Promotion and coordination of 2011 Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month

Project Final Report (#11-L26W)

Submitted to IDNR by Christopher Evans, River to River CWMA Coordinator

January 23, 2012

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund –Project Final Report

Project Title
Promotion and coordination of 2011 Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month

Grant Agreement Number
#11-L26W

Grantee
Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
Rt. 1 Box 256
Simpson, IL 62985
(618) 944-1736

Project Time Frame
January 11, 2011 – December 31, 2011

Grantee Representative
Christopher Evans, 618-998-5920 or rivertoriver@gmail.com

Project Objectives (as stated in Grant Proposal)

1. Develop the ISAM program.
2. Serve as the main coordinator for 2011 ISAM events
3. Develop Event leaders Resource Kits for 2011 which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
4. Develop ISAM Awards program which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
5. Develop ISAM Contest program which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
6. Develop ISAM Media Kit which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
7. Develop ISAM contact list/database for participating ORGs/Agencies which will be a useful resource for planning Subsequent ISAM's.
8. Raise public awareness about invasive species in Illinois
9. Encourage citizens of Illinois to take action to stop the spread of invasive species
10. Engage conservation groups and agencies across Illinois and, through ISAM, build stronger working relationships
11. Develop long-term strategies to continue to raise awareness about invasive species

Project Description
This project provided funds for the River to River CWMA to take the lead in organizing and implementing Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) and related activities. This project allowed for a more cohesive message on invasive species to be presented during ISAM (May 2011) and for events across the state to be organized and advertised in a central location. The River to River CWMA helped plan events for southern Illinois, compiled information on events elsewhere in the state,

populated the ISAM website and calendar of events, helped develop the awards program, helped develop the garlic mustard pull contest, helped develop the new ISAM logo, and procured educational and promotional material for ISAM.

Summary of Project Activities

Introduction

Invasive species are recognized as one of the most serious threats to conservation in Illinois, the United States, and across the globe. The first step to an effective state-wide strategy to manage invasive plants is raising public awareness. Without the strong support and assistance of the public, and in particular private landowners, land management agencies cannot succeed in controlling these harmful species or stopping their spread into new areas. One approach to meeting this goal is through the use of a state-wide Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM). This project provided funding to aid in the coordination and implementation of ISAM for 2011. ISAM provided an opportunity for citizens of Illinois to participate in invasive species awareness events around the state and to learn more about what they can to do help fight these threats.

Materials and Methods

The River to River CWMA, a project under the Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc., worked with entities such as the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council, forest preserve districts, The Nature Conservancy, IDNR, the Illinois CAPS program, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP), INHS, Shawnee National Forest, Illinois Forestry Association, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to schedule educational events across Illinois. The CWMA worked with the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia to place all of the ISAM information online and organize it in an easy to find manner. The CWMA also created a Facebook page for ISAM and populated it with relevant information. A volunteer was recruited to take the lead on the Facebook page and create educational posts and answer user feedback.

The CWMA worked with IDNR, NIIPP, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District to develop criteria for an awards program and to disseminate calls for nominations.

The CWMA also worked with The Nature Conservancy, IDNR, and Green Earth, Inc. to develop a garlic mustard pull contest for school-aged children.

Results

Overall, 67 events were held across Illinois as part of Invasive Species Awareness Month. These events ranged from Garlic Mustard Pulls and other workdays to Presentations and field tours. Three awards were given out (Professional of the year – Karen Tharp, Professional Organization

of the year – IDOT region 1, Volunteer of the year – Greg White) as part of ISAM. These awards were selected at the end of 2011 and the awards will be given out in May of 2012 during next year's ISAM activities.

The Garlic Mustard challenge involved two 6th grade classes, one from Murphysboro and one from Carbondale. Each class received information and a presentation on invasive species and the need for control and then each group spent a day hand-pulling garlic mustard. The Murphysboro school pulled at Lake Murphysboro State Park and the Carbondale school pulled on Green Earth, Inc. property. Both schools were awarded a pizza party after the workday and the winning school (Murphysboro) also received $500 for the class to be spent on equipment and supplies.

The CWMA and ISAM Committee worked with the Illinois Natural History Survey to create a new logo for ISAM. This new logo was used in presentations, publications, promotional material, and on the Facebook page. While we had $400 budgeted for the logo, the INHS never billed for the creation of the logo (even after several emails reminding them) so these funds were never spent.

The ISAM Facebook page (www.facebook.com/illinoisiSAM) has been very successful with 248 people following. Several posts were made each week of ISAM. The ISAM website (www.illinoisinvasives.org) was also very popular with media kits, calendar of events, contact lists, information on invasive species, and a news feed.

