

Draft notes from KISMA's first all-partner (and perspective partner) fall meeting and glossy buckthorn control demonstration (20 September 2012); 12 Nov. 2012 version
Calumet, Keweenaw National Historical Park headquarters

10:00 - 1200 meeting: Keweenaw National Historical Park headquarters, Calumet

1. Welcome and introductions
2. KISMA's beginnings
3. Memorandum of understanding
4. KISMA this summer
5. KISMA in the future
6. Comments and ideas?
7. KISMA meeting next spring

12:00 - 12:45 lunch: Keweenaw National Historical Park headquarters, Calumet

1:00 - 3:00: glossy buckthorn control demonstration by Ian Shackleford, near Swedetown ski trail chalet parking lot

A big thanks to Steve (KEWE) for providing the meeting room, Shawn (The Forestland Group) for donating the Subway lunch, Darcy (UP RC&D) for ordering and picking it up, and Ian (ONF) for the afternoon buckthorn control demonstration!

1. Welcome and introductions:

People (20) present at meeting (* indicates who attended afternoon buckthorn control session):

- *Shawn Hagan (The Forestland Group); steering committee member
- *Sue Haralson (Hought Kew Conserv Distr, HKCD); steering committee member (alternate)
- *Bonnie Hay (Gratiot Lake Conservancy); steering committee member
- *Janet Marr (Kew Invas Species Management Area, KISMA); coordin & steer comm member
- Danielle Miller (The Nature Conservancy); steering committee member
- *Darcy Rutkowski (UP Resource Conserv & Developm Council); steering committee member
- *Ian Shackleford (US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest); steering committee member
- Robert Strittmatter (Michigan DNR, Ft. Wilkins State Park); steering committee member
- *Karen Anderson (Keweenaw Bay Indian Comm, KBIC); steering committee member (alternate)
- *Josh Drury (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
- Georginia Eurring (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
- Jaimee Loonsfoot (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
- Mike Lofquist (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
- Kyle Seppanen (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
- *Steve DeLong (Keweenaw National Historical Park)
- Ellen Schrader (Keweenaw National Historical Park)
- Evan McDonald (Keweenaw Land Trust)
- *Mark Korkko (Molpus Timberlands Management)
- *Kristine Bradof (Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association)
- Marilyn Shy (US Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Conservation Service)

2. KISMA's beginnings: See www.kisma.org for detailed notes from the March 2011 and 2012 meetings that are summarized below.

14 & 28 March 2011: Two meetings were held in Houghton in March 2011 to see what interest there would be in forming a cooperative weed management area (CWMA) encompassing Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties. Twenty-seven people came to the first meeting representing various agencies and groups (federal, state, county, tribal, timber management, conservancies, residents, etc.) Ian Shackelford discussed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding that was in the works, what a CWMA was and advantages of having one, name for our CWMA, etc.

20 March 2012: At this meeting, a KISMA annual work plan began to be developed, steering committee formation was discussed as was creation of a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

3. Memorandum of understanding: Ian discussed the current version (9/26/2012) of the MOU--available at www.kisma.org. Recent changes are highlighted in yellow. Once it is approved by the Ottawa National Forest agreements staff, copies will be sent to partners to be approved and signed.

4. KISMA this summer: There have been three KISMA steering committee meetings held in Houghton this summer (20 June, 11 July, 15 August 2012). At these meetings, the MOU was reviewed; role of the steering committee was discussed; and suggestions for future KISMA workshops/activities and the 20 Sept 2012 meeting were made, etc. Detailed meeting notes are available for the first two meetings at www.kisma.org and the notes for the August meeting will be added to KISMA. ORG in the future.

Janet Marr handed out a summary of 2012 KISMA accomplishments--an updated (5 October 2012) version will be at www.kisma.org. Included in the summary are:

- KISMA funding review
- Requirements for 2012 and 2013
- KISMA 2012 activities:
 - RRIP-IT-UP
 - Control & other invasive plant activities accomplished by KISMA partners and volunteers in 2012
 - KISMA joint invasive species control activities in 2012
- Educational activities
- Publicity

Invasive Phragmites Control in Michigan's Upper Peninsula grant: Darcy Rutkowski described this successful GLRI grant (\$458,160) obtained by the UP RC&D Council for Invasive Phragmites Control in MI's Upper Peninsula including control of the few known non-native invasive strains of Phragmites in Houghton County. For further information about this grant, go to www.kisma.org and click on meeting notes for 15 August 2012.

Pulling Together grant proposal: Darcy submitted a Pulling Together Grant Proposal which among other things would provide funding for a two-person KISMA weed crew for 2013 and 2014. Successful applicants will be notified in November.

RIPP IT UP Third Annual Northern Great Lakes Conference: Marilyn Shy gave details about this region-wide invasive plant conference, to be held Oct. 16, in Marquette. The registration deadline is October 5, 2012. Several KISMA partners plan to attend including Darcy, Janet, Marilyn, Sue Haralson, Evelyn Ravindran, Karen Anderson, Shawn Hagan, and Mark Korkko.

