

Wayne Spreads Woodsy's Message: Give a Hoot, Give Weeds the Boot

Wayne National Forest talks to Earth Day participants about the impact of invasive plants.



Athens Assistant District Ranger, Jason Reed, talks to kids about invasive plants.

Wayne National Forest joined the annual Earth Day Celebration in Marietta Ohio on April 21. Forest Service employees Jason Reed and Becky Stewart spent the day teaching participants about non-native invasive plants that occur on the Wayne National Forest, their impacts on native plant and animal species and what people can do to prevent them.

Following Woodsy's lead, Jason and Becky passed on the message "Give a Hoot, Give Weeds the Boot"! Displays were created by Teena Ligman from

artwork by Juliette Watts from the NE Area State and Private Forestry for the event. Displays emphasized four common invasives found on the Marietta unit of the Wayne National Forest: tree-of-heaven, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry and Oriental bittersweet. Overall 200 coloring/activity books on invasive species were handed out to willing children. Adults collected handouts on invasive plants and how to identify them. Questions about what invasives are here, what to look for and how to treat them were answered by Wayne National Forest staff.

With over 300 participants attending the Earth Day event, southeast Ohio gained more eyes to look for invasives -- what a better place to get the word out about non-native invasive species than on Earth Day?