

GREAT LAKES INVASIVES TCN – Bi-Monthly Report Through Mar. 29, 2015

Our four regional processing centers (NY Botanical Garden, Field Museum, Univ. of Michigan, and Univ of Wisconsin-Madison) report the following from their constituents:

1) Progress in Digitization Efforts TO DATE

PLANTS:

- Specimens Barcoded Only (not photographed yet): **0**
- Imaged only AND image uploaded to the portal (i.e., no data record yet): 6604 (OSU) + 9804 (ALBC) 180 (BUT) = **16588**
- Imaged only but image not yet uploaded to the portal: 102,646 (NY) = **102,646**
- Databased only (skeletal or complete record) AND data uploaded to a portal (i.e., but not imaged yet): 3840 (MOR) = **3840**
- Databased only but not yet uploaded to a portal: 98,519 (NY) + 9200 (F) + 7741 (MOR) + 17000 (ILLS) = **147,848**
- Imaged and Databased but not yet uploaded to a portal: 20,775 (MICH)
- Both Image AND a Data Record Uploaded to iDigBio, to the GLI portal directly, or to another Symbiota portal: **567,494**

PLANT IMAGING SUMMARY: At least 686,728 images taken. Target stated in grant proposal is 637,000. Imaging goal is 108% complete.

FISH:

- Specimens Barcoded Only (not photographed yet): 519 (MIN) =**519**
- Imaged only AND image uploaded to a portal (i.e., no data record yet) 66 (MIN): **66**
- Imaged only but image not yet uploaded to a portal: **0**
- Databased only (skeletal or complete record) AND data uploaded to a portal (i.e., but not imaged yet): 15200 (ILLS) + 4185 (WIS) + 3185 (F) = **22,570**
- Databased only but not yet uploaded to a portal: 200,000 (MICH: UMMZ) complete, but waiting for corresponding images to be completed before uploading + 4709 (F) = **204,709**
- Both Image AND a Data Record Uploaded to iDigBio, to the GLI Portal directly or to another Symbiota Portal for editing before transfer to GLI Portal: 128 (MICH: UMMZ) + 9237 (OSU) + 3298 (MIN) + 1670 (F) + 8800 (ILLS) + 330 (WIS) = **23,463**

FISH IMAGING SUMMARY: Five institutions making progress so far. At least 23,529 images have been taken. Target stated in grant proposal is 102,000 lots. Imaging goal is 23% complete.

MOLLUSKS

- Specimens Barcoded Only (not photographed yet): 200 (WIS) = **200**
- Imaged only AND image uploaded to a portal (i.e., no data record yet): **0**
- Imaged only but image not yet uploaded to a portal: 9341 (MICH: UMMZ) + 640 (ILLS) = **9981**
- Databased only (skeletal or complete record) AND data uploaded to a portal (i.e., but not imaged yet): 5716 (ILLS) + 306 (WIS) = **6022**
- Databased only but not yet uploaded to a portal: 15,668 (MICH: UMMZ) + 640 (ILLS) = **16308**
- Both Image AND a Data Record Uploaded to iDigBio, to the GLI Portal directly or to another Symbiota Portal for editing before transfer to GLI Portal: 855 (MICH: UMMZ) + 137 (WIS) + 1488 (OSU) = **2480**

MOLLUSK IMAGING SUMMARY: Three institutions making progress so far. At least 12,461 images have been taken. Target stated in grant proposal is 44,000 lots. Imaging goal is 28% complete.

2) Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned)

MOR - added a new field to the data entry form. We needed to note when a skeletal record needs an annotation to be added to the record after importing to main database. This way we'll have the original and most recent determination of the specimen in our system. Our digitization intern is currently working on a streamlined imaging protocol to help volunteers work more easily and efficiently.

WIS – All institutions should be making backups of their Symbiota data on a regular basis. We came upon an issue of data being overwritten incorrectly, and we were able to restore it due to having an earlier restore point saved, but institutions having their own backups will make this process much easier and more efficient.

The FileZilla server is close to being filled, so we've had to institute a new procedure to upload images to Symbiota. This process involves several more steps, but is rather straightforward, though a bit more intensive on being computer savvy.

3) Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology

MOR - continuing the transition from our old database to BRAHMS. Exporting a complete data set to Symbiota will be possible in the very near future.

4) Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts

MOR - the Outreach Coordinator is writing tutorials for databases receiving records from the TCN. These will be used in teacher training and professional user workshops.

Native and invasive look-alikes identification materials' first draft is almost complete. The guide includes line drawings, herbarium specimen images, and in-situ photos. The ID guide will be included in the Experience Boxes and will be available online.

5) Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations

MOR - continuing work with The Field Museum in creating an aquatic invasives Experience Box. Scientific content of the Experience Box was reviewed by Dan Larkin at the University of Minnesota. Educational content was reviewed by the Field Museum. We are on track to have the Experience Box in classrooms mid to late 2016.

The Outreach Coordinator began sharing data with MISIN, GLANSIS, and GISD. We shared select images with GLANSIS and Bugwood depending on which species they wanted. More images will be uploaded to Bugwood in the future.

The Outreach Coordinator is attending iDigBio Education and Outreach working group webinars and is collaborating with other members of the working group to submit proposals for the 2017 National Science Teachers Association Conference and the 2016 meeting of the National Association of Environmental Educators.

6) Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability

MOR - found that volunteers work best when they have a specific goal or individual project. After communicating the size and purpose of the TCN digitization efforts, we had two volunteers ask to double their data entry shifts. We noticed a small dip in volunteer enjoyment after working with one genus for weeks at a time. After switching around the order of taxa digitization, they were more engaged and excited to work with the specimens.

7) Other Progress (that doesn't fit into the above categories)

MOR - hired a digitization intern, Michael Stuart. Mike is working around 30 hours per week for a total of 300 hours. He enters data, images specimens, and assists volunteers with those same tasks. He is enthusiastic about the project and is fully engaged in helping to improve workflows and imaging quality.