

Invasive Plants Report for General Meeting on October 1, 2016

During the 2016 federal fiscal year the trail club had another great year of promoting native plants by controlling invasive nonnative plants at Kennesaw Mountain BNP.

With the help of the GA Native Plant Society we were able to add 1 plant to the list of plants that are considered invasive and nonnative for a total of 28 known plants species. The newly identified plant (Chinese basil or beefsteak) has only been found in a couple of places in the park and hopefully we can eliminate it completely from the park within a few years.

During last winter we were able to plant native trees in a couple of areas of the park. I would like to thank the Marietta Tree Keepers for donating the trees and personally Pic Petelle for helping to plant the young trees. We hope to plant more trees this winter where we have cleared invasive nonnative plants.

Most of the monthly work days we were able to take a group and work specifically on invasive plants. We worked on Chinese privet growing around the field near the Burnt Hickory parking lot for several trail days and then spent another trail day chipping up the brush. We also controlled large areas of privet along the creeks on the assault trail and privet between the fields across the road from the Cheatham Hill parking lot.

This year we added a few tools to our arsenal for controlling invasive plants. We were able to get the large NPS chipper up and running and put it to great use chipping huge amounts of privet and other exotic plant brush. We also used chainsaws alot more this year to cut down larger bushes and trees.

In Feb the Exotic Plant Management Team out of SC was able to work in a couple of areas of the park. The team that consisted of 4 ladies was joined by Harry Carpenter and they cut large amounts of privet and wisteria using chainsaws as one of their main tools. We certainly appreciate the help the team has been able to provide over the years.

During June we had 5 great days with the SCA group taking down large areas of wisteria, privet, and bush honeysuckle along the CCC circle. They also cleared most of the privet along the recreation field between the Old 41 parking lot and Stilesboro rd.

Lastly, each month we had small groups work outside of the normal monthly work days to help control invasive plants. I would like to thank Cam Graham and Spencer McAllister for organizing several of these work days and Harry Carpenter for his continued work in controlling invasive plants.

Sincerely,
Danny Leigh