



# THE STEW CREW NEWS

May 2017

## Conservation Calendar

Garlic Mustard Challenge!!!	5/6
Forest Restoration at Triple Creek	5/9
Garlic Mustard Challenge!!!	5/17
Prairie Maintenance at Kroger Hills	5/24
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**

## The Garlic Mustard Challenge

Great Parks of Hamilton County will be participating in the annual "Garlic Mustard Challenge" for the fourth year in a row. This is a friendly competition organized by The Stewardship Network, which challenges groups throughout the Midwest to collect the most bags of the invasive garlic mustard. The number of bags that we collect will be reported to The Stewardship Network and tallied throughout the spring. Last year alone 183,470 pounds of garlic mustard were recorded being pulled by groups participating in this event. That's A LOT of garlic mustard!



Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a biennial flowering plant, that when crushed gives off a strong garlic odor. It takes the form of rosettes during its first year of growth, growing only a few inches tall. Second year plants can grow up to three feet tall with triangle to heart shaped leaves. Small white flowers soon give way to slender green seed pods that turn black with maturity. A single plant can produce hundreds of seeds, thus contributing to its invasive tendencies. Though dense stands may out-compete small ephemeral wildflowers, the real problem is the allelopathic chemicals produced in the roots of garlic mustard. These chemicals affect fungi in the soil that native trees need for optimal growth. This isn't so detrimental to large mature trees, but to a tree seedling it is a death sentence. Control of garlic mustard is best achieved through pulling and bagging of the plants. If flowers are present on the plant, it may still have enough energy stored in itself to produce seed, even if it has been pulled. So bag up those plants!

We here at Great Parks hope that all of you can join us as we fight the scourge that is garlic mustard! Look for Stew Crew garlic mustard pulling events this month, and let's try to collect the most bags in the Midwest!

# May Stew Crew Projects

## Garlic Mustard Challenge!!!

**What:** Come help fight the invasive garlic mustard while competing in a friendly region-wide challenge! We will pull and bag these plants to prevent seed from being dispersed, then tally all of our bags and enter them into the competition. This is a very fun event and can be enjoyed by volunteers of all ages! Enjoy the history of this area as we work around ancient Native American earthworks along the trail, and eventually work our way to the apex of the trail and a scenic view of the Ohio River.

**When:** May 6 from noon–3 p.m.

**Where:** Meet at the Miami Fort Trail parking lot at Shawnee Lookout

**Register:** RSVP by May 5th to Scott Peak at [speak@greatparks.org](mailto:speak@greatparks.org)

## Forest Restoration at Triple Creek

**What:** In the fall of 2015, crews from the Great Parks did a large-scale herbicide treatment at Triple Creek Park to reduce the amount of bush honeysuckle growing in a very nice mature forest. We have seen a resurgence of tree seedlings and ephemeral wildflowers coming up in the area, so we must fight to maintain the area as invasive free as possible. We will be cutting any remaining pockets of honeysuckle and treating the stumps to keep them from growing back. This area is very high quality, and is very much worth the effort!

**When:** May 9 from noon–3 p.m.

**Where:** Meet at the Triple Creek parking lot by the pond

**Register:** RSVP by May 8th to Chris Glassmeyer at [cglassmeyer@greatparks.org](mailto:cglassmeyer@greatparks.org)

## Garlic Mustard Challenge!!!

**What:** Come help fight invasive garlic mustard while competing in a friendly region-wide challenge! We will pull and bag these plants to prevent seed from being dispersed, then tally all of our bags and enter them into the competition. This is a very fun event and can be enjoyed by volunteers of all ages!

**When:** May 17 from 9 a.m.–noon

**Where:** Meet at the Timberlakes trail parking lot at Miami Whitewater Forest

**Register:** RSVP by May 16th to Scott Peak at [speak@greatparks.org](mailto:speak@greatparks.org)



## Prairie Maintenance at Kroger Hills

**What:** Come get off the beaten path and work in one of our lesser known areas. Kroger Hills, located near the Village of Terrace Park, in Columbia Township, is a hidden gem along the Little Miami River. With over 20 acres of prairie, successional forests and river bottoms, this is by far one of the most scenic places to work in the county. We will be cutting and treating woody vegetation growing in the prairies, as well as removing invasives from the successional forests to make room for native trees to flourish. If you've never been to Kroger Hills before, this event shouldn't be missed!

**When:** May 24 from 9 a.m.–noon

**Where:** Meet at the Avoca Trailhead, 8001 Wooster Pike; Cincinnati 45227

**Register:** RSVP by May 23rd 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!



*"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."*

—Henry David Thoreau