



# THE STEW CREW NEWS

March 2017

## Conservation Calendar

Continue the Fight Against the Vine that Ate Glenwood! 3/6

Cut Woody Brush from Wetland Dikes at Miami Whitewater Forest 3/15

Start the First Phase of a New Pollinator Garden 3/29

Spring Wildflower Hike and Work Day at Withrow Nature Preserve 3/31

Shaker Trace Nursery Work Varies

## Reminders

- Bring something to drink
- Wear sturdy gloves
- Consider bug repellent
- We recommend long pants, long-sleeved shirts and closed-toe shoes
- Have fun!

## Ephemeral Wildflowers; Catch Them While You Can!



Spring is a busy time for everyone. Yard work and gardening resumes, work and school schedules seems to explode and there never seems to be enough time in the day to get it all done. Yet, the place we all go to relax and retreat from our hectic world is just as busy; the woods. Ephemeral spring wildflowers start growing early in our woods, then soon after they will set to seed and senesce back into the ground until next spring. Time is of the essence when it comes to woodland ephemerals as they race the emergence of leaves in the forest canopy before the forest floor becomes too dark and shaded. Plants like bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), start growing in March with their snowy white petals only lasting a day or two. Others spring ephemerals like wood poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) and Virginia blue bells (*Mertensia virginica*) bloom later in the season, peaking in mid-April and May. These two plants can form dense populations, and when in bloom can really be a sight to see.

One of the most popular and sought after spring ephemerals is the trillium. Seven different species of trillium call Ohio home. The large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) has the respectable title of Ohio's official state wildflower and can be found in all 88 counties. Other species of trillium can be quite rare, such as the painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*). This species is endangered in Ohio, and can be found only in very small numbers in the swamp forests of Ashtabula County. One species, the nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*), has been extirpated from our state all together. This northern species of trillium was only known to reside in Lake county near Lake Erie around the time of settlement but has since vanished. Areas in the northern Adirondacks of New York, once full of nodding trillium, are starting to see a sharp decline. This cannot be attributed to settlement or development, and are more likely caused by a changing global climate.

So take some time from your busy lives this spring and take a walk in the woods. The blooms are only here for a short time and their beauty is unmatched. Life is short...stop to smell the spring ephemeral wildflowers!

# March Stew Crew Projects

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## Continue the Fight Against the Vine that Ate Glenwood!

**What:** Last summer we started removing the invasive Porcelainberry vine around the wetland loop trail. Stew Crew made a good dent in the population, but we still have a ways to go. Join us as we cut the vines away from trees and treat the stumps to prevent re-sprouting. This is a very aggressive vine, but is no competition for the dedication of the Stew Crew!

**When:** March 6 from 9 a.m.—noon

**Where:** Meet at the Glenwood Gardens Tech Center, 377 Sheffield Rd.

**Register:** RSVP by March 5th to Chris Glassmeyer at [cglassmeyer@greatparks.org](mailto:cglassmeyer@greatparks.org)

## Cut Woody Brush from Wetland Dikes at Miami Whitewater Forest

**What:** To keep roots from damaging the dikes around our wetlands, periodic removal of woody plants is needed. Help us remove them and treat the cut stumps.

**When:** March 15 from 9 a.m.—noon

**Where:** Meet at the Shaker Trace Seed Nursery, 8667 New Haven Rd

**Register:** RSVP by March 14th to Scott Peak at [speak@greatparks.org](mailto:speak@greatparks.org)

## Start the First Phase of a New Pollinator Garden

**What:** Join in as we start clearing honeysuckle and litter from a new garden site that will provide a food source for pollinators.

**When:** March 29 from 9 a.m.—noon

**Where:** Meet at River Mount Pavilion parking lot in Embschoff Woods 4050 Paul Rd, Delhi Twp.

**Register:** RSVP by March 28th to Scott Peak at [speak@greatparks.org](mailto:speak@greatparks.org)

## Volunteer Hours

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Don't forget to record your service! This information is used when applying for grants and other sources of outside support. Please record your hours under

**Stew Crew [NATURAL RESOURCE\All locations].**

## Spring Wildflower Hike and Work Day at Withrow Nature Preserve

**What:** Withrow Nature Preserve is arguably one of the best spots to see ephemeral spring wildflowers at any of the Great Parks. We will explore areas that are in various stages of restoration and discuss what's blooming, what land management techniques got us to this point, and what still needs to be done. With the remaining time we will remove invasives along the trail in this picturesque forest. If you have never been to Withrow in the spring, this project comes highly recommended!!! RSVP early; this project is likely to be highly attended.

**When:** March 31 from 9 a.m.—noon

**Where:** Withrow Nature Preserve, 7075 Five Mile Road

**Register:** RSVP by March 30th to Chris Glassmeyer at [cglassmeyer@greatparks.org](mailto:cglassmeyer@greatparks.org)

## Shaker Trace Nursery Work

**What:** Join us as we work together to process seed, and complete other important chores at the Nursery.

**When:** Every Thursday from 8 a.m.—noon

**Where:** Miami Whitewater Forest, Shaker Trace Nursery, 8667 New Haven Road, Harrison, OH 45030

**Register:** None required – just stop by!



*"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*

—Aldo Leopold