

Report of Plants Director:

During the 2017 federal fiscal year the trail club had another great year of promoting native plants by controlling invasive nonnative plants at Kennesaw Mountain BNP.

During last winter we were able to plant native trees across Stilesboro Rd from the visitor center and the picnic area. With plenty of rain this spring and summer I am hopeful the trees will do well. Thanks to Keep Cobb Beautiful and Randstad for donating the trees and much of the manpower. We hope to plant more trees this winter where we have cleared invasive nonnative plants.

We had several work days using high school groups to help control privet around Activity field 1 and Ridenour Rd. The groups were as large as 25 HS students and I want to thank the students, crew leaders and TAs that helped to make the days go smoothly. Take a walk around the field and you'll have a hard time finding any privet.

In April the Exotic Plant Management Team out of SC was able to work in a couple of areas of the park. They concentrated on Big K controlling garlic mustard and Tree of Heaven and also spent time near Kolb Farm and Camp Brumby controlling wisteria. We certainly appreciate the help the team has been able to provide over the years!

During July we had 4 productive, albeit hot, days with the SCA group taking down large areas of privet along the Old John Ward Rd Trail. While only using loppers and hand saws they were able to cut over 2 acres of privet.

We had several new crew leaders and TAs show interest in controlling invasives and I appreciate their enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Danny Leigh