Final Report to the:
Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Agreement #13-L07W

Project Title:
Acquisition of 50 Gallon Skid Pumper Unit

Project Time Frame:
January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Submitted by:
John D. Griesbaum
Natural Areas Manager
Allerton Park & Retreat Center
University of Illinois
515 Old Timber Road
Monticello, IL 61856
217-333-3287 x208

ALLERTON
PARK & RETREAT CENTER

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

Acquisition of 50 gallon pumper unit that will facilitate the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of the natural features and communities found within the park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Allerton Park has long been recognized as one of Illinois' most significant natural areas. It is located in the Grand Prairie Natural Division and contains outstanding examples of old-growth floodplain and upland forests.

A major ecological threat to the integrity of the high quality natural areas and the park in general is exotic species invasion. Exotic species have become widespread and locally abundant. Species that occur in the park include, but are not limited to garlic mustard, multifloral rose, honeysuckle sp., oriental bittersweet, smooth buckthorn, winged wahoo, privet, osage orange, autumn olive, locust sp.

The pumper unit will be used to control exotic and invasive vegetation by allowing park staff to carry out chemical applications on a larger more efficient scale. Furthermore, this equipment will allow for the safe, responsible execution of prescribed fire by having a large, portable water reserve available to park staff.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENS:

Pumper unit was utilized for stewardship activities, primarily in Allerton's grassland areas. Vegetative species that were controlled include, but are not limited to autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, thistle sp., sweet clover, locust sp., etc. The unit was also used to control native woody invasion in Allerton's Prairie Restoration area.

As of the writing of this article the unit has yet to be utilized for rx burning. The unit was shipped without antifreeze damaging the pump. The spring burn season had concluded prior to replacement of all damaged components. Rx burning did not occur in the fall due poor conditions.