



Bay Shore Blufflands Buckthorn Blast: A Community Conservation Project

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Introduction

Door County Land Trust and Bay Shore Property Owners Association implemented a multi-year community conservation project to eradicate non-native common and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus spp.*) and exotic honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*) at the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve in Door County, WI. Buckthorn, among other invasive species, are threatening the health of the nature preserve and surrounding lands. The Bay Shore Blufflands Buckthorn Blast community conservation project is a pilot program for future neighborhood collaborations for land management and restoration. This project will promote landscape scale initiatives to engage the community in our work with a goal to expand the scope beyond the nature preserve to privately owned land to better impact the community, economy and environment.

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Project Goals and Activities

Door County Land Trust and Bay Shore Property Owners Association hosted a Blast Community Kick-off event in September 2017 with a goal to mobilize local residents to be active stewardship partners with Door County Land Trust by increasing their knowledge, skills and commitment for the ultimate restoration of this important preserve and surrounding landscape.

Door County Land Trust hosted a special preserve hike with an invasive species expert for the neighborhood association Board of Directors.

The Blast Kick-off event was followed by three volunteer work parties to train, educate and eradicate non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle at Bay Shore Blufflands.

Newsletters were sent to the community announcing the events, educational opportunities and hike.

A special assessment of flora and fauna was conducted to determine best management practices for control.



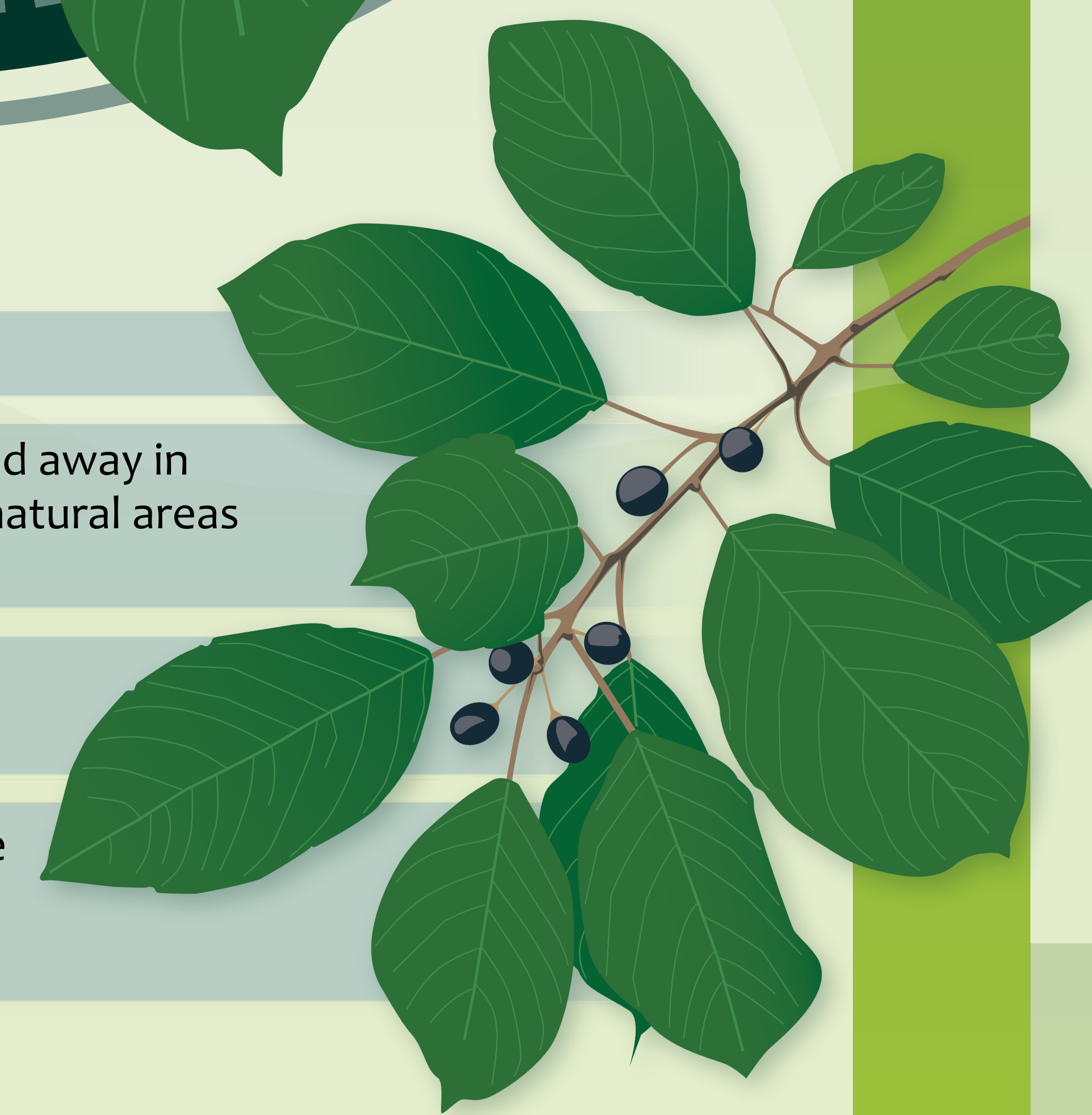
Why control buckthorn?

Buckthorn is a fast growing perennial shrub

Buckthorn berries are eaten by birds or washed away in storm water and eventually find their way to natural areas or other undesired locations.

Once seeds take hold, the plants spread aggressively and out compete native plants.

Eventually buckthorn may take over the entire understory by preventing regeneration, displacing native plants wildlife depends on.



Results

- The neighborhood association was provided with information from Door County Invasive Species Team and Door County Land Trust
- The Blast Kick-off event reached more than 40 community members who received educational materials, plant identification materials and buckthorn and honeysuckle control information.
- The neighborhood association published two articles in their neighborhood newsletter which led to local residents to propose special family and children's events that they are willing to organize.
- Blast Work Parties included 17 volunteers, most who attended all three work parties; 44 volunteer hours were accumulated over the three work parties.
- A local contractor began treatment at Bay Shore Blufflands in December 2017. The contractor treated 44 acres in December 2017 and 88 acres in January and February 2018. The remaining 101 acres will be treated in 2018.
- Door County Land Trust will utilize their Stewardship Endowment Fund for long-term land management at Bay Shore Blufflands.
- Door County Land Trust hosted a second community conservation event modeling the vision of the Bay Shore Blufflands Buckthorn Blast.



Conclusions

- The Buckthorn Blast project pilot program for future community conservation endeavors, connecting residents to their neighboring preserve while implementing a systems approach to restoration.
- Community conservation has aided in achieving a larger impact by establishing a landscape-scale effort to reach a common goal, eradication of non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle. This will enhance the work of Door County Land Trust by expanding initiatives to neighbors and community members to benefit the economy, community and environment in Door County.
- The Blast Kick-off event and Blast Volunteer Work Parties have broadened Door County Land Trust's reach and have established a meaningful impact and a lasting relationship with community members and neighbors of Bay Shore Blufflands.

Funding

The community conservation effort is supported in part by funds from the Bay Shore Property Owners Association and a Land Trust Excellence and Advancement Partnership (LEAP) grant through Gathering Waters and the Land Trust Alliance. Door County Land Trust will match these grants as well as utilize funds from Door County Land Trust's Stewardship Endowment Fund.

Acknowledgments

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Door County Invasive Species Team
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Door County Land Trust
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