

Club Activity Ideas For Invasive Plant Awareness Month

Volunteer on workdays at Natural Bridge State Park, Bernheim Arboretum, GCKY State Headquarters, other parks & forest areas to help remove invasive plants.

Plan and hold a community program teaching about invasive plants & their control. Ask your county extension agent to work with you.

Meet with your local nurseries managers or owners, give them information and talk to them about invasive plants they may be selling & why they shouldn't sell them. Suggest plants that are good alternatives.

Ask the Mayor of your city or community to declare September as "Invasive Plant Awareness Month", have Mayor come to club meeting for proclamation signing or presentation.

Be a Weed Warrior! Plan a children's activity to teach them about invasive plants.

Meet with scout troops and have a program on invasive plants.

Have your club pick a special project removing invasive plants somewhere in your area, invite the public to join you by putting articles in newspaper or interview with radio stations.

Put articles in newspapers about invasive plants, include:

- Statistics on ecological impacts, i.e. infestation levels, control costs, etc.
- Photos of invasive plants
- The impacts that affect everyone i.e. endangered species, water quality, land value, agriculture, fire risk, etc.

Distribute brochures depicting invasive plants.

Invite Master Gardeners (get list from extension office) & environmental groups as well as all club members to join in activities.

Ask club members who can't help remove invasives to plan & prepare some food for workers.

Plan a weed project "open house" by stationing a project leader at a project site for an afternoon and encourage the general public to drop by and learn about the project and see the results. Highlight an eradication project with "before" pictures on an easel at the site.

Put educational display at the public library or other public buildings.

Keep an eye out for invasive plants in your garden, yard, your neighbors yard, in your community parks and other plantings.

Help on workdays to remove invasive plants.

Write article for newspaper about invasive plants; plan a meeting to teach public about them.

The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. Position Paper “Invasive Non-Native Plants” was printed in the March 2009 issue on page 14 of the *Bulletin*.