

Southern Illinois Weed Watch – Wilderness Natural Areas and Priority Zones
Mapping Project
Project Final Report (#11-L07W)

Submitted to IDNR by Tom Clay, Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society
December 13, 2011

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund –Project Report

Project Title

Southern Illinois Weed Watch – Wilderness Natural Areas and Priority Zones Mapping Project

Project Summary

The Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) partnered with the Shawnee National Forest and the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (R-R CWMA) to expand the successful 'Illinois Weed Watch' program into Wilderness Areas. In the United States, a Wilderness Area is an area of federal land set aside by an Act of Congress to preserve the natural state of the land and protects flora and fauna by prohibiting development and providing for non-mechanized recreation only.

The Illinois Weed Watch Program uses volunteers to survey and map invasive plant locations on public lands. Previously, the program worked on both state and federal lands and was very productive at finding and mapping new invasive plant locations. The Illinois Weed Watch Program was developed in 2008 from support provided by the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund.

This project focused on helping the Forest Service meet the minimum standard for invasive species within Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites that are within four Wilderness Areas on the Shawnee National Forest (SNF), priority zones (invasive species pathways such as streams and trails) within two additional Wilderness Areas, and additional high-priority Natural Areas within SNF. (Location map—see Appendix A)

The project helped continue the growth of the Weed Watch volunteer base in southern Illinois, organized and implemented training sessions, and worked with the volunteers to schedule and survey Natural Areas and priority zones.

Reimbursement Requested: \$8,000.00

Project Objectives Met

The IAS contractor and the R-R CWMA work with the Shawnee National Forest to identify and produce maps of the designated Natural Areas and priority zones in Wilderness; the IAS contractor and R-R CWMA worked together to recruit and train volunteers, and to assist volunteers with mapping and data entry.

Fourteen volunteers from the general public were trained in the identification of invasive plant species, trained in inventory protocol and online data entry, and assigned natural areas or priority zones to monitor. Each volunteer either attended a special training session or one-on-one training with project coordinators, and each received an electronic copy of the training manual that was developed specifically for this project. Inventory training protocol included overall project purpose and need, invasive plant identification, learning GPS mapping techniques, data recording requirements, online database entry, and field safety.

The volunteers, with the assistance of the Project coordinator and/or the R-R CWMA coordinator, inventoried eleven Natural Areas and/or priority zones in five Wilderness Areas. They recorded 27 species at 428 locations (see Attachment B). In all, volunteers spent approximately 296 hours at trainings, mapping in the field and recording data into the online database.

In addition, several volunteers took part in various Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month events and have also helped the R-R CWMA coordinator with a special bush honeysuckle/autumn olive ground-truthing project. The project coordinator also produced and distributed periodic Weed Watcher newsletters (see examples: Attachments C and D).

