

**Invasive Species**  
**Honors Biology: Ecology Unit**  
**Biodiversity Research Project**  
**Identification of Plant Species**

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**Honors Aquatics: Invasive Species Unit**  
**Power Point Presentations**  
**Posters**

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**Introduction to Stewardship Project**

The two teachers that attended the “Exotic Aquatics” workshop brought information back to their Honors Marine and Aquatic Science and Honors Biology classes.

In H. Biology, Biodiversity was addressed throughout various units within various units; during evolution, systematics, adaptations, biomes, food webs and stability of an ecosystem. A Biodiversity research paper was assigned for Semester-2. Students were made aware of the problems we face in the 5 Great Lakes during lecture. Students in Aquatics have a whole unit on aquatic invasive species. Students prepared presentations for the class and other students.

**Objectives**

The objective is to study various species and raise awareness of various issues with biodiversity and conservation, including the impact of invasive species. The students studied the characteristics of invasive species, how they arrived, how they are spread, the characteristics that make them successful, taxonomy, consequences of their introduction, and how organizations are working to prevent their spread.

**Student Activities**

Research Paper with Dr. Vites

The students in H. Biology class researched the characteristics of invasive species, their original habitat, how they are spread, their characteristics that made them successful in their new environment, the consequences of their introduction, and who is taking action to prevent their spread. Sample assignments are enclosed with this report. Note that student’s names have been removed.

### Identify exotic, native and invasive species in our restored prairie with Dr. Vites

In order to apply what they have learned to a local area, students walked to the Northside Prairie, a restored site. With a guide in hand, students identified various plants and pointed out a couple of invasive species. Students could observe the invasive plant species commonly found in our area. The biology students then gathered information on the appearance and identification of these species and went home to research how these species were introduced and what characteristics made them invasive in our environment.

### Awareness Posters in the Public Eye with Mr. Arnam

Here students created posters to put up in the hallways, library, schools, supermarkets, gas stations and the marinas in the communities surrounding the Great Lakes. This was a great opportunity for the students to become involved with the community. Students even put some of the posters up on 2 separate parent teacher conference days along with power point presentations to parents and families in the Northside community.

### Presentations to other schools

This is how the H.S. students interacted as mentors to local grammar school students. After completing including an activity and power point presentation to their peers in class and instructor editing they visited local grammar schools in our area. Using lap tops students were able to do 7-8 separate presentations concerning various invasive species in the Chicagoland Great Lake region in ten 1hour sessions at the various schools. Students presented their power point research to other schools at the Annual Chicago River Student Congress.

### Examples of student presentations on the Web with Mr. Arnam

Some of the presentations are found in the Honors Marine and Aquatic Science class (Aquatics) link <http://www.nscollegeprep.cps.k12.il.us/ncphs/depts/science/sarnam/aquatics.htm> These invasive species presentations within the classroom and some were used at the River conference.

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED STUDENT SAMPLE RESEARCH PAPERS; IT'S BEING MAILED By Dr. Vites

### **Outcome/Impacts of the Project**

The students gained the knowledge of recognizing environmental impacts from invasive species not only for themselves but with such confidence that they were able to mentor younger students at other schools and even adults. This is a significant impact of our project because our students became the teachers for this unique opportunity. The invasive presentations to the local middle school students, community members and River Congress attendees were approximately 360 individuals. These individuals are now more aware of the invasive species concerning the Great Lakes than they were before.