



CAKE CISMA NEWS

The latest from the cooperative invasive species management area serving Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, & Emmet counties.



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Partner Spotlight: Glacial Hills
Fall Wildflowers
Upcoming Events

REPORT SWALLOW-WORT, HELP MONARCH CATERpillARS

In the fight against black swallow-wort, public awareness is crucial.



You'll hear the same thing from anyone who works in natural resource management - summer was an absolute blur. We spend a lot of the off-season meticulously planning our summer and trying to fit as much as possible into the short window we have to survey & treat invasive plants. There are always surprises and unexpected variables to deal with, and this year one of our biggest surprises was discovering black swallow-wort in several locations throughout Charlevoix county. You've probably heard us talk about Black Swallow-wort before, it's a highly invasive vine in the milkweed family that out-competes essential native plants and is also believed to be a toxic false host for monarch caterpillars.



We've been working on containing a black swallow-wort infestation in Petoskey for several years, and until now we believed that was the only area in northern Michigan with an active swallow-wort infestation. While the news of a destructive invasive plant spreading may seem discouraging, we think the silver lining here is that people are reporting it to us so we can treat it!

Folks often ask us when we come to treat invasive plants if it's possible to eradicate them from a specific area. That's highly dependent on how far the infestation has spread. When folks (like you) report new satellite infestations of invasive species to us we can get to work sooner and that makes treatment easier and more effective. We're very appreciative to everyone who helped get the word out about swallow-wort in Charlevoix county - we were able to

treat the majority of infestations reported to us. We'll follow up with folks next year and see if these sites require additional treatment. If you encounter an invasive plant feel free to take a picture and contact us about it, we're always happy to help with ID!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us or our partners at one of these upcoming events

- Paddle Antrim Festival - September 15th - 17th, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, visit www.paddleantrim.com for more details
- Native Seed Collection Event w/ Kalkaska Conservation District - September 24th, 10:30 - 12:00 pm meet at the KCD office
- CAKE CISMA Steering Committee Meeting - September 29th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, contact Lindsey for details
- Wander Walloon Mushroom Workshop - September 29th, 3:00 - 5:00 pm at Wildwood Harbor Preserve, please register in advance
- CAKE CISMA Annual Meeting - February TBD

Swallow-wort ID tips

- dark green, shiny, waxy leaves, black flowers
- forms skinny milkweed-like seedpods
- climbs up other plants or twins around itself
- pull the seedpods and dispose of them in the trash to prevent the spread



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: GLACIAL HILLS

Glacial Hills has a dedicated group of volunteers who tackle various invasive species projects and enjoy learning about native plants together.



Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area is a popular destination for hikers, runners and bikers with 31.5 miles of trails in about 765 acres in Antrim County. It is an area of rolling hills with diverse trees and plants and a spectacular variety of spring ephemerals. The three governments (Antrim County, Forest Home Township, and the Village of Bellaire) co-manage Glacial Hills through a joint recreation board named The Friends of Glacial Hills. The Friends of Glacial Hills mission is to preserve the natural resource values of Glacial Hills while providing a premier public recreational area that significantly contributes to the health and prosperity of Antrim County.

In 2020, an invasive plant strategy and management plan was developed and a collaborative partnership with CAKE CISMA was established for invasive species education.

The main goal is to reduce the invasive plants at Glacial Hills through survey, treatment, and control by implementing a plan over 10 years. Many of the invasive plants produce prolific seeds and, in addition, the seeds can be dormant for years in the soil. With this, control measures are in place to allow for monitoring and re-treatment over time to ensure that the invasive plants have been eradicated. We attempt to prevent seed production and dispersal within managed sites by removing invasive plants before they seed. Currently, we have an invasive team, with over 60 volunteers. Each week, 5-10 volunteers meet from mid-April until early November.



GLACIAL HILLS CONT.

In 2021, the Glacial Hills invasives team completed a total of 456 volunteer-hours of work on the trails including 18 organized workdays for removing invasive plants. The team focuses on removing four main invasive plants including garlic mustard, Japanese barberry, bull thistle and wild parsnip, as well as surveying the trail system in order to prioritize work. So far in 2022 we have already had 26 invasive workdays with over 400 hours of trail work!

The invasive workdays give the participants an opportunity to learn about invasive plants and methods used to control them. As a bonus, we learn so much together about the native plants and trees on the trails.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can join the invasive team mailing list at <https://www.glacialhillstrails.org/joinus> or contact Sue Haadsma-Svensson (317-442-6364).



See you on the trails at Glacial Hills!

WE FALL WILDFLOWERS



Goldenrods, Asters, & Black eyed Susans - Oh my! From late summer throughout much of fall, these native wildflowers dominate our meadows, forest edges, and roadsides. They bloom in such abundance that they may seem like weeds, but they're actually serving an important purpose. For bees, native fall blooms provide much-needed pollen and nectar, often long after many other plants are done blooming for the year. For our migrating friends, like monarch butterflies, native flowers provide nectar for energy on their long journey south. Once butterflies and bees finish feasting on the flowers' fall nectar and pollen, birds such as juncos, sparrows, and finches move in for the seeds. Small mammals like field mice, voles, and moles will also consume the seeds. When small mammals thrive the effects are felt throughout the food web; they're a food source for larger animals like foxes and birds of prey. Aside from being a food source our fall blooms provide cover throughout the winter and many pollinators overwinter in the debris and plant matter left behind. Native fall blooms provide an immense amount of support to wildlife from the end of summer all the way through winter.