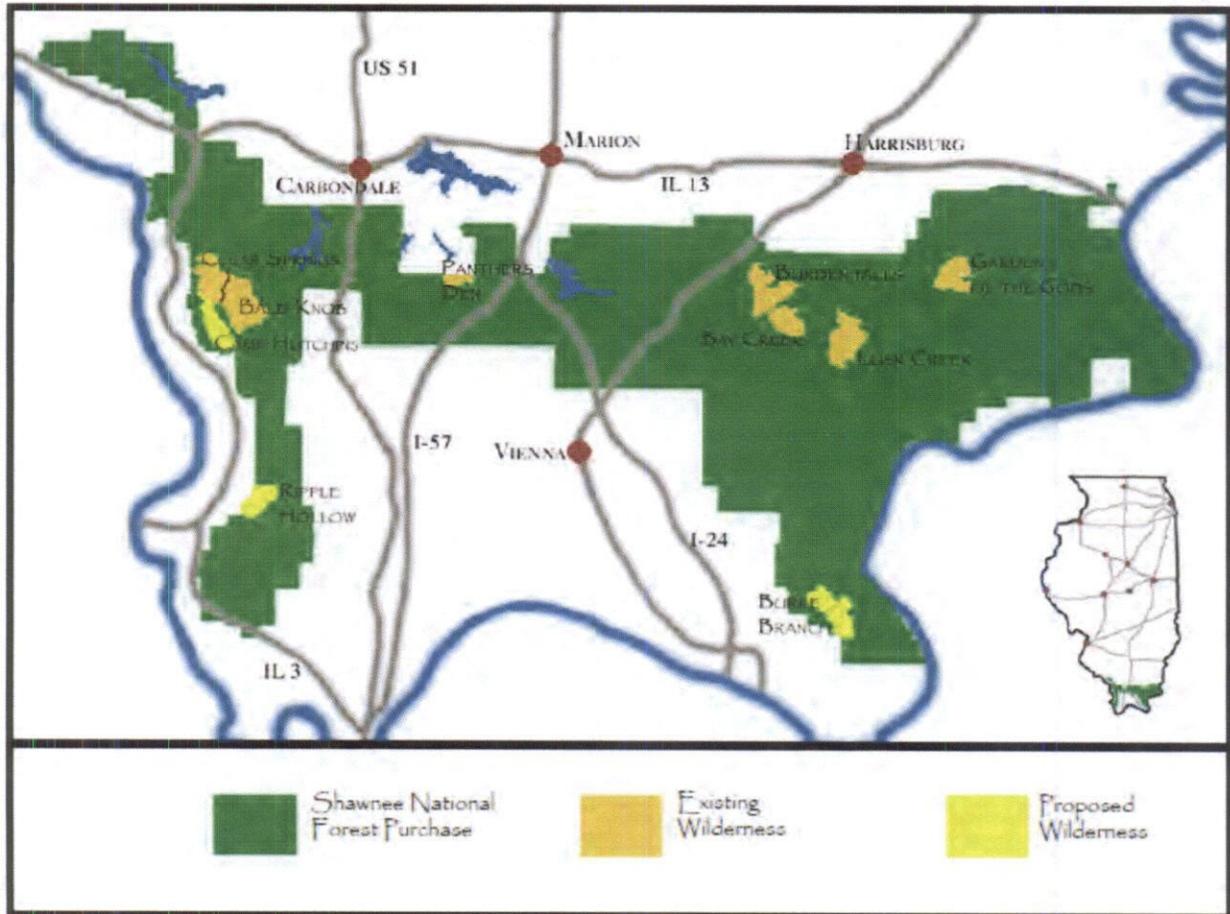
Detailed Budget

DETAILED BUDGET				
		WPF Funds	Cost Share Funds	Detail Total
Personnel				
Project coordinator		7,000.00		7,000.00
TRAVEL				
To implement project		1,000.00		1,000.00
MATERIALS/SUPPLIES				
Printing costs of educational materials			1,000.00	1,000.00
OTHER				
Volunteer (~ 200 vol. hours expected)	20.00/hr		4,000.00	4,000.00
Totals		8,000.00	5,000.00	
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT				\$13,000.00

Actual Expenses

PROJECT BUDGET				
		WPF Funds	Cost Share Funds	Detail Total
Personnel				
Terri Treacy, Project coordinator (contract w/ Sierra Club).		7,000.00		7,000.00
Chris Evans, CWMA Coordinator	28.65/hr		2,292.00	2,292.00
TRAVEL				
To implement project		1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
MATERIALS/SUPPLIES				
Printing costs of educational materials			1,000.00	1,000.00
OTHER				
Volunteer (~ 296 vol. hours expected)	20.00/hr		5,920.00	4,000.00
Totals		8,000.00	10,212.00	
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT				\$18,212

Appendix A: Project Location Map



The project worked in Clear Springs, Panthers Den, Burden Falls, Lusk Creek, and Bay Creek Wilderness Areas, and in Wolf Creek and Rich's Cave Natural Areas.

