

Volunteers needed to help eradicate invasive Glossy Buckthorn from the Tioga River Conservation Area

BELMONT — Volunteers are being sought to help eradicate the invasive plant Glossy Buckthorn from the Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation Area.

Starting Tuesday and running for the next 10 days, members of the Student Conservation Association (SCA NH) will be hand-pulling the plants from the 23-26 acre area, a followup to last year's effort to get rid of the invasive species.

The Tioga River Wildlife Conservation Area was purchased in 2004 by the town of Belmont and is located on the Belmont/Northfield line.

The prior landowner had been trying to develop the property, the last proposal to build a motocross park. That landowner logged the land in preparation, incurring multiple wetlands violations before the town purchased the land for preservation. The logging operation opened up the wetlands, creating a perfect breeding ground for the Glossy Buckthorn, which permeates nearly a quarter of the 200-acre parcel of land.

Local eradication efforts started last year with a two-year, grant-funded commitment by the Belmont Conservation Commission (BCC). Rick Ball, Belmont Land Use Technician obtained a grant for the BCC and contracted the Student Conservation Association (SCA NH) to hand-pull the invasive Glossy Buckthorn from the Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation Area. In June of 2011 Jeremy Burns, the Conservation Manager for the SCA NH Corps brought in a conservation crew of AmeriCorps members who worked 20 days to eradicate Buckthorn plants from 23-26 acres, a huge undertaking.

Belknap Landscape Co, Inc., a member of the New Hampshire Landscape Association or NHLA,



NH Landscape Association members volunteered to assist the Student Conservation Association pull Buckthorn plants in the summer of 2011. (Courtesy photo)

is orchestrating a Volunteer Day on Friday, May 18, promoting NHLA Member-company participation. In 2011 three NHLA member companies pulled Buckthorn plants alongside SCA NH students. The public is encouraged to show environmental stewardship by participating, as well. The SCA NH liability waiver must be signed by the parents of any student under 18 and signed by all adult volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to write or call with questions. Coordinating volunteers is Belknap Landscape's Dale Squires, available at 603 455 1594 or via email at: dale@belknaplandscape.com.

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture oversees invasive species and recommends the Buckthorn seedlings be removed by hand, the larger trees may be cut and that all cuttings should be burned. Herbicides may be used but, these plants are taking over a natural watershed area leading to one of the cleanest rivers in NH, the Tioga, thanks to the natural filtering provided by the conservation area lands. Further, state law prohibits the use of herbicides in wetland areas.

Obama for America volunteers screening film in Franklin today about Romney's business philosophy

FRANKLIN — Obama for America volunteers will screen a new video that takes a look at Mitt Romney's business philosophy and what it would mean for the American economy at a grassroots meeting which will be held today at 6 p.m. at an Obama sup-

porter's home at 62 Pleasant St. Members of the media should RSVP to press@ofanh.com. Members of the public wishing to attend the event can register at barackobama.com.

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