

## **05-2017 GARLIC MUSTARD INVASION ISSUES**

WHEREAS, Minnesota has 17.4 million acres of forests; and,

WHEREAS, garlic mustard is a non-native, invasive plant capable of rapidly spreading into both disturbed and undisturbed forests, open woodlands/savannas, edge habitat/trails, shore lands; and,

WHEREAS, once established, garlic mustard destroys the biodiversity of these areas by changing the soil chemistry/ecology and aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, and space; and,

WHEREAS, garlic mustard infestations replace native plants and deprive wildlife species of their forage, pollen, fruits, seeds, and roots; and,

WHEREAS, garlic mustard infestations cause significant economic and environmental harm; and,

WHEREAS, garlic mustard is listed as a Restricted Noxious Weed in Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota's Noxious Weed Law states that efforts must be made to prevent seed maturation and dispersal of plants into new areas. Landowners are encouraged to control garlic mustard on their properties; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America in convention April 30, 2017 supports these garlic mustard control issues:

- A. The Minnesota Legislature should amend current state law to allow townships, cities, and counties to dispose of gagged garlic mustard plants at landfills, or by drying or composting at approved MCPA sites.
- B. Agencies of the State of Minnesota should develop an active program to educate Minnesotans concerning the identification and control of garlic mustard. Outreach to the public should include public service announcements, press releases, video releases, websites, programs, speakers, and print media. Agencies should have active volunteer programs which will encourage the public to search out, control small populations by hand pulling, and report larger infestations to the proper agency (MNDOT, MNDNR, Weed Inspectors, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, etc.)
- C. State-owned properties that are infested with garlic mustard should be signed to alert the public. Information should be posted to prevent the spread of garlic mustard seeds off the property.
- D. The Minnesota Legislature should assist the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and its designated network of county, city, and township weed inspectors to increase staffing. Such staffing should coordinate, promote, and enforce adequate control and containment of garlic mustard and other terrestrial invasive plant species.

- E. Chapters of the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League are encouraged to participate in and support efforts to educate the public and actively control garlic mustard.
- F. In addition, each chapter is encouraged to support inclusion of information about terrestrial invasive species in regulation books.
- G. Chapters of the Minnesota Division of the IWLA are encouraged to support current efforts at biological control of garlic mustard.

*Submitted by the New Ulm Chapter*

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