



## Spring 2016 Newsletter and 2015 Highlights

### **A Message from the Outgoing Cisma Chair**

I am pleased to report that SuAsCo Cisma is going strong after 7 years. We have built a good foundation for the organization thanks to support from the River Stewardship Council and the Nyanza Trustees, the excellent work of Cisma Coordinator Amber Carr, and the thoughtful governance of the Steering Committee and officers. Our real strength is in our partners, both dedicated individuals volunteering their time and ideas, and the municipal and non-profit staff who have likewise taken on the mission of invasives control. The “C” in Cisma will always be key—Cooperative.

One of our objectives over the past year was to strengthen the financial sustainability of Cisma. This is being done primarily through grant-writing. We have also steadily improved the financial procedures so that a financial report and budget can be presented to the Steering Committee and membership. This was done at our 2015 Fall Meeting.

The exciting work of course is what happens outdoors! The purple loosestrife control by beetles reared through Cisma has shown significant success. Volunteers from the Westford Conservation Trust have slowed down the highly invasive mile-a-minute weed. In fact, it isn't travelling anywhere at any speed any more! An all-out effort on mapping and removing water chestnut from our rivers and ponds has made a huge difference. We don't know who will win the war yet—the plant or us—but if we are able to continue our efforts, it will be us. There are many more projects that Cisma has supported, either through small grants or technical assistance. You know who you are—and we are so grateful for your hard work.

We've also had several excellent presentations through the spring and fall meetings and the lecture series: Japanese Stiltgrass- Still an Early Detection Species?, several early detection plant ID trainings, and an EDDMaps refresher. Cisma's info-rich website is an excellent resource for the public and professionals, alike.

Alison Field-Juma, Outgoing Chair  
SuAsCo Cisma Steering Committee

### **Goodbye and Thank You to the 2015 Steering Committee Members and Welcome to our 2016 Members**

#### **2015 Committee Members**

Town of Concord  
Friends of Assabet River NWR  
Town of Lincoln  
Mass Audubon  
Town of Maynard  
National Park Service  
New England Wild Flower Society  
OARS  
Town of Stow  
Sudbury Valley Trustees  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

#### **2016 Committee Members**

Town of Concord  
Town of Lincoln  
Mass Audubon  
Town of Maynard  
National Park Service  
New England Forestry Foundation  
New England Wild Flower Society  
OARS  
Town of Stow  
Sudbury Valley Trustees  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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## Spring 2016 Meeting Invitation

You are welcome to attend the spring meeting of the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SuAsCo CISMA) on March 15th, 3:00-5:00pm, at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge's visitor center, 680 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/assabriver/>

**Please RSVP by March 11th** to Amber Carr [acarr@massaudubon.org](mailto:acarr@massaudubon.org); [781-259-2198](tel:781-259-2198).

### The spring meeting will include:

2:30- 3:00 Meet and Greet

3:00- 3:15 Welcome and Announcements

3:15-4:00 CISMA member presentations  
Hear about invasive plant management projects in wetlands from several CISMA members. Provide feedback on a particularly difficult project or hear lessons learned from members past experiences.

4:00- 4:20 DEP Presentation  
DEP staff will discuss NOI forms 3 vs 3a and discuss when it is appropriate to use the new 3a restoration form for invasive management projects.

4:20-5:00 “The Vine “  
This is an opportunity to talk about your organization’s projects from past present and future years. It is a great way to hear others successes, failures, ask questions, and network for future projects.

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## Upcoming Event

The essentials in attracting our Native Pollinators: Life-history needs, plant selection and creative landscape designs. **Saturday March 19th, 10:30 AM at Wolbach Farm, 18 Wolbach Road, Sudbury, MA**

MaryKay Fox, the President of the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (FMNWR), will share her knowledge on native pollinators so you can leave inspired to create your own pollinator garden. She will address the pressing issues of pollinators, describe critical factors in attracting them, and suggest native plants and seed sources for our region. After the talk, there will be an opportunity to taste Native Beach Plum and Wild Grape jams harvested from Mashpee Refuge lands. For those who pledge to help our pollinators, a unique gift will be offered.



