

**Promotion and coordination of 2011 Illinois Invasive Species  
Awareness Month**

Project Final Report (#11-L26W)

Submitted to IDNR by Christopher Evans, River to River CWMA Coordinator

January 23, 2012

## **Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund –Project Final Report**

### **Project Title**

Promotion and coordination of 2011 Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month

### **Grant Agreement Number**

#11-L26W

### **Grantee**

Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.  
Rt. 1 Box 256  
Simpson, IL 62985  
(618) 944-1736

### **Project Time Frame**

January 11, 2011 – December 31, 2011

### **Grantee Representative**

Christopher Evans, 618-998-5920 or rivertoriver@gmail.com

### **Project Objectives (as stated in Grant Proposal)**

1. Develop the ISAM program.
2. Serve as the main coordinator for 2011 ISAM events
3. Develop Event leaders Resource Kits for 2011 which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
4. Develop ISAM Awards program which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
5. Develop ISAM Contest program which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
6. Develop ISAM Media Kit which should also serve as the template for future ISAM's
7. Develop ISAM contact list/database for participating ORGs/Agencies which will be a useful resource for planning Subsequent ISAM's.
8. Raise public awareness about invasive species in Illinois
9. Encourage citizens of Illinois to take action to stop the spread of invasive species
10. Engage conservation groups and agencies across Illinois and, through ISAM, build stronger working relationships
11. Develop long-term strategies to continue to raise awareness about invasive species

### **Project Description**

This project provided funds for the River to River CWMA to take the lead in organizing and implementing Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) and related activities. This project allowed for a more cohesive message on invasive species to be presented during ISAM (May 2011) and for events across the state to be organized and advertised in a central location. The River to River CWMA helped plan events for southern Illinois, compiled information on events elsewhere in the state,

populated the ISAM website and calendar of events, helped develop the awards program, helped develop the garlic mustard pull contest, helped develop the new ISAM logo, and procured educational and promotional material for ISAM.

## **Summary of Project Activities**

### *Introduction*

Invasive species are recognized as one of the most serious threats to conservation in Illinois, the United States, and across the globe. The first step to an effective state-wide strategy to manage invasive plants is raising public awareness. Without the strong support and assistance of the public, and in particular private landowners, land management agencies cannot succeed in controlling these harmful species or stopping their spread into new areas. One approach to meeting this goal is through the use of a state-wide Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM). This project provided funding to aid in the coordination and implementation of ISAM for 2011. ISAM provided an opportunity for citizens of Illinois to participate in invasive species awareness events around the state and to learn more about what they can do help fight these threats.

### *Materials and Methods*

The River to River CWMA, a project under the Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc., worked with entities such as the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council, forest preserve districts, The Nature Conservancy, IDNR, the Illinois CAPS program, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP), INHS, Shawnee National Forest, Illinois Forestry Association, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to schedule educational events across Illinois. The CWMA worked with the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia to place all of the ISAM information online and organize it in an easy to find manner. The CWMA also created a Facebook page for ISAM and populated it with relevant information. A volunteer was recruited to take the lead on the Facebook page and create educational posts and answer user feedback.

The CWMA worked with IDNR, NIIPP, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District to develop criteria for an awards program and to disseminate calls for nominations.

The CWMA also worked with The Nature Conservancy, IDNR, and Green Earth, Inc. to develop a garlic mustard pull contest for school-aged children.

### *Results*

Overall, 67 events were held across Illinois as part of Invasive Species Awareness Month. These events ranged from Garlic Mustard Pulls and other workdays to Presentations and field tours. Three awards were given out (Professional of the year – Karen Tharp, Professional Organization

of the year – IDOT region 1, Volunteer of the year – Greg White) as part of ISAM. These awards were selected at the end of 2011 and the awards will be given out in May of 2012 during next year's ISAM activities.

The Garlic Mustard challenge involved two 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes, one from Murphysboro and one from Carbondale. Each class received information and a presentation on invasive species and the need for control and then each group spent a day hand-pulling garlic mustard. The Murphysboro school pulled at Lake Murphysboro State Park and the Carbondale school pulled on Green Earth, Inc. property. Both schools were awarded a pizza party after the workday and the winning school (Murphysboro) also received \$500 for the class to be spent on equipment and supplies.

