

2021 North American Invasive Species Forum - Virtual Meeting Not to be Missed

Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 (May the 4th be with you)

#NAISF2021

As we've posted before, the North American Invasive Species Forum is an international event encompassing the interests of professionals and organizations involved in invasive species management, research, and regulation across North America. The Forum will bring together the international invasive species community and will highlight new research, emerging issues, success stories and prevention and response initiatives from across Canada, Mexico and the U.S.. The forum will also build on the previous North American Invasive Species Forum held in 2017.

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species is hosting this Forum with the support of, and guidance from, an international steering committee representing the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT: [2021 North American Invasive Species Forum - May 18, 2021](#)

Indigenous Peoples Scholarship Program 2021

In preparation for the upcoming NAISF in May 2021, a special scholarship opportunity is being created to encourage and support increased participation by indigenous/tribal communities, with the goal of strengthening the dialog related to prevention and control of invasive species which threaten the environment, economies, cultures, and plant and animal health (particularly human health) on the lands and waters of indigenous people and across the landscape. Opportunities to expand programs for invasive species management, including job-creating programs supporting research, prevention, control, detection and monitoring, restoration, and communications are expected to be discussed during the Forum.

Indigenous/tribal participation is critical for this continental dialog and will help bring the perspectives and solutions needed from indigenous communities. Through the scholarship program, there will be no NAISF conference registration fee charges for indigenous participants (limited number of registrations available). To apply, please email [Kellie](#).

Support Provided by: [The Office of Tribal Relations – USDA Forest Service](#)

First Day Featured Sessions

Tracking the rapid spread of invasive wild pigs in Canada and their impacts on Species at Risk *Ryan Brook*

There are no native pigs in Canada; they were first introduced by importing domestic Wild Boar to most provinces in the 1980s and 1990s to create meat farms and high fences shoot farms. These animals were crossed with domestic pig breeds in order to produce larger animals with larger litters. Over the last 40 years there have been numerous cases of escapes and purposeful releases of animals to the wild. Invasive wild pig populations have spread out from farm sites to now occupy large areas of Western Canada. Using ten different methods, we have documented a total of 54,929 occurrences of wild pigs, with 99% of all occurrences in Alberta (11%), Saskatchewan (53%), and Manitoba (35%) and isolated pockets of occurrences of the remaining 1% in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Wild pigs have expanded exponentially and have established core strongholds in each of the three Prairie Provinces and there is considerable spatial overlap with species at risk, including boreal caribou, prairie skinks, and piping plover creating important risks and impacts related to predation, habitat destruction, and potential disease transmission.

Strawberry Blossom Weevil, *Anthonomus rubi* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) is established in British Columbia, Canada *Michelle Franklin¹, Paul Abram¹, and Tracy Hueppelsheuser²*

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²British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Health Unit, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3

We report the establishment of the strawberry blossom weevil, *Anthonomus rubi* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in British Columbia, Canada. This is the first detection of *A. rubi* outside of its native range which includes Europe, Asia, and North Africa. This weevil is a serious pest of Rosaceae and is of potential concern for strawberry and raspberry production in British Columbia. This weevil directly impacts fruit yield, as adult female weevils damage developing flower buds by laying their eggs inside the closed, green buds and severing the flower stalks below. Here we describe the current distribution of *A. rubi* in its new range, observed host plant associations, and observations of an associated larval parasitoid from the genus *Pteromalus* (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae) that could hold potential as a naturally occurring biocontrol agent in the future.

Addressing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Michigan *Drew Raynor*

Hemlock woolly adelgid has killed hundreds of thousands of hemlock trees in eastern states, including significant areas in the Appalachian and Great Smoky mountains. When infestations began spreading in West Michigan, a team of technicians went to work to "hold the line" through rigorous survey and treatment of infested trees in an effort to save Michigan's 170 million eastern hemlocks from the same fate. Join Drew Rayner, the West Michigan Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Coordinator, to learn how federal, state and local resources are coming together to save Michigan's hemlock resource, one tree at a time.

Additional Sessions

- **Human-caused Climate Change, Vegetation, and invasive species**, Patrick Gonzalez
- **Mexico's Progress and Commitment to Comprehensive Island Restoration**, Federico Mendez
- **E-commerce: Plant Health Implications and the Importance of Collaboration**, Cory Marker and Bruno Gallant
- Networking opportunities
- Horizon Scanning and Bio surveillance
- Three concurrent sessions focused on aquatic, terrestrial and insects and animals
- Keynotes from Australia, New Zealand and the US

VISIT: [Session details can be accessed here.](#)

Register Now!

We also have funding to support **FREE indigenous and tribal attendance as well as a new youth ticket for only \$10** (age 30 and under!) Details are as follows:

- **CCIS Member Price (full forum - 3 days):** \$170
- **CCIS Non-Member Price (full forum - 3 days):** \$200
- **CCIS Member/Non-Member (one day only):** \$75
- **Indigenous/tribal bursary (full forum):** FREE! Limited quantities available!
- **Youth (under 30):** ONLY \$10! Limited quantities available!

PLEASE NOTE: Registration for all tickets will end May 17th at 12 noon.

To REGISTER, visit here: <https://pheedloop.com/register/northamericaninvasives2021/attendee/>

NAISF IS STILL ACCEPTING SPONSORS!

Sponsors will benefit from premium visibility among guests of the Forum. Your organization will be profiled in a variety of ways, depending on the level you choose. We have Gold, Silver and Bronze opportunities available and can work with you to suit your needs. Promote your organization to a North American audience while supporting efforts to protect communities and landscapes from invasive species! Email Kellie to learn more!

SEE OUR LIST OF SPONSORS HERE: <https://pheedloop.com/northamericaninvasives2021/site/sponsors/>

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The Canadian Council on Invasive Species gratefully acknowledges the territories of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada where we live and work to maintain healthy ecosystems for all.