

# Scavenger Hunt: Invasive Species



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Friends of the Mississippi River Fellows

## Super hard hints for scavenger hunt:

1. First station
  - a. I am near you in the shade
  - b. Try looking past a table
2. Second station
  - a. I am in a big empty space
  - b. What if I was behind a tree
  - c. Did you try looking past the pavilion?
3. Third station
  - a. I am within greenery
  - b. In the forest near you?
4. Fourth station
  - a. Try looking past the parking lot
  - b. Look harder
5. Fifth station
  - a. Did you notice me when you came?
  - b. How about near Station 1
  - c. Goodluck

## Hints for scavenger hunt:

1. First station
  - a. I am at the pavillion
2. Second station
  - a. Go to the nearby meadow and look at the tree
3. Third station
  - a. I am within the trees
4. Fourth station
  - a. I am at a bench past the parking lot
5. Fifth station
  - a. Go back to the pavilion and look around



## **Buckthorn** **(*Rhamnus cathartica*)**

- Prevalent invasive species here in Minnesota among many other places
- Grows into shrubs and branches with alternately branching veins in their leaves and spiky barbs to ward off danger
- Reproduces and spreads really quickly
- Hard to eradicate due to its fast reproduction and ability to regrow if only partially uprooted, but saplings can be easily removed due to their shallow roots and larger plants can be burned at the base or a can nailed over the top to keep them from growing back

Species name:

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What you learned from the station that's not already in the booklet:

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Drawing of invasive: (below)

**Stamp  
here**



# Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

- They are native to the Caspian and Black Sea, and have been widespread in the US and Europe. They currently invade 270 lakes in MN.
- They feed on plankton which by its decrement makes the water clearer and allows for easier hunting of prey. Plankton are small floating organisms in the water that are vital for the feeding of multiple species.
- There is very little that can be done to eliminate them. Prevention such as cleaning boats and making sure none is attached to your boat helps reduce the spread!

Species name:

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What you learned from the station that's not already in the booklet:

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Drawing of invasive: (below)

Stamp  
here



# Bighead carp

## (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)

- Dark gray fish with no teeth. The fish has its eyes located low on his head. They are native to Southern and Central China. They can live up to 9 years.
- They grow in large quantities taking up native species resources. They also eat Plankton. Plankton are small floating organisms in the water that are vital for the feeding of multiple species.
- Support the consumption of this fish.

Species name:

What you learned from the station that's not already in the booklet:

Drawing of invasive: (below)

Stamp  
here



## **Emerald ash borer(EAB) (Agrilus planipennis)**

- The larvae eat the bark, making it so that the tree is unable to receive nutrients. That leads to the tree dying. When the leaves begin to thin on an ash tree, it is possible that the tree is already infested with EABs.
- Professional pesticide applicator is one way to get rid of the EABs. The product is usually applied at the trunk, and it will spread throughout the tree.

Species name:

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What you learned from the station  
that's not already in the booklet:

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Drawing of invasive: (below)

**Stamp  
here**



# Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

- It came to America in the 1800s and is found in many Eurasian countries.
- Garlic Mustard blocks native plants from receiving sunlight since it grows earlier and faster than them. It takes away from their nutrients, leading to a decrease of variety of native plants in an area.
- Hand pulling, weed trimmers, chemicals - most useful when growth is little, kills it off when it's weak

Species name:

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What you learned from the station that's not already in the booklet:

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Drawing of invasive: (below)

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# **Extra Info (For Poster board)**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-QKkxaVHZjqEjoVAUeVgMcW6p71f8bCl1eV58afQcpU/edit?usp=sharing>