

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) 2017 Annual Report

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) is a consortium of individuals, members of environmental organizations, and affiliates of municipal and state agencies whose mission is to promote awareness of invasive plants and their non-invasive alternatives. Formed in 1997 as an ad-hoc group, CIPWG is now in its 20th year of operation. The working group meets 1 to 2 times per year to collaborate and share information on the presence, distribution, ecological impacts, and management of invasive plants affecting Connecticut and the region and to promote uses of native or non-invasive ornamental alternatives. CIPWG members are affiliated with federal and state agencies, municipalities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational institutions, the green industry, and the general community. Donna Ellis (UConn Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture) and Charlotte Pyle (formerly with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) serve as CIPWG Co-Chairs.

The CIPWG website address is www.cipwg.uconn.edu. Kristen Ponak serves as the CIPWG webmaster. The website provides information on invasive plant topics that include identification, management, various lists of invasive plants, photos of invasive plants, invasive alternatives, resources, legislative updates, and Connecticut Invasive Plants Council activities. In addition to the Connecticut List of Invasive and Potentially Invasive Plants determined by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes [§22a-381a](#) through [§22a-381d](#), the website includes an [Early Detection list](#) and a list of plants for which more research is needed. Online reporting forms for mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) allow website visitors to provide distribution information on these species. A separate, related website exists for mile-a-minute information at www.mam.uconn.edu. The CIPWG website provides links to the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS; www.eddmaps.org) to submit reports of other invasive plants. Additional features and updates have been added to expand the CIPWG website, including a photo notebook with a gallery of Connecticut invasive plants, an event calendar, and links to invasive plant fact sheets and management information.

CIPWG's news and events list serve has approximately 860 members from Connecticut and other states in the region. Requests to subscribe to the list serve may be submitted online from the CIPWG website or via request to Donna Ellis, CIPWG Co-Chair.

Since 2002, CIPWG has hosted biennial invasive plant symposia. The eighth biennial symposium was convened on October 11, 2016 at the UConn Student Union in Storrs, CT, with 490 people attending. The symposium theme was *Invasive Plants in Our Changing World: Learn from the Past, Prepare for the Future*. The all-day event featured national, regional, and local experts as well as citizen volunteers sharing practical solutions for invasive plant management and actions needed to promote native species and improve wildlife habitat. Plans are underway for the fall 2018 CIPWG symposium, to be held at the UConn Storrs campus. [Symposium information](#) is available on the CIPWG website.

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group maintains the following subcommittees:

- Education and Outreach (educational outreach about invasive species and their alternatives)
- Management (develop and disseminate information on invasive plant control options)
- Native Alternatives (explore and promote use of native plant species as alternatives to invasives)

CIPWG provides a [List of Speakers](#) who are available to give presentations on many invasive plant-related topics, including identification, control, and non-invasive alternatives. CIPWG speakers and other members coordinated and presented many lectures, workshops, demonstrations, guided field walks, and invasive plant management events during 2017. Two portable CIPWG exhibits that feature invasive terrestrial plants and aquatic species continue to be displayed at numerous public events.

The CIPWG exhibits were displayed, invasive plant talks were presented, invasive plant educational materials were provided, and/or invasive plant management activities occurred at the following local, statewide, and regional events during 2017 (All towns are in CT unless otherwise noted; activities occurred in 44 CT towns). The 214 activities reported below reached over 30,000 Connecticut citizens, including agency and municipal staff. A minimum of 8,022 hours was provided through intensive invasive plant training sessions and management activities, as well as brief technical educational outreach:

- Andover, management activities, Andover Conservation Commission; Crompton (14 participants)
- Ashford, invasive plant activities, Ashford Conservation Commission; Wrobel (16 participants, multiple days)
- Ashford, presentation, Ashford Conservation Commission; Wrobel/Lee (11 attendees)
- Avon, management activities, Farmington River Watershed Association; Moorhead and others (87 participants, multiple days)
- Avon, monitoring activities, Farmington River Watershed Association; Moorhead (multiple days)
- Brentwood, NY, presentation, Long Island Sound Management Area; Moorhead
- Bridgewater, management activities; Nelson (9 participants, multiple days)
- Bridgewater, management consulting activities; Nelson
- Brookfield, management activities; Nelson (2 participants)
- Concord, NH, training workshop, University of New Hampshire Extension; Mervosh (25 attendees)
- Cornwall, management activities; Gambino and Allyn
- Cromwell, exhibit, Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions; Pyle (300 attendees)
- Cromwell, exhibit, Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association Turf and Landscape Conference; Ellis (300 attendees)
- Cromwell, presentation, Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions; Mervosh (60 attendees)
- Danbury, field walk and management activities, Still River Watershed Connections; Nelson and Zipparo (6 attendees)
- East Granby, 26 management activities; Clifford (on behalf of the East Granby Land Trust) (51 participants, multiple days)
- Falls Village, exhibit, Mad Gardeners Symposium; Nelson (130 attendees)
- Falls Village, invasive plant curriculum development, Housatonic Valley Regional High School; Moran
- Falls Village, management activities; Zetterstrom, Stoner, and Zarillo
- Falls Village, workshop, Sharon Land Trust, Invasive Initiative, and Housatonic Valley Regional High School Arboretum and Landscape Committee; Zetterstrom (20 attendees)
- Glastonbury, presentation and guided tour, UConn School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program; Ellis (95 attendees)
- Goshen, exhibit for town fair; Nelson (multiple days)
- Greenwich, management activities, Town of Greenwich Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency; Tomaszewski (6 participants)

