



THE STEW CREW NEWS

September 2017

Conservation Calendar

Invasive Control at
Withrow Nature
Preserve 9/6

Hand Collect Compass
Plant Seed 9/13

Native Seed Collection
and Invasive Control
at Kroger Hills 9/19

Hand Collect
Rattlesnake Master
Seed 9/27

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
- Remember to record your hours under **Stew Crew [NATURAL RESOURCES] All Locations**



Rattlesnake Master

Rattlesnake Master or *Eryngium yuccifolium* looks like a plant from the southwestern United States. This is a quite striking plant growing 2 to 4 feet in height. Its leaves are most similar to that of a Yucca plant, thus the species name "yuccifolium". The white flowers are born in spherical, thistle-like heads that are around 1 inch in diameter. Although there is currently no scientific evidence to support claims of medicinal properties, Rattlesnake Master was a popular herb used in the 18th and 19th centuries. The name derives from an old belief that its roots have the ability to heal snake bites. The roots were chewed or powdered and applied to the bite as an antidote. The root was more often used in teas as a remedy for fevers, spasms, urinary issues, whooping cough, and breathing problems. Traditionally it was used by Native Americans to make rope and string. Cordage made from the fiber of the leaves has been found in Ozark caves in sandals that may be 10,000 years old. Ceremonial copper axe heads wrapped in material made from rattlesnake master fibers have also been found in Adena burial sites up to 2500 years old.

Rattlesnake Master is a great plant to use in roadside plantings, prairie restorations, wildlife habitat, and wildflower gardens because of its beauty. Come and experience this plant first hand as we collect the seeds in September.

September Stew Crew Projects

Invasive Control at Withrow Nature Preserve

What: Bush honeysuckle and invasive vines once dominated the landscape at Withrow Nature Preserve. Through intensive management we have restored it back into the wonderful forest that you see today. Join us as we keep up the maintenance of this area by cutting invasive vines and removing new growth honeysuckle. This area is the gem of the east side, so join us in making sure it stays that way!!

When: Wednesday, September 6th from 9 a.m.—noon

Where: Withrow Nature Preserve, 7075 Five Mile Rd.

Register: RSVP by September 5th to Chris Glassmeyer at cglassmeyer@greatparks.org

Hand Collect Compass Plant Seed

What: Find out more about the interesting Compass Plant and other prairie flowers as we collect seed from one of our restored prairies.

When: Wednesday, September 13th from 9 a.m.—noon

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

Register: RSVP by September 12th to Scott Peak at speak@greatparks.org

Native Seed Collection and Invasive Control at Kroger Hills

What: The prairies are dying back into dormancy for the year which means one thing: seed collection time!! Join us as we collect an array of different species to bolster our seed stock at our Shaker Trace Nursery. This seed will then be cleaned, sorted, weighed and stored for use at all of our parks. If there is time to spare after that, we will continue cutting and removing woody invasives from the prairie. We will meet at the Little Miami Golf Center and carpool from there.

When: Tuesday, September 19th from 9 a.m.—noon

Where: 3811 Newtown Rd.

Register: RSVP by September 18th to Chris Glassmeyer at cglassmeyer@greatparks.org

Hand Collect Rattlesnake Master Seed

What: Join us as we collect seed from this month's featured prairie plant: Rattlesnake Master.

When: Wednesday, September 27th from noon—3 p.m.

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

Register: RSVP by September 26th to Scott Peak at speak@greatparks.org

Shaker Trace Nursery Work

What: Join us as we work together to accomplish daily nursery tasks that will change with the seasons.

When: Every Thursday any time after 8:00 a.m. until noon year round.
Also from April-October Thursday afternoon
any time after 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 or 7:00 weather permitting.

Where: Shaker Trace Nursery 8667, New Haven Rd.

Register: None required – just stop by!