Books, brochures, pamphlets, posters and other educational items pertaining to specific invasive species or invasives in general were available to meeting participants. Thanks to Ian and the Ottawa National Forest for providing many of these items free-of-charge to KISMA to share with its partners and others.

5. KISMA in the future:

- **This winter/spring:**
 - Input needed from you for 2013 annual work plan
 - Work on completing MOU and getting it signed
 - Prepare news releases
 - Grant opportunities
 - Display board and logo
 - Other ideas?
- **Longer term:**
 - Cooperation amongst partners on various invasive species projects (ISRO & Ft Wilkins St. Park, ISRO & KBIC, KBIC & McLain St. Park, etc.)
 - Workshops geared toward target groups (ATV and other trail users, right-of-way managers, nurseries/greenhouses, etc.)
 - Strategic management plan
 - Other suggestions?

6. Comments and ideas:

At the time of the meeting, the draft mission statement of KISMA read as follows : "The Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area's mission is to facilitate cooperation amongst federal, state, tribal, and local groups in prevention and management of invasive species across land ownership boundaries within Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties." Adding an education element to the mission statement was discussed as was revising "amongst federal, state, tribal, and local groups." The current version in the 9/26/2012 MOU shows a revised version: "The Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area's mission is to facilitate cooperation and education amongst federal, state, tribal, and local groups and landowners in prevention and management of invasive species across land ownership boundaries within Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties."

7. KISMA meeting next spring:

One idea in conjunction with KISMA's spring meeting was to visit the KBIC greenhouse and restoration sites with their plantings of native plant species.

1:00 - 3:00: Buckthorn (and Japanese barberry) control demonstration

Seventeen people participated in the glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) education and control session led by Ian Shackleford near the Swedetown ski trail chalet.

Participants included:

- board members from the Copper Island Cross Country Ski Club (Cynthia MacDonald, Pat Szubielak, Mark Jindrich, Barb Flanagan, and Steve DeLong)
- Pat Toczydlowski, Nathan Miller, and Jim Belote from the Keweenaw Land Trust
- others who had attended the morning meeting at the Keweenaw National Historical Park headquarters (* on list above).

Ian talked about and demonstrated various glossy buckthorn control methods including mechanical and chemical control. Both Ian and Pat Szubielak (Swedetown ski trail groomer) demonstrated the use of the Weed Wrench, a useful tool used in uprooting buckthorn and other invasive shrubs. Different size Weed Wrenches are available--info at <http://www.weedwrench.com/weedwrench/> Ian Shackleford and the Ottawa Natl Forest have generously loaned the largest size weed wrench to KISMA for its partners to use. Call/email Janet at 337-5529 or jkmarr@mtu.edu to borrow this tool.

After larger buckthorn shrubs were cut off near the base with loppers or a pocket pruning saw. Ian with the help of Karen Anderson and Josh Drury (KBIC's Natural Resources Dept)., applied the herbicide AquaNeat® (undiluted, 53.8% glyphosate) from small plastic dropper bottles to the active layer just inside the bark of the buckthorn stumps. It can be applied to the entire surface of smaller cut stems. Ian demonstrated the “basal bark” method, using a hand sprayer to apply a mixture of Element 4 herbicide in bark oil (15.4% triclopyr) to the base of glossy buckthorn bushes; the herbicide-in-oil soaks through the bark, killing the buckthorn. Ian also described the foliar application used on the Ottawa National Forest; they use backpack sprayers to apply a mixture of Element 3A in water (2% triclopyr) to young plants and resprouts. Ian modeled proper personal protection equipment of safe herbicide application. Ian stressed closely reading and following herbicide label information, wearing protective clothing, etc. Anyone can apply AquaNeat, but it comes in 2.5 gallon bottles and must be special ordered. For small jobs, Ian said any glyphosate herbicide available at home centers would work. Look for concentrate herbicides labeled for brush control.

Since glossy buckthorn is so widespread on parts of the Swedetown trail system, Ian suggested that successful long-term control would be difficult. Ian recommended keeping it cleared along the trails as board members and volunteers have been doing. As time permits, it may be a good idea to remove single or scattered outlying buckthorn shrubs before they can spread.

The non-native invasive shrub Japanese barberry (*Berberis japonica*) has been seen in just a few places at Swedetown. If left unchecked this prickly shrub has the potential to spread and become very invasive. About a half-dozen shrubs were either dug up or cut with AquaNeat® applied to the cut stem. Several ski club board members will monitor these sites and continue to control as needed.

Both glossy buckthorn and Japanese barberry seeds may be spread to new locations by birds eating their fruits. It's important not to dispose of branches with fruits into buckthorn-free or Japanese barberry-free areas as that may further spread these species into previously uninfested areas.