

# West Michigan Conservation Network-2018

## MISSION STATEMENT

The West Michigan Conservation Network is an effective, diverse, and sustainable partnership of environmental groups, educational institutions, governmental organizations, and private citizens working to conserve and enhance our natural communities through ecosystem restoration and public education.

*The West Michigan Conservation Network (WMCN) was formalized in 2016 as a way to provide an all-encompassing structure reflective of the full organizational body of work. Under this new organization, there are three subcommittees; Restoration & Management, Learning & Engagement, and Structure & Function. Together, these three committees help address conservation issues in West Michigan*

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

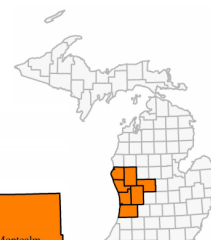
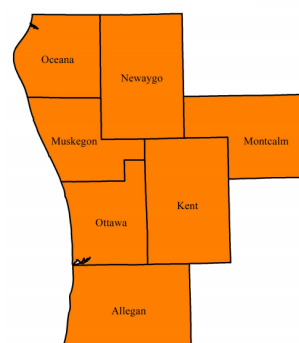
The Restoration & Management Subcommittee has continued to advance invasive species management in West Michigan. Four Strike Teams and one Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Crew were employed throughout the region to help with survey and treatment of early detection species. In total, crews spent time addressing five Michigan Watch-List species, including two terrestrial, two aquatic, and one forest pest.

Our Strike Teams continue to prioritize vector sources and areas of high ecological value for invasive species management. Though our 2016 Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) funding had been nearly spent by the end of 2018, we reapplied and received another MISGP grant to support our Strike Teams for two more years.

The HWA Crew became fully operational in the beginning of 2018. The 2-4 person team has been working on delimitation surveys (surveys of areas around known HWA infestations) in the Silver Lake region. This data was passed onto a contractor to begin treatments. The goal of this work is to cap the northernmost extent of HWA to prevent spread to our prevalent hemlock resource in the northern lower peninsula and upper peninsula.



## West Michigan Conservation Network



## WMCN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### STRIKE TEAMS

1,100– Infestations Surveyed & Treated  
220– Acres Treated  
1,700– Pounds of Plants Removed

### HWA CREW

14,305– Trees Surveyed  
604– Acres Surveyed  
93,602– Inches Surveyed  
42,340– Inches Treated

### EDUCATION, OUTREACH, & GRANTS

45– Outreach Activities  
950– Event Participants  
4– Partner Meetings  
2– Grants Awarded  
2– Grants Completed

## Subcommittee Contacts

If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact the committee leads with questions.

### Restoration and Management

Drew Rayner: [drew.rayner@macd.org](mailto:drew.rayner@macd.org)

### Learning and Engagement

Meggan Johnson: [meggdaniels@hotmail.com](mailto:meggdaniels@hotmail.com)

### Structure and Function

Shaun Howard: [showard@tnc.org](mailto:showard@tnc.org)

Visit our website at <https://wmconservation.net>



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## LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

In 2018, the Learning & Engagement Subcommittee was busy at work completing partner trainings and outreach events. Throughout the year, five opportunities were held for the public to learn about topics such as native seed propagation, pollinators and how humans are impacting them, and invasive species. These trainings gave updates to the public on the topic as well as different tools and practices to aid in restoration efforts of their own. Three free partner events were hosted: a training on planting to encourage pollinators, an update on invasive species management, and a partner float trip to get partners outside and enjoying the Pigeon River. Our Fall Feature event, held in early November, was once again a great event that brought over 60 people together, both members of the organization and public, to learn about monarch butterfly migration. In summary, 169 people attended events in three counties and brought in over \$1,300 in revenue for ongoing educational materials and opportunities. THANK YOU to all our guest speakers and partners for making 2018 a great year! We look forward to continuing the educational opportunities and growth for our organization in 2019.

## NEW FOR 2018

This year we partnered with the United States Forest Service to manage invasive species on federal land. We were given a list of nearly 100 sites with species ranging from the ubiquitous autumn olive to the more sparse bristly locust. One of our Strike Teams was fortunate enough to spend their fall implementing treatments in the backwoods of the Huron-Manistee National Forests. Safe to say, we will be working with USFS again next year!



## STRUCTURE & FUNCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Structure and Function Subcommittee continued to complete the subcommittee tasks outlined in the strategic plan. This work included reviewing and updating the strategic plan, planning partner meetings, and assisting with the management of the West Michigan Conservation Network's website that had over 5,000 visits in 2018!



## THE FUTURE

As 2018 came to an end, our attention quickly shifted to planning our 2019 work plans. The Restoration & Management Subcommittee has plans to continue working to addressing early detection invasive species, addressing various vectors for spread, and preventing the spread of HWA.

The Learning and Engagement Subcommittee is in the process of planning events for 2019. These events will be advertised on our Facebook page as well as being posted on our website. If you have any questions or if you would like information on these events, please visit our website or email us at the WMCN email below.

<https://wmconservation.net/>

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