



# CAKE CISMA NEWS

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



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Species Feature: *Daphne mezereum*
- Upcoming Events
- Go Beyond Beauty

## COORDINATOR UPDATE

*We've got some new wheels and a busy field season ahead of us*

As an organization over the past year, we have been examining our approach to managing invasive species. This requires taking stock of what we have done, what was successful, and what was not. Together with knowing what invasive species are already here and we must look down the road and see what species are coming our way. Thus, we have been working on updating our Invasive Species Priorities List, you can find the updated list here on our website. Along with prioritizing certain invasive species, we must also look at the big picture and our service area. Focusing on our mission of “protecting the natural resources, economy, and human health of Northern Lower Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive species.” This means we must make decisions on how best to use our limited resources to benefit the greatest good. To us, this means putting a greater effort into publicly accessible and publicly held lands, that benefit all of us.

## COORDINATOR UPDATE - CONT.

Further prioritizing the ecologically important lands for protection from the threat of invasive species. You can read more about this effort in our project highlight section. We will continue to serve the public as hubs of information regarding managing your invasive species, what to plant, identification assistance, as well as survey and treatment assistance for early detection of priority invasive species.

The CAKE CISMA Steering Committee welcomed a new official member this spring. Shelby Harris with the Beaver Island Terrestrial Invasive Species program has been involved in the CAKE CISMA steering committee activities and meetings for the last year and a half but was officially appointed to the committee as the representative for Beaver Island. The CAKE CISMA steering committee also voted to go from a 7 to a 9-member committee. Please let us know if you are interested in CAKE CISMA Steering Committee meetings which are held quarterly.

### THANK YOU, DONORS!

TC Energy Foundation  
Great Lakes People Fund  
Consumer Energy  
Foundation  
Dole Family Foundation  
Charlevoix County  
Community Foundation

I am happy to announce that CAKE CISMA is now the proud owner of a 2018 Chevy Colorado. Through many generous granting organizations, we were awarded \$30,000 in grants to get us on the road.

Please come see us this summer at the numerous events we are either hosting or participating in this summer. We would love to chat with you and are always available to answer your invasive species questions.

-Lindsey

## FIELD NOTES



### Garlic Mustard Be gone!

Restoration Crew Lead, Wade, smiles at our first volunteer workday of the season on May 11th at Howell Zimmerman Preserve.



### Let's talk native plants

Katie leads a group on a tour of native flora at Wildwood Harbor Preserve on May 19th. Were the bugs bad? Yes. Were the plants cool? Absolutely!



### Planting for tomorrow

Program Coordinator, Lindsey plants a native Oak tree with a volunteer as a part of the Antrim Conservation District's 10,000 Oak tree planting on April 20th.



# OUR SUMMER IN THE FIELD

*We take you through three of the biggest projects we have planned this summer*

**Pictured here:** Restoration Crew Lead, Wade Foster, admires an endangered Pitcher's Thistle growing along the shores of Lake Michigan while working to remove invasives with staff from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

**More than just a logo:** The dwarf lake iris is endemic to the shores of the Great Lakes, meaning it's found nowhere else in the world



