

Plant Walk Notes 7/2/19

Plants Of Note

- Star Thistle
- Japanese Knotweed
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Virginia Creeper
- Red Pine Plantation
- Lady Ivy

Meadows

- European brome grass dominant, lots of Star Thistle as well, some Orchard Grass
 - Brome useful only for cattle grazing, otherwise doesn't feed much else or house much else besides crickets
 - Orchard grass common for haying
 - Tree seedlings are outcompeted, have difficulty establishing amidst the brome rhizome mat
 - Brome also pops up a lot faster spring and competes too vigorously for light and nutrient
 - This is why the forest doesn't seem to be encroaching upon the meadow
- Red plants = *Rumex*
- Timothy Grass
- Quack Grass - *Elemsans ripens*
- Native Grasses
 - Poverty Oats
 - *Mellica smithii* - understory grass
- Ideas/Other Notes
 - Linked nuclei approach to jump start perennial native grass / wildflower succession
 - Pondliner/tarp epicenter zone for full growing season, uncover for winter, then another 6 weeks as snow is melting
 - Plant densely with desirables, plow the perimeter to knock back brome rhizomes
 - Use plowing of perimeter to knock back brome every 1-2 years as center begins to self seed, grow outwards from there
 - Link these nuclei with strips of hugel highways for rapid desirable seed movement

Southeast Forest

- Species Observed
 - Pokeweed
 - Virginia Creeper
 - Native, likely expands after the canopy was opened during logging

- Yellow Dock
- Bitter Dock
- Sweet Cicily
- Jack In The Pulpit
- Cleaver - medicinal?
- Beech
 - 99.9% dying
 - Recommended practice to cut down clonal shoots after main tree has died as they will outcompete other trees for that space, but eventually succumb to the blight, "Death Cycle"
 - ***Can we view this as the larger forest ecosystem trying to heal itself and reestablish deeper soil fertility with accelerated rates of growth, death and decay? Might this actually be helpful in creating healthy soil for other members of the forest to do well?***
 - Beech blight is ~ 10 years into Leelanau county
 - Now 30+ years in Maine, they are in their second wave dying with clonal regrowth being infected
 - If possible to let die and leave standing they serve as great homes - insects, woodpeckers, vertical mushroom towers
 - Possible substitute is white oaks? Have some decent resistance to the Oak Wilt
 - Red Oaks faster growing, but have less resistance
 - Hickories another good mast substitution, but need sun to get established
- Hemlock
- White Pine - need decent soil fertility for seeds to establish
- Yellow Birch
 - Add in wetter, lower lying areas
- Red Elderberry
 - Fence when young to get tops above deer browse height, then it will take off and grow rapidly and deer can browse understory
 - Good edge plant, fruits with sun
- Maiden Fern
- Blue Cohosh
- Foam Flower - groundcover, creeper
- Geraniums
- Sweet William / Herb Robert
 - *Geranium robertianum*
- Jewel Weed = wet indicator
- Fern - *Homalosorus pycnocarpus*
- Wild Sasparilla - *Orelia racemosa?*
- Red Trillium
- Fragile Fern

- Rattlesnake Fern
- Veinberry
- Myrtle (planted/dumped)
- Some *Fabaceae* type woody plants growing near SW prop boundary along roadside
 - Leaves looked like honey locust pattern
- Peduncled Sedge
- Poplars
- Other Notes/Ideas
 - Dropping dead beech trees important if kids programs are going to be in the area - have a propensity to fall suddenly without warning sometimes
 - Investigate *auracaria bidwillii* as a potential non-native but appropriate Zone 4 perennial food source
 - Old logging roads are often very compacted, have had top soil scraped
 - Hugeling across contour on these stretches for rapid soil creation

Savannah

- Species
 - Black/Austrian Pine
 - Best to remove, create monoculture zones under their canopies, will prevent native forest (more diverse) from encroaching into open zones
 - No wildlife value
 - Sumac
 - Horsemint
 - Balsam Poplar
- Other Notes / Ideas

Creek / Swamp

- Species
 - Goldenrod
 - Rough leaf, Giant, Yellow, Red
 - Milkweed
 - Jopai Weed
 - Grape
 - Virginbauer - *Clematis virginiana*
 - Willow
 - Horsetails - *Equisetum sp.*
 - *hyemale, scirpoides (10), arvensi*
 - Canada Thistle
 - Be careful if creating soil disturbance around these plants - they have a voracious rhizominous root system and will quickly dominate open ground
 - As of now they can't compete with the density of vegetation

- Swamp Aster - *symphiotracum firmum*
- Deadly Nightshade - *Solanum sp.*
- Bog Birch
- Calciphiles
 - *Pyrola aserifolia*
 - *Osmunda regalis* - Royal Fern
 - *Scirpus atrovirens* - Sedges
 - Japanese Knotweed
 - Spikegrass
 - Swamp Avens - *Geum polestrens*
 - Goldenrod, likes ph 7.5 - 8.3
 - *Grassa parnassus*
- Buckthorn - *Rhamnus alnifolia*
- Cottongrass
- Swamp Raspberry - Dewberry - *Rubus pubescens*
- Cedars
- Bulblet ferns
- Other Ideas / Notes
 - Induced Meandering for creek
 - David Rosgen's Work
 - Mulloon Creek & Peter Andrews
 - MichiganFlora.net for conservation value information, plant lists

Locust Land

- Species
 - Black Locust
 - Glassleaf Fernwort - 10
 - *Prunus sp.*
 - Serviceberry - large
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