

Draft notes from KISMA's 3rd all-partner fall meeting and knotweed control demonstration in Houghton (24 September 2013); 29Sept2013 version

Schedule:

10:00 a.m. to noon: Houghton, Houghton's Lakeshore Center's Community Room

- Welcome and introductions
- Memorandum of understanding
- KISMA: June 2013 to present
- KISMA in the future
- Comments/thoughts

Noon to 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own. There are picnic tables outside with a great Portage Canal view!

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.: After a brief introduction, guest speaker Pam Roberts (Coordinator of Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area in Bayfield, WI) will highlight their group's work with knotweed education and control in northern Wisconsin. **Location:** Houghton, Lakeshore Center's Community Room

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.: Ian Shackelford (Ottawa National Forest botanist and invasive species specialist) will demonstrate various control methods for knotweed. Pam Roberts and Bonnie Hay (Gratiot Lake Conservancy) will share their experiences with knotweed control. **Location:** Michigan Tech's parking lot #21/26, located on east side of Garnet Street, just south of 7th Avenue.

A big thanks to Pam Roberts (Coordinator, Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area) for her Japanese knotweed presentation and Ian Shackelford (Botanist, Ottawa National Forest) for his knotweed control demonstration.

10:00 - 1200 meeting: Houghton, Lakeshore Center's Community Room

1. Welcome and introductions:

People (8) present at meeting:

Karen Andersen (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, KBIC); steering committee member (alternate)
Sue Haralson (Houghton Keweenaw Conservation Distr, HKCD); steering committee member (alternate)
Bonnie Hay (Gratiot Lake Conservancy, GLC); steering committee member
Meral Jackson (Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area [KISMA] coordinator; starts 1 October 2013)
Bruce Maki (Plum Creek Timber)
Janet Marr (KISMA coordinator & steering committee member; contract ends 30 September 2013)
Evelyn Ravindran (KBIC); steering committee member
Ian Shackelford (US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest, ONF); steering committee member

2. Memorandum of understanding (MOU):

Ian Shackelford informed us that 22 partners signed the MOU which will be good for five years (until 31 December 2017). A copy of the MOU is available at www.kisma.org

3. KISMA: June 2013 to present:

- Disposal of invasive species bags: Landfills can't take yard waste unless invasive plants (but landfills are not required to even do that). KISMA now has a permit to dispose of invasive species in labeled green bags to the Waste Management (WM) Transfer Station on Enterprise Drive in Houghton. There was a glitch this summer when personnel from Isle Royale National Park attempted to deliver green bags to the WM Transfer Station and were refused. Our WM contact in Marquette (Bob Pliska) talked to the WM Transfer Station folks and it's all sorted out. In an email from Bob Pliska, he stated "as long as the green bags are properly labeled and they [KISMA partners] identify themselves [as KISMA partners], we can accept the invasive species from your partners. I have discussed this with transfer personnel."
- KISMA display board: The KISMA display board was displayed in seven or eight places in Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw (BHK) counties in 2013. The display board is stored at the new HKCD office (711 W. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton) and is available to use along with a vase of plastic invasive species plants, and a box of brochures/pamphlets. Designing/producing a 2nd display board was suggested.
- KISMA tools: KISMA tools are stored at the new HKCD office location and are available to KISMA partners. They include two weed wrenches (good for buckthorn/honeysuckle removal), asparagus pullers (good for knapweed, garlic mustard, etc. removal), loppers, clippers, dandelion removers. If there are other tools you would like to see purchased, please let the HKCD administrator/KISMA coordinator know. There are still several hundred dollars left in the American Transmission Company grant for purchasing tools.
- Aquatic invasive species (AIS) grant proposal: The water quality grant proposal that had been submitted to MI DEQ by HKCD to survey the 40 highest priority BHK lakes for Eurasian watermilfoil and other AIS was not funded. A call for a new round of proposals apparently will be made this fall by the DEQ. HKCD may resubmit a revised proposal, perhaps in conjunction with a KBIC 2% Funding grant submitted by the Baraga County Conservation District.
- Chassell's Pike Bay's Eurasian watermilfoil update: Chassell Township board voted in a Special Assessment District so they will now be able to gather funds from landowners and have the ability to participate with MI Tech and others to hopefully move forward to manage the milfoil in Pike Bay. EWM locations had been mapped out earlier in Pike Bay by the company, Many Waters LLC.
- AIS signs: Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker signs up were installed at several Houghton County lakes (Roland, Emily, and Pike) and at least one Keweenaw County lake (Gratiot Lake). Ian brought several AIS signs that are available for posting by KISMA partners at area lakes. These signs are at the HKCD office.
- Knotweed article published. A informational article about Japanese/giant knotweed was published in Houghton's Daily Mining Gazette (DMG; 30Aug2013; available online at <http://www.mininggazette.com/>) and L'Anse's Sentinel (11Sept2013). The DMG article resulted so far in four knotweed reports from Houghton County and the Sentinel in four reports from Baraga County, one of which may result in several KISMA partners (KBIC and ONF) working together in a control effort.
- KISMA contractor (Jill VanderMeer): Darcy's Rutkowski's summary of Jill's work in 2013 was handed out (a copy of this summary that is entitled "Summary of 2013 KISMA 'Weed Crew' Accomplishments" is on pages 4-5).
- Summary of KISMA's 2013 invasive plant treatments: A summary of invasive plant treatments that HKCD, KISMA coordinator, and/or KISMA contract worker participated in, planned, or recruited volunteers for was handed out (a copy is on p. 6).