Appendix B: Record of Species and Locations

Southern Illinois Weed Watch Wilderness Natural Areas and Priority Zones Mapping Project Species Recorded 2010--2011	
Species	Number of infestations recorded
Bush honeysuckle	87
Asiatic Dayflower	2
Autumn olive	50
Garlic Mustard	2
Japanese honeysuckle	13
Japanese stiltgrass	74
Jimsonweed	1
Johnsongrass	4
Multiflora rose	86
Beefsteak plant	2
Pine sp.	14
Privet	1
Sericea lespedeza	10
Tree of Heaven	3
Winged burning bush	1
Wintercreeper	3
Sweetclover	2



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS WEEDWATCH PROJECT VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

YOU ARE INVITED!! WEEDS AND WINE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT & INVASIVE PLANT ID PARTY!

Why: Invasive plant species are invading our beautiful natural areas. They are aggressively overtaking or displacing native species causing a drastic reduction in our native biodiversity and natural beauty. Discovering weeds before they become well-established is critical to reducing damage to ecosystem integrity, preventing the loss of habitat for rare plants and animals, and preventing costly natural resource management.

Who: Everyone who has been, currently is, or wants to be involved in the Weed Watch Project.

What: Invasive Weed ID and Wine Party.

When: Sunday, May 15 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where: Pomona Winery, 2865 Hickory Ridge Road,
Pomona, IL 62975

What to Bring: Drinking water for the trail and some cash to buy yourself a glass of delicious Pomona Winery apple wine or non-alcoholic soft drink. Snacks and munchies will be provided--but extra contributions won't be turned down!

We'll kick off the party by explaining what WeedWatch is and the various ways you can get involved, then professional botanists will lead an invasive weed identification training. Following the training we'll gather back at the winery to celebrate the accomplishments made over the past three years, to celebrate the future of the project, to get acquainted with old and new friends, and to have fun!

Please RSVP to terri.treacy@sierraclub.org or 618-521-1030.



CHANGES COMING TO WEEDWATCH

We are developing some new approaches to data collection that will accommodate a broader range of physical ability, interest level and time commitment. If you can't come to the party, but are interested in learning more about how you can get involved in WeedWatch, please contact Terri at terri.treacy@sierraclub.org or 618-521-1030.

WEEDWATCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WeedWatch Volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours in the field collecting hundreds of points and polygons. This data, all entered into a central database, has been used by agencies to treat infested areas, or in the case of the Shawnee National Forest, to help in the development of the Invasive Species Plan. This plan is due to be released soon for public comment and implementation (barring any major public resistance).



The Illinois WeedWatch Project has been made possible through a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund.

Directions to Pomona Winery -- Google Map

The winery is easily reached from Highway 127 by following the wine trail signs and arrows. If you haven't been to the winery before look forward to a scenic 25 to 35 minute drive through the lovely Shawnee Hills Forest once you leave Highway 127 (either the southern or the northern routes off the highway take about the same time). And, yes, from Highway 127 it is the longest 9.1 miles that you will ever drive--so relax, enjoy the scenery, and travel safe!



Gov. Quinn has proclaimed May 2011 Invasive Species Awareness Month

The goal of ISAM is to provide resources and opportunities to help stop the spread of invasive species in Illinois - each and every person can make a difference. Events and activities are taking place all over the state—two upcoming events are here in southern Illinois.

