

I feel like I'm nothing without wildlife. They are the stars. I feel awkward without them. ~ Bindi Irwin

The Invaders

Newsletter of
The Wildlife Society
Invasive Species
Working Group



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2015 Invasive Species Field Season Research

ISWG wants to know what invasive species research you are doing during the 2015 field season. We will have a



special section in our next newsletter highlighting the amazing work of our members. Send us a description of your research and plenty of photos.



TWS ISWG has over 275 twitter followers!

The ISWG twitter feed, @Invasive_TWS, and our facebook page have over 275 followers each. Researchers from around the world have become members of our online social community. If you know of any students interested in invasive species, our twitter and facebook are great ways to connect them with TWS ISWG.



Sticky

The story of the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect



The short animation film Sticky tells the story of the Lord Howe Island stick insect (*Dryococelus australis*) and its fight back against extinction. The film is a wonderful example of the negative impact invasive species can have on an endemic species.

The stick insects, also called the Lord Howe Island phasmid, is a large black insect that can measure up to 15 cm. They have no wings, but are quick on their feet.

With the introduction of black rats in 1918, due to the grounding of a supply ship, the population numbers of

the Lord Howe Island stick insect began to drop rapidly. The last phasmid was seen on the island in 1920 and was thought to be extinct.

In 2001, David Priddel and Nicholas Carlile hypothesized that a population of Lord Howe Island stick insects may

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inhabit Ball's Pyramid, a rocky sea stack 23 km to the south-east. They discovered a population of 24 insects bring the phasmid, back from the "dead".

In later years, specimens were collected for breeding at the Melbourne Zoo. As of 2008, the zoo had over 11,000 eggs and 700 individuals. The success of the program led to 20 insects being reintroduced to Lord Howe Island.

Sticky can be viewed online on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/76647062>

Notorious Flatworm Found in Florida



One of the world's 100 worst invasive species has been found in the United States. The New Guinea flatworm feeds on native

mollusks and is now considered not only a threat to native species in Florida, but North America as a whole.

INVASIVE IN SHORT



Invasive Species Research – Hot Off The Press

Introduced freshwater blenny influences the diet and body condition of the invasive dice snake in Lake Geneva

Dubey, S., Christe, P., Formenti, V., Staub, E., Schuerch, J., Glaizot, O., and S. Ursenbacher. 2015. Introduced freshwater blenny influences the diet and body condition of the invasive dice snake in Lake Geneva. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 79 (2), 338-343.

Non-indigenous species can have strong impacts on biodiversity by affecting trophic relationships in their new environments. The piscivorous dice snake (*Natrix tessellata*) has been introduced to Geneva Lake, western Switzerland, where the endangered viperine snake (*Natrix maura*) is native. Local, dramatic declines in the viperine snake population might be associated with the appearance of the dice snake through dietary overlap between these 2 species, which mainly feed on bullhead (*Cottus gobio*). In response to this decline, a control program for dice snake was implemented in 2007 to reduce numbers of this introduced snake. In 2010, a new species of fish, the freshwater blenny (*Salaria fluviatilis*), which shares the same habitat as the bullhead, was introduced into Lake Geneva and has since reached high densities. We determined the impact of freshwater blenny on diet composition and body condition of dice snakes. In addition, we tested for effects of the control program on the body condition of dice snakes and viperine snakes. We collected 294 dice snakes between 2007 and 2013. Based on morphology and a genetic marker (cytochrome b gene), we determined the fish species contained in these snakes' stomachs. We found a drastic switch in dice snake diet following the arrival of freshwater blenny, as consumption of bullhead declined by 68% and was replaced by the blenny. In addition, the body condition of dice snakes increased significantly after the arrival of freshwater blenny. The body condition of both snake species was positively correlated with the number of dice snakes removed from the study area. This finding has important implications concerning the conservation of the endangered viperine snake, and suggests that the control program of dice snakes should be continued.

Le Petit Invasive

By Nicole Wood

Battling Invasive Species, One Plate At A Time

As invasive species issues keep compiling, the public is looking for ways that they can combat this threat. Initiatives such as community invasive weed pulls and PlayCleanGo are aimed at getting the everyday citizen involved with the management of invasive species. One of the most fun and tasty ways for community members to battle invasive species is to become an invasivore. Eating invasive species can help engage the public with the everyday fight wildlife biologists have in preserving native species from the impacts of non-natives. This series of articles will highlight the invasivore lifestyle and easy recipes for invasive species dishes.

The first stop on our tour of invasivore deliciousness is the rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*). Rusties are an invasive species in Michigan. Mael Glon, a graduate student at Central Michigan University studying crayfish and a former chef before returning to school, invited us out for an early season crayfish boil. He trapped crayfish, that he had baited with bread, in the Chippewa River located in



Fresh from the river, rusty crayfish are a delicious way to help combat the invasive species problem, one bite at a time. At top left, CMU grad student Mael Glon braving the cold waters of the Chippewa River to collect the crayfish trap. Bottom right, the author enjoys the finished product.

Central Michigan. After selecting out our desired crayfish, he boiled the whole crayfish and served it fresh.

As a lover of seafood I can say this was easily the best “seafood” that I have ever had. Half of it was

due to the freshness of the taste and the other half was due to the fun experience. Mael suggested that for the best crayfish boil, to wait for late summer allowing crayfish to grow to a bigger size, thus more meat.

