

CAKE NEWS

The Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area serving Charlevoix
Antrim Kalkaska and Emmet Counties



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COORDINATOR REPORT

2022 and the world is still turning! Everything has changed and nothing really has changed. But, a lot has changed in CAKE's little world. I took over the ship in October. I am fortunate to take the wheel of a ship already headed on the right course thanks to my predecessors, staff, and exceptional steering committee members. During the summer of 2021, the CAKE team was able to accomplish a lot of great work with Ed Derosha leading the field crew and carrying them through the late fall. In August, Kirk Acharya took a position at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Shoreline. Before Kirk's departure, he submitted two grants to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which we were notified in November that we were awarded. The most notable of the two grants is a \$200,000 grant to inventory, prioritize and restore coastal and riparian habitat (CRH) in the 4 county service area. CAKE and our steering committee will be working with Michigan Natural Features Inventory to identify critical coastal and riparian habitats that will be prioritized for invasive species removal to protect the integrity of these ecologically important sites. These coastal and riparian sites have been targeted because they host a diversity of plants and wildlife that are a valuable link to Michigan's past and future. Sites that are ecologically diverse, connected, and relatively free of invasive species will help Michigan maintain resiliency to changing climates and protect our water for future generations.

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COORDINATOR REPORT CONT.

As we move into 2022 we will be looking to hire a new Restoration Team Lead and a few seasonal Restoration Technicians. In addition to the CRH project mentioned above, we will continue to work on the Top 5 Species that we have identified as priorities for management. These include purple loosestrife, knotweed, oriental bittersweet, invasive phragmites, and black swallow-wort. Our restoration team will use an integrated approach to managing these Top 5 invaders, which will include a mix of mechanical, chemical, and biological controls.

Although it's currently 1 degree here in Northern Michigan, like many other invasive species managers I am thinking about and planning for summer. I am excited about my first summer in Michigan and to bring on a great team to accomplish CAKE's mission. I wanted to thank Wendy Warren for keeping CAKE's grants in the black and onboarding me during a busy grant reporting time. I also want to give Katie Gray a shout-out. Katie is our Education and Outreach Coordinator this winter, she is responsible for all our pretty and enlightening social media posts. Please reach out with any questions or any opportunities that you think CAKE CISMA would be a good fit for. I love to do work with partners and would love to get to know more folks around the area.

See you around!
Lindsey

Thank you Ed DeRosh!

Ed DeRosh has been CAKE CISMA's longest employee, leading the summer field crews for the last 4 years. Over the years Ed has surveyed thousands of acres for invasive species and kayaked hundreds of miles. During Ed's tenure with CAKE, he was able to treat many acres of invasive plants, work closely with many of our partners and mentor many young natural resource professionals. The CAKE CISMA staff and Steering Committee would like to take a moment to THANK Ed for his contribution to invasive species management in Northern Michigan.

THANK YOU ED!

2021 FIELD SEASON IN REVIEW

Katie Gray

Summer in Northern Michigan has once again been an absolute whirlwind and is somehow already behind us. The end of summer also marks the end of the CAKE CISMA field season. We've accomplished a lot this summer, thanks in large part to our partners and seasonal staff. CAKE CISMA had a total of 6 seasonal staff positions this summer - two undergraduate interns at the CMU bio station on Beaver Island, two field technicians working on our strike team, and two post-graduate interns focused on land prioritization surveys.

Our Beaver Island interns spent the summer working on several major projects including, surveying and removing European swamp thistle, manually removing garlic mustard, and a shoreline survey of the entire island. In addition, they attended public outreach events and worked on a podcast about invasive species to increase community awareness of invasives found on the island. Beaver Island is a tight-knit community and faces unique challenges when it comes to invasive species management. We were excited to see our interns become a part of the community for the summer and were very impressed with the work they did.

The strike team had a busy summer focused on treating our "Top 5 Least Wanted Invasive Species". Our top five include black swallow-wort, invasive phragmites, purple loosestrife, knotweed, and Asiatic bittersweet. Treatment this summer was made possible through collaboration and funding from our community partners. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians funded treatment for private property owners with any of our top 5 species and aided with cost-sharing for treatment on public/partner properties. Treatments for private property owners occurred throughout the summer. The strike team also surveyed black swallow-wort in the Petoskey area and continued to monitor and treat purple loosestrife and invasive phragmites along the shoreline of the Elk River Chain of Lakes. The strike team made sure to revisit properties treated in previous years and retreated those properties if necessary. They also attended invasive species education/outreach events at local schools, festivals, and community events and created an improved social media presence for CAKE CISMA.