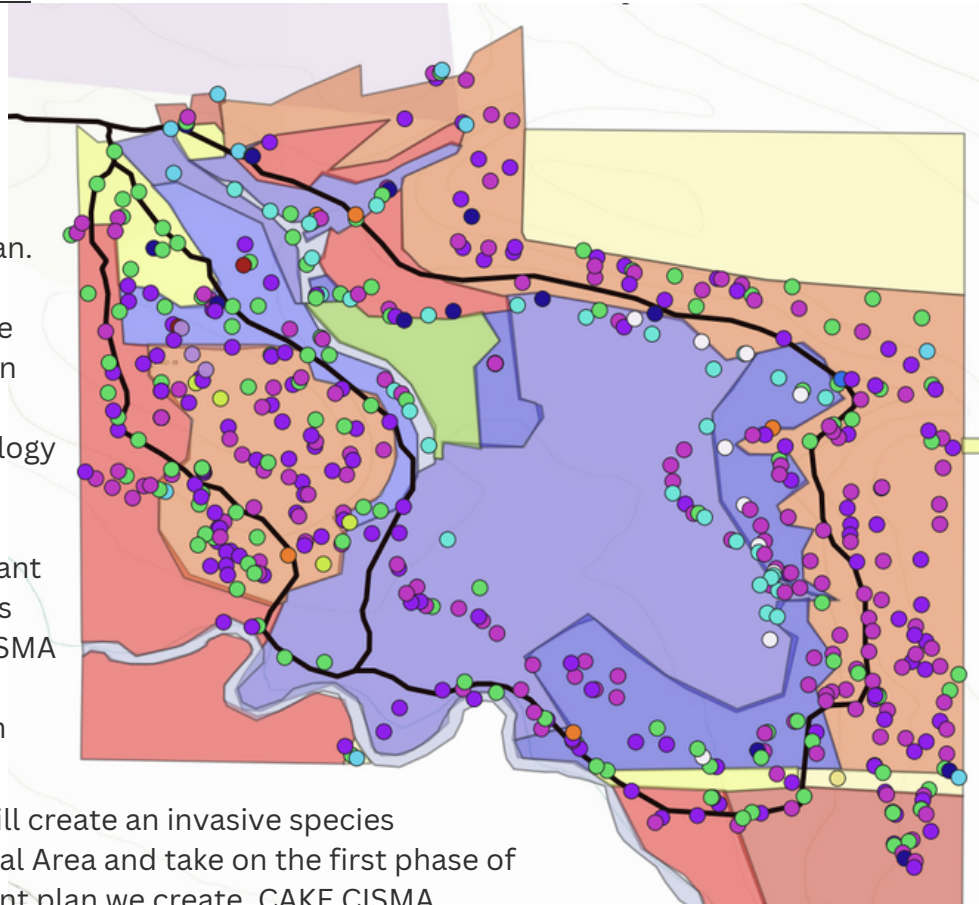
## Coastal & Riparian Habitat Restoration

CAKE CISMA staff and our partners are excited to take the next step towards protecting and enhancing some of the most unique and imperiled freshwater coastal dune and wetland habitats through the management of invasive species. Thanks to funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the hard work of the staff at Michigan Natural Features Inventory a comprehensive survey of coastal and riparian areas was conducted and subsequently prioritized based on the quality, rarity, size, landscape context, and habitat for rare species. We're taking the information they gathered and working to improve the habitats they surveyed. If you are interested in reading the report produced by MNFI, it can be found [here](#). Keep an eye out on our socials as well as future newsletters to see updates on the fun places we will be for this project this summer. We also will be hosting two guided hikes with botanists from MNFI, for more information and to sign up for the guided hike visit our website [here](#).

## NCMC Natural Area Invasive Inventory

It's not every day you see a plant blooming in March in Northern Michigan. When you do, it grabs one's attention. Daphne Mezereum or February Daphne was detected in North Central Michigan College's Natural Area in 2021. NCMC's Natural Area Committee Chair and Biology Professor Isis Arsnoe brought this problem invasive ornamental to CAKE CISMA in the fall of 2022. Through a grant funded by the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, CAKE CISMA has begun mapping all of the invasive species including Daphne Mezereum in the NCMC Natural Area.

With the maps in hand, CAKE CISMA will create an invasive species management plan for the NCMC Natural Area and take on the first phase of management driven by the management plan we create. CAKE CISMA additionally through the funding from PHSACF will work with the NCMC students to install boot cleaning stations to help prevent the movement of invasive species on boots. This will be a multiple-year project and will incorporate working with the NCMC students in future phases.



**The makings of a management plan:**  
A first draft map of plant distributions at the NCMC natural area. Final, fully detailed, maps will be on our website later this year.

