

Restoring Your Woodland to Health

- 1) **Evaluate current conditions**
 - a. Google Earth, Bing images and/or Dane County DCI Maps:
 - b. <http://dcimap.countyofdane.com>

- 2) **Research site history**
 - a. Original Surveyors Notes:
 - b. Historic Aerial Images: <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/>

- 3) **Develop target for restoration**

- 4) **Clear invasive brush**

- 5) **Remove aggressive/overabundant trees**

- 6) **Control herbaceous invasive species**

- 7) **Reintroduce a prescribed fire regime**

- 8) **Reintroduce extirpated wildflowers and grasses**

- 9) **Monitor and maintain**

Oak Woodland/Savanna Information and How-To:

- *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook, 2nd Edition* by Steve Packard & Cornelia F. Mutel
- *Restoring Ecological Health To Your Land* by Steven I. Apfelbaum and Alan Haney
- Pleasant Valley Conservancy's Website: <http://pleasantvalleyconservancy.org/>
- Vestal Grove's Blog: <http://vestalgrove.blogspot.com/>
- Strategies for Stewards: from woods to prairies: <http://woodsandprairie.blogspot.com/>
- Wisconsin DNR Oak Woodland Community Description: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Communities.asp?mode=detail&Code=CTFOR010WI>

Weed Management:

- Good Oak's Weed ID Sheets Page: <http://goodoak.com/weeds>
- Frank's advice on Garlic Mustard Eradication: <http://goodoakllc.blogspot.com/2013/04/eradicating-garlic-mustard-requires.html>
- *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest* by Elizabeth Czarapata
- *Weeds of the Midwestern United States & Central Canada* by Bryson & DeFelice, eds.
- Wisconsin DNR's Invasive Plants Page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/>
- National Park Service's Weeds Gone Wild Site: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>
- The Organic Weed Management Website: <https://weedecology.css.cornell.edu/manage/>

Plant Identification:

- *Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region* by Merel R. Black & Emmet J. Judziewicz
- *Kane County Wild Plants and Natural Areas* by Dick Young
- *Spring Woodland Wildflower of the UW-Madison Arboretum* by Andrew L. Hipp
- *Illinois Wildflower* by Don Kurz
- *Trees of Michigan* by Linda Kershaw
- *Michigan Trees* by Burton V. Barnes and Warren H. Wagner, Jr.
- *Wild Berries and Fruits Field Guide* by Teresa Marrone
- *Edible and Medicinal Wild Plants of Minnesota and Wisconsin* by Matthew Alfs
- John Hilty's Illinois Wildflowers Site: <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/>
- Flora of Wisconsin: <http://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/>
- Wisconsin State Herbarium: <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/herb/>

Evaluating Current Conditions

What wildflowers can tell you about woodland health.

Healthy

bloodroot
spring beauty
trout lily
trillium
hepatica
woodland phlox
large flowered bellwort
blue cohosh
doll's eyes
ramps
golden alexanders
shooting star
American bellflower
bottlebrush grass
horse gentian
purple milkweed
poke milkweed
figwort
culver's root
yellow giant hyssop
tall thistle
blue-flowered asters

Neutral

wild geranium
solomon's seal
mayapple
Jack-in-the-pulpit
small-flowered buttercup
wood nettle
woodland sunflower
American pokeweed
side-flowering aster

Degraded (if abundant)

white snakeroot
wood avens
enchanters nightshade
stickseed
tall nettle
ragweed

Invaded

garlic mustard
dames rocket
motherwort
celandine
Japanese hedge parsley
bull thistle
Canada thistle
burdock
deadly nightshade
creeping Charlie

Tool Recommendations:

Brush Cutters:

- **Stihl MS131** or equivalent, with “bicycle handlebars”
- **Beaver Blades, 8”**: MUCH better than standard brush blades!

Chain Saws:

- small saw: **Stihl MS192, MS180, MSA200** (electric!) or equivalent
- medium saw: **Stihl MS250, MS290** or equivalent

Hand Cutting:

- hand saws: **ARS Cam 24 Pro** or **Silky Zubat 270**
- loppers: **Hickock** or **Stihl**
- clippers, high-quality: **ARS VS-7z** or **ARS VS-8z** or **Felco** (worth the investment)
- clippers, low-cost: **Growtech Economy** or **Felco F5** (if you tend to loose tools)
- clippers, Good Oak’s staff pick: **ARS HP-130DX** (median price and lightweight)
- also, get a holster for your hand clippers, always keep them handy, less likely to lose them, protect them form damage and prevent them from cutting holes in your pockets!

Hand Sprayers:

- high-quality: **Tolco 492** or **Birchmeier Spray-Matic 1.25 P**
- low-cost: **Ace Hardware** “red top” hand sprayer

Backpack Sprayers:

- **Hudson SP2** or **Birchmeier**
- **Deluxe Shoulder Saver Harness** from Forestry Suppliers is worth every penny!

Propane Torch: Start brush fires, kill garlic mustard seedlings and more!

- **Red Dragon Backpack Torch**

Weeding Tools:

- **Nisaku No. 650 Hori-Hori** for general weeding and utility
- **Nisaku No. 120 Precision Weeder** perfect for popping out garlic mustard roots!
- **Parsnip Predator** for large, tap-rooted weeds and small shrubs

You can find many of these at: <http://goodoak.com/store>