

# PHRAGMITES



Photo credit: Michigan DNR

## BCK CISMA NEWSLETTER

September 2018

### Turning a “blind” eye to phragmites means serious drawbacks for waterfowl hunting

Looking for ways to camouflage your hunting blind? Try synthetic materials or native plants such as cedar branches or cattails. Whatever you do, don't use invasive Phragmites!! You will not want this species growing in your favorite hunting spot.

Invasive Phragmites is a tall grass that can reach up to 13 feet in height. Its stalks are topped with fluffy, dense seed heads, that are purple in the spring and turns straw color over the growing season. The leaf blades are flat and smooth. The leaf sheaths cling to the stem instead of shedding off.

Phragmites prefers wet environments, so infestations are commonly found around ponds and wetlands. Other popular locations are road right of ways and recently developed areas due to accidental spread from maintenance equipment and bare dirt, which is an open invitation to many invasive species.

Phragmites can completely take over waterfowl habitat. Since native wildlife does not use Phragmites, once it replaces the native cover and food sources there will be a decrease in game bird populations. Over time, Phragmites will lead to

lower quality game and hunting experience. In a dense patch of Phragmites it is extremely difficult to see or move. You will understand the impact of this when it is time to retrieve a duck or goose that has landed somewhere in the depth of the patch.

To help prevent the spread of this nasty invasive, please remember to never use it to camouflage your hunting blind. The transfer of seeds and root pieces causes Phragmites to spread. It is also important to take the time to clean off your boot, gear and pets when moving to a new location. You would be surprised the amount of tiny seeds that can accumulate, as they cling to everything they encounter.

Due to its massive root system, Phragmites needs a chemical treatment. Cutting, burning, the use of the wrong chemical treatment, or improper treatment timing can cause spread. BCK CISMA is dedicated to curbing the spread of invasive species in Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. If you have Phragmites or other invasive species concerns within those counties please contact Fallon Januska at [fallon.januska@macd.org](mailto:fallon.januska@macd.org) or 269-908-4139.

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BCK CISMA  
THIS MONTH IN NUMBERS  
17 Detections  
43 Treatments  
1 Local Outreach Event  
1 Inter-CISMA Meeting



Above: BCK CISMA Coordinator Fallon Januska conducted outreach at Youth Day, teaching 750 kids and their parents about Asian Longhorn Beetle and invasive species decontamination!

**Steering Committee Updates**  
The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 7th, from 3-5pm at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary**. Topics for discussion are taking a look at the reorganized Strategic Plan, deciding which gap in the plan (ex: surveying prioritization, treatment prioritization and protocol, etc) to address first, and gathering input on that topic.

2018 grant proposals were due September 28th. BCK CISMA submitted both a core funding and an implementation funding proposal. The main focuses of the implementation proposal were 1) the transition to more aquatic work, including a lake associations symposium and 2) decontamination education and monitoring of practices adopted. If you would like to know more about the proposals, contact Fallon!



Barry • Calhoun • Kalamazoo  
**BCKCISMA**  
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area