

Dear Educators,

In the past few decades, the spread of non-native invasive plants has become an increasing threat to Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest. In response to this crisis, Wisconsin teacher and naturalist, Elizabeth (Betty) Czarapata, in partnership with the The Park People of Milwaukee County, wrote a book entitled *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control*. The book provides information and photos helpful to biologists, agency staff, and landowners.

Sadly, Betty died before the book was published, but her friends and fellow native plant lovers saw her book through to completion. Betty also had plans to develop an activity guide to accompany her book. She wanted to be sure that educators had innovative and hands-on activities to help them effectively educate their students, constituents, customers, or partners about the causes and impacts of invasive plants.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Betty, but I've felt her presence during the long hours of researching, brainstorming, writing, starting over, illustrating, rewriting, and finally, publishing this activity guide. Her dedication and belief in the power of people to make a difference inspired me. I hope I can pass a little of that passion on to you as you work with people of all ages to protect and restore the diversity of natural places.

Take care,
Beth Mittermaier



Produced under a 2004 – 2005 grant from the **Wisconsin Environmental Education Board** (WEEB) in cooperation with the following agencies and organizations. Together we are pleased to bring this resource to educators who care about Wisconsin's forest resources.



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ENDANGERED
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