

# Treeways

May 2012

Six years ago Jeannine and I began removing a huge honeysuckle, thistle, and buckthorn mess and have since planted literally hundreds of smaller and larger bare root trees and shrubs. We have planted a variety of red and white oaks, disease resistant elms, hackberry, basswood, black cherry, river birch, paper birch, quaking aspen, viburnums, red maple, sugar maple, wild plum, chokecherry, hazelnut, Juneberry, raspberry, white pine. Scotch pine, Norway spruce, white spruce, amur cherry, pussy willow, dogwoods, chokeberry, serviceberry, Kentucky coffeetree, weeping willow, bald cypress, larch, apples, pears, cherries, apricots, peaches, and several types of mountain ash with edible fruit (different species not susceptible to EAB). Who thought managing buckthorn and honeysuckle could be so much fun. We now have less lawn to mow, more fresh seasonal fruit, more wildflowers, more butterflies, and more birds.

Successful tree and shrub planting methods for reforesting Sunfish Lake woodlands includes using well adapted plant materials, getting quality live trees and shrubs, installing a large enough number of plants to make a difference, keeping them well watered for at least the first year, and protecting them from animals while they become established.

## **Invasive species and weed control:**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has a huge amount of information on-line regarding weeds, invasive species, their biology and how to control them. If the amount of information seems overwhelming, call me and I will help you sort out a reasonable management plan.

In Sunfish Lake **burdock** is very invasive in grasslands, ditches, roadsides, and along woodland, pond and waterway edges. Burdock is not a problem in lawns and gardens that are regularly cultivated or managed for other weeds because it needs to grow undisturbed for two years to produce the tall flower stalks and burs that contain a new generation of seed. Much of its success as an invasive weed is due to its huge leaves that effectively shade out native plant competition.

## **Recommended Controls:**

1. Reduce seed production by mowing or cutting off plants at the ground when they are flowering but before they have begun to set seed. Over a period of years, mowing to prevent seed production will effectively reduce large stands of burdock.
2. Older plants can be controlled with **spot treatments** of 2,4-D or dicamba or Trimec at labeled rates.
3. Young burdock plants can be controlled with **spot treatments** of Roundup at label rates.

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