- Guilford, presentation, Connecticut Conservation Commission; Williams (150 participants)
- Guilford, television interview, CT NBC 30 Troubleshooters; Williams (5 participants)
- Hamden, exhibit, Plant Science Day, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Ellis (1,157 attendees)
- Hampton, presentation and site walk, Goodwin Forest Conservation Center; Rondeau (12 attendees)
- Hartford, exhibit, Ag Day at the Capitol; Ellis and Concklin (150 attendees)
- Hartford, exhibit, Connecticut Flower and Garden Show; 24 volunteers worked 72 hours (30,000 attendees)
- Hartford, presentation, Connecticut Environment Committee; Zetterstrom (3 participants)
- Hartford, Storrs, and Windsor, administrative support for Invasive Plants Council meetings; Ellis (9 members, multiple days)
- Holyoke, MA, management activities, The Trustees of Reservation; Knox (33 participants; multiple days)
- Kent, management activities, Kent Land Trust; Zetterstrom
- Lakeville, presentation, The Salisbury Forum and area Land Trusts; Tallamy (350 attendees)
- Lebanon, exhibit, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Symposium; Ellis, Allen, and Wallace (400 attendees)
- Lebanon, presentation, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Symposium; Ellis and Allen (30 attendees)
- Middlefield, television interview, CT NBC 30 Troubleshooters; Williams (6 participants)
- Milford, presentation, Coastal Certificate Program; Pyle (20 attendees)
- Millerton, NY, management activities; Nelson
- Mystic, management activities, Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter and Dennis Pequotsepos Nature Center; Pan (8 participants, multiple days)
- Mystic, presentation, Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter; Atha (40 attendees)
- New Haven, meeting, Pollinator Plant Working Group; Pyle (6 attendees)
- New Haven, presentation, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority; Williams (20 participants)
- New Haven, radio interview, CT WNPR; Williams (2 participants)
- Newington, 3 training sessions; Boone, Donnelly, Picone, Pyle, and Villwock (75 participants, multiple days)
- New London, presentation, Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter Monthly Program; Mervosh, Reed, and Stokes (50 attendees)
- New London, presentation and guided tour, Connecticut College; Knuttel (14 attendees)
- New Milford, exhibit, New Milford Garden Club; Nelson and others (150 attendees)
- New Milford, management activities; Nelson and others (27 participants, multiple days)
- New Milford, management consulting activities; Nelson (multiple days)
- Newtown, management consulting activities; Nelson
- Niantic, management activities; Reed and Stokes (8 attendees, multiple days)
- Norfolk, training workshop, Aton Forest; Moorhead (9 attendees)
- North Canaan, management activities; Zetterstrom, Allyn, and CT Department of Transportation (multiple days)
- Northwestern Connecticut, educational outreach; Zetterstrom
- Plantsville, exhibit, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Symposium and Expo; Ellis, Allen, and Wallace (300 attendees, 2 days)
- Redding, presentation, Redding Garden Club and Mark Twain Library; Nelson (80 attendees)

- Regional, online conference, Northeastern Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center; Ellis (52 participants)
- Regional, video, UConn Extension Agriculture Team; Ellis and others (173 views)
- Rockfall, exhibit, Connecticut Botanical Society; Moorhead
- Roxbury, management activities; Nelson (8 participants, multiple days)
- Salisbury, exhibit; Zetterstrom
- Salisbury, management activities, Hotchkiss School; Mervosh and Zetterstrom (24 participants)
- Salisbury, management activities, Indian Mountain School; Zetterstrom (9 participants)
- Salisbury-Lakeville, management activities, Salisbury Land Trust; Zetterstrom and Allyn
- Sharon, management activities, Sharon Land Trust; Hunter and Allyn (12 participants)
- Sharon, workshop, Sharon Land Trust and Invasive Initiative; Zetterstrom (30 attendees)
- Southbury, exhibit, Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists; Moorhead
- Stamford, presentation and field demonstration, UConn Extension Master Gardener Program; Mervosh (15 attendees)
- Statewide, EDDMapS reporting and verifications; Moorhead (multiple days)
- Statewide, mile-a-minute weed biological control project, 29 release and monitoring sites visited; Cheah, Ellis, Nelson, and Varricchio (4 participants, multiple days)
- Storrs, field demonstration, Connecticut Natural Resources Conservation Academy; Williams (16 participants)
- Storrs, invasive risk management workshop; Silander, Gabelman, Ellis, Pyle, and others (14 attendees)
- Storrs, poster, Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources; Moorhead
- Tolland, presentation and guided tour; Ellis (15 attendees)
- Uncasville, presentation, Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference and Trade Show; Ellis (25 attendees)
- Washington, management consulting activities; Nelson
- West Cornwall, presentation, Housatonic River Commission; Zetterstrom and Allyn
- Westminster, MA, presentation, Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association Annual Summer Conference and Trade Show; Ellis (80 attendees)
- Windsor, presentation, Windsor Garden Club and Windsor Conservation Commission; Mervosh (40 attendees)

Submitted by Donna Ellis (UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture; CIPWG Co-chair), with contributions from Charlotte Pyle (CIPWG Co-chair) and many other CIPWG members included above.

24 January 2018