

CAKE NEWS

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



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Coordinator Report

Happy Spring!

It's the season for growing and blooming. For CAKE CISMA we will be hitting the woods, fields, and lakes on the search for our Top 5 invasive species. Spring marks the culmination of a winter of planning.

One of the big projects this summer we will be working hard on is Black swallow-wort in Petoskey. If you are unfamiliar with this invasive species, there is one main alarming thing you should know about. Black swallow-wort is toxic to insects and mammals, it can pose as a false host for Monarch Butterflies which is toxic to the Monarch larvae. The crew this summer will be surveying in the late spring and following up with treatments later in the summer.

A large focus of the last couple of summers has been the purple loosestrife and phragmites in the CAKE service area and specifically the Elk River Chain of Lakes area. We will continue our efforts to-

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Young Black Swallow-wort growing in a garden



contain and shrink the populations of these problematic species through targeted herbicide treatments. Through our previous survey efforts, we have identified several large populations of purple loosestrife that are great candidates for the *Galerucella* beetles. The *Galerucella* beetle is an insect that is native to Europe and Asia, where purple loosestrife is also native. They feed on the purple loosestrife leaves, stems, shoot tips, and buds, this helps to control the plant and keep it in balance with the native plants that are supposed to be present. These beetles need purple loosestrife as a host to reproduce and lay their eggs on. When the purple loosestrife population crashes, so does the beetle population. This summer CAKE CISMA will be releasing around 10,000 beetles to help keep purple loosestrife from taking over.

I am excited for what the field season brings and to watch these projects come to fruition. If CAKE CISMA can assist you in some way this summer, please reach out to us. We would be happy to do a site visit or present on invasive species. We also treat knotweed, phragmites, purple loosestrife, and Asiatic bittersweet for private landowners. Please give us a call if we can help!

Lindsey

Welcome (back) Wade!

We're excited to welcome Wade Foster to CAKE CISMA as our new Restoration Field Crew Lead! Wade is a recent graduate of Grand Valley State University where he received his Bachelors of Science in Natural Resource Management. Having spent last summer on the restoration crew as a crew member Wade brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. We're also excited to have him around for his ArcGIS skills!

You can contact Wade at cake.isst@gmail.com



Species Spotlight: Black Swallow-wort

Black swallow-wort is a member of our top 5 least wanted invasive species - and for good reason. This perennial vine is a member of the milkweed family, and although it doesn't look like milkweed to us, animals and insects can't always tell the difference. Black swallow-wort kills the larvae of monarch butterflies who mistake it as native milkweed, is toxic to deer and livestock, and chokes out more desirable plant species (including those in your garden).

Black swallow-wort made its way to the US from Europe as an ornamental plant and escaped cultivation - a common story with many invasive plants. Its seeds are dispersed via wind from milkweed-like pods that form at the end of summer. Because the seeds are dispersed by the wind they can spread pretty easily from one location to another and have a tendency to travel. We urge anyone with black swallow-wort to remove and dispose of these seed pods at the end of the summer to help stop the spread.

Unlike the other plants on our top 5 list, black swallow-wort is not particularly widespread in our service area. We almost exclusively see swallow-wort within the city of Petoskey, which presents a critical opportunity for us as land stewards to contain this invasive before it reaches new areas. CAKE CISMA is offering free surveys and treatment of black swallow-wort during the summer of 2022, but we need your help. Spread the word on swallow-wort and its negative ecosystem impacts, especially to folks in Petoskey. Together we can stop the spread.

How to ID Black Swallow-wort:

- An herbaceous, perennial vine growing up to 7 feet in length. Often looks like twinning vines wrapping around itself.
- Leaves are shiny dark-green and oval to heart-shaped with a pointed tip.
- Seed pods are milkweed-like and full of flat, brown seeds covered in fine, white hairs.
- Small, **star-shaped flowers are dark purple with 5-petals** and grow in clusters of 6-10 blooms.

Partner Spotlight:



The Kalkaska Conservation District was founded in 1950 and has been a source of leadership in the natural resource management of Kalkaska County ever since!

KCD plays a unique role in working with property owners, land users, and community leaders to address the needs of the beautiful and vibrant region of Kalkaska County.