The CWMA and ISAM Committee worked with the Illinois Natural History Survey to create a new logo for ISAM. This new logo was used in presentations, publications, promotional material, and on the Facebook page. While we had \$400 budgeted for the logo, the INHS never billed for the creation of the logo (even after several emails reminding them) so these funds were never spent.

The ISAM Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/illinoisISAM](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisISAM)) has been very successful with 248 people following. Several posts were made each week of ISAM. The ISAM website ([www.illinoisinvasives.org](http://www.illinoisinvasives.org)) was also very popular with media kits, calendar of events, contact lists, information on invasive species, and a news feed.

The CWMA ordered two publications to use for ISAM events and promotion; 'Landscape alternatives to Invasive plants' and 'Why should I care about invasive species'. In addition, the CWMA ordered small magnets with the slogan "You can help stop the spread of invasive species", the website URL and the ISAM logo on them. Also purchases were materials used for printing information and flyers for ISAM.

The IDNR dedicated their May issue of Outdoor Illinois to invasive species and the CWMA wrote a guest article for that issue.

A list of participating agencies and organizations was created for use in subsequent ISAMs and a standing ISAM committee was formed to work on 2012 ISAM planning.

### *Discussion*

The 2011 Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month was a huge success. While we didn't reach our goal of 100 events, we were close at 67. This effort had a lot of work going on in different fronts and a great foundation was set for future ISAMs. The events and programs helped us to reach our project objectives of raising public awareness about invasive species in Illinois, encouraging

citizens of Illinois to take action to stop the spread of invasive species, and engaging conservation groups and agencies across Illinois and, through ISAM, build stronger working relationships.

**Budget**

<b>DETAILED BUDGET EXAMPLE</b> <i>(Required for all applicants.)</i>				
	Rate	WPF Funds	Cost Share Funds	Detail Total
<b>PERSONNEL</b>				
Chris Evans, River to River CWMA Coord.	32/hour	\$5954		\$5,954
<b>MATERIALS/SUPPLIES</b>				
Pencils and other promo items		\$399.26		\$399.26
ISAM poster and flyer printing		\$1220.42		\$1220.42
Awards for contests			\$500	\$500
<b>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>				
Logo development		\$0		\$0
<b>OTHER</b>				
Volunteer time – Invasive plant removal (300 hrs)	20/hr		\$5040	
		<b>\$7573.68</b>	\$5540	
<b>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT</b>				<b>\$13113.68</b>

**Budget Narrative**

The project came in under budget with a cost to WPF fund of \$7573.68 and a total cost of \$13113.68. The Nature Conservancy donated the \$500 for the contest award and the INHS did not bill for the logo development. Total volunteer hours recorded for the project equaled 252 hours. It is important to note that these hours are only events that the CWMA was involved in and total volunteer hours donated across the state as part of ISAM would be much higher.

Project photos



Field Tour



Grade school class that participated in Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge



Teaching kids about invasive species



Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge



River to River CWMA's educational booth at the Sustainable Living Expo



ISAM Logo



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FY11 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

Grantee Information

Grantee Name: Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.  
502 Comfort Drive, Suite E  
Marion, IL 62959

Grant Agreement #: 11-L26W

Amount of Reimbursement Requested: \$ 7,573.68

I certify that the goods or services specified on this request for payment were for the use of this agency and that the expenditure for such goods or services was authorized and lawfully incurred, that such goods or services meet all the required standards set forth in the grant agreement to which this request for payment relates. and that the amount shown below on this request is correct and approved for payment.

