

Invasives Removal and Replacement: Notes from June 6th (2009) workday on Highway #36 trail Sponsored by Hanover Garden Club and Hanover Conservation Commission

Helpers: Bea Alexander (neighbor), Nina Banwell, Maureen Bolton, Martha Clark, Rich Daley, Robbie Dodson, Betty Heston (neighbor), Barbara and Doug McIlroy, Sue Reed. Barbara McIlroy, reporting.

Results: We worked for three hours, and removed most of the shrub honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, glossy and common buckthorns (and one baby burning bush) in the trail right of way. A few plants too large to pull were flagged for later treatment (orange). We got up the steep hill beyond the neighbors houses, and worked about 30' beyond the top of that climb... ..at this place most of the invasives are less common. Rich Daley reports that at the junction of Hwy #38 with the trail that link to the AT (a clearing) there is a lot of buckthorn (to be expected in that neighborhood).

A large stack of brush is now next to the trail sign, about 20' back from road. At moment, it is unsightly, but should reduce in size later...and can be spread out once leaves are off. No seeds at this time of year, so that is good thing. Or maybe town is willing to chip the brush, as that would look better.

Neighbors: they were fine with project, so long as we only worked on the ROW (which we did).

Other plants located: Quite a bit of lesser celandine, *Chelidonium majus* non-native (not to be confused with Celandine poppy, *Stylophorum diphyllum*, a native), which seems to be spreading into the woods (and possibly encouraged by neighbors). This plant (*C.majus*) is considered invasive enough that the NEWFS is now removing it along with garlic mustard at its Plainfield sanctuary. At top of the hill, there was a good bit of bittersweet growing in the shade, mostly on LHS of trail. Lots of native alternate-leafed dogwood exists in understory, including one magnificent specimen tree (informed neighbor).

Replacement Shrubs: The neighbor to east, (Mary Flury 643-???) had several holes made in the screening from trail, so we plan to place several (4 or 5) replacement shrubs from the holding bed....she seemed pleased with this proposal. Turns out the Flurys may have the parent glossy buckthorn in their front yard, a huge healthy straight single-trunked (4" diameter) buckthorn growing in full sun, covered in flowers. Not easy to dig shrubs at holding bed now, as they are large, and suffer shock in removing...need more tools. Think right thing is to prune them, store in large pot and water regularly for few weeks so that roots are recovered, and then plant on rainy day. Have one now (at McIlroy's), need to dig a few more.

Snacks – good to break from the work and socialize, about 10:30. Grapes, melons, cider, cookies, water. Bring cups.

Materials Supplied (use as check list for future)

Park Here sign. To install - need two stakes with nails, hammer
Sign in sheet, copies of the 'Least Wanted' flier for folks unfamiliar with invasives.
Loppers, clippers, small sharp saw(s) to cut large unruly honeysuckles.
3 weed wrenches (only used two), 6 shovels.
Bug dope. (used the buzz off sheets – they work well – thank you Maureen). Forgot a camera.
Extra work gloves; we all used gloves as it is hard work.
Permanent marker, to mark tools with owner's name (more than one got misplaced, briefly).
Flagging tape (orange) to mark tools so they don't disappear into background.
Tarps for hauling brush (thankyou Sue) – great idea.

Rules: #1 - Always put tools down in the trail! Otherwise they disappear.

- Start off with an ID of the bad plants. Think by end of morning, all can ID glossy buckthorn.
- Bring your sturdy workboots!
- Post a laminated Weed Out the Bullies sign well in advance of workday, invite others to join and notify them.
- Vicki notified neighbors well in advance, with permission forms (this works), gave me map showing property lines/neighbor names.

PR: Letter to Editor / Calendar notice. Would be nice to have coverage some time. Need photos!