We're particularly fond of all the events/workshops KCD hosts and how dedicated they are to engaging with their community. Upcoming KCD events include Manistee River sampling, weeknight hikes, frog/toad surveying, and forest management workshops! In addition to that, they're also active members of our steering committee. We don't know how they do it all, but we're happy they do!



planting native trees

Restoration in action

We recently completed invasive species treatment and native tree replanting at Cosner & Bennett-Barnes Nature Preserve with the help of Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation!

Back when there was still snow on the ground (eeks) we treated A LOT of invasive buckthorn and invasive honeysuckle at this preserve located near Bennett Creek. Last week we finished up by planting 400+ native trees in the areas we treated. We can't wait to see how the site grows and improves with time. We're also so appreciative of all the volunteers who helped and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for the grant that made this project possible!



CAKE CISMA coordinator, Lindsey, with GTRLC staff and volunteers

2022 Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Season's Outlook

As Beaver Island's new Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS) Program, growing from local grassroots movement and pursuing the passions of islanders and island organizations alike, prepares for its summer season, we would like to thank all that have helped to get us here. This includes our local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, including CAKE CISMA and Central Michigan University's (CMU) Beaver Island Biological Station, along with islanders and its visitors alike, with their acts of service towards the benefit of our island's native ecosystems and inhabitants.

The TIS Program had a successful first year of 2021, creating partnerships, successfully aiding in ongoing grant work, and establishing the groundwork of a new dual township service and archipelago-based field team. Looking to 2022, the TIS Program has its own US Fish and Wildlife Services Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant that will provide us with two seasonal Field Technicians that will lodge at the CMU Biological Station for the summer and conduct all our field surveys and aid in educational outreach events. Along with another Memorandum of Agreement from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to help fund our management efforts, and with the continued help from our partners such as CAKE CISMA, Little Traverse Bay Band, and many more. These efforts will include the continuation of shoreline surveys, geographical mapping and treatments of invasive species throughout Beaver and the outer islands, road and trailside surveys and treatments, monitoring and management of high priority natural communities and Environmental Reference Areas, as well as private landowner education, outreach and invasive species removals.

Save the date!

Volunteer and learn with us at one of our upcoming summer events

May 28th - CAKE & ACD at the Petoskey Stone Festival (ACD Native Plant Sale)



June 3rd - 9 am - 12 pm
WLAC/CAKE Garlic Mustard Pull at Howell Zimmerman Preserve

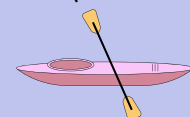


July 25th - MI Paddle Steward Workshop & Paddle with Paddle Antrim (Kalkaska)

July 26th - MI Paddle Steward Workshop & Paddle with Paddle Antrim (Bellaire)



July 27th - MI Paddle Steward Workshop & Paddle with Paddle Antrim (Charlevoix)



August 5th - CAKE & Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy Paddle

2022 Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Season's Outlook Cont.

We will continue to work with the Cooperative Lakes Management Program through Michigan State University (MSU) Extension towards monitoring and data collection of our island's inland lakes and also be working with the Beaver Island Association (BIA) in the monitoring and biological control of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Further work will be continued with the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association, the Beaver Island Historical Society, and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) of MSU Extension in providing trail maps and descriptions of local fauna and invasive species threats, landowner guides, and public education on how islanders or visitors can aid in our help of protecting and allowing our island's native ecosystems to thrive.

There is much to do and the fight never ends against the threat of invasive species spreading throughout our islands and damaging our native communities, but it is with committed and collaborative actions seen from the likes of the island's TIS Program, partners such as CAKE CISMA, the MDNR, LTBB, the BIA, and from everyday caretakers alike that can keep the Beaver Island Archipelago sustainable, full of evermore rare, native biodiversity and purely beautiful.

TIS Administrator

St James and Peaine Township
Beaver Island



Beaver Island TIS intern Liz with Spotted Knapweed last summer

CAKE CISMA T-Shirts

Support invasive species management in northern Michigan and look good doing it with a CAKE CISMA T-shirt.



<https://forms.gle/rQWzsvZshpiBpvtCA>