



Preserving Carbondale's Natural Areas

Green Earth News

Volume 32, No. 1, Spring 2018

Green Earth, Inc.
P. O. Box 441
Carbondale, IL 62903-0441

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Green Earth, Inc.

is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit
organization established in 1974.

Green Earth's mission is to
acquire and preserve natural
areas in the vicinity of
Carbondale, Illinois, and provide
access for public enjoyment and
education.

We strive to preserve these areas
for future generations, and
encourage public input and
participation for these objectives.

Trail & Trailhead Improvements Installation Begins This Spring

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) has financially supported Green Earth several times in the past - from funding the expansion of Chautauqua Bottoms and the Oakland Preserve, sponsoring the acquisition of Pyles Fork Preserve, and offering challenge grants to raise funds for a great deal of habitat improvement work at many of our preserves.

We now have another reason to be grateful to this foundation - the ICECF has granted funding to install amenities at each of our hiking trails.

We will use this opportunity to improve our trailheads with trash/recycling bins, bike racks, benches, information boards, and a few other amenities. A few of our trail will be receive boot brush stations and the replacement of older foot bridges.

Work began earlier this spring and should be completed within the next few weeks. We are excited that we can undertake these improvements, and very grateful to the ICECF for this opportunity. We hope you can take few minutes this spring to visit our sites and see the upgrades for yourself.

Expanding Pyles Fork Trails

With the offer of new amenities and with clearing that is currently being undertaken for underground utility work at Pyles Fork Preserve's north parcel, we are beginning the process of opening this area to the public.

At present, this north parcel is landlocked from the main trail. Without good access, parking, or any signs to help visitors find their way in, this parcel has been essentially closed to the public. We are hoping to have the area accessible during the summer of 2018. Check back for more news in our summer newsletter.



Board Member Ken Mayberry building a trash/recycling station at Chautauqua



SIUC Geography student Jeremy Schultz replacing a footbridge with rotting supports at Fernlands Preserve



President's Corner

Beth Fisher, beth.bfisher@verizon.net

Happy spring! In this newsletter we're starting a column entitled *Landscape Plants Gone Bad* about how seemingly innocuous landscape plants have become major problems in our preserves. We spend hundreds of hours a year battling these invasive plants, so our aim with this column is to disseminate

information to help fight the problem. We also host two native plant sales each year to promote these as alternatives to traditional landscaping. Do you have any natives in your yard - or do you need more? Be sure to stop by our sale April 14 at John A. Logan College.

Update on Chautauqua Bottoms Improvement Work

While ICECF grant-funded habitat work and Long Forestry's prairie reclamation work has concluded, habitat improvement will continue at Chautauqua Bottoms with the help of our volunteers. We often tackle invasive species removal during monthly workdays and special outings. You can be a part of this good work! Check our website's Events Calendar or sign up to receive email announcements to learn about upcoming opportunities.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Upgrade Project work will be coming into full swing soon. After the spring rains slow and the site has a chance to dry a bit, construction will begin on our trails. The David Kenney trail will be upgraded to ADA friendly standards and a pedestrian bridge is slated to be installed over Little Crab Orchard Creek. The RTP grant will reimburse for 80% of the project and we are actively fundraising for the remaining 20%. You can see below that we have had a great response from you, our supporters, but we do still have a way to go before reaching our goal. Any funds raised above the 20% needed for the match will be used to expand the ADA friendly surfaces to additional trails at Chautauqua Bottoms.

Thanks To Our Recent Contributors. We Couldn't Exist Without Your Support!

\$1000+

Carbondale Lion's Club
Becca Tally via CVS Health Foundation

\$500-\$999

Laurel Toussaint & Tom Bik
Kassy Simonds

\$200-\$499

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* Donations made in honor of Stan Harris' 100th Birthday

\$25-\$99

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Native Plant Sale

high quality plants from Southernwood Gardens
native grasses, wildflowers, ferns, vines, shrubs

