



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What Has Wandered Into Pikes Peak? Garlic mustard, Japanese barberry & multiflora rose are invasive species hurting the native ecosystem

CLAYTON COUNTY, Iowa (May 6, 2019) — The majestic view of Iowa and Wisconsin’s native landscape is compromised by invasive species, and during a special tour, forestry experts will show landowners and nature enthusiasts how to protect our native ecosystem.

What Has Wandered Into Pikes Peak? Field Day and Garlic Mustard Pull will be on Thursday, May 23, 2019, from 4 - 8 p.m. (registration starts at 3:30 p.m.) at Pikes Peak State Park in McGregor, Iowa.

“Invasive plants, such as garlic mustard, Japanese barberry and multiflora rose, are crowding out native plants,” said Brad Riphagen, Trees Forever Program Manager. “You can see this first-hand during our field day. Participants will even grab a pair of gloves and help us pull garlic mustard.”

Garlic mustard can totally dominate the forest floor within five to seven years of its introduction, and these dense colonies shade out native wildflowers and seedlings. This invasive plant is one of many hurting the native ecosystem.

“These plants are a big problem in our parks and on private land,” said Kenny Slocum, Naturalist with Clayton County Conservation Board. “We want to help woodland owners identify these invasive plants and learn how to remove them.”

The \$10 registration fee covers dinner and handouts. Participants are asked to dress for the weather, as the event will continue rain or shine. Register online at www.TreesForever.org/WanderedIntoYourWoods.

This event is possible thanks to a partnership between Trees Forever, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, Syngenta’s Operation Pollinator, Clayton County Conservation Board and Pikes Peak State Park.

For more information, contact: Jeff Jensen via email at jjensen@treesforever.org or by phone at 515-320-6756.

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Trees Forever is a nonprofit organization nationally headquartered in Marion, Iowa. We are dedicated to planting trees, encouraging volunteer and youth involvement and environmental stewardship. For 30 years, we’ve been planting a better tomorrow. For more information, visit www.treesforever.org or call 800-369-1269.