

**Title:** Jumping Worms and Composting Webinar

**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022

**Time:** 9 am - 10:30 am

**Representation:** MNCC/MPCA/DNR/UMD

**9 – 9:45 am - Jumping Worm Overview**

**Presenter:** Ryan Hueffmeier

**60 minutes**

**Topics:**

- What are jumping worms?
- How are the worms different/harmful?
- Provide examples of situations where compost sites have contributed to the spread of jumping worms.
- How do you identify jumping worms?
- How could a composter devitalize jumping worms at a compost site
  - What are some ways the worms evade devitalization
- Considerations and BMPs related to
  - Compost/yard waste
  - Mulch
  - Soil
- What do we not yet know about jumping worms? What research is going on?

**Quiz – 9-10 Questions (10 minutes)**

**9:55 - 10:05 am - Basics of meeting PRFP**

**Presenters:** Chuck Joswiak and Erin Skelly

**10 Minutes**

**Topics:**

- Forced air and in vessel composting methods (Chuck)
- Turned windrow method (Erin)

**10:05 – 10:15 - Key messages to share with the public regarding jumping worms/yard waste disposal/use of compost**

**Presenter:** Laura Van Riper (10 minutes)

**Topics:**

- What should backyard composters do?
- To prevent jumping worms
- If already present

**Quiz 5-6 questions (10 minutes)**

**Q & A (5 minutes)**

## **Presenter Bios - Jumping Worms and Composting Webinar**

### **Ryan Hueffmeier**

**Director, Boulder Lake ELC**

**University of Minnesota, Duluth**

Ryan Hueffmeier is a research, outreach, and education specialist with active projects in forest and landscape ecology and invasive species. Ryan is the Director at Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center in Duluth, MN (<http://www.boulderlake.org/>), which runs programs for over 6,000 people and has over 10,500 visitors annually. He works towards the transfer of scientific knowledge from evidence-based research to the public through creating accessible outreach programs. Ryan has developed local projects looking at vernal pools, bird populations, invasive species, and tree survival. For the past 14 years, he has been part of the Great Lakes Worm Watch and the Jumping Worms projects.

### **Chuck Joswiak**

**Specialized Environmental Technologies**

**The Mulch Store**

Chuck directs Sales & Market Development while helping oversee site operations at SET, a compost processing company with facilities around the Twin Cities. He has 26+ years in the landscape and horticultural industry and is a member of MNLA. He has worked with contractors, landscape architects, engineers, and municipalities designing projects and utilized hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of compost.

### **Erin Skelly**

**Environmental & Compliance Tech, SMSC Organics Recycling Facility, Shakopee**

**Mdewakanton Sioux Community**

Erin Skelly joined the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) in 2017 as the Environmental and Compliance Technician for the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility.

Skelly has in-depth experience monitoring all aspects of the composting process, inspecting, and evaluating incoming material, and working with haulers to reduce contamination. Erin has led the charge in implementing stricter contamination thresholds and improving overall product quality over the past several years. She also creates compost recipes, performs lab testing, and ensures outgoing products meet specifications on an ongoing basis. Skelly has completed several compost training courses and has presented on composting at local and international conferences. Skelly holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Winona State University.

### **Laura Van Riper**

**Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Coordinator**

**Ecological and Water Resources Division**

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Laura Van Riper has been the terrestrial invasive species program coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Program since 2010. Laura works with invasive species policy, management, prevention, and outreach. Key responsibilities include improving invasive species prevention, management, and mapping as well as coordinating and developing invasive species projects and policies with outside organizations.

Laura has led the DNR's jumping worm response efforts. Before working for the DNR, Laura earned a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota. Her research focused on the effects of invasive yellow sweetclover at Badlands National Park, South Dakota. As a postdoctoral researcher at the U of M, Laura studied invasive garlic mustard in Minnesota forests.

## **Jumping Worms and Composting Webinar | Feb 1, 2021 | 9 – 10:30 am**

**Objective:** Educate composters and composting facilities about jumping worms

**Purpose of the Training Course:** Provide information to participants on the issues of jumping worms and ways to prevent further spread and devitalization of this invasive species.

**Expected Learning Outcomes for Participants:** Webinar participants will come away with a clear understanding of:

- Problems caused by jumping worms
- How to identify jumping worms
- and how to control them at their location(s)