

## Restoring Your Woodland to Health

- 1) **Evaluate current conditions**
  - a. Google Earth, Bing images and/or Dane County DCI Maps:
  - b. <http://dcimap.countyofdane.com>
  
- 2) **Research site history**
  - a. Original Surveyors Notes:
  - b. Historic Aerial Images: <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/>
  
- 3) **Develop target for restoration**
  
- 4) **Clear invasive brush**
  
- 5) **Remove aggressive/overabundant trees**
  
- 6) **Control herbaceous invasive species**
  
- 7) **Reintroduce a prescribed fire regime**
  
- 8) **Reintroduce extirpated wildflowers and grasses**
  
- 9) **Monitor and maintain**

### **General Oak Woodland/Savanna Information:**

- *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by Steve Packard & Cornelia F. Mutel
- *Restoring Ecological Health To Your Land* by Steven I. Apfelbaum and Alan Haney
- Pleasant Valley Conservancy's Website: <http://pleasantvalleyconservancy.org/>
- Vestal Grove's Blog: <http://vestalgrove.blogspot.com/>
- Strategies for Stewards: from woods to prairies: <http://woodsandprairie.blogspot.com/>
- Wisconsin DNR Oak Woodland Community Description: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Communities.asp?mode=detail&Code=CTFOR010WI>

### **Weed Management:**

- Good Oak's Weed ID Sheets Page: <http://goodoak.com/weeds>
- Frank's advice on Garlic Mustard Eradication: <http://goodoakllc.blogspot.com/2013/04/eradicating-garlic-mustard-requires.html>
- Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest by Elizabeth Czarapata
- *Weeds of the Midwestern United States & Central Canada* by Bryson & DeFelice, eds.
- Wisconsin DNR's Invasive Plants Page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/>
- National Park Service's Weeds Gone Wild Site: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>
- The Organic Weed Management Website: <https://weedecology.css.cornell.edu/manage/>

### **Plant Identification:**

- *Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region* by Merel R. Black & Emmet J. Judziewicz
- *Kane County Wild Plants and Natural Areas* by Dick Young
- *Spring Woodland Wildflower of the UW-Madison Arboretum* by Andrew L. Hipp
- *Illinois Wildflower* by Don Kurz
- *Trees of Michigan* by Linda Kershaw
- *Michigan Trees* by Burton V. Barnes and Warren H. Wagner, Jr.
- *Wild Berries and Fruits Field Guide* by Teresa Marrone
- *Edible and Medicinal Wild Plants of Minnesota and Wisconsin* by Matthew Alfs
- John Hilty's Illinois Wildflowers Site: <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/>
- Flora of Wisconsin: <http://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/>
- Wisconsin State Herbarium: <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/herb/>

## Evaluating Current Conditions

What wildflowers can tell you about woodland health.

### Healthy

bloodroot  
spring beauty  
trout lily  
trillium  
hepatica  
woodland phlox  
large flowered bellwort  
blue cohosh  
doll's eyes  
ramps  
golden alexanders  
shooting star  
American bellflower  
bottlebrush grass  
horse gentian  
purple milkweed  
poke milkweed  
figwort  
culver's root  
yellow giant hyssop  
tall thistle  
blue-flowered asters

### Neutral

wild geranium  
solomon's seal  
mayapple  
Jack-in-the-pulpit  
small-flowered buttercup  
wood nettle  
woodland sunflower  
American pokeweed  
side-flowering aster

### Degraded (if abundant)

white snakeroot  
wood avens  
enchanters nightshade  
stickseed  
tall nettle  
ragweed

### Invaded

garlic mustard  
dames rocket  
motherwort  
celandine  
Japanese hedge parsley  
bull thistle  
Canada thistle  
burdock  
deadly nightshade  
creeping Charlie

## Tool Recommendations:

### Brush Cutters:

- **Stihl MS131** or equivalent, with “bicycle handlebars”
- **Beaver Blades, 8”**: MUCH better than standard brush blades!

### Chain Saws:

- small saw: **Stihl MS192, MS180** or equivalent
- medium saw: **Stihl MS250, MS290** or equivalent

### Hand Cutting:

- hand saws: **ARS Cam 24 Pro** or **Silky Zubat 270**
- loppers: **Hickock** or **Stihl**
- clippers, high-quality: **ARS VS-7z** or **ARS VS-8z** or **Felco** (worth the investment)
- clippers, low-cost: **Growtech Economy** or **Felco F5** (if you tend to lose tools)
- clippers, Good Oak’s staff pick: **ARS HP-130DX** (median price and lightweight)
- also, get a holster for your hand clippers, always keep them handy, less likely to lose them, protect them from damage and prevent them from cutting holes in your pockets!

### Hand Sprayers:

- high-quality: **Tolco 492** or **Birchmeier Spray-Matic 1.25 P**
- low-cost: **Ace Hardware** “red top” hand sprayer

### Backpack Sprayers:

- **Hudson SP2** or **Birchmeier**
- **Deluxe Shoulder Saver Harness** from Forestry Suppliers is worth every penny!

### Weeding Tools:

- **Nisaku No. 650 Hori-Hori** for general weeding and utility
- **Nisaku No. 120 Precision Weeder** for popping out garlic mustard roots!
- **Parsnip Predator** for large, tap-rooted weeds and small shrubs

You can find many of these at: <http://goodoak.com/store>