03-002W

Final Report

Wildlife Preservation Fund – Small Projects FY 03

Project Title: Exotic Species Control at the Ballard Nature Center

Ballard Nature Center
5253 E. US Hwy 40
Altamont, IL 62411

Contact Person: Karan Greuel – Naturalist
618-483-6856

The Ballard Nature Center received a $1,000.00 grant form the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund in FY 03. The funding was to control exotic species on the nature center property. The project has been completed and we are now requesting the funding payment. Attached you will find the final report, photo documentation, contractor's bill, and a newspaper article.

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Final Report

The Ballard Nature Center, a non-profit 501 (C) 3, is responsible for the development and management of a 210 acre nature center located near Effingham, IL. The legal description is Effingham County, Mound Township T. 7 N. – R. 4 E. Section 2. Its primary goals are environmental education for the citizens of southeastern Illinois and on-site restoration and management of natural communities that were typically found in the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. At the nature center scattered individual and population of various exotic species are present within the natural communities on the site.

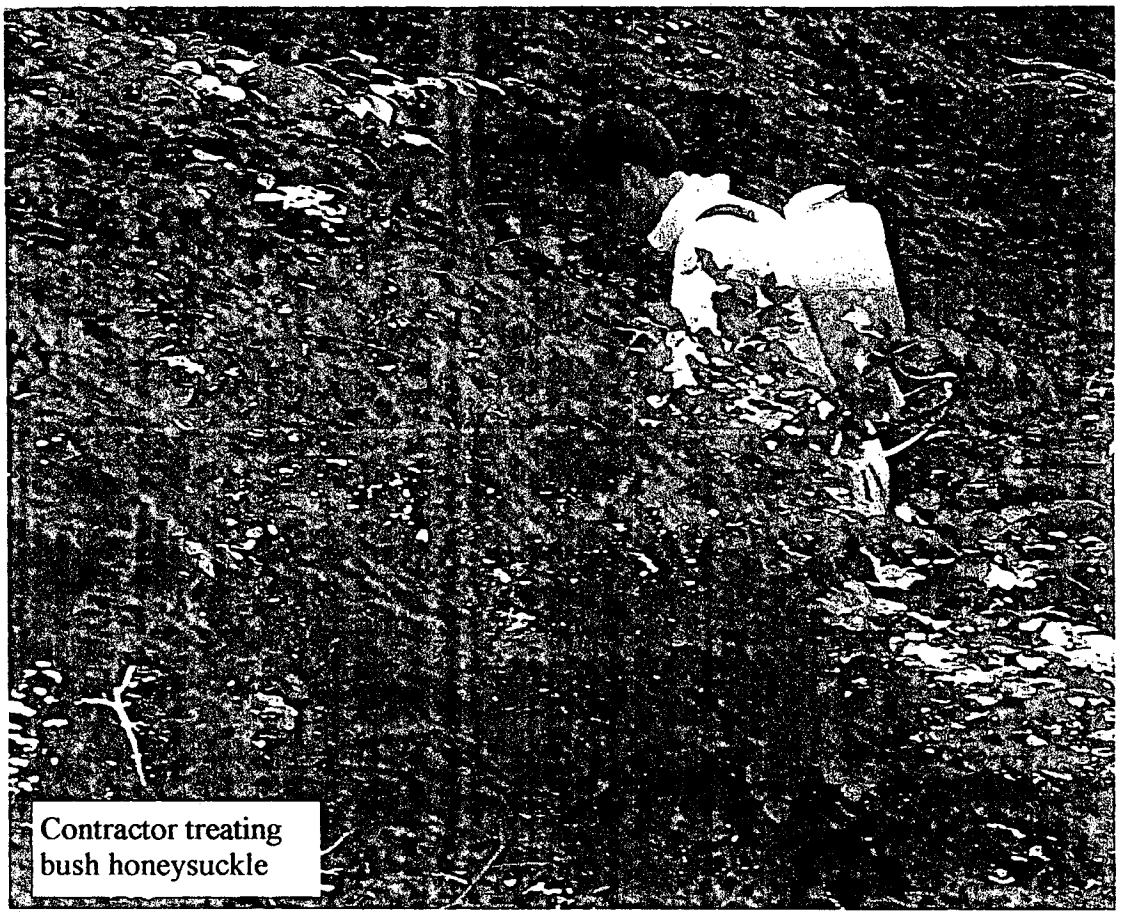
The project objective of this grant was to control exotic species at the Ballard Nature Center. Scattered populations of multiflora rose, autumn olive, black locust, Japanese honeysuckle, fescue, and winged wahoo were documented on the center's property. An Illinois Department of Agriculture licensed herbicide contractor treated various exotic species populations throughout the nature center. The contractor followed recommendations and methods published by the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission. Various exotic species were treated by basal bark application, cut stump, foliar spray, and hand pulling. The contractor was paid $15.00 per hour and completed approximately 66 man-hours of exotic species control over the 12-month period. The nature center provided the appropriate herbicides and the contractor used his own herbicide application equipment. Species concentrated on were seed producing autumn olive, winged wahoo, multiflora rose, and bush honeysuckle plants in an attempt to reduce seed production on the area. Additionally, scattered populations of Japanese honeysuckle, black locust and fescue were treated throughout the center's boundaries. This grant allowed the contractor to significantly impact the center's exotic species populations.