Endangered Species Day Event 2011 - Giant City

When: Sun, May 22, 1pm – 4pm

Where: Giant City State Park Visitor's Center ([map](#))

The USDA Forest Service will host several activities including "Landscaping with Native Plants", "Invasive Plant Management" & "Endangered Species". Includes outdoor activities. Events will take place rain or shine. For more information - contact Lindsay Agin at 618-253-7114

Invasive Species Pull -- War Bluff Valley Sanctuary -- Pope County

When: Saturday, May 28, 10am – 2pm

Where: War Bluff Valley Sanctuary ([map](#)) -- see directions below

Shawnee Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society needs some help to protect one of the favorite Virginia bluebell sites at the Sanctuary from an infestation of multiflora rose. They'd like to "get 'em" while they're still small enough to pull out by hand! So, grab a pair of leather gloves and join Shawnee Chapter on May 28 for a rose-pulling party!! If there is time, volunteers will get a chance to give the weed wrench a whirl on the some of the smaller autumn olive bushes, too.

Lunch and snacks will be provided—Please [R.S.V.P.](#) for planning purposes!

Directions to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary: From Golconda, follow Rte. 146 north about 3 miles to Bushwack Road. There is a brown Wildlife Viewing Sign before the road. Turn left and follow Bushwack about 2.2 miles to Sanctuary entrance. Sanctuary phone: 618.683.2222.



Weed Watch Volunteers Enjoy Weeds & Wine Event!

Past, current and future Weed Watchers gathered recently to kick off the 2011 Weed Watch season at the Weeds & Wine Event! Sixteen volunteers and support crew enjoyed an afternoon at Pomona Winery in Jackson County reviewing invasive plant identification and enjoying a wine, cheese and chocolate party on the upper deck of the winery overlooking the Shawnee National Forest.

[Join the Fun!! Become a Weed Watch Volunteer!](#)



Multiflora rose is a medium height, thorny shrub with a spreading growth form. It was introduced into Illinois in the 1950's from eastern Asia for wildlife cover and food. The species readily invades prairies, savannas, open woodland, and forest edges and can form impenetrable thickets that smother out other vegetation. It is a serious pest species throughout the eastern U.S.



Garlic Mustard Warriors!

The Nature Conservancy Strike Team and a host of volunteers recently torched and hand-pulled a large population of garlic mustard near the Rock House Shelter in the Shawnee National Forest. If you're interested in reporting new infestations of invasive species and/or helping with eradication efforts, please contact [Terri](#).

[forward to a friend](#)

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"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; we will understand only what we have been taught."
-Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist

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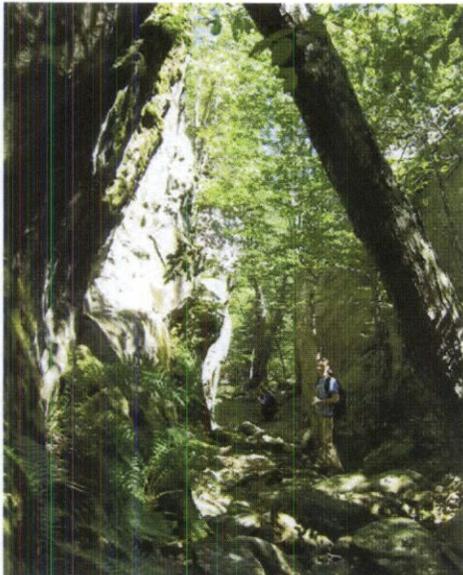
Illinois Weed Watch 2010--2011 Season



R-R CWMA Coordinator, Chris Evans, trains volunteers in plant ID and survey protocol.

