083.

Links to additional information:

Huron Pines – Invasive Species page

<http://www.huronpines.org/project/83>

This page contains basic information and links to lots more including a Volunteer Handbook and a reporting form.

Fact Sheet - Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)

<http://www.huronpines.org/upload/File/Invasives%20-%20Phragmites.pdf>

Huron Pines - Invasive Species Removal Program

<http://www.huronpines.org/upload/File/2010InvasiveSpeciesRemovalUpdate.pdf>

Michigan DNRE - Control and Management of Invasive Phragmites

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3681_3710-178183--,00.html