



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Invasive Plant Action Award Winners Announcement

Hermann, MO (October 4, 2021) — The Missouri Invasive Plant Council (MoIP) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Invasive Plant Action Awards. MoIP established the Invasive Plant Action Award program to recognize the outstanding work being done in Missouri to control invasive plant species. The Action Awards celebrate exceptional effort and leadership in the field, and also serve as a way to demonstrate to the broader community how controlling the spread of invasive plants on Missouri farms, forests, woodlands, prairies, gardens, parks, neighborhoods, roadsides, and along waterways is very possible and very important land stewardship. Members of MoIP evaluate nominations and select winners annually. The awards are split into four categories: Individual Citizen or Individual Organization; Individual Professional; Group Collaborators; and Researchers.

Our 2021 MoIP Award Winners

The **Watershed Conservation Corps** is the winner of the Individual Organization category, awarded to an individual or single entity that has demonstrated progress in reducing invasive plants over at least two years. The nominator, Brendan Brothers, described the Watershed Conservation Corps as “a mission-driven program that hires teams of young people to complete projects tackling invasive plant management via grants and cooperative agreements with partners throughout the Ozarks.”

Linda Lehrbaum is the winner of the Individual Professional category, awarded to a natural resources professional who has demonstrated progress in reducing invasive plants over at least two years. The nominator, Kathy Gates, said, “In the Kansas City Region, Linda Lehrbaum’s name is synonymous with outstanding land stewardship, including invasive plant removal.” Matt Garrett, a Johnson County Park & Recreation District Field Biologist, in his support letter, agreed: “You can’t talk about invasive species, natural areas, or volunteering in the Kansas City region without talking about Linda Lehrbaum. Since the formation of KC Wildlands, Linda has had the unique ability to take any novice volunteer and have them remove invasive species for a day and leave the site with a deep understanding of the natural history of the park site.”

Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri is the winner of the Group Collaborators category, awarded to a collaborative network working together to fight the spread of invasive plants in a particular geographic area. The mission of the Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri is to conserve the streams, forests, grasslands, and farmlands that represent our distinctive landscape for present and future generations.

“There are many individuals and groups carrying out impressive invasive species control in every part of the state,” says Carol Davit, chair of MoIP and executive director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation. “MoIP recognizes those doing exemplary work via the Invasive Plant Action Awards program, and we especially enjoy honoring awardees by presenting awards at events of the awardees’ choosing, in front of their peers.”



For more information about the 2021 Invasive Plant Action Award Winners, please visit <https://moinvasives.org/2021/09/21/announcing-our-2021-invasive-plant-action-award-winners/>

About MoIP

The Missouri Invasive Plant Council (MoIP) advocates for making early detection and control of known and potential invasive plants a statewide priority. In 2015, the Missouri Prairie Foundation's [Grow Native!](#) program spearheaded this multi-agency, multi-industry networking and advocacy group to bolster statewide efforts to identify and control the invasive plants that severely impact several sectors of the Missouri economy and native biodiversity. The purpose of the council—working as a united, supportive front—is to review, discuss, and recommend educational and regulatory action related to managing known and potential non-native invasive plants. Representatives from the fields of conservation, agriculture, botanical science, ecological services, plant production, horticulture, landscape services and design, and arboriculture make up the council.