4. KISMA in the future:

KISMA coordinator Janet Marr's contract is up September 30 and new KISMA coordinator Meral Jackson will start October 1 working part-time for HKCD and up to 10 hrs/week on KISMA projects. KISMA will be based in the new HKCD/NRCS office at 711 W. Lakeshore Dr, Unit A; 482-0214. Meral, a forest ecologist, gave a brief summary about her background that included managing a

silvicultural laboratory at Virginia Tech. She is currently a PhD candidate at Michigan Tech working on a wetland restoration project. Sue Haralson will be retiring October 31 from her position with HKCD.

5. Invasive species conference, Marquette:

Information was handed out about the upcoming Fourth Annual Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference, 23 and 24 October, in Marquette (a copy is on [p. 7](#)).

6. Comments, suggestions, ideas

Darcy sent an email update for the UP-wide Phragmites project that was shared at the meeting: "Since September 5 at least 175 acres of non-native phragmites has been treated in Menominee County. Outlying populations are being treated in Chippewa, Mackinac, Schoolcraft, Luce and Marquette counties (the only known infestation on Lake Superior north of Marquette has been treated). I'm having trouble figuring out the owner of that very small patch on Paradise Rd. Still hope to get the Twin Lakes (snowmobile trail) infestation treated this year. Spraying began yesterday in Delta County and we hope to spray at least 200 acres there before the first killing frost."

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.: Japanese and giant knotweed informational session. Twenty-one people attended the hour long presentation by Janet Marr and Pam Roberts (Coordinator of Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area [NCWMA] in Bayfield, WI). Janet described KISMA and various aspects of Japanese/giant knotweed including where these knotweeds came from, how to identify them, and where they are known in BHK counties (the map on [p. 8](#) was handed out). A Japanese stem that had been cut 20 days before (4 September) by Dana Richter and placed in a bucket of water showed rooting at the nodes illustrating the importance of proper disposal in preventing spread of this invasive. Pam gave a PowerPoint presentation where she described the NCWMA, their many accomplishments (outreach, projects, events, etc.), and control efforts with Japanese and giant knotweed. Her excellent PowerPoint is available upon request.

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.: Japanese knotweed control demonstration. Seventeen people attended Ian Shackleford's demonstration of various control methods for knotweed. Some of the four to five inch high Japanese knotweed stalks that had been cut 20 days before by Dana and Janet were sending up leafy stalks from nodes below the cut portion illustrating how quickly Japanese knotweed sprouts after being cut without additional treatments. Ian asked for volunteers to cut down stalks of knotweed using loppers at the knotweed sites on the north and south edges of the parking lot. Four different cut stump treatments were applied: AquaNeat, RoundUp Tough Brush Killer, coffee, and vinegar. See map on [p. 9](#) for location of the treatment and untreated areas. Signs were posted indicating recent herbicide use. Foliar applications were not used due to the presence of abundant pollinating insects. Nathan Miller (Keweenaw Land Trust intern) offered to monitor the site at least one time this fall and next summer to see the effectiveness, at least in the short term, for each treatment. For photos, please see: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.572503979453395.1073741831.132193460151118&type=1>
Pam Roberts and Bonnie Hay (Gratiot Lake Conservancy) also shared their experiences with knotweed control. Michele Bourdieu (KeweenawNow reporter) was present and will write a detailed article about the knotweed control demonstration for KeweenawNow at <http://keweenawnow.blogspot.com/>