The CWMA ordered two publications to use for ISAM events and promotion; 'Landscape alternatives to Invasive plants' and 'Why should I care about invasive species'. In addition, the CWMA ordered small magnets with the slogan "You can help stop the spread of invasive species", the website URL and the ISAM logo on them. Also purchases were materials used for printing information and flyers for ISAM.

The IDNR dedicated their May issue of Outdoor Illinois to invasive species and the CWMA wrote a guest article for that issue.

A list of participating agencies and organizations was created for use in subsequent ISAMs and a standing ISAM committee was formed to work on 2012 ISAM planning.

Discussion

The 2011 Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month was a huge success. While we didn't reach our goal of 100 events, we were close at 67. This effort had a lot of work going on in different fronts and a great foundation was set for future ISAMs. The events and programs helped us to reach our project objectives of raising public awareness about invasive species in Illinois, encouraging

citizens of Illinois to take action to stop the spread of invasive species, and engaging conservation groups and agencies across Illinois and, through ISAM, build stronger working relationships.

Budget

DETAILED BUDGET EXAMPLE*(Required for all applicants.)*				
	Rate	**WPF Funds**	**Cost Share Funds**	**Detail Total**
PERSONNEL				
Chris Evans, River to River CWMA Coord.	32/hour	$5954		$5,954
MATERIALS/SUPPLIES				
Pencils and other promo items		$399.26		$399.26
ISAM poster and flyer printing		$1220.42		$1220.42
Awards for contests			$500	$500
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES				
Logo development		$0		$0
OTHER				
Volunteer time – Invasive plant removal (300 hrs)	20/hr		$5040	
		$7573.68	$5540	
			TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	**$13113.68**

Budget Narrative

The project came in under budget with a cost to WPF fund of $7573.68 and a total cost of $13113.68. The Nature Conservancy donated the $500 for the contest award and the INHS did not bill for the logo development. Total volunteer hours recorded for the project equaled 252 hours. It is important to note that these hours are only events that the CWMA was involved in and total volunteer hours donated across the state as part of ISAM would be much higher.

Project photos

Field Tour

Grade school class that participated in Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge

Teaching kids about invasive species

Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge

River to River CWMA's educational booth at the Sustainable Living Expo

ISAM Logo

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FY11 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

Grantee Information

Grantee Name: Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
502 Comfort Drive, Suite E
Marion, IL 62959

Grant Agreement #: 11-L26W

Amount of
Reimbursement Requested: $ 7,573.68

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: Cathy Poshard (Signature) Date: March 19, 2012

Name: Cathy Poshard Title: Program Manager

Grantee F.E.I.N. / TIN: 37-1368038

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

Name:

Date: _____

Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
RR 1, Box 256
Simpson, IL 62985

INVOICE

Bill To:

Jody Shimp
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
11731 State Highway 37
Benton, IL 62812

Grant Agreement: 11-L26W

Period Covered by Request: January 11, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Itemized Invoice

Items	**Costs**
Salary 157.5 hours @ $32.00	$5,954.00
Materials/Supplies	$1,619.68
Total:	**$7,573.68**

Total Reimbursement Request **$7,573.68**

Please remit to:

Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
RR1, Box 256
Simpson, IL 62985

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, please contact Shawnee RC&D at, 618-771-2854.

"I certify that all expenditures reported (or payments requested) are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the Agreement set forth in the application and award documents."

Cathy Cochard, Program Manager 3-19-12
Signature and Title *Date*

Order Number: 990447

Placed: 12/19/2011
Payment: Complete
Status: In Production

BUILDASIGN.com™

Billing Information	Shipping Information	Other Information
Name: CHRISTOPHER EVANS	**Name:** CHRISTOPHER EVANS	
Address Line 1: 2114 MARKET RD	**Address Line 1:** 2114 MARKET RD	
Address Line 2:	**Address Line 2:**	**Email:** rivertoriver@gmail.com
City: MARION	**City:** MARION	**Telephone:** 619-964-1657
State/Prov/Reg: IL	**State/Prov/Reg:** IL	**Shipping Method:** Ground
Zip: 62959	**Zip:** 62959-8924	
Country: United States	**Country:** United States	

Ordered Items:

	Qty.	Price	Item Total
Customized Sign Custom Sign ID: 30348709 Business Card (2"x3.5"); Fridge Magnet Single-Sided Full Color View Proof	3000	$0.12	$369.99

Payment Information

Card Type: MasterCard
Card Number: XXXXXXXXXXXX7476
Expiration: 9 / 2014
Payment Status: Complete

Subtotal:	$369.99
Shipping:	$29.27
Tax:	$0.00
Total:	$399.26

Ck # 2203

Date Received 12-19-11

Project/Fund ISAM # 207

Paid Phyllis A Mace 1-18-12
Treasurer Date

SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION
RIVER TO RIVER CWMA
RR 1 BOX 256
SIMPSON, IL 62985-9615

05-07

2203

70-320/812

December 19, 2011
Date

Pay to the Order of Chris Evans $ 399.26

Three hundred ninety-nine 26/100 Dollars

Security Features Details on Back.