## Black Swallow-wort Strategy Update

Black Swallow-Wort continues to be one of the top priorities for CAKE CISMA due to its limited distribution and potential ecological impacts on Northern Michigan. We received funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program to continue our work on containing this invasive plant and hopefully eradicate it in some locations. In 2022, our black swallow-wort surveys and outreach kicked up a lot of new sites outside of Emmet County and the City of Petoskey. These new satellite infestations have required us to reevaluate our strategy based on our time and resources. We continue to work with the City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation to manage the infestations on City properties which include the Bear River Recreation Area, Winter Sports Park, and Bayfront/Magnus Parks.

Within the City of Petoskey, we are asking residents to help us be successful by taking on the management of the black swallow-wort on their own properties. We have created a management zone outside the "core" of the infestation we will be surveying and treating in 2023. Inside of the core residents are encouraged to pull and dispose of the seed pods and treat the vines if possible. Residents can contact CAKE for treatment recommendations.

If you are unable to treat it yourself, please consider contacting a landscape company to treat the black swallow-wort vines. We are hopeful that CAKE will get a handle on the satellite populations and will continue to work our way toward the "core" over the next few years. If you have questions about our strategy or think you might have black swallow-wort please contact us.





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SPRING 2023

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*Species in focus:*

# DAPHNE MEZEREUM

Katie Gray, Education & Outreach Specialist

The first time I saw *Daphne mezereum* was a blustery cold day in April on a hike at North Central Michigan Colleges' natural area. It stood out amongst the surrounding foliage, or lack thereof since at the time nothing else was blooming yet. Further research on the species revealed the common name February Daphne, a nod to the plant's tendency to bloom far earlier than other species. As it turns out, we weren't the only folks with our eyes on this unique species, Isis Arsone, a professor at NCMC reached out to us around the same time to ask if we had the plant on our radar and if we were aware of its rapid spread throughout the natural area. Eventually, continued intrigue and investigation into this plant prompted us to start our NCMC Natural Area Inventory Project (see more above), but what exactly is Daphne, and why do we care?

According to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN), Daphne is originally from Europe, Russia, western Asia, and Scandinavia. The plant thrives in limestone-rich soils, which we have no shortage of in Michigan. While its gorgeous pink flowers may encourage you to collect the plant or grow it in your own yard, MISIN advises against it. They warn that some individuals experience rashes and eczema from just handling the plant. The berries are highly poisonous to humans, and medical attention should be sought immediately if accidentally ingested. The human health risk alone was enough to draw our attention to this non-native ornamental, but it also appears to exhibit negative ecosystem

impacts. Several large monocultures of Daphne were observed at NCMC, raising concerns about its impact on native species and biodiversity. We'll keep you updated as we continue to work on Dapngne at the NCMC natural area and share more about Daphne as we go. If you're interested in learning more about Daphne and how to identify it visit [www.misin.edu](http://www.misin.edu) to view the full species profile.





## Going Beyond Beauty

*CAKE CISMA brings ornamental invasive species awareness program to Northern Michigan*

Go Beyond Beauty was developed by the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN) as a way to celebrate garden professionals (nurseries, growers, landscapers, etc.), at no cost to them, who committed to not selling or using high-priority invasive ornamental species still legally available for sale. It has since expanded to include community members and non-horticultural businesses, and recognizes those who prioritize the sale and use of native plants! Now, with the program expanding statewide, CAKE CISMA is excited to be the next Go Beyond Beauty Hub (or chapter) of this grassroots outreach program. Check out the invasive ornamental plant list to see which species are of the highest concern for ALL of Michigan and more information on [GoBeyondBeauty.org](http://GoBeyondBeauty.org). Ask us how to Go Beyond Beauty in your own landscape or business, and register now!



Pictured: A monarch caterpillar climbs on its host plant, common milkweed. This native species is far more beneficial to Monarchs than invasive ornamentals like butterfly bush.

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### Partner Spotlight:

## LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY

Written by Amy Lipson, Conservation Specialist with Little Traverse Conservancy

Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) works to protect the natural diversity and beauty of Northern Michigan, but invasive species threaten to overwhelm the native flora our local ecosystems are built on. In response, LTC is working to protect our most sensitive habitats and reduce the impact of invasive species where possible. Here is how we do that.

