

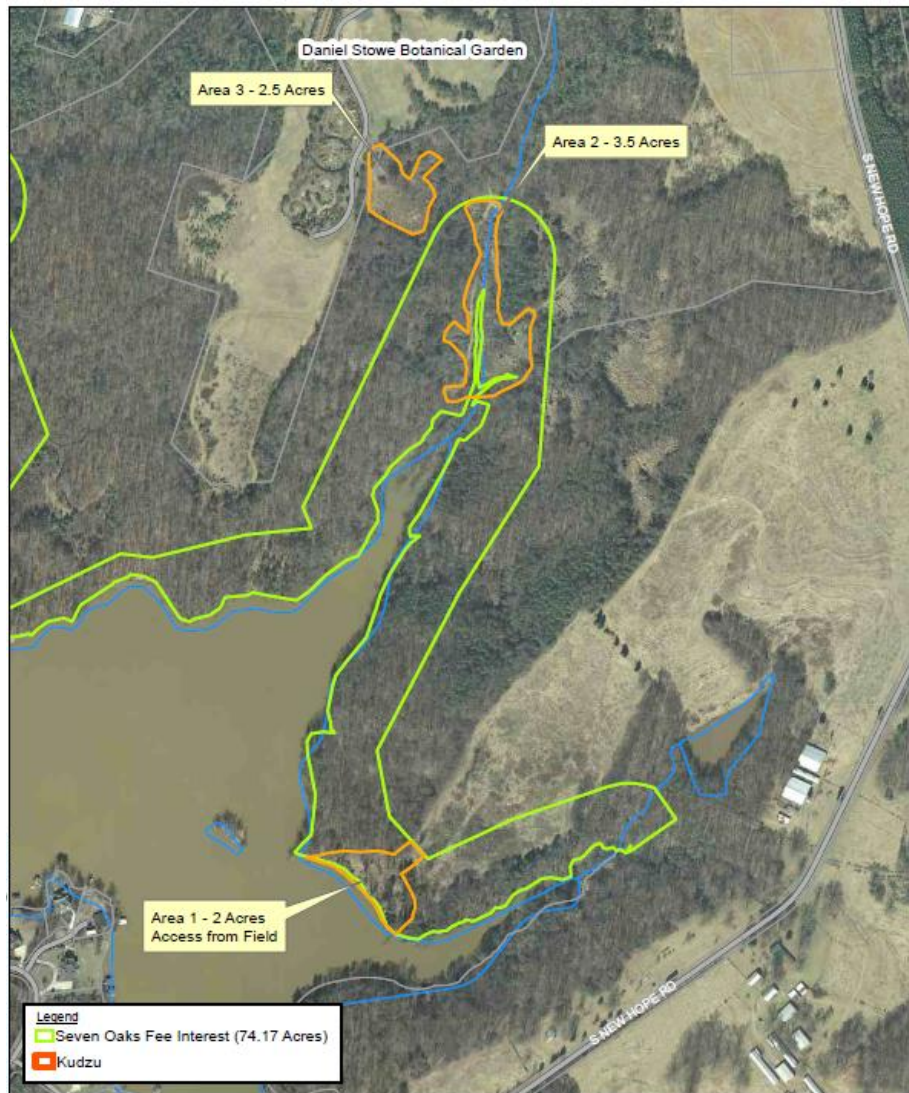


Success and Lessons Learned  
in Eradicating Kudzu

NC-IPC / SE-EPPC Regional Meeting  
2015



# Background



- \* CLC purchased property in July of 2011 utilizing funds from NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- \* While preparing a Baseline Documentation Report identified multiple areas with Kudzu
- \* Partnered with Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden and applied for grant to begin eradication.

# Methods of Control

## \* Biological

- Goats
- Hope for kudzu bugs



## \* Mechanical

- Bobcat mounted bush-hog
- Volunteer workdays



## \* Chemical

- Sprayed sprouts with Rodeo or Transline



# Goat Herding Experience

- \* Utilized a contract company out of Horse Shoe, NC
  - Cleared line and installed an electric fence (solar powered)
    - Fence partially included water source for goats and dog
  - Provided goats and a guard dog
  - CLC / DSBG fed guard dog twice a day
  
- \* Cost CLC about \$1,000-1,500/acre
  - 25 goats cleared 2 acres in 34 days
  - 50 goats cleared 6 acres in 51 days



# Schedule of Events

## Year 1 (2012)

- June/July – Used goats to clear biomass
- Late August – Used goats to clear biomass
- Fall – Worked with volunteers to cut & spray large vines in trees

## Year 2 (2013)

- Winter – Cleared area of dead trees, stumps, fence posts, etc.
- June – Bush-hogged area to prepare for mowing
- July & Aug – Alternate mowing and broadcast spraying Rodeo



# Success with Goats





# Success with Goats





# Success with Bush-hog







# Schedule of Events

## Year 3 (2014)

- July & Aug – Alternate mowing and spot spraying with Rodeo
- Continue to cut and spray vines out of trees with volunteers

## Year 2 (2015)

- Winter – Cut and spray vines out of trees with volunteers
- February – Mowed to clear vegetation
- March – Disked and sowed conservation seed blend of native grasses & wildflowers. Also planted ~200 tree saplings



# Final Results







# Final Thoughts

## Successes

- \* Goats were an excellent investment upfront
- \* Budget more time than you expect.
- \* Down to a few hours of work to spray kudzu sprouts.
- \* Goats are an huge PR WIN!

## Lessons Learned

- \* New invasive move in quickly
  - Be Ready!
- \* Transline is costly and doesn't work any better than Rodeo
  - Use sparingly
- \* Never turn your back on the kudzu!

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