This project was also an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of exotic species control while providing environmental education at the same time. To assist with the completion of the objective, the Ballard Nature Center will incorporate the project into various education programs. Currently, a natural heritage meeting on exotic species control will take place at the center. These types of meetings provide an opportunity for individuals to look at treatment techniques. The nature center is open to the general public and hosts numerous events, workshops and programs that are related to natural resource management. An interpretive sign describing exotic species and the negative impacts they have on the environment has been placed along the trail system.

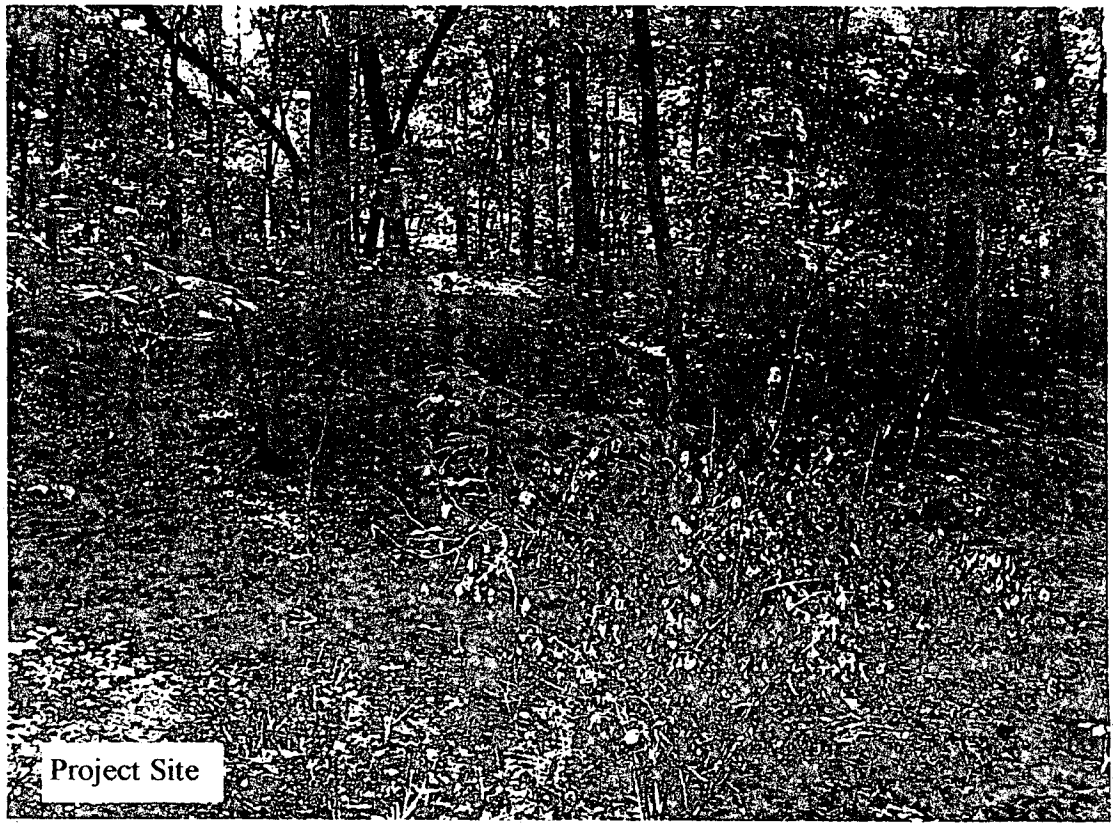
The Ballard Nature Center would like to thank the Illinois Wildlife Preservation for providing funding to assist with the control of these exotic species.

