



2012 WEED SMACKDOWN

fun, community events to control non-native, invasive plants!

In conjunction with Alaska Invasive Weed Awareness Week in 2010, Alaska's first Weed Smackdown event helped contain the spread of non-native, invasive plants in Fairbanks. Since then, awareness of the problem (and the number of events) has grown, with four Weed Smackdown events scheduled for 2012. Each offers a fun, friendly competition among teams comprised of members from community organizations, businesses, and unaffiliated individuals who all have one thing in common: the desire to spare Alaska the economic and ecological impacts of invasive species. Participants will not only enjoy fresh air, exercise, fun, free food, and fabulous prizes, but will also help control or eradicate these weed invaders.

The introduction and spread of invasive species can cause economic and environmental harm, and harm to human health. Invasive plants spread aggressively and out-compete natives for growing space. Some plants (including European bird cherry, reed canarygrass, and white sweetclover) can harm native wildlife, while others (such as Canada thistle and giant hogweed) can harm people with thorns and cause painful rashes. Aquatic invasive species, like Elodea (a genus of waterweed that can overtake lakes and slow moving rivers and sloughs) have been shown to harm salmon and their habitat. Unfortunately, some of the major cities in Alaska have provided "base camps" for invasive species that are poised to spread across the state and damage Alaska's valuable natural resources.

You can help prevent the spread of invasives by attending one of the 2012 Weed Smackdown Events! If you can't make it, help by spreading the word. If you plan on visiting Alaska, be sure to bring felt-free wading boots and rid your shoes/clothing/gear of hitchhikers (like seeds) before you arrive!

First up, the Anchorage Weed Smackdown: Last year, over 120 participants controlled ~30 cubic yards of European bird cherry (an estimated 20,000 pounds)...The tallest tree pulled out of the ground was 36 feet tall, and the longest root was 9 feet long (right).

When: This Saturday, June 16, from 10AM-1PM

Where: Valley of the Moon Park (along Chester Creek near 17th & E)

What: Help the native flora and fauna of Chester Creek by pulling invasive European Bird Cherry along the creek; then enjoy free Moose's Tooth pizza for registered participants!

Register for the Anchorage event in advance @ www.weedwar.org/ to get in the running to win some fabulous prizes, including:

- 7 hour Kenai Canyon rafting trip for 2 (Alaska Wildland Adventures)
- 3 hour Nenana River rafting trip for 2 (Denali Outdoor Center)
- Trip for 2 to Seward (Alaska Railroad)
- 5 hour Resurrection Bay cruise for 2 (Major Marine Tours)



Last years "longest root" winner (at the first annual Anchorage Weed Smackdown event. Come to a 2012 event to help Alaska's native fish and wildlife and have some fun!

2012 Alaska Weed Smackdown Events:

Anchorage: Saturday, June 16 from 10am-1pm @ Valley of the Moon Park

Contact (907) 441-7366 or visit info@weedwar.org

Register at: www.weedwar.org

Kenai Peninsula (Seward): Saturday, June 30 from 11am-1pm @ Seward Middle School

Contact Cheryl Anderson: (907) 260-0129 / Cheryl_Anderson@fws.gov or Jen Kain: sewardweeds@yahoo.com

Palmer: Saturday, July 7 from 11:30am-4:00pm @ Matanuska River Park

Contact Louisa Branchflower: (907) 745-1636 or pswedtech@gmail.com

Fairbanks: Saturday, July 14 from 10am-1pm @ Tanana Lakes Recreation Area

Contact Darcy Etcheverry: (907) 479-1213 (x104) / FCWMA.tech@gmail.com;

Register at: www.weedsmackdown.wordpress.com

Sponsors and partners include:

Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (Alaska CANWIN), Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Division of Forestry, Alaska Division of Agriculture, Alaska Railroad, Alaska SeaLife Center, Alaska Wildland Adventures, Anchorage Cooperative Weed Management Area, Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage Waterways Council, ConocoPhillips, Denali Outdoor Center, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District, Major Marine Tours, Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance, UAA Alaska Natural Heritage Program, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and others.

