



# THE STEW CREW NEWS

November 2017

## Conservation Calendar

Restoring Native  
Planting Area  
at Lake Isabella 11/7

Honeysuckle  
Removal on the  
Gorge Trail 11/21

Honeysuckle Removal  
on the Badlands  
Trail 11/15 & 11/29

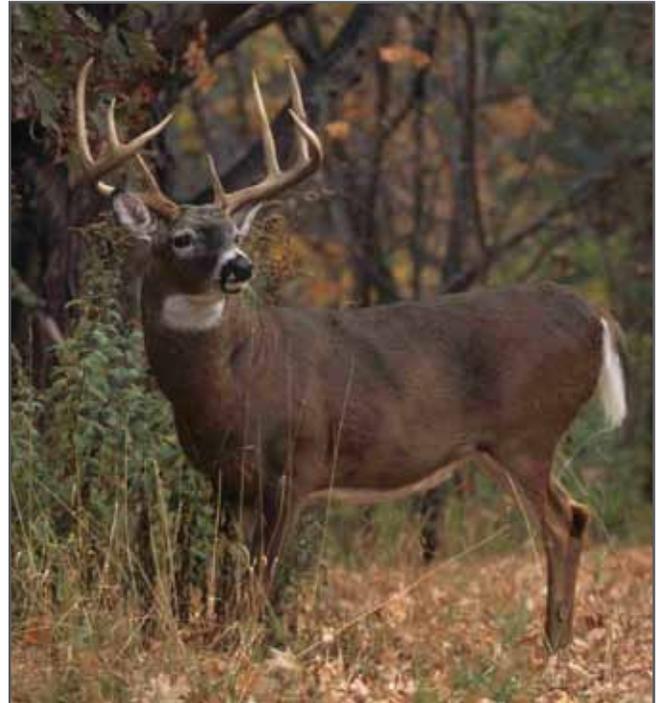
Shaker Trace  
Nursery Work Varies

## 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**

## Love Is in the Air

Declining daylight and fall temperatures mean only one thing for whitetail deer: love is in the air. The breeding season for white-tails, colloquially referred to as the rut, generally lasts about three weeks in Ohio. Starting at the end of October and going through the middle of November, the rut is a very active time



for whitetail deer. Male whitetail deer have only one thing on their mind at this time of year: find more does (female whitetails). Bucks preoccupied with mating become less cautious than other times of the year, leaving their thickets and feeding areas in search of a mate. This makes it a desirable time for hunters to be in the woods, and drives many to apply to the park district's lottery bow hunt.

The rut is a biochemical process triggered by the declining amount of sunlight at this time of the year. Does that are old enough to mate begin to go into estrus, which is a fertile period lasting about 72 hours. Does that do not conceive during this time can come into estrus again later in the season, giving more chances to breed. Bucks will chase does for weeks, barely eating and expending large amounts of energy. They will also aggressively fight off other bucks who wander into their territories, sometimes resulting in injuries. The rut can take a toll on whitetail bucks, who lose up to 20% of their body weight from lack of consistent foraging and constant chasing of does.

The rut is a great time to see whitetail deer in the parks. Though advantageous to the wildlife observer, motorists also see a rise in deer activity. Deer-vehicle collisions will peak during this time as well, so keep a sharp eye this November! You never know where you might run into a buck distracted by his love interest!

# November Stew Crew Projects

## Restoring Native Planting Area at Lake Isabella

**What:** Earlier this year, Stew Crew worked to remove invasive plants and trees from a native wildflower planting at Lake Isabella. It didn't take long for the wildflowers to return where there was once only honeysuckle, and now we would like to expand our efforts and reclaim more land. Join us as we cut and treat woody growth in the planting, as well as prep the area for reseeding.

**When:** Tuesday, November 7th from 9 a.m.—noon

**Where:** Lake Isabella, 10174 Loveland Madeira Rd, Loveland, OH 45140. We will meet at the Shady Elm shelter parking lot.

**Register:** RSVP by November 6th to Chris Glassmeyer at [cglassmeyer@greatparks.org](mailto:cglassmeyer@greatparks.org)

## Honeysuckle Removal on the Gorge Trail

**What:** Stew Crew has made great progress in removing invasive honeysuckle from the Gorge trail at Sharon Woods. Come enjoy the beautiful scenery as we cut and treat honeysuckle along this great trail.

**When:** Tuesday, November 21 from 9 a.m.—noon

**Where:** Meet at the Buckeye Shelter parking lot at Sharon Woods. 11450 Lebanon Rd, Sharonville, OH 45241

**Register:** RSVP by November 20th to Chris Glassmeyer at [cglassmeyer@greatparks.org](mailto:cglassmeyer@greatparks.org)

## Honeysuckle Removal on the Badlands Trail

**What:** At 1.7 miles long, the Badlands is our second longest nature trail. Its unique contour and diverse plant life make it one of the most interesting and enjoyable trails as well. The woodland wildflowers are having a resurgence due, in large part, to past honeysuckle removal efforts. Join us as we follow up and continue to improve this valuable forest by removing bush honeysuckle on two separate dates during November.

**When:**

Wednesday, November 15th from 9 a.m.—noon  
Wednesday, November 29th from noon—3 p.m.

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

**Register:** RSVP by November 14th and/or November 28th to Scott Peak at [speak@greatparks.org](mailto: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 year-round any time between 8 a.m. and noon.

Also from April-October Thursday afternoon any time after 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 or 7:00

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

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



Volunteers pictured are: Mark Alexander, John Martens, Steve Feder, Q Smith-Benedikt and Phil Summersell. Employees are: Connor Cunningham and Emily Roth

Enhancing pollinator habitat is a crucial part of the conservation work done at Great Parks. This fall, Stew Crew has been hard at work collecting common milkweed pods so that the seed may be eventually used in restoration projects across the park district. Though temperatures were high some of these days, Stew Crew remained diligent at the task and collected several hundred gallons of milkweed pods. Thank you and kudos to all of you!!!