April 14th, 2018, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

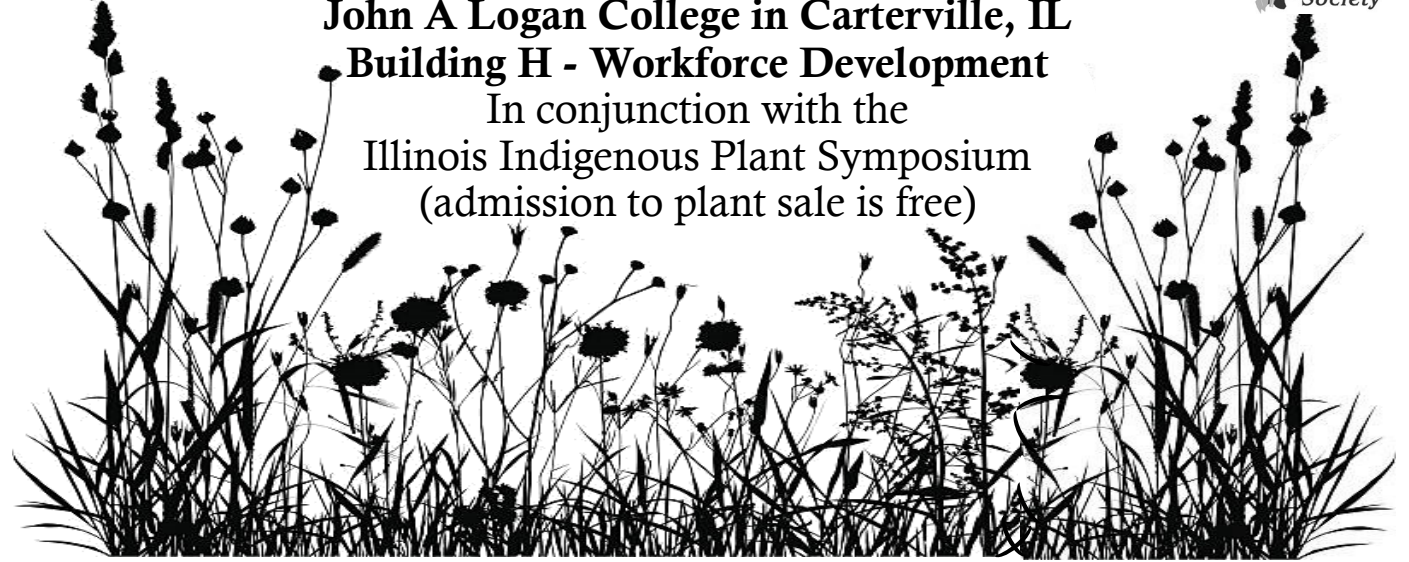
John A Logan College in Carterville, IL

Building H - Workforce Development

In conjunction with the

Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium

(admission to plant sale is free)



Landscape Plants Gone Bad *by Laurel Toussaint*

Years ago preserves were created to protect native plants and animals from encroaching human development. Over time, forests, prairies, and other ecosystems could recover from human activities, like logging or grazing. Now without management, common local plants can be completely eliminated by aggressive non-native plants, usually referred to as invasive.

Many non-natives plant seeds are spread by birds and other animals. The seeds come from plants growing unfettered on public and private properties. Most of the plants we are trying to eradicate on Green Earth properties have been legally sold and planted for landscaping use.

Green Earth hosts monthly workdays where volunteers are trained to identify and eliminate specific invasive species. Most volunteers work for several hours on a Saturday, while others generously provide many hours of work each year. Despite these diligent efforts, many invasive species are gaining ground and native species are being eliminated.

Most GE workdays focus on a single invasive specie. Volunteers learn to identify a specific problem plant and methods to eradicate the invader.

One way that GE volunteers can have a greater impact is to provide volunteers with additional information about specific invasive plants and to encourage them to use their

new knowledge and skills on their own property. Those who wish to have an even greater impact can share this information with family, friends, and neighbors and urge government agencies and public entities to stop planting species such as Bradford Pear.

The purpose of this first edition of *Landscape Plants Gone Bad* is to share more information about one of the most serious invasive plants on GE properties and throughout the region, *Euonymus fortunei*, or winter creeper.

Winter creeper can easily be seen at this time of year, covering the ground and climbing trees and shrubs at Chautauqua Bottoms. The vines are very visible in the winter when the deciduous trees are bare of leaves and winter creeper's evergreen leaves growing from thick vines cover the trunk and branches of huge trees. Many people would assume the winter creeper's waxy, dark green leaves are part of the tree, not an invasive vine. Winter creeper can kill a forest by completely covering trees and understory plants.



Photo: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Mail-in Donation Form

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____

☐ I prefer to NOT have my name listed as a donor in
GE publications

☐ Please direct my donation toward GE's green fund

☐ Please direct my donation toward GE's general fund

☐ Please direct my donation toward GE's Chautauqua Bottoms Upgrade project

Name(s) _____

☐ Help us cut down cost and opt for GE newsletters via email

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Premiums

Gifts of \$10 or more:

☐ Please send me the *Invasive Species of Southern Illinois* Handbook

Gifts of \$25 or more:

☐ Please send me a gift box of GE Photo Note Cards

Gifts of \$35 or more:

☐ Please send me a Child Green Earth Shirt

circle one: short-sleeve long-sleeve

circle one: S M L

Gifts of \$50 or more:

☐ Please send me an Adult Green Earth Shirt

circle one: short-sleeve long-sleeve

circle one: S M L

Ways to Give

Check

Complete the information above and mail this form and
your check to P.O. Box 441, Carbondale, IL 62903

One time or Monthly Donations via Credit Card or PayPal

Visit the [greenearthinc.org](http://greenearthinc.org/donations) donations page

Enroll in Merchant Reward Programs

Green Earth participates in both Schnuck's eScrip
Program and Amazon Smiles program. Visit

greenearthinc.org/support-ge to learn how to sign up

Estate Planning

Remember Green Earth in your will. Call 618-201-3774 or
email director@greenearthinc.org

Stock Transfer

Call 618-201-3774 or email director@greenearthinc.org

GE's Upcoming Volunteer Workdays & Events

Apr 14 Native Plant Sale - John A Logan College, 8-2pm

Apr 21 Monthly Workday - Pyles Fork Preserve, 9-noon

Litter clean up

May 19 Monthly Workday - Oakland Preserve, 9-noon

ISM

June 16 Monthly Workday - Chautauqua Bottoms, 9-noon

Trail building/maintenance

July 21 Monthly Workday - Location TBA

Locations subject to change based on site conditions & need.

Check our website for rain dates, updates, and changes.

ISM = Invasive Species Management

TBA = To Be Announced

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