Exotic Species Control at The Ballard Nature Center
for
Illinois Preservation Fund

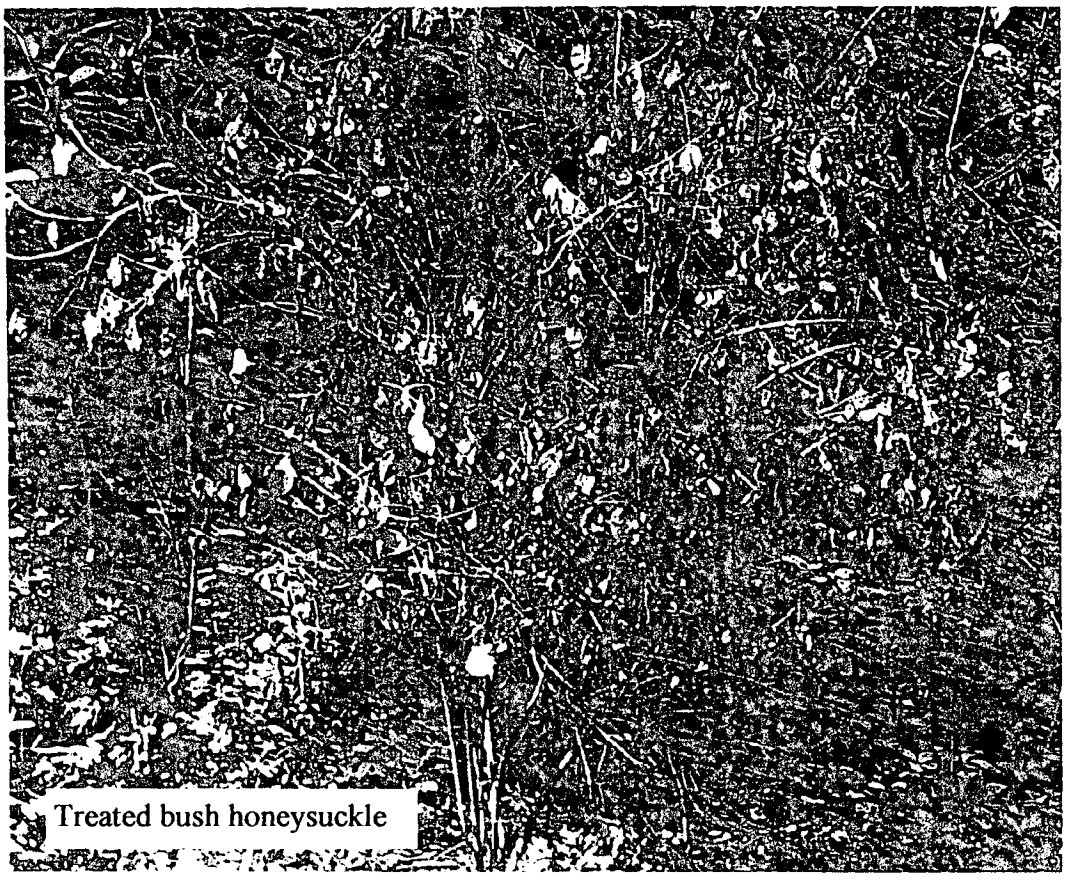
DATE	HOURS	HOURLY RATE	TOTAL
3/16/2003	4	$ 15.00	$ 60.00
3/23/2003	3	$ 15.00	$ 45.00
3/29/2003	5	$ 15.00	$ 75.00
3/30/2003	3	$ 15.00	$ 45.00
4/6/2003	5	$ 15.00	$ 75.00
4/8/2003	3	$ 15.00	$ 45.00
4/15/2003	4	$ 15.00	$ 60.00
4/19/2003	6	$ 15.00	$ 90.00
4/20/2003	4	$ 15.00	$ 60.00
4/22/2003	4	$ 15.00	$ 60.00
4/23/2003	4	$ 15.00	$ 60.00
5/14/2003	5	$ 15.00	$ 75.00
6/4/2003	4	$ 15.00	$ 60.00
6/5/2003	5	$ 15.00	$ 75.00
6/20/2003	5	$ 15.00	$ 75.00
6/21/2003	2.7	$ 15.00	$ 40.50
		GRAND TOTAL	$ 1,000.50