Summary of 2013 KISMA “Weed Crew” Accomplishments

The UP RC&D Council was successful in obtaining a Pulling Together grant which among other things provided funding for a KISMA “weed crew” from May 1, through September 1, 2013. We contracted with 1 person during 2013 - Jill VanderMeer - to conduct weed crew activities. She was very self-reliant and did a great job on behalf of KISMA. We solicited ideas from KISMA partners as to activities that partners needed assistance with or felt were activities Jill could do that would benefit the group. The funding included \$4500 to hire Jill and another \$1680 on contract to the KISMA Coordinator to help cover her time to provide support to Jill. UP RC&D also provided \$1000 to the HKCD and \$2000 to the KISMA Coordinator to conduct garlic mustard control activities. **Total funding in 2013 to KISMA from UP RC&D = \$9180.**

A summary of her accomplishments follows:

1. Training Activities:

- Completed the training modules for garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, spotted knapweed, wild parsnip, Japanese barberry, purple loosestrife, phragmites, curly pondweed, glossy buckthorn, and Eurasian water milfoil on the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network website. Learned the RRIP-IT-UP invasive plant mapping protocols and utilized the RRIP-IT-UP field data collection form for all invasive plant mapping

2. Garlic Mustard Activities:

- Posted 160 garlic mustard flyers in the KISMA area and hung door knob hangers in garlic mustard infested neighborhoods.
- Visited at least a dozen garlic mustard sites at least twice each (some were visited 3 or 4 times) to hand-pull all second year plants.

3. Surveyed & Mapped Invasives (garlic mustard, Japanese & Giant Knotweed, exotic honeysuckles, Japanese barberry, common and glossy buckthorn) at 6 KNHP locations.

4. Assisted the KISMA Coordinator in removing a Japanese barberry infestation in a remote site near the Sturgeon River, below Prickett Reservoir on USFS land

5. Assisted partners at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to hand-pull spotted knapweed at Sand Point during their annual spotted knapweed event.

6. Assisted Michigan Nature Association partners in hand-pulling spotted knapweed at their Redwyn Dune Sanctuary (approximately 1 acre of sparse to moderate density) near Great Sand Bay.

7. Assisted partners at McLain State Park twice in hand-pulling spotted knapweed from the sensitive dune area where they established an invasive plant demonstration site (<1 acre).

- Filled 14 kitchen garbage bags and 4 large black garbage bags

8. Work with the KISMA Coordinator to survey the shoreline of Bear Lake for non-native phragmites and purple loosestrife.

- No purple loosestrife or non-native phragmites found. Found reed canary grass, non-native cat-tail and glossy buckthorn. We also found native phragmites and native milfoil.

9. Assisted partners at Isle Royale National Park in clipping the flower heads of purple loosestrife at Lily Pond.

- 10 volunteers filled the back of a full-sized pick-up with bags of purple loosestrife and spotted knapweed

10. Hand-pulled 2 garbage bags of spotted knapweed at Bete Gris Preserve.

11. Assisted the KISMA Coordinator in mapping the wild parsnip in the Central Location and the road and utility ROW along the “Cross-Cut” Road between US 41 and Eagle Harbor, and the dirt road between US-41 (past Central) to the “Cross-Cut” Road.

12. Surveyed for Japanese and Giant knotweed and purple loosestrife infestations in the MDOT ROW between Houghton and Chassell, and along the multi-use trail which parallels the road in that area.

- Found 11 Giant Knotweed sites (plus one on Denton Rd) and 10 purple loosestrife infestations.

- Ground-truthed another 8 infestations in the KISMA area

13. Provided 49 photos of her work

14. Worked with the KISMA Coordinator to visit the eleven boat launches on the Keweenaw Waterway and 8 additional public boat launches on inland lakes in the 3 county KISMA area to survey for Eurasian water milfoil (and hybrids), curly pondweed, purple loosestrife and non-native phragmites (actually surveyed 25).