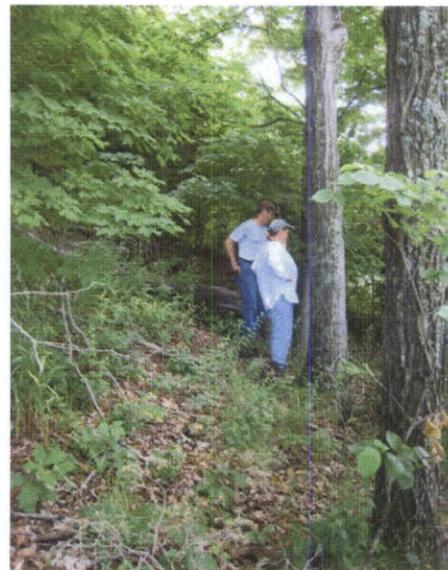
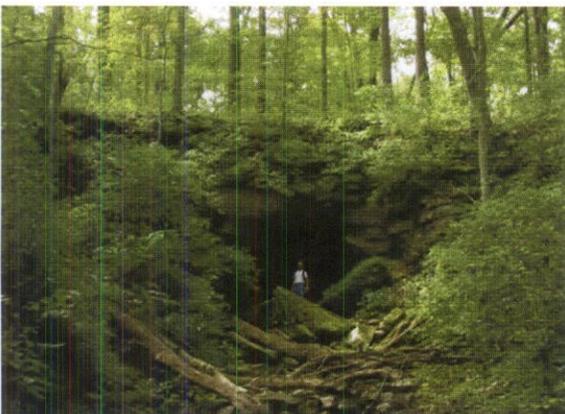


Weed Watch volunteers attend a plant ID refresher and volunteer appreciation party.



Steep terrain and blow downs from wind storms made some areas especially challenging for the intrepid and dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers enjoyed exploring beautiful places they'd never visited before.



Copy of

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FY11 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

Grantee Information

Grantee Name: Illinois Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2547
Springfield, IL 62708

RECEIVED

JAN 05 2012

Dept. of Natural Resources

Grant Agreement #: 11-L07W

Amount of Reimbursement Requested: \$ 8,000.00

I certify that the goods or services specified on this request for payment were for the use of this agency and that the expenditure for such goods or services was authorized and lawfully incurred, that such goods or services meet all the required standards set forth in the grant agreement to which this request for payment relates, and that the amount shown below on this request is correct and approved for payment.

By: [Signature] Date: 12/22/2011
(Signature)

Name: Tom Clay Title: Executive Director

Grantee F.E.I.N. / TIN: 36-6065870

Attach copies of vendor billings, proof of payment, and other necessary documentation and send the Request for Payment Certification to:

Jody Shimp
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
11731 State Highway 37
Benton, IL 62812
Telephone #: (618)435-8138 x127
E-Mail Address: Jody.Shimp@Illinois.gov

For DNR Use Only
Approved for Payment: [Signature]
Signature
Name: JODY SHIMP
Date: 12/29/2011



Illinois Audubon Society 03/06
PO Box 2547
Springfield, IL 62708-2547
217.544.2473
FEIN # 36-6065870

MARINE BANK, SPRINGFIELD
70-940/711

3649

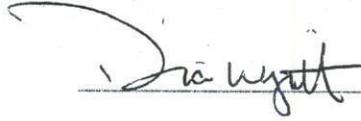
12/20/2011

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Sierra Club Illinois Chapter

\$ **8,000.00

Eight Thousand and 00/100***** DOLLARS

Sierra Club Illinois Chapter
70 E. Lake Street
Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601



MEMO

Weed Watch Project

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Illinois Audubon Society

3649

Sierra Club Illinois Chapter

12/20/2011

IDNR WPF Grant "Weed Watch" Expense

8,000.00

IL Audubon Society M Weed Watch Project

8,000.00

Illinois Audubon Society

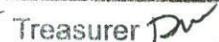
3649

Sierra Club Illinois Chapter

12/20/2011

IDNR WPF Grant "Weed Watch" Expense

8,000.00

Date:	12/20/2011
Account/Class:	8095/600 GS
Check Number:	3649
Exec Dir. 	Treasurer 

PAYMENT RECORD

IL Audubon Society M Weed Watch Project

8,000.00

Copy 



Sierra Club
Illinois Chapter

copy
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INVOICE

DECEMBER 8, 2011

BILLED TO: ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
ATTN: TOM CLAY
PO BOX 2547
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62708

