

POLLINATOR FRIENDLY HABITAT WORKING GROUP

Minutes for May 8, 2017

Meeting room 314

Menomonie Alliance Church

1. Call meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Attendance – JG, VK, NB, RR, and PW
3. Introductions – new people? – no new people
4. Guest Speaker – Kathy Stahl
5. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Kathy Stahl, a member of the Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership (LCIP) group, spoke to the group about invasive plants in our area and throughout Wisconsin. It was a very interesting presentation highlighting invasive plants and their alternatives. The definition used by LCIP for invasive is: “Invasive plants are plants that are outside their natural distribution area and threaten biological diversity by outcompeting native species.” Harmful invasives can cause economic, health, and / or biodiversity harm. Kathy had pictures of invasive stands that had literally taken over areas of our state.

Some points made:

- LCIP will help residents with the extermination of invasives by providing herbicides at a cheap rate, or free, for small amounts. They cannot sell the herbicides so donations are welcome to offset costs.
- LCIP works to educate citizens and provide point of contact for identification and control of invasives.
- LCIP welcomes volunteers to help on ‘work days’.
- Burning bush was recently added to the invasive list.
- Common invasives include Japanese knotweed, Leafy spurge, Garlic mustard, Wild parsnip (burns skin when exposed to sunlight), Common buckthorn, Spotted knapweed, Japanese Barberry, Wild Chervil (stands in Chippewa Falls), Birdsfoot trefoil, and many others.

Contact information for LCIP:

Phone: 715-231-6540

Email: lcinvasives@gmail.com

Facebook: Search “Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership”

Website: <http://lcinvasives.org/>

As beekeepers we share plants and seeds. Be sure and research the plant to see if it is on the invasive list for your area. When out and about, look for invasives and contact LCIP when you see one. We can all help our environment by protecting the native species and avoiding the invasives.

Thanks to Kathy for a very informative presentation.

Jenny provided each attendee with two newly sprouted flowering crab apple tree seedlings. Veronica provided Beardtongue (Penstemon plants).