

Beaver Island Archipelago Invasive Plant Removal & Restoration

Summer 2015

Conservation Resource Alliance, a nonprofit organization based in Traverse City, is administering a multi-faceted program to inventory for invasive plants and restore portions of Beaver Island and the outer islands. Treatment of invasive plants is a conservation priority because of the severe impacts they can have on native ecosystems including the extinction of native plants and wildlife, dramatic changes in the water table and increased risk of soil erosion and fire.

Under the Phragmites Ordinance, Peaine and St. James townships have been instrumental in slowing the spread of invasive phragmites along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Conservation partners are now expanding treatment to other geographies and invasive plants (see plant list on back).

Conservation partners conducted an invasive plant inventory of Beaver Island in 2012 on public properties, shorelines and along roadsides. Initial treatment was conducted in 2014 by Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions on many properties including those owned by the Little Traverse Conservancy, Central Michigan University, Great Lakes Energy, and private properties where permission was given.



▶ The next phase of this project involves working on privately owned lands, focusing on roadsides, power line corridors and the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Reducing invasive species in these areas can slow movement of them throughout Beaver Island. This year, treatment funding comes through the National Fish & Wildlife Program - Sustain Our Great Lakes with additional support from the Beaver Island Association and J.A. Woollam Foundation.

How You Can Help

The first step is landowners' permission for a survey. Once granted, a crew determines whether or not invasive plants are present. Treatment options can then be discussed. All property owners are contacted before treatment starts. Treatment methods are species and site specific and may include hand pulling and/or localized chemical treatment. Habitat restoration is the top priority of this project and all treatment is conducted safely and in a way that minimizes adverse effects on non-target species. 2015 treatment costs are fully covered by grant funds.

▶ If you are interested in participating, please contact Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions at (231) 943-0762.

Contact

Beaver Island Phragmites Coordinator
Cindy Ricksgers
(231) 448-2960
cindyr49782@yahoo.com

Wildlife & Wetland Solutions
Vickie Smith, Owner
(231) 943-0762
wildlife@wildlifewetlands.com
www.wildlifewetlands.com

Beaver Island Association
Pam Grassmick, Board Member
(231) 448-2314
pgrassmick@gmail.com
www.beaverislandassociation.org

Conservation Resource Alliance
Amy Beyer, Director
(231) 946-6817
amy@rivercare.org
www.rivercare.org

Target Invasive Plants

Autumn olive	Honeysuckle	Phragmites
Baby's breath	Japanese barberry	Purple loosestrife
Black locust	Japanese hedge parsley	Reed canary grass
Bladder campion	Japanese knotweed	Scotch pine
Blue lyme grass	Kudzu	Spotted knapweed
Canada thistle	Lombardy poplar	St. John's wort
Coltsfoot	Marsh thistle	Swallowwort
False baby's breath	Multiflora rose	Sweet clover
Garlic mustard	Narrow-leaf cattail	Sweet woodruff
Glossy buckthorn	Oriental bittersweet	Wild parsnip

Partners

Beaver Island Association
Central Michigan University
Conservation Resource Alliance
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Little Traverse Conservancy
Michigan DNR
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Sustain Our Great Lakes
The Nature Conservancy
Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions

Protecting Water & Wildlife

The goal of this ongoing multi-year initiative is to conserve high quality habitat throughout the Beaver Island Archipelago by removing non-native invasive plants and restoring native plant species. Treatment of invasive plants is a conservation priority because of the severe impacts they have on native plants and animals. Threats from uncontrolled invasive species include the extinction of native wildlife, dramatic shifts in the water table, and increased risk of soil erosion and fire, among other serious concerns for both wildlife and human health.

This region offers a unique opportunity to preserve biodiversity due to its isolation from the mainland. Although not every invasive plant will be eradicated on the islands, we have a chance to eliminate and effectively manage many of the worst offenders.

Early detection and rapid response is an invasive species treatment mantra. It means careful monitoring of any new invaders and a swift response in eradicating populations before they become established. That's why this initiative is putting eyes and ears on the ground to discover any new outbreaks while treating and monitoring known sites. The critical link to success throughout the Beaver Island Archipelago is working on private lands. Hundreds of landowners are participating—thank you to everyone who is helping protect our water and wildlife!