PAYABLE TO: SIERRA CLUB ILLINOIS CHAPTER
70 E. LAKE STREET
SUITE 1500
CHICAGO, IL 60601
312-251-1680
312-251-1780 FAX

IDNR WILDLIFE PRESERVATION – WEED WATCH PROJECT

PROJECT TITLE: FUNDSOUTHERN ILLINOIS WEED WATCH – WILDERNESS
NATURAL AREAS AND PRIORITY ZONES MAPPING PROJECT

INVOICE AMOUNT: \$8,000.00 -- SIERRA CLUB STAFF PERSONNEL
REIMBURSEMENT. PER GRANT CONTRACT, TERRI TREACY HAS COMPLETED THE
OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN THE CONTRACT: WORKED WITH SHAWNEE
NATIONAL FOREST (SNF) TO IDENTIFY AND PRODUCE MAPS FOR TARGET
NATURAL AREAS; TO RECRUIT, ORGANIZE AND ASSIST WITH VOLUNTEER
WEED WATCH TRAINING WORKSHOPS; TO ORGANIZE VOLUNTEERS IN
IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING INVASIVE SPECIES LOCATIONS; TO ASSIST
WITH ONLINE DATA RECORDING AND DATA SUBMISSION TO SNF.



ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Press Release
For Immediate Release
December 8, 2011

Contact:
Tom Clay, Executive Director, 217-544-2473

Volunteers Invade Invasive Species Infestations

Illinois Weed Watch Project Completes Fourth Year with Help from INDR Grant

[Springfield] Invasive plant species, which are aggressively overtaking or displacing native species, are invading our beautiful natural areas and causing a drastic reduction in our native biodiversity and natural beauty. Discovering weeds before they become well-established is critical to reducing damage to ecosystem integrity, preventing the loss of habitat for rare plants and animals, and preventing costly natural resource management

* Thanks to a grant made possible by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund, the Illinois Audubon Society was able to partner with the Shawnee National Forest and the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area to expand the successful 'Illinois Weed Watch' program into Wilderness Areas and additional Natural Areas.

Illinois Weed Watch is citizen-scientist volunteer project that plays an important role in the protection of the unique resources in southern Illinois. Weed Watch volunteers help detect and collect data on the arrival and dispersal of non-native invasive species throughout southern Illinois. Data is entered into a comprehensive web-based regional database of non-native invasive species locations. The database is shared with managers for use in pest and weed management planning and eradication.

The Weed Watch Project just completed its fourth year of non-native invasive plant species inventorying. During the 2010-2011 season, fourteen volunteers from the general public were trained in the identification of invasive plant species and trained in inventory protocol and online data entry.

Each volunteer either attended a special training session or one-on-one training with project coordinators, and each received an electronic copy of the training manual that was developed specifically for this project with a 2008 WPF grant. Inventory training protocol included overall project purpose and need, invasive plant identification, learning GPS mapping techniques, data recording requirements, online database entry, and field safety.

The volunteers, with the assistance of the Project coordinator and/or the R-R CWMA coordinator, inventoried eleven Natural Areas and/or priority zones in five Wilderness Areas. They recorded 27 non-native invasive species such as bush honeysuckle, Japanese stilt grass and garlic mustard at 428 locations. In all, volunteers spent approximately 296 hours at trainings, mapping in the field and recording data into the online database.

The Illinois Audubon Society, established in 1897, is the state's oldest conservation organization. The Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program is designed to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of Illinois through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance. Projects proposed for grant funding must focus on management, site inventories or education. The Fund is financed through a voluntary check-off designation on Illinois State income tax return forms. All donations to the fund must be used to assist non-game wildlife and native plants in Illinois. Illinois Audubon Society extends its thanks to all of the citizens of Illinois who contribute so generously to the wildlife fund.

CarmiTimes.com

Watching for weed in Illinois

Carmi Times

Posted Dec 14, 2011 @ 04:25 AM

Recommend

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Springfield, Ill. —

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