The Bank of Marion
Marion, IL

~~2 SIGNATURES REQUIRED~~

For Reimbursement ISAM Cathy Pashard

⑆081203208⑆ ⑈705 100 4⑈ 2203

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

INVOICE

Midwest Invasive Plant Network
Purdue University
c/o The Nature Conservancy
620 E. Ohio St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

DATE: December 8, 2011

FOR: *Brochures*

Bill To:
Chris Evans
River to River CWMA
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants? Brochures (quantity = 1455 @ 0.50	$ 727.50
CK# 2198 Voided Reissue #2201 12/19/11	
Date Received 12-13-11	
Project/Fund Inv. Spec. Awareness #207	
Paid [signature] Treasurer 1-4-12 Date	
TOTAL	$ 727.50

Make all checks payable to **Purdue University.**
If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact : Kate Howe, 317-951-8818, howek@purdue.edu.

THANK YOU !

SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION
RIVER TO RIVER CWMA
RR 1 BOX 256
SIMPSON, IL 62985-9615

05-07

2201

70-320/812

December 19, 2011
Date

Pay to the Order of Purdue University $ 727.50

seven hundred twenty-seven — 50/100 Dollars

Security Features Details on Back.

The Bank of Marion
Marion, IL

~~2 SIGNATURES REQUIRED~~

For Brochures ISAM

Cathy Poshard

MP

⑆081203208⑆ ⑈705 100 4⑈2201

Harland Clarke

Reissue of ck # 2198
12/13/11

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

INVOICE

Midwest Invasive Plant Network
Purdue University
c/o The Nature Conservancy
620 E. Ohio St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

DATE: December 19, 2011

FOR: *Publications*

Bill To:
Chris Evans
River to River CWMA
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Landscape Alternatives (800 @ $0.15)	$ 120.00
Shipping & Handling	20.00
TOTAL	$ 140.00

CK # 2202
Date Received 12/19/11
Project/Fund #207 Publication
Paid Phyllis Nace 1-4-12
Treasurer Date

Make all checks payable to **Purdue University.**
If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact : Kate Howe, 317-951-8818, howek@purdue.edu.

THANK YOU !

SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION
RIVER TO RIVER CWMA
RR 1 BOX 256
SIMPSON, IL 62985-9615

05-07

2202

December 19, 2011
Date

70-320/812

Pay to the Order of Purdue University $ 140.00

One Hundred forty and 00/100 Dollars

Security Features Details on Back.

The Bank of Marion
Marion, IL

~~2 SIGNATURES REQUIRED~~

For Publications ISAM

Cathy Pashard

MP

⑆081203208⑆ ⑈705 100 4⑈2202

Harland Clarke

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1325 East Main St.
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 457-2825
1412670 4 001 08360

SALE

QTY	SKU	PRICE
4	SPLS 8.5X11 MULTIU 513096 29.990ea	119.96N
1	BROTHER TN450 HY B 012502626770	69.99N
1	CATALOG ENV P&S KR 718103031653	19.99N
1	BROTHER TN360 TONE 012502619406	72.99N
1	BROTHER TN450 HY B 012502626770	69.99N
SUBTOTAL		352.92

Tax Exempt Number 0531200848

TOTAL $352.92

Debit Tender: 352.92
Card No.: XXXXXXXXXXX3991 [S]
Auth No.: 154717

TOTAL ITEMS 8

Debit Card

Date Received 12/29/11

Project/Fund 207 ISAM

Paid Phyllis O'Mace 1-4-2012
Treasurer

TODAY

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

On March 9, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads USS Monitor and CSS Virginia clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.

QUESTIONS? Call our newsroom at 618-993-2626 or email editor@dailyrepublicannews.com

The Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) Planning Committee, with funding from Shawnee RC&D and the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2011 ISAM awards. Awards will be presented May, 2012. The 2011 recipients are:

Volunteer of Year - Greg White, Southern Illinois Weed Watch Project, for outstanding dedication and dependability.

Professional of the Year - Karen Tharp, Southern Illinois Invasive Plant Strike Team & The Nature Conservancy, for her work as Volunteer Steward Network Coordinator and Supervisor

Organization of the Year - Illinois Dept. of Transportation Region 1, District 1, for their pivotal role in supporting the development and establishment of the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership.

The ISAM Planning Committee would like to extend congratulations to the recipients of this year's awards. Thank you for all your efforts to protect and preserve the native biodiversity of Illinois!