Janet and Jill visited these public access sites and boat launches in the Keweenaw Waterway and looked for milfoil washed up on shore and in shallow water. Janet used a grappling hook on a rope to explore deeper water further from shore. Janet collected samples at most sites.

EWM = Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Hybrid = (*M. spicatum* x *M. sibiricum*)

August 7, 2013

- 1) Chassell boat launch in Centennial Park. We found hybrid Eurasian Milfoil.
- 2) Sturgeon River Sloughs where it crosses US 41 north of the access site. We found Purple Loosestrife there.
- 3) Sturgeon River boat launch we did not find any milfoil.
- 4) Private Marina, S. Entry (W side of canal) Fishermans Rd. We found rooted hybrid milfoil. Janet's took sample (Marr #3997).
- 5) DNR boat launch on West side of South Entry, found not rooted hybrid, EWM and native. Sample (Marr #3998)
- 6) West of the Super 8 in Houghton, found native; EWM or hybrid not rooted. Sample (Marr #4000)
- 7) Houghton boat launch, we did not find any milfoil.
- 8) Hancock boat launch, none found but we had trouble getting a sample. We left literature we the marina attendant.
- 9) Porvoo Park, Hancock. We found native; EWM or hybrid rooted. Sample (Marr #4001)

August 8, 2013

- 10) Tamarack Boat Launch. We found rooted EWM or hybrid. Sample (Marr #4002)
- 11) Lake Linden Boat Launch. We found a dense area of rooted hybrid, and gave literature to one of the Lake Linden Village employees working on the dock. Sample (Marr #4003)
- 12) Boot Jack Road Boat Launch. We found hybrid not rooted. (Marr #4004)
- 13) White City DNR Boat launch on the East side of South Entry. We did not find any milfoil at this site, but we did find purple loosestrife.
- 14) Hancock Campground Boat Launch. We did not find milfoil at this site
- 15) Informal boat launch west of the Hancock Campground, We did not find any milfoil at this site.
- 16) Lily pond boat access, we did not find milfoil at this site.

Inland Lakes:

Janet and I used our same procedures to survey inland lakes.

August 7, 2013

- 1) Pond on stamp sands in Houghton, Joe Youngman site (bridge over lagoon, S of sewage treatment plant, Houghton) found rooted EWM in the closed system pond.

August 8, 2013

- 2) Rice Lake. We visited the boat launch and the north end of the lake. We only found native milfoil in this lake.

August 12, 2013

- 3) Lake Bailey boat launch, we found native milfoil not rooted. We also found a lot of Najas in this lake.
- 4) Lake Fanny Hooe Copper Harbor. We found native milfoil rooted and not rooted.
- 5) Lake Manganese Copper Harbor. We found native water milfoil not rooted.
- 6) Lake Medora, DNR boat launch. We found native milfoil not rooted.
- 7) Gratiot Lake, boat launch. We did not find any milfoil at this site. Purple loosestrife was found in flower on Aug 24 by Bonnie Hay and Janet Marr near south edge of DNR boat launch and private property border.

August 20, 2013, I went on my own to survey these lakes.

- 8) Lake Roland at Twin Lakes State Park. I did not find any milfoil at this site.
- 9) Otter Lake DNR boat launch. I did not find any milfoil at this site.

The Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, KISMA coordinator (Janet Marr), and/or KISMA contract worker (Jill VanderMeer) participated in, planned, or recruited volunteers for the following invasive plant treatments.

Approx date	Invasive plant	Activity	Acres treated
May - July 2013	Garlic mustard	Several days of hand-pulling at old & new locations (Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga Counties); Jill, Janet, volunteers	6
7/2013	Japanese barberry	Dug up barberry at Swedetown Ski Trail: Janet and volunteer	0.1
7/2013	Japanese barberry	Dug up barberry, Ottawa NF; Jill and Janet	0.1
8/2013	Japanese knotweed	Cut Japanese knotweed at a Calumet area site; volunteer	0.2
July-Aug 2013	Wild parsnip	Removed wild parsnip from 3 Keweenaw Co sites (Cliff Drive, Central, and road near Eagle Harbor); Janet	2
7/2013	Spotted knapweed	McLain State Park: spotted knapweed pulls; Jill & Janet	5
7/2013	Spotted knapweed	Pulled spotted knapweed; Bete Grise (Keweenaw County); Jill	1
8/2013	Spotted knapweed	Pulled spotted knapweed, KBIC's Sand point (Baraga County); KBIC's project; Jill	3
8/2013	Spotted knapweed	Pulled spotted knapweed, MNA Redwyn Preserve; Jill	1
8/9/13	Purple loosestrife	Work day with Isle Royale NP, KBIC, McLain State Park, Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Assoc, & other volunteers. Cut/pulled purple loosestrife at Lily Pond, M203; Jill	3
9/2013	Giant knotweed	US Forest Service treated patches of Giant knotweed along Elm River Tower Lake Road. Treatments had been planned at a KISMA meeting.	0.2
7/2013	Marsh thistle	cut and pulled marsh thistle; Jacobs Creek (Keweenaw Co); Janet and volunteers	1
		Total	22.5

