

Laudato Si', Care for Earth

August 30, 2024

Invasive species in our woodlands create a problem

The dense shrubbery behind these CSA maintenance workers, Jack Mohr and Jimmer Immel, is created by buckthorn, an invasive species, which is a tall shrub or small tree.

What is the meaning of invasive species?

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, "An invasive species is an introduced, nonnative organism (disease, parasite, plant, or animal) that begins to spread or expand its range from the site of its original introduction and that has the potential to cause harm to the environment, the economy, or to human health".



Jack and Jimmer demonstrate how to remove the invasive buckthorn at the root. Jeff Atkinson, supervisor and land manager, states that buckthorn is a non-native plant, which threatens the future of forests, wetlands, prairies, and other natural habitats. Buckthorn competes with other trees and overwhelms them. Buckthorn spreads quickly through seeds distributed by birds and wildlife.

“Harmful, non-native species can be found in all ecosystems across the United States. These species can cause costly economic and ecological damage each year including crop decimation, clogging of water facilities and waterways, wildlife and human disease transmission, threats to fisheries, increased fire vulnerability, and adverse effects for ranchers and farmers.” Buckthorn can be difficult to remove in sections over the course of several years.

(Reference: <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-invasive-species-and-why-are-they-a-problem>)

Learn more:

[USGS Invasive Species Program](#)

[U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)

[National Invasive Species Information Identification Center](#)

Friends of the Mississippi River explain how buckthorn harms the ecosystem: [click here to read the article](#).

Let Us Sow Hope: 2024 Feast of St. Francis

This year’s program by Catholic Climate Covenant is designed to assist you, your family, parish, school, diocese, religious community, or other Catholic institution celebrate the Feast of St. Francis (October 4th or another date that works for you and your community), become instruments of God’s peace, and commit to climate actions to avoid climate despair, and sow climate hope.

[Register here for Feast of St. Francis Program](#)

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Special thank you to Chelsea Koenigs, Laudato Si’ Animator,
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Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes,
www.csasisters.org/our-values/creation.cfm