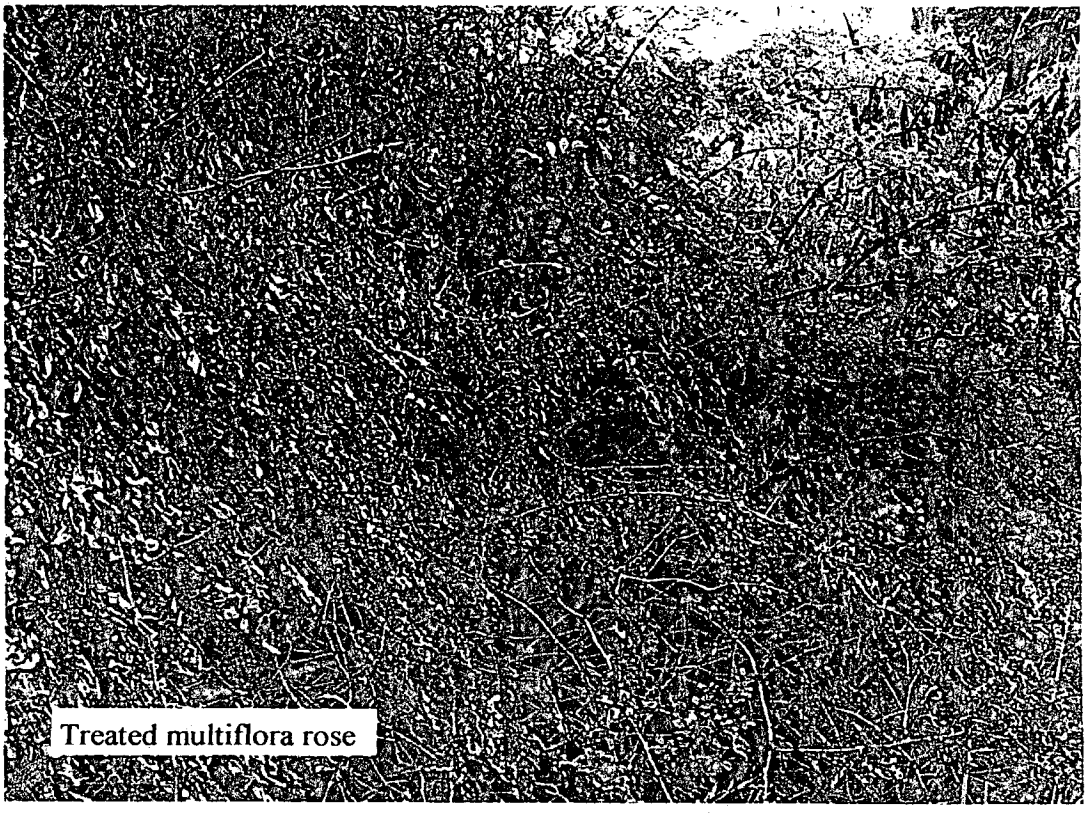
Contractor treating bush honeysuckle



Project Site



Treated bush honeysuckle



Treated multiflora rose

Ballard Nature Center receives grant to control exotic plants

ALTAMONT — The Ballard Nature Center recently received a grant for $1,000 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources — Wildlife Preservation Fund to control exotic plants at the nature center.

Exotic species such as autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, bush honeysuckle and winged wahoo pose a serious threat to natural communities in Illinois, especially forest and prairie communities.

Besides the loss of habitat they pose the single greatest threat to wildlife populations and natural communities in Illinois.

The nature center is hiring a licensed herbicide contractor to treat the exotic plants on site as part of its overall effort to restore wildlife habitat.

The grant was funded through the Wildlife Preservation check-off on the Illinois state income tax return form. The voluntary check-off designation provides an opportunity for taxpayers to contribute to non-game wildlife protection and restoration.

Persons wishing to contribute directly to the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund may do so by mailing donation to: Wildlife Preservation Fund, Division of Resource Protection and Stewardship, Department of Natural Resources, 1 Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.