

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

Fiscal Year 2014 Non-Native Invasive Species Accomplishments

Accomplished highlights include:

- Target plant species included: cattails, reed canary grass, phragmites, garlic mustard, teasel, autumn olive, willows, multiflora rose and honeysuckles
- Continue to monitor and treat isolated occurrences of Asian Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) Chinese bushclover (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
- Volunteer hours for invasive control totaled 372 including 155 herbicide application hours
- 20 staff members and 9 volunteers are licensed pesticide applicators for Midwin invasive plant treatments
- Environmental education and invasive weed control with Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Mighty Acorns, North Lawndale Prep, Lewis University and other local schools
- Contracted over 500 acres for invasive control!

Also in 2014, Midwin continued in partnership with the National Forest Foundation to provide outdoor educational opportunities for students from North Lawndale College Prep Academy. This opportunity allows students to learn about both National Forest lands and the great outdoors through stewardship. This year, students participated in various activities throughout the summer such as restoration plantings, native seed collecting, seedbed maintenance, and weeding and trail maintenance. They also dedicated much of their time to invasive control. Enduring extreme heat, no shade, and creepy crawlies, students gathered bags upon bags and endless truckloads of honeysuckle, sweet clover, autumn olive, and seed heads from cattail, reed canary grass, and teasel. They worked with much excitement and determination to create yet another successful summer of invasive control!



Volunteers brush cutting along the trail on a very cold day.



Local Boy Scout troop hand pulling garlic mustard.



NFF Crew taking a break from invasive control work!

Activity	Acres	Comments
Mowing	2007	Used to control encroachment of non-native shrubs into grassland habitats
Hand Pulling	30	Used to control invasive plants in sensitive habitats (native woodlands, TES plant populations)
Herbicide	1102	Used to control large infestations that threaten restored native habitats, either as propagule sources or active invading infestations



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30239 S. State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481