Each summer, LTC staff are busy treating spotted knapweed to restore areas like our Offield Family Viewlands, a former golf course that is transitioning to prairies and northern hardwood forests. While knapweed management usually means spot spraying with herbicide, in some areas, we are able to hand pull it. The soft soils on beaches and sand dunes allow volunteers with hand tools to remove the entire root of spotted knapweed plants.





*Partner Spotlight:*

# LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY

Summer is also the perfect time to kill Japanese knotweed and monitor certain island preserves for aquatic invasives like European frogbit. By early fall, we are treating invasive grasses like phragmites and reed canary grass on our properties. Once winter arrives, the only weeds we can kill are woody trees, shrubs, and vines. By cutting them down just above the snow line and painting a little herbicide on their stumps, we can make sure they don't grow back. Infestations of honeysuckle, buckthorn, Asian bittersweet, and barberry are managed this way. Some trees, like Scots pine, don't even need herbicide treatment to prevent regrowth because conifers do not re-grow after being cut down. Once the sap starts flowing up (think maple tapping season), we can't do cut stump treatments anymore, so there is a lot less work we can do. This is a great time to apply for permits to use herbicide in wetlands for our summer treatments of phragmites and reed canary grass. Once the snow is melted, even if the ground is still frozen, we can foliar spray garlic mustard with a backpack sprayer in areas with very large infestations that would be hard to hand pull. When spring rolls around though, we prefer hand pulling as it reduces the impact on surrounding vegetation.

With so much invasive species management work to do on over 200 preserves, we rely on our volunteers who take the time to join us on our workdays. We work as a team to kill invasives in the highest priority areas first to protect sensitive habitats. We are also grateful for the help CAKE provides in managing invasive plants on LTC preserves and surrounding habitats, as this helps reduce the spread of invasives in our area.

Welcome to CAKE CISMA

## ABBY MIER, RESTORATION TECH

Originally from Michigan's eastern side, Abby grew up in a farming community and still pretends to farm by gardening. She received her Bachelor's in Environmental Science from Northern Michigan University in 2019. During her academic career, she conducted research on Michigan's historical archaeology, composting science, and population management. Before CAKE, Abby worked for the state of Michigan, ski resorts, and animal clinics.

Abby is our resident foraging expert and has been blessing all of us with her ability to spot morels while out in the field. She's also an ArcGIS wiz and has made fantastic maps for our latest management plans. If you see Abby in the field this summer be sure to say hi and ask her if she's foraged anything delicious nearby!

**Top:** Abby freezing and assisting with research in college  
**Bottom:** Abby digs garlic mustard on her first field day



# BEAVER ISLAND UPDATE

*CAKE CISMA works closely with our partner organization, the Beaver Island Acripelago Terrestrial Invasive Species Program to jointly manage invasives on the archipelago.*

Hello from the Beaver Island Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS) Program; now one of CAKE CISMA's newest Steering Committee Members! Our program is going on its third year of operation out here in the Beaver Island Archipelago, with one of our primary focuses being on invasive plant species, as they pose the greatest threat to our islands' native ecosystems, our tourism economy, and our community's heritage and real estate values.

This 2023 season the TIS Crew is working under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant and will be hard at work following Early Detection & Rapid Response practices; a coordinated set of actions to locate and eradicate potential invasive species before they spread and cause harm. With our seasonal Field Technicians, Rami Jameel & Matthew Swarhout, and a handful of volunteers, we will be surveying over 200 acres of trails, over 200 acres of island shorelines, almost 1000 acres of inland lakes and their shorelines, and 500 acres of public & private properties throughout the Beaver Island Archipelago.

Beyond surveying for invasive species, educating our community on ways to stop the spread of invasive species is another primary goal. Utilizing T.V. monitors throughout the community, the TIS Program is creating educational slides to help inform the public about safe practices they can take to help, such as utilizing boot scrappers at trailheads, washing and drying water crafts after use, and ways to identify plant species - all in an effort to educate and protect our community. We have also released new, updated brochures listing our top invasive plant species and top threatened & endangered (T&E) species found throughout the Archipelago, located at multiple community buildings and online on multiple webpages and social media sites.