Fourth Annual Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference, Marquette, Oct 23 & 24

The Upper Peninsula Invasives Council (UPIC) is pleased to present **RRIP-IT-UP's Fourth Annual Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference: Pathways of Invasion – Transport, Infestation and Control**. The event will take place on October 24, 2013 at the Masonic Center in downtown Marquette, Michigan, beginning at 9:00 am until 3:45 pm. In conjunction with this year's conference, we are also offering an opportunity for Certified Pesticide Applicators who are licensed in the state of Michigan to receive re-certification credits by attending specific presentations at this conference as well as a 2 hour session on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 23rd. MDARD has approved this conference for five Pesticide Applicator re-certification credits in Commercial CORE or Categories 2, 5, or 6. Applicators must attend the Wednesday demonstration of Integrated Pest Management techniques and also the October 24th Eurasian Watermilfoil, IPM, and Interactive Discussion Panel sessions to receive the 5 credits.

The conference planning team is excited that for our conference this year we have been able to put together an interactive discussion panel of resource professionals from the state Natural Resource Departments of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. They will be addressing "Pathways of Control: Utilizing the Human Resource". As we all know, plants and animals ignore political boundaries, and so it is natural for us to unite together and work collaboratively, pooling our knowledge and resources in the Great Lakes region.

This year's line-up of topics includes:

Pathways of Invasion: Road Closures in Wisconsin DNR

Pathways of Transport and Infestation: Recreation Track
Initial Management Efforts of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Michigan's Les Cheneaux Islands
Play, Clean, Go: Stop Invasive Species in Your Tracks – a multi-partner outreach campaign

Pathways of Transport and Infestation – Horticulture Track
Go Beyond Beauty: A program to remove invasive plants from local nurseries' and landscapers' inventory
Native Plant Restoration: Techniques for Bringing Back the Native Community

Pathways of Control
Integrated Pest Management – Utilizing different control methods on the Ottawa National Forest
Options for Control: Narrow-leaved cattail, Japanese & Giant Knotweed, Non-native thistles

Pathways of Control: Utilizing the Human Resource
Interactive Discussion Panel on Invasive Plant Management Programs in the Great Lakes States

So Why are We Doing All of This Anyway? Communicating the Importance of Invasive Species Control

The charge for the conference is \$30 (\$25 for full-time students) which includes lunch. Vegetarian options will be offered (if you have any food restrictions, please note this on your registration form). Space is limited, so you must register if you plan to attend. **The registration deadline is Thursday, October 17, 2013.** Cost of late registration is \$40 (\$35 for students).

Make checks payable to the UP RC&D Council and send the attached registration form and payment to:

Jason Schnorr, Conference Registrar, 129 W Baraga Avenue, Suite F, Marquette, Michigan 49855

For more information, contact the UP RC&D Council at [906-225-0215](tel:906-225-0215) or by email at jason.schnorr@uprcd.org.