By: Cathy Poshard Date: March 19, 2012  
(Signature)

Name: Cathy Poshard Title: Program Manager  
Grantee F.E.I.N. / TIN: 37-1368038

Attach copies of vendor billings, proof of payment, and other necessary documentation and send the Request for Payment Certification to:

Jody Shimp  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
11731 State Highway 37  
Benton, IL 62812  
E-Mail Address: Jody.Shimp@Illinois.gov  
Telephone #: (618)435-8138 x127

**For DNR Use Only**

Approved for Payment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.  
RR 1, Box 256  
Simpson, IL 62985**

**INVOICE**

Bill To:

Jody Shimp  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
11731 State Highway 37  
Benton, IL 62812

Grant Agreement: 11-L26W

Period Covered by Request: January 11, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Itemized Invoice

Items	Costs
Salary 157.5 hours @ \$32.00	\$5,954.00
Materials/Supplies	\$1,619.68
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,573.68</b>

**Total Reimbursement Request      \$7,573.68**

Please remit to:

Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.  
RR1, Box 256  
Simpson, IL 62985

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, please contact Shawnee RC&D at, 618-771-2854.

*"I certify that all expenditures reported (or payments requested) are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the Agreement set forth in the application and award documents."*

  
Signature and Title      Manager      Date      3-19-12

Order Number: 990447  
 Placed: 12/19/2011  
 Payment: Complete  
 Status: In Production



Billing Information

Shipping Information

Other Information

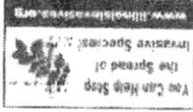
Name: CHRISTOPHER EVANS  
 Address Line 1: 2114 MARKET RD  
 Address Line 2:  
 City: MARION  
 State/Prov/Reg: IL  
 Zip: 62959  
 Country: United States

Name: CHRISTOPHER EVANS  
 Address Line 1: 2114 MARKET RD  
 Address Line 2:  
 City: MARION  
 State/Prov/Reg: IL  
 Zip: 62959-8924  
 Country: United States

Email: rvertoliver@gmail.com  
 Telephone: 619-964-1657  
 Shipping Method: Ground

Ordered Items:

Item Total	Price	Qty.	Description
\$369.99	\$0.12	3000	Customized Sign Custom Sign ID: 30348709 Business Card (2"x3.5"); Fridge Magnet Single-Sided Full Color



[View Proof](#)

Payment Information

Card Type: MasterCard  
 Card Number: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX7476  
 Expiration: 9 / 2014  
 Payment Status: Complete

Subtotal: \$369.99  
 Shipping: \$29.27  
 Tax: \$0.00  
 Total: \$399.26

PAID  
 Project/Fund: I SHIM # 007  
 Date Received: 12-15-11  
 Treasurer: *Chris Evans*  
 Date: 1-13-12

SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION 05-07  
RIVER TO RIVER CWMA  
RR 1 BOX 256  
SIMPSON, IL 62865-0615

2203

70-320/612

December 19, 2011  
Date

Pay to the Order of Chris Evans \$ 399.26

Three hundred ninety-nine and 26/100 Dollars

Signature Required



2 SIGNATURES REQUIRED

For Depositment ISAM

Cathy Pishard

FOR DEPOSIT ONLY #705 100 L#2203

# PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Midwest Invasive Plant Network  
Purdue University  
c/o The Nature Conservancy  
620 E. Ohio St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

**Bill To:**  
Chris Evans  
River to River CWMA  
8588 Route 148  
Marion, IL 62959

# INVOICE

**DATE:** December 8, 2011

**FOR:** Brochures

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
<p>Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants? Brochures (quantity = 1455 @ 0.50</p> <p>OK # 2198 Voided #2001 Reissue 12/19/11</p> <p>Date Received <u>12-13-11</u></p> <p>Project/Fund <u>Inv. Spec. Awareness #207</u></p> <p>Paid <u>Chris Evans</u> 12/13/11 Treasurer Date</p>	\$ 727.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 727.50</b>

Make all checks payable to Purdue University.

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact : Kate Howe, 317-951-8818, howek@purdue.edu.

THANK YOU!

SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION 05-07  
RIVER TO RIVER CWMA  
RR 1 BOX 256  
SIMPSON, IL 62985-9615

2201

December 19, 2011  
Date 70-370/612

Pay to the Order of Purdue University \$ 787.50

Seven hundred twenty seven and 50/100 Dollars  Security Features Visible on Back



2-SIGNATURES-REQUIRED

For Brachner ISAM Cathy Poschack RP

⑆081203208⑆ ⑈705 100 4⑈2201

Member FDIC

Reissue of ck # 2198  
12/13/11

# PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Midwest Invasive Plant Network

Purdue University

c/o The Nature Conservancy

620 E. Ohio St.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

**Bill To:**

Chris Evans

River to River CWMA

8588 Route 148

Marion, IL 62959

# INVOICE

**DATE:** December 19, 2011

**FOR:** Publications

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Landscape Alternatives (800 @ \$0.15)	\$ 120.00
Shipping & Handling	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 140.00</b>

*CR # 2202*

Date Received 12/19/11

Project/Fund #207 Publications

Paid Shyllin Howe 1-4-12  
Treasurer Date

Make all checks payable to Purdue University.

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact : Kate Howe, 317-951-8818, howek@purdue.edu.

**THANK YOU !**

**SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION** 05-07  
**RIVER TO RIVER CWMA**  
RR 1 BOX 256  
SIMPSON, IL 62985-9615

2202

70-320/812

December 19, 2011  
Date

Pay to the Order of Purdue University \$ 140.00  
One Hundred Forty & 00/100 Dollars

Security Features on Back

**The Bank of Marion, IL**

**2 SIGNATURES REQUIRED**

For Publications ISAM Cathy Poshard MP

⑆08⑆203208⑆⑆705⑆00⑆⑆2202

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4	SPLS 8.5X11 MULTI	
	513096 29.990ea	119.96
1	BROTHER TN450 HY B	
	012502626770	69.99
1	CATALOG ENV P&S KR	
	718103031653	19.99
1	BROTHER TN360 TONE	
	012502619406	72.99
1	BROTHER TN450 HY B	
	012502626770	69.99
	SUBTOTAL	352.92

Debit Card

Date Received 12/29/11

Project/Fund 207 ISAM

Paid *Shyllis Omas* 1-4-2012  
Treasurer

Tax Exempt Number 0531200848

TOTAL \$352.92

Debit Tender:

Card No.: XXXXXXXXXX3991 [S]

Auth No.: 154717

TOTAL ITEMS 5

# TODAY

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

On March 9, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads USS Monitor and CSS Virginia clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.

QUESTIONS? Call our newsroom at 618-993-2626 or email editor@dailyrepublicannews.com

The Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) Planning Committee, with funding from Shawnee RC&D and the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2011 ISAM awards. Awards will be presented May, 2012. The 2011 recipients are:

**Volunteer of the Year** - Greg White, Southern Illinois Weed Watch Project, for outstanding dedication and dependability.

**Professional of the Year** - Karen Tharp, Southern Illinois Invasive Plant Strike Team & The Nature Conservancy, for her work as Volunteer Steward Network Coordinator and Supervisor

**Organization of the Year** - Illinois Dept. of Transportation Region 1, District 1, for their pivotal role in supporting the development and establishment of the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership.

*The ISAM Planning Committee would like to extend congratulations to the recipients of this year's awards. Thank you for all your efforts to protect and preserve the native biodiversity of Illinois!*

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# River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans

April 1, 2011 to April 15, 2011

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## General Administration

- Continued developing final report and maps for Dutchman Lake Project
- Wrote and disseminated press release on CHIP-N project

## Communications

- Assisted in designing research project on invasive plant control with UofI/Dixon Springs intern program
- Discussed Stiltgrass research with professor from UofI
- Provided control recommendations for tree of heaven for landowner

## Educational Campaign

- Participated in LaRue Pine Hills Appreciation Day, giving presentations and leading a hike on invasive plants
- Scouted Giant City garlic mustard populations to find a location for upcoming volunteer work day
- Agreed to give a wildflower hike and invasive plant pull for Giant City

