

CONSERVATION DAY SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2010

Our conservation days are on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome and no prior experience is necessary. We do not have formal membership or dues. Just come out as often as you like and help us do our small part to maintain the health of prairie remnants, prairie restorations and woodlands. Visit this page from time to time to get updates. To get e-mail notifications for updates send your e-mail address to Larry at thors@cmecwildblue.com with a request to be added to the list.

September 11 – 9:00 a.m. – Seed collecting at the Lincoln Prairie Grass Bike Trail Prairie. Meet at the Douglas-Hart Nature Center parking lot. Bring paper lunch bags.

September 18 – 9:00 a.m. – Honeysuckle removal at Douglas-Hart Nature Center

September 25 – 9:00 a.m. – Honeysuckle and autumn olive removal at Lafferty Nature Study Center, behind Carl Sandberg School on Reynolds Drive in Charleston.

October 2 – 9:00 a.m. – Coneflower Hill Prairie for removal of woodies. We are helping IDNR Natural Heritage Biologist Roger Jansen remove the sassafras, shingle oak, and other woody growth that threatens the prairie forbs and grasses at this rare, remnant hill prairie. Take the Bruce-Findlay Road from Coles Station about 5 miles to the electric substation, turn right and go 2 miles to the “T,” then left one mile to the parking area on the right.

October 9 – 9:00 a.m. – Invasives removal, plus a woodland walk at Warbler Woods. Take Route 130 south from Charleston 4 miles to Daileyville Road (CR 460N) and go one-half mile to the Warbler Woods gate on the right.

October 16 – 9:00 a.m. – A second visit to Lafferty Nature Center

October 23 – 9:00 a.m. – Sugar maple and multiflora rose treatment at Embarras Bluffs woods. Take the Ashmore-Oakland Road to CR 1470N, turn west and continue across the Little Embarras River to Oak Grove Church at the corner of CR 2300E and CR 1600N.

October 30 – 9:00 a.m. – A second visit to Douglas-Hart Nature Center

November 6 – 9:00 a.m. – A second visit to Coneflower Hill Prairie for removal of woodies

November 13 – 9:00 a.m. – Honeysuckle removal at Lakeview Park in Charleston. Take McKinley Avenue past the waterworks and park at the gate.

November 20 – 9:00 a.m. – Autumn olive removal at Hanley Prairie. Take Route 130 south from Charleston about 6 miles, turn right on CR 300N and go to the end of the road. Park in hunter parking area number 4.

December 4 – 9:00 a.m. – Our annual multiflora rose removal day at Walnut Point State Park. Walnut Point is north of Oakland. Meet at the Pleasant Grove Picnic Area.

December 11 – 9:00 a.m. – James Nance Woods for removal of multiflora rose. Take 6th Street west from Neoga, continue 2.2 miles to Shelby County Road 3425E, turn right and go 0.9 mile past two “S” curves to the woods on the right. Bring shovels.

SOME SOURCES FOR INFORMATIVE READING

Here are the titles of some journals and magazines that contain articles understandable for the layperson on natural areas and ecology.

Global Change Biology

Restoration Ecology

Wings

Bioscience

Outdoor Illinois

Illinois Steward

Erigenia (Illinois Native Plant Society)

American Journal of Botany

Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science

Also check out “Gatherings,” the monthly newsletter of the Illinois Volunteer Stewardship Network. Go to The Nature Conservancy in Illinois website and type “Gatherings” in the search box.

In the April-May 2010 issue, see “Northward Shifts for Wintering North American Birds Identified as Climate Change Indicator.”

In the June 2010 issue, there are links to a paper on the nesting success of grassland birds, to EPA fact sheets on climate change, to a global garlic mustard field survey, to the online Natural Areas Association newsletter, and to the native seed bank project.