MATTRESS
MEMORY FOAM (starting at $899 Queen Set)
New Memory Foam with Gel
Twin Mattresses starting at $89 each piece
Queen Adjustable Bed with Mattress starting at $1,999
Queen Eurotop Set $399
Save $100 with this coupon on mattress purchase $599 or more. Offer good til April 1, 2012
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WAREHOUSE FURNITURE
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www.andersonwarehousefurniture.com

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans
April 1, 2011 to April 15, 2011

General Administration

- Continued developing final report and maps for Dutchman Lake Project
- Wrote and disseminated press release on CHIP-N project

Communications

- Assisted in designing research project on invasive plant control with UofI/Dixon Springs intern program
- Discussed Stiltgrass research with professor from UofI
- Provided control recommendations for tree of heaven for landowner

Educational Campaign

- Participated in LaRue Pine Hills Appreciation Day, giving presentations and leading a hike on invasive plants
- Scouted Giant City garlic mustard populations to find a location for upcoming volunteer work day
- Agreed to give a wildflower hike and invasive plant pull for Giant City

Other Activities

- Participated in Native Plant Society board meeting
- Assisted in identifying plant species for IDNR
- Reviewed material for ISAM
- Continued developing awareness month website
- Discussed phenology tracking project with UGA
- Assisted on three prescribed fires with DNR

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans
April 16, 2011 to April 30, 2011

General Administration

- Participated in Intern Orientation and helped set up herbicide testing date
- Commented on awards nominations for ISAM and worked on updating ISAM website

Communications

- Worked with home owners association in Jackson County on organizing for stiltgrass control project
- Discussed incorporating homeschool groups into Stewardship Week with Jim Kirkland

Educational Campaign

- Conducted a garlic mustard pull and educational hike for boy scout troop at Giant City State Park
- Gave a presentation on invasive species to Jackson County Garden Club
- Gave presentation on invasive species to high school natural resources class
- Gave presentations to school groups on invasive species at Stewardship Week

Other Activities

- Prepared press release for ISAM

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans
May 1, 2011 to May 15, 2011

General Administration

- Worked with Illinois DOA to get summer interns certified to apply herbicides

Communications

- Attended the SouthEast Exotic Pest Plant Council annual meeting and gave presentation on Japanese Chaff flower
- Moderated session at SE-EPPC meeting
- Toured bush honeysuckle control site with landowner and discussed follow-up options

Educational Campaign

- Conducted weed watch training session
- Lead a hike at Giant City to talk about native and exotic plants
- Planned garlic mustard pull at Giant City (cancelled due to weather)

Other Activities

- Discussed invasive plant management approaches with Crab Orchard NWR

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans
May 16, 2011 to May 31, 2011

General Administration

- Met with SIU to discuss PTI grant opportunity
- Had a conference call with TNC, DNR, and UGA to discuss Strike Team website design
- Attended RC&D Council Meeting
- Started working with interns

Communications

- Discussed Garlic Mustard control options with Crab Orchard NWR

Educational Campaign

- Gave presentation on invasive species awareness to Native Plant Society
- Helped lead two hikes at Giant City State Park
- Prepared presentation for Master Gardener Talk (cancelled due to weather)
- Helped lead a Pond Weed Management Workshop

Other Activities

- Assisted with garlic mustard treatment at Lusk Creek with Shawnee National Forest
- Assisted in multiflora rose workday at War Bluff
- Attended RC&D Steak Fry
- Helped survey for endangered sedge in Lusk Creek and in Panther Hollow

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans
June 1, 2011 to June 15, 2011

General Administration

- Worked with TNC and Crab Orchard to discuss and develop herbicide application training session for volunteers and figure out report requirements
- Worked with interns to teach the invasive species identification
- Moved office to new location and set everything up
- Picked up van for interns to use

Communications

- Discussed garlic mustard control options with Crab Orchard NWR
- Discussed development of a CWMA-public relations webinar with Stewardship Network and MIPN

Educational Campaign

- Started writing article on Chaff flower for Wildland Weeds
- Agreed to give a presentation/hike at Rend Lake

Other Activities

- Helped pull garlic mustard with FS and Sierra Club

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans
June 16, 2011 to June 30, 2011

General Administration

- Continued mentoring interns and set up work for them with USFS, Crab Orchard NWR, and Green Earth
- Discussed Bush Honeysuckle grant with USFS and began filling out paperwork and set up time to conduct Civil Rights Interview

Communications

- Discussed teasel control options with Crab Orchard NWR
- Discussed Herbicide training for volunteers with TNC and Crab Orchard NWR

Educational Campaign

- Planned and conducted training session for identification and control of invasive species for Rend Lake
- Worked on webcast presentation for MIPN/Stewardship network webcast on CWMA PR

Other Activities

- Toured and help design chaff flower research at Cypress Creek NWR
- Discussed research project at Mermet Lake with DNR and interns
- Reviewed abstracts for interns for NAA conference