

BLUE RIDGE PRISM



SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK WAVYLEAF VOLUNTEER DAYS

July 8th & 9th
July 29th & 30th
From 9:00 to 4:00 each day

Feel free to volunteer for any or all days!

HELP STOP THIS NASTY PLANT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

BACKGROUND:

Wavyleaf grass (*Oplismenus undulatifolius*) is a nonnative, invasive grass that poses a serious threat to public and private lands in the Mid-Atlantic. This perennial grass with sticky seeds is out of control in Maryland, having overrun thousands of acres in its twenty years in the state, but it is a relative newcomer to Virginia. There are several hotspots of this nasty invasive in Virginia. The largest of these is in the West Swift Run watershed in Shenandoah National Park. The park and its neighbors are relying on volunteers to help prevent the spread of wavyleaf to nearby areas in Greene, Albemarle, Augusta, Rockingham and Page Counties.

Jake Hughes, Exotic Plant Manager for the park, will be leading our volunteers. Last year the PRISM recruited 15 volunteers who in one day treated four acres of wavyleaf in the park. This amounted to approximately \$2,000 in volunteer labor. Jake was gratified by the results and hopes we can do much more this year.

DETAILS:

No experience is necessary. On each of the four treatment days, we hope to field a team of fifteen volunteers using backpack sprayers and up to ten volunteers to hand pull. You can choose to either hand pull or spray herbicide. The backpack sprayers will work under Jake's pesticide license, and will spray the target plants with a 2% glyphosate solution, the same herbicide and concentration in Roundup. You'll get a lesson on how to recognize wavyleaf, how to hand pull it, and how to use a backpack sprayer. Equipment will be provided. Hand-weeders will patrol peripheral areas. Volunteers should be comfortable working with or around herbicides, and if not hand-weeding must have the strength and stamina to carry a 22-lb. (half-full) or 34-lb. (full) backpack for 1/2 to 1 hour per pack over uneven terrain in a forest understory. We'll start at 9:00 a.m. Please feel free to stay as long as you'd like.

LOCATION:

Approximately 4 miles east of Elkton near US 33 at the edge of Shenandoah National Park. The site is about 30 minutes from Harrisonburg and 45 minutes from Charlottesville.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

Please contact Jim Hurley (jehurley@mindspring.com) who will provide precise meeting location, driving instructions, and other details.