**Pictured here:** TIS crew member, Rami, poses with a massive amount of garlic mustard pulled by the Beaver Island crew. Garlic mustard is not widespread on the island.



# BEAVER ISLAND UPDATE CONT.



Matthew shares his thoughts on garlic mustard

The TIS Program's overall goal, although titled for invasive species, is to protect our natural communities and the native species within them. While managing our invasive species we are also surveying for the many T&E species found throughout "The Great Lakes Jewell" and working to educate the community about them. Currently, we are working with Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) to create a Landowners Guide specific to Beaver Island. We aim to increase awareness & engagement in protecting our rare species & communities. By educating landowners along with the public, we can help protect native plant species as well as their habitats so we can continue to enjoy Beaver Island for many generations to come.



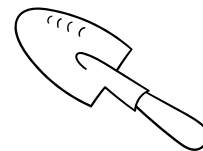
We wouldn't be able to accomplish this on our own, and you will see this summer on Beaver Island multiple events of collaboration between our TIS Program, CAKE CISMA, the Beaver Island Association, the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association, Little Traverse Conservancy, Michigan State University Extension, MNFI, the Michigan DNR and many more! We thank all of these organizations and our volunteers for the continued support, funding, and efforts in the ongoing battle against invasive species and protection of our Lake Michigan home!

Shelby Harris  
TIS Program Administrator

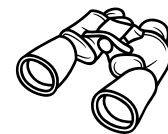
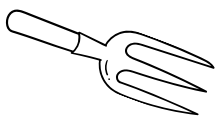
*Keep our Northern Michigan waters beautiful and pristine  
for generations to come!*

## CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

After every waterbody, every time



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## JUN 16 WOODY INVASIVE WORKDAY

WITH THE WALLOON LAKE ASSOC. & CONSERVANCY

Help us remove woody invasive plants and learn how to manage them on your land  
2:00 - 3:30 PM | WILDWOOD HARBOR PRESERVE

## JUL 17 PADDLE STEWARDS

WITH PADDLE ANTRIM

Join local conservation professionals to learn how you can contribute to our work while you are out paddling and playing on the water

5:30 - 7:30 PM | MILTON TWP WATERFRONT PARK

## JUN 20 FEN-TASTIC FENS HIKE

WITH THE MICH. NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY

Botany research assistant, Julie McLaughlin, will guide this hike focused on pollinator interactions in fens

10:00 - 12:00 PM | SKEGEMOG NATURAL AREA



## AUG 4 COSTAL HABITATS HIKE

WITH THE MICH. NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY

Conservation associate, Elizabeth Haber, will guide this hike focused on protecting and promoting coastal plants

10:00 - 12:00 PM | WOOLLAM FAMILY NATURE PRESERVE

## JUN 21 RESTORATION TOUR

WITH LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY

See how LTC is transforming a former golf course into a natural area and learn how to restore your own land

3:30-5:00 PM | OFFIELD FAMILY VIEWLANDS

## AUG 17 DUNE WORKDAY

WITH GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL LAND CONSERVANCY

Help us restore and protect a beloved dune ecosystem for future generations to enjoy.

10:00-12:00 PM | ANTRIM CREEK NATURAL AREA

## JUN 29 DUNE WORKDAY

WITH GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL LAND CONSERVANCY

Help us restore and protect a beloved dune ecosystem for future generations to enjoy.

10:00-12:00 PM | ANTRIM CREEK NATURAL AREA

## SEP 16 WOODY INVASIVES WORKSHOP

WITH THE ANTRIM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Learn how to manage woody invasive plants  
TBD | ANTRIM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## JUL 10 WOMEN'S PADDLE

WITH THE WALLOON LAKE ASSOC. & CONSERVANCY

Make new friends and learn about aquatic ecosystems

6:00 PM | MILL POND PRESERVE



*Keep in touch!*

We'll be adding additional volunteer workdays and events to our website throughout the summer at [www.cakecisma.org](http://www.cakecisma.org)