Impact Project Report

Brumley South Preserve Restoration Project

Issue

Master Naturalist, Laura Kiefer, through her work as a volunteer chapter leader with the Tri-County Conservationists “TCC” (a community chapter of the NC Wildlife Federation) has seen so many parks and natural areas begin overrun by invasive plants. To address this, she embarked on a collaboration between the chapter leaders of TCC and Steven Feuerstein of ReWild NC to clear invasives and replant natives in TLC’s Brumley South Preserve.

Project

TCC chapter leaders, along with many other volunteers, in the fall of 2025 started regularly helping to remove the remaining invasives near Brumley’s School House of Wonder entrance and the nearby trails. They cleared and fenced 11 areas designated “Oases”. They removed privet and stilt grass plus other invasives inside and around the Oases. They put up 4 ft metal fencing, harvested tall bamboo stakes to augment the fencing, and then strung blue tape between the bamboo stakes to about 7 ft tall to keep the deer out. Last Dec-Feb they planted (with a lot of volunteer help) over 500 native saplings and shrubs. The plants included Oak and Hickory species, Black Cherry, Black Gum, American Hornbeam, American Hazelnut, Spicebush, Silky Dogwood, Witch Hazel, Paw Paw, Viburnum, Serviceberry, Elderberry, Possumhaw Holly, New Jersey Tea, Red Chokeberry, and Buttonbush.



Results

Unfortunately, a drought started last fall and persisted through the winter and summer. Dedicated volunteers lugged water to the baby native plants in the spring and through the hot summer months. Thankfully, hundreds of the native plants survived! In addition to the benefit the wildlife will derive from the native plants, Laura was moved and uplifted by the huge community support. They had over 60 volunteers on MLK day in Jan! Sometimes it rained and they worked through the rain. The fact that people were willing to go out all summer long, lugging water for the plants. Wow! Now they have begun work on Brumley Part 2 – clearing and fencing 5 more Oases and planting 500 more native trees and shrubs. One Oasis will be direct seeded rather than planted with the bare root plants. What an inspiration to work with so many like-minded people to improve habitat for wildlife!

Student

This project is the work of Laura Kiefer & Steven Feuerstein of Rewild NC

Highlight

Partner Organization

NC Wildlife Federation

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