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Central Michigan Cisma's Year in Review

This may have been a rocky year, but work has still been done! The Central Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CM-CISMA) has the mission of protecting and improving the natural resources, economy, and human health in Central Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive exotic species. This cooperative works within Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, and Midland Counties and is a free resource for all your invasive species questions!

Although this year was met with some challenges and breaks in their funding, they were still able to keep projects moving forward and offer support through the year. Their core funding through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP), which is funded by the *Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Environment, Great Lakes & Energy* is still in place and, if awarded, will be renewed in April 2021. In addition to this grant, they also had the privilege of working under their United States Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant (FS GLRI). The first phase of this grant near completion which includes field survey work of road right-of-ways, private properties, and public nature preserves. The next phase of this grant is carrying out treatment efforts on the determined sites based on the survey data collected.

To further their on-the-ground work in the region, they applied for an additional FS GLRI grant. This is another two-year grant that would allow them to determine post May flood effects on invasive species along the Tittabawassee River. This would aid in determining what species may have moved in and what may have spread more widely in our area. Treatment funds are also included in this grant and sites will be determined following survey work.

With the pause in funding and new restrictions, their education and outreach opportunities took a hit. "I was excited for new opportunities to reach new audiences in our region through planned events," said Megan Garrett, CM-CISMA Coordinator. "However, looking ahead my hope is that we can push forward and find new ways to reach people, with whatever restrictions we are presented with. We appreciate the support and interest from the community and will continue to do our best to provide important invasive species information, in whatever means we are able too."

The CM-CISMA's Facebook page has been their main form of outreach throughout the past year. However, the hope is to bring back other means of outreach in the coming year. One form of outreach is through informational videos. One that was created this year was "How to use the MISIN app: from start to finish," which can be found on YouTube or through their Facebook page. To stay up-to-date on invasive species issues and what the CISMA is working on or offering for events, follow them on Facebook or visit their website, www.cmcisma.org. Have direct invasive species questions or topics you would like to see covered? Contact the coordinator directly at 989-414-2237, coordinator@cmcisma.org, or through Facebook.

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The Central Michigan CISMA is a cooperative whose mission is to protect and improve the natural resources, economy, and human health in Central Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive exotic species. We address questions and concerns from the public including plant ID and treatment options. The coordinator is located at the Chippewa Nature Center (400 S. Badour Rd, Midland, MI), and can be reached at 989-414-2237 or 989-631-0830 from 8 am - 5 pm Monday – Friday or by email at coordinator@cmcisma.org. Learn more at www.cmcisma.org.



Megan Garrett, coordinator, walking through dense oriental bittersweet on the City of Gladwin forest property.



Megan Garrett, coordinator, pointing out invasive species while surveying a portion of the Cedar River.