Invasive Species Working Group Board Elections

Do you want to get involved with the inner workings of the Invasive Species Working Group? Professors, do you have a graduate student that is looking for ways to add to their experience and build their network? Are you a recent wildlife professional retiree and now have time to become more involved with the working group? If so, please consider either running or nominating a colleague for a board position with the Invasive Species Working Group.

Board positions are two-year terms with the exception of Chair-Elect, which is five years (two as Chair-Elect, two as Chair, and one as Past Chair). Board members who have served two terms or less may run for an officer position and a member may serve up to two consecutive terms in the same elective position. Current board members with expiring terms that are available for re-election are Andrea Litt, Cheryl Millett, Reese Brand Phillips, James Sasser, and Nicole Wood.

Please, submit all nominations to Erin Myers via erin.myers@fltws.org by August 15. Elections will be held from September 1 until the first day of the annual conference.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS, OFFICERS, AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. NOMINATIONS - The 3-member Nominating and Elections Committee shall nominate a slate of two candidates for each of the elective positions, namely: Chair-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and 6 additional Board Members, from the Working Group membership. When no duly elected Chair-elect exists to assume the position of Chair, two candidates for Chair also shall be nominated.

CLAUSE A. Nominees must consent to becoming a candidate.

CLAUSE B. The slate of nominees shall be submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to the election.

CLAUSE C. Additional nominees may be added to the slate prepared by the Nominating and Elections Committee upon the signed support of six or more members, provided that Clause A is followed.

CLAUSE D. A member shall not be a nominee for more than one elective position at a time and may serve in only one position at a time.

CLAUSE E. For elective positions other than the successional positions of Chair-elect, Chair, and Past Chair, a member may be elected for up to two consecutive terms in the same elective position.

Section 2. BALLOTING - Balloting shall occur by mail or electronic means. Written or electronic ballots shall be received from the members and counted by the Nominating and Elections Committee. For ballot counting purposes, the Working Group Chair shall appoint a replacement for any member of the Nominating and Elections Committee who has been nominated for an elective position.

CLAUSE A. Members in arrears shall forfeit their rights to vote during the period of their delinquency.

CLAUSE B. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes on the written or electronic ballot shall be declared elected.

Section 3. OFFICERS - Officers of the Invasive Species Working Group shall consist of a Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and immediate Past Chair. Their duties are:

CLAUSE A. CHAIR - The Chair shall have general supervisory responsibility for the Executive Board; shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and membership; shall appoint, with the advice of the Executive Board, chairs of all standing and special committees; and shall be an ex officio member of all committees, except the Nominating and Elections Committee. The Chair may represent the Working Group or appoint alternate representatives to other Working Group, Chapter, Section, or Society boards, committees, or meetings, including The Wildlife Society Council. The Chair shall be responsible for submitting an annual report of the Working Group's activity to the Society. Upon completion of a full term as Chair, the Chair succeeds to the position of immediate Past Chair.

CLAUSE B. CHAIR-ELECT - The Chair-elect shall assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair or upon the inability of the Chair to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the Chair. In the event the Chair-elect cannot serve in the Chair's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a Chair, pro tempore. Upon completion of a full term as Chair-elect, the Chair-elect succeeds to the position of Chair.

CLAUSE C. PAST CHAIR - The immediate Past Chair shall perform any duties assigned by the Chair.

CLAUSE D. SECRETARY-TREASURER - The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the files and records (Article VI, Section 4) of the Working Group. Duties shall include recording the minutes of all membership and Executive Board meetings and issuing copies of the minutes to the Executive Board, members, and Society. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Working Group. Duties shall include the receipt and disbursement of funds; preparing and submitting an annual fiscal-year (Article VI, Section 2, Clause D) financial report to the Executive Board, members, and Society; and preparing an annual budget for approval by the Executive Board.

Section 4. BOARD MEMBERS - Board Members shall represent the views of the membership to the Executive Board and shall serve as liaison from the Executive Board to the membership. They shall provide the editor of the Working Group newsletter with news and items of interest and shall help to recruit new members. The 6 Board Members shall perform any other duties assigned by the Chair.

Section 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD - The Executive Board shall act as the governing body for the Working Group and shall be made up of the above named officers and Board Members.

Section 6. TERM OF OFFICE - The officers and Board Members serve for approximately 2 years; are inducted at the Annual Meeting; assume office immediately following the Annual Meeting; and, unless reelected, terminate their duties at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, or at such time as their successors are elected and installed.

Section 7. VACANCIES - If the office of the Chair is vacated for any reason, the Chair-elect shall assume the duties of Chair for the balance of the unexpired term of the Chair. All other vacancies in any unexpired term of an elective office shall be filled through appointment by the Executive Board, although an appointed Chair-elect shall serve only until the next scheduled Working Group election when the membership shall elect the next Chair. All appointees shall conform to the criteria for nominees found in Article IV, Section 1, Clause A, D, and E.

The Invaders Article Submission

Want to share your invasive species work, training, conferences, or other contribution with our TWS ISWG members? Contact the newsletter editor, Nicole Wood, to submit articles, short write-ups to announce conferences and training, or get your voice heard about your experiences with invasive species. We are also looking for informational articles related to invasive species. The ISWG appreciates your input and wants to make this working group a useful tool for everyone dealing with invasive species.

Send articles to twsiswg@yahoo.com

Thank you for helping us to grow!



Get connected with TWS ISWG



twsiswg@yahoo.com



TWS Invasive Species Working Group



@Invasive_TWS



TWS ISWG Website

<http://wildlife.org/invasive/>

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