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## Wall Lettuce Management - Reprinted from the Fall 2015 Newsletter

Wall lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*) is a problem in Lincoln. Native to Europe and the Mediterranean, it is a problematic invasive plant in the northern U.S. and Canada with airborne seed dispersal similar to dandelions. Lincoln's control efforts have focused on removing wall lettuce from roadsides and keeping it out of core conservation areas. Control consists of pulling, as the plant has easily removed roots; however, all roots need to be removed as it is a perennial. The NEWFS is also concerned with this plant at their sanctuaries. Hand pulling appears to be the most effective eradication for new populations, but may be aiding established populations by providing necessary disturbance. Research is ongoing.

**Anna Wilkins, Outreach Coordinator Lincoln Land Conservation Trust**

[wilkins@lincolnconservation.org](mailto:wilkins@lincolnconservation.org)



Wall Lettuce Leaf - Detail



Wall Lettuce Flower

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## Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Worcester - Late 2015

As you may have read in the news last month, state officials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recently confirmed the presence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the city of Worcester, MA. EAB is a small, metallic green beetle, native to Asia, which feeds on ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) and white fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). This pest can kill a tree quickly, within just 3 to 5 years, because it bores directly under the bark and disrupts the tree's conductive system. It has now spread throughout 25 states, killing millions of ash trees and causing billions of dollars in treatment, removal and replacement costs.

In late November 2015, four infested trees were found by crews in Worcester that were checking trees for another invasive pest, the Asian Longhorned Beetle. With EAB already in Berkshire and Essex Counties,

the arrival of this pest in the central part of Massachusetts is not unexpected. But while the confirmation of EAB in Worcester is not cause for alarm, it is an invasive pest and it does require communities to alter the way they are managing forests and street trees in order to deal with the pending loss of ash.

Although eradication of EAB is not feasible, slowing its spread allows communities to prepare in advance and make the best decisions about how to manage ash trees before they are impacted. To prevent the inadvertent spread of forest pests like EAB, avoid moving untreated firewood long distances. Instead, find local and trusted firewood suppliers, or purchase firewood that is certified as treated.

With this new find in Worcester, MA, it is important to recognize that although the statewide emerald ash borer quarantine allows ash and firewood to be moved throughout the state, ash remains a host for Asian Longhorned Beetle. Therefore no ash products or firewood can be moved from within the 110 square mile regulated area encompassing Worcester, Boylston, West Boylston, Shrewsbury, and parts of Holden and Auburn.

On January 6th, 2016 the Forest Pest Task Force held an EAB Preparedness Forum for municipalities, land trusts, and tree wardens to learn more about what they should be doing to prepare for the arrival of EAB.

### **Predator Flies Have Winter Moths In Their Sights**

NEW BEDFORD — There's bad news for all those millions of winter moths that we have been seeing in our headlights.

They may be telling us that they have strength in numbers as we head toward next spring's frenzy of destruction. And while next spring is going to be a rough one for the trees and shrubs that are devoured by moth caterpillars, the days of the winter moth may be numbered. Read the complete story [here](#) from SouthCoasttoday.com.

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### **From the Fall 2015 Meeting - A Summary of "The Vine"**

**Upland "bad boys" – bittersweet, multiflora rose, etc**

-The NRCS has had success rotationally grazing pigs on a heavily invaded site. This tears up the soil, which can then be mowed. After two years, the site was planted with low growing perennials.

-The Town of Stow began an invasive mapping and removal project on town conservation lands. The town also began dealing with Japanese knotweed last year to great success, and has planned two years of follow up .....

To read the full summary click [here](#).

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### **From the February 2016 Stewardship Winter Lecture Series Notes from a Presentation by Dan Jaffe Taking on Invasives Design - Less Gardening.**

Dan Jaffe is propagator and stock bed grower with the New England Wildflower Society. He was the featured speaker at the February 2016 Stewardship Winter Lecture Series at the Thoreau Institute. If you missed his presentation click [here](#) to see a summary.

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