

WEED REVIEW 2012 MARCH 3

I'm looking for people to lead spring weed parties. My main target for humans, is to eradicate the **hemlock in the Forest Meadow**, and to keep the **mustard** at bay in the hemlock patches there so that grass will win out. Mowing is our main hemlock eradication tool, but it may not be until April/May that we have the go ahead from fish & wildlife (or the plant height) to bring the mower in. Meanwhile, individual hemlock plants have started to bolt, and there are some new mustard seedlings that still can be taken out. Hand control with a grass whip, weed-eater and super-weeder are in order - what I imagine is a bi-weekly sweep over the two primary patches we've mown, down to the trough. We could flag the area. Bolting hemlock would be cut, and milk-thistle seedlings & mustard seedlings would be dug or cut below soil level. If we can prevent the hemlock from seeding, we can eradicate it within a couple years.

Another hemlock target ripe for cutting with weed-eater is the patch next to the pavilion. Neil and I have done some work there already, and Georgia will have brought some new plastic blades. (When people work in the protected area beyond the pavilion paddock, keep an eye out for the Chilean Aster just starting amongst the hemlock near the wash tie-rail on the other side of the fence by the deciduous oak...)

Liz S has targeted the **milk thistle** in the Middle Meadow & the Beer Can – others are following up in those areas; Liz will continue to work on the Pond Pasture thistle.

It looks like Liz & Jerome have quietly gone about a highly successful **teasel** campaign over the last two years – Liz reports how it's going: [I believe our JnL plan on the teasel surrounding the water tanks and the left side of UpperHorseTrail in the Upper Sullivan pasture the last two years has worked well. There's more teasel in Sullivan further back from the road that we'll target this year. I think we're in maintenance mode with the first two patches. We like working the teasel as our process seems pretty successful - manually clip all heads, carefully bag, and remove. Then whack the stocks so the horses can get in there and stomp about..](#)

Neil has done a great job on the **coyote brush** in the ring pasture - Joe has promised some native grass seed that we can broadcast a handful on bare spots in the ring pasture when it's raining; best to wait for fall to get the right conditions for native grass germination.

Eddie has pulled **coyote bush** seedlings in the Pond Pasture, chopped the only **artichoke thistle** we've found this year, and cut some of the **scotch broom** in the Pear Orchard - she has a new technique to try this year on scotch broom: in July/August cut it below soil level; it will a hard time regenerating in the driest time. (I have had some success at chopping coyote bushes in August/September - probably for the same reason.)

A reminder to those who want to pull **fiddleneck** – we have a protected species of fiddleneck in our pasture and are required to get biologist's approval before weeding in particular areas. It's hard to get a timely response in this busy time of year, so the more advance notice the better.