## Other Activities

- Participated in Native Plant Society board meeting
- Assisted in identifying plant species for IDNR
- Reviewed material for ISAM
- Continued developing awareness month website
- Discussed phenology tracking project with UGA
- Assisted on three prescribed fires with DNR

# River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans

April 16, 2011 to April 30, 2011

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## General Administration

- Participated in Intern Orientation and helped set up herbicide testing date
- Commented on awards nominations for ISAM and worked on updating ISAM website

## Communications

- Worked with home owners association in Jackson County on organizing for stiltgrass control project
- Discussed incorporating homeschool groups into Stewardship Week with Jim Kirkland

## Educational Campaign

- Conducted a garlic mustard pull and educational hike for boy scout troop at Giant City State Park
- Gave a presentation on invasive species to Jackson County Garden Club
- Gave presentation on invasive species to high school natural resources class
- Gave presentations to school groups on invasive species at Stewardship Week

## Other Activities

- Prepared press release for ISAM

# **River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator**

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans

May 1, 2011 to May 15, 2011

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## **General Administration**

- Worked with Illinois DOA to get summer interns certified to apply herbicides

## **Communications**

- Attended the SouthEast Exotic Pest Plant Council annual meeting and gave presentation on Japanese Chaff flower
- Moderated session at SE-EPPC meeting
- Toured bush honeysuckle control site with landowner and discussed follow-up options

## **Educational Campaign**

- Conducted weed watch training session
- Lead a hike at Giant City to talk about native and exotic plants
- Planned garlic mustard pull at Giant City (cancelled due to weather)

## **Other Activities**

- Discussed invasive plant management approaches with Crab Orchard NWR

# **River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator**

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans

May 16, 2011 to May 31, 2011

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## **General Administration**

- Met with SIU to discuss PTI grant opportunity
- Had a conference call with TNC, DNR, and UGA to discuss Strike Team website design
- Attended RC&D Council Meeting
- Started working with interns

## **Communications**

- Discussed Garlic Mustard control options with Crab Orchard NWR

## **Educational Campaign**

- Gave presentation on invasive species awareness to Native Plant Society
- Helped lead two hikes at Giant City State Park
- Prepared presentation for Master Gardener Talk (cancelled due to weather)
- Helped lead a Pond Weed Management Workshop

## **Other Activities**

- Assisted with garlic mustard treatment at Lusk Creek with Shawnee National Forest
- Assisted in multiflora rose workday at War Bluff
- Attended RC&D Steak Fry
- Helped survey for endangered sedge in Lusk Creek and in Panther Hollow

# **River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator**

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans

June 1, 2011 to June 15, 2011

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## **General Administration**

- Worked with TNC and Crab Orchard to discuss and develop herbicide application training session for volunteers and figure out report requirements
- Worked with interns to teach the invasive species identification
- Moved office to new location and set everything up
- Picked up van for interns to use

## **Communications**

- Discussed garlic mustard control options with Crab Orchard NWR
- Discussed development of a CWMA-public relations webinar with Stewardship Network and MIPN

## **Educational Campaign**

- Started writing article on Chaff flower for Wildland Weeds
- Agreed to give a presentation/hike at Rend Lake

## **Other Activities**

- Helped pull garlic mustard with FS and Sierra Club

# **River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator**

Report of Activity for Christopher Evans

June 16, 2011 to June 30, 2011

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## **General Administration**

- Continued mentoring interns and set up work for them with USFS, Crab Orchard NWR, and Green Earth
- Discussed Bush Honeysuckle grant with USFS and began filling out paperwork and set up time to conduct Civil Rights Interview

## **Communications**

- Discussed teasel control options with Crab Orchard NWR
- Discussed Herbicide training for volunteers with TNC and Crab Orchard NWR

## **Educational Campaign**

- Planned and conducted training session for identification and control of invasive species for Rend Lake
- Worked on webcast presentation for MIPN/Stewardship network webcast on CWMA PR

## **Other Activities**

- Toured and help design chaff flower research at Cypress Creek NWR
- Discussed research project at Mermet Lake with DNR and interns
- Reviewed abstracts for interns for NAA conference