Our graduate interns joined us for the second half of the summer and recently finished their land prioritization surveys. The land prioritization project is one of our most exciting ongoing projects. The interns had the opportunity to visit several high-priority natural areas in each of our four counties and conduct an invasive plant inventory at each location. The data collected from these surveys will assist us in further developing our land prioritization framework. Following data analysis, we look forward to sharing thoughts and findings with our community partners as we work to manage invasive species together.

Here at CAKE CISMA, we are proud of everything we achieved this summer and will continue to work hard to protect the natural resources, economy, and human health of Northern Lower Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive species.

Job Opportunities

CAKE CISMA is hiring a full-time Invasive Species Restoration Team Lead. Please see the job announcement below for more information. Contact Lindsey with any questions.

<https://www.cakecisma.org/employment-opportunities>



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: DIDYMO

Our species spotlight this quarter is focused on Didymo, a microscopic alga recently found in the Upper Manistee River by Samuel Day, a water quality biologist with the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. Despite often being called by the nickname “rock snot” didymo isn’t actually slimy; it looks and feels like white or brown wet wool. Algae is not an uncommon occurrence in our waterways, in fact, native algae play a vital role in aquatic ecosystems by forming the energy base of the food web. What makes didymo different is that under the right conditions prolific growth patterns can result in thick mats that cover river and stream bottoms. These mats reduce habitat for macroinvertebrates, an important food source for fish like trout, and can make recreating in our local streams and rivers difficult or unpleasant. An interesting aspect of didymo is that it blooms in cold, low-nutrient streams, unlike the algal blooms we often see in the Great Lakes brought on by warm temperatures and excess nutrients.

Unfortunately, the Upper Manistee River sighting marks the first detection of didymo blooms in the Lower Peninsula. Nuisance blooms have been previously documented in the St. Marys River in the Upper Peninsula. According to the National Invasive Species Information Center didymo spreads easily through contaminated fishing gear, particularly felt-soled waders. Didymo can also be transported on boats, anchors, and nets. Currently, there are no effective methods to eradicate didymo once it is established in a river or stream. This means that we all play a crucial role in how didymo will spread throughout the rest of northern Michigan. You’ve probably heard us say it before, but the message bears repeating. The most effective way to stop the spread of nuisance algae, along with a multitude of other aquatic invasive species, and protect our local rivers and streams is to:

- Clean by removing mud and debris from all surfaces.
- Drain water from all bilges, wells, and tanks.
- Dry equipment for at least five days or disinfect with hot water or a dilute bleach solution

Together, we can work to protect the shared, native, natural heritage that makes northern Michigan so special.



Photo courtesy of Samuel Day, LTBB.



Photo courtesy of Samuel Day, LTBB.

Upcoming Events:

March 24th: CAKE CISMA Annual meeting



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*).
Tom Coleman, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: ACD

Antrim Conservation District (ACD) is our amazing and generous fiduciary sponsor. This means that they house our program and help to manage our various grants. Antrim Conservation District has been in existence since 1947!! The ACD was formed in response to the Dust Bowl area to help resolve issues surrounding soil and water conservation. The ACD is comprised of local people that are interested in helping to implement programs and practices that will protect land and waterways by keeping them clean, healthy, and economically robust. A volunteer board of directors helps set priorities and assist with decision-making for ACD. The staff of 5 work on soils erosion, forestry, healthy landscaping, education and outreach, and recycling.

Thank you ACD and if you live in Antrim County be sure to check out what they have to offer!

Get Involved! Eyes on the forest

Michigan State University is encouraging you to look up! Through a program called Eyes on the Forest citizen scientist (THAT'S YOU) can help provide valuable information on the health of Michigan's forest resources. Through the Eye on the Forest program, you can monitor a tree or trees in your area for newly invading organisms that threaten their vitality. Important threats to watch for in our area would be the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. If you have hemlock trees on your property, look for white cotton balls near the tree's needles. Check out the Eyes on the Forest website for more information and to sign up to become a forest health monitor.



Rock a CAKE CISMA
shirt this year:

[https://forms.gle/b635VUZmaChs
pgRz9](https://forms.gle/b635VUZmaChspgRz9)

<https://iforest.misin.msu.edu/>