



News for the Neighbors of Dusty Goldenrod Preserve

July 2022

Preserve activities since the last newsletter (October 2021)

- Volunteers have put in a number of hours removing invasive plants, mostly narrow leaf bittercress. See more on invasives in this newsletter.
- We rearranged our deer exclosures so that there is one in each of the four habitats on the preserve: meadow, shrub swamp, swamp forest, and wet forest. Before they were all in the meadow. These exclosures are monitored during the growing season comparing the plants inside the exclosure versus the plants just outside the exclosure.
- A frog watch is being conducted in the preserve as part of the national frog watch program. Once a week the preserve is monitored one half hour after sunset. The quantity and species of frogs heard are recorded. So far Peepers and American toads have been heard. Here is a link to hear what the frogs of Ohio sound like: <https://thefroglady.wordpress.com/2018/01/25/ohio-frogs-and-toads/>. Amphibians are a good indicator of the health of a wetland, so that's why we listen.
- The preserve's Bluebird houses do have a nesting pair with three eggs.
- Boundary markers were installed to clearly delineate the preserve's boundaries.
- Water Quality monitoring in the preserve's five streams is on-going. As in previous years the stream identified as Stream 2, just east of Hawthorne Road had near toxic levels of ammonia during the fall and into winter. Testing indicates this ammonia is a result of excessive amounts of leaves from yards that have piled up on the stream bank. The leaves when soaked by the stream quickly break down producing ammonia (nitrates). The good news is the level is lower than previous years, still excessive, but lower and the quantity of leaves was reduced. This year the culvert carrying the stream to the preserve did not clog up with leaves. Yeah!

What is planned to date for 2022 - 2023

- We will continue monitoring plants in and around the deer exclosures.
 - Continued water quality monitoring of 5 streams that flow through the preserve.
 - Continued removal of invasive species.
 - ❖ FOEC will conduct private tours of the Dusty Goldenrod preserve for yourself, your family, and friends. The guide is very knowledgeable regarding the flora and the habitats found in the preserve. Contact Brian Gilbert at bgilbert18212@gmail.com to schedule your tour.
- :) A big shout out to our neighbors along the path behind Hawthorne Drive connecting Bishop Road to the Highland Heights Park. Not only has grass and leaf dumping been almost eliminated but it appears some good neighbor has removed old piles of grass clippings. This action has reduced the amount of that nasty invasive, Canada thistle. Canada thistle is the only plant that was able to thrive in these piles of grass and leaves. The preserve thanks YOU!
- :(We are seeing increasing dumping of yard waste into the preserve along the northern boundary bordering Blair Drive. Please know that this yard waste is harmful to our native plants and the watershed. The nutrient benefits for a lawn gained by distributing the mulched grass and leaves into a lawn is being missed out on!
- :(A reminder about **poison ivy**. There are numerous spots near the walkway between Bishop and the Highland Heights Park that have poison ivy growing, typically near and up a tree. All parts of the plant even the woody vines that may appear dead are poisonous. It is high **tick season**. Be sure to wear protective clothing and perform a tick inspection after walking in the preserve. Applying a DEET based product is also an effective method of keeping ticks away.

Invasive plants in the Preserve

Lesser Celandine



Lesser Celandine is probably the hardest plant to remove. Spread both by seed and underground rhizomes, it quickly colonizes large areas. Removal is successful on a large scale only by deep soil removal and or repeated chemical treatment. At the moment the preserve has only a small patch, but south of the preserve bordering Stream #1 there are hundreds of square feet of Lesser Celandine. While it looks pretty, it destroys all native plants in its path. Lesser Celandine comes up early in the spring before other plants really get going and forms a mat on the soil eliminating all competition. We are currently having discussions on how to curb this plants' invasion. In small areas burning, strong vinegar solutions and hand digging are effective. You definitely want to keep this fella out of your garden beds.

Narrow Leaf Bittercress



This biennial is found in moist, shady, wooded areas, where it can form dense colonies that compete with native plants. Between May and September, second-year plants produce approximately inch-long seed-filled structures called siliques that separate when mature. A spring-like mechanism in the silique ejects the seeds out a great distance from the plant. A single plant may contain as many as 5,500 seeds. Fortunately for us this plant is easily pulled, and while it is aggressive, it does permit some other plants to coexist with it.

Canada Thistle



Canada thistle has a vigorous root system that continually produces new shoots. Its thorny stems and leaves along with a deep root make it quite unpleasant to pull. Every bit of the root must be gotten or it will quickly regrow. The flower turns to fluffy seed, much like the familiar dandelion,

spreading seeds over great distances. Control consists of pulling or cutting over several years to prevent seed production. Due to volunteer efforts, the preserve appears to be winning the battle with this invasive. We have also noticed the deer are starting to occasionally browse on this plant. 😊

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Hopefully this letter is informative, and makes you feel connected to the great natural asset located right here in your neighborhood. For more information visit: <https://www.friendsofeuclidcreek.com>

Sincerely,
Friends of Euclid Creek