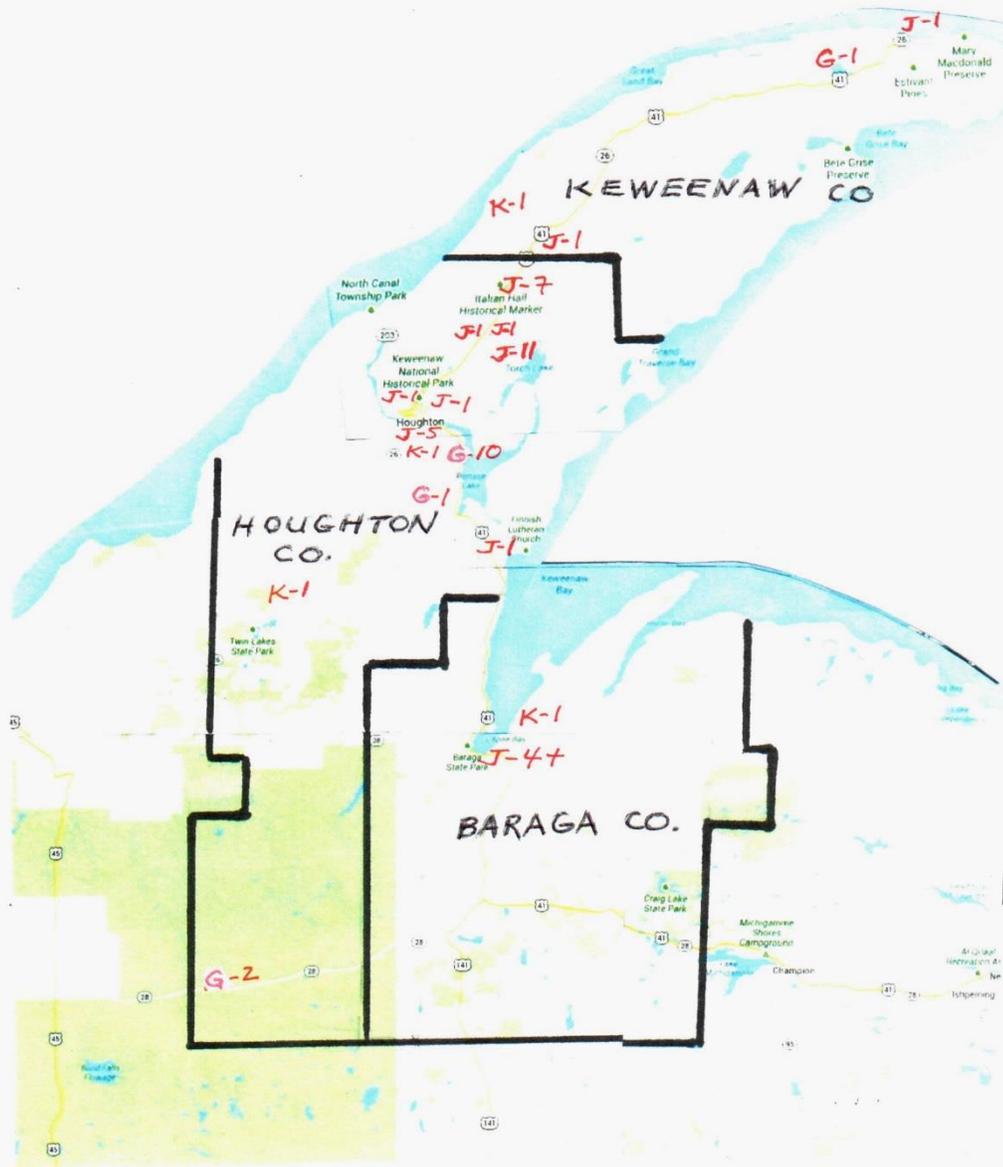
Please forward this invitation to anyone who is actively involved, or has an interest in the control of invasive species. Hope to see you on October 24th!

This conference is supported financially by a Pulling Together Grant to the UP RC&D Council from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

RRIP-IT-UP (Rapid Response Invasive Plant Intervention Team for the Upper Peninsula) is a project of the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council working through conservation districts and other organizations to increase collaboration among partners in dealing with invasive plant issues.

Known locations of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* [*Polygonum cuspidatum*]) and giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis* [*Polygonum sachalinense*]) in Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties as of 20 September 2013. Compiled by Janet Marr from MISIN (Midwest Invasive Species Information Network) and KISMA (Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area) records.

J = Japanese knotweed; G = giant knotweed; K = either Japanese or giant knotweed
The number following some of these letters indicates approximate number of known occurrences in the area. For example, there are about seven occurrences of Japanese knotweed in the Calumet/Laurium area.



Japanese knotweed sites in Michigan Tech's Lot 21 (east side of Garnet Street). Locations of four knotweed treatments (24 September 2013): AquaNeat, RoundUp Tough Brush Killer, coffee, and vinegar. Original map sketched by Ian Shackelford.

