

2023 Weed Warrior Subcommittee Annual Priority Actions

1. Educational Resources
 - a. Create and/or compile educational resources for volunteers and trainers including videos, guides, and brochures.
 - b. Organize advertising time sensitive pull across the region e.g. water chestnut and garlic mustard- Gerry, garlic mustard
2. Use new events calendar
3. Schedule monthly training
4. Develop mapping protocol
5. Disposal Guidelines- Homeowners and Organizations/Towns
6. Grant funding for Municipal invasive plant disposal
7. One Sheet Flyers
8. Guide on trainings

Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM)

- **Objective 1:** Establish a watershed-wide water chestnut task force. The AIM Subcommittee serves in this role. Recruit interested members from other watershed towns--ongoing.
- **Objective 2:** Establish watershed-wide monitoring and reporting. Field-test OARS' new water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) reporting app.
- Recruit volunteers in each town to do basic assessment (presence/absence) of water chestnut in surface waters July through August. Ask conservation agents to report areas being worked on and to suggest active volunteers to be trained.
- **Objective 3:** Outreach and local participation. Facilitate communication with towns and stakeholder groups. Organize meetings that focus on securing support for town-based monitoring, encourage direct assistance with transport and disposal of harvested plant materials, and discuss consistent permitting of control efforts. Promote volunteer training, pulls and reporting through the Weed Warrior program.
- **Objective 4:** Consistent wetlands permitting of control efforts. Continue working with the LAPS Subcommittee and DCR to push for efficient and effective watershed-wide permitting and allowing volunteer management.
- **Objective 5:** Prevent and control new infestations. Encourage information sharing within and between municipalities to identify new infestations. Educate the public on identification and removal techniques through Weed Warriors and OARS' App. Share observations on changes in purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) populations. Share information about emerging aquatic invasives, including water clover, [*Marsilea quadrifolia*](#).
- **Objective 6:** Contribute to research on effective controls. Keep track of effectiveness and impacts of herbicide-based aquatic invasives control efforts. Share information on new/different weed control technologies and contractors.

- **Objective 7: Support ongoing water chestnut control efforts.** Encourage municipalities to provide annual support to water chestnut management and education efforts. In 2023 OARS will work through CISMA's Weed Warriors program to train volunteers to do watershed-wide water chestnut management. Continued advocacy for Invasive Species Management legislation in the state legislature. The AMIS bi-annual meetings will continue to facilitate sharing of experience, information and advice among municipalities and non-profits working on aquatic invasives management.

Early Detection and Control 2023 APAs

- 1) Recruitment of new subcommittee members
- 2) Support small grant applicants by hosting a meeting to discuss project and provide management recommendations/identification/etc.
- 3) During spring/summer/early fall, conduct two tours of invasive plant projects that have had success and/or experimenting with new invasive plant control techniques
- 4) Conduct early detection invasive plant training to weed warrior trainees

Legislative and Permitting Subcommittee Annual Priority Actions - 2023

- Continue to develop a streamlined wetland permitting process to allow homeowners and land conservation organizations to conduct small-scale terrestrial invasive species control projects
- Continue to follow and support state Invasive Species Coordinator legislation drafted by Senator Pat Jehlen
- Coordinate with CISMA's Weed Warriors program on permitting requirements