

Supporting Useful Wild Plants in the Living Well Community Conservation Easement

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1. General strategies

- a) Establish 'Zone 5' areas where humans will not intervene
- b) Harvest and manage Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) gradually
- c) Replace Privet with useful, vigorous species, especially increasing herbaceous layer diversity
- d) Create gaps in the canopy to aid certain nut and fruit crops
- e) Increase genetic diversity and cross-pollination by planting more varieties
- f) Establish sun-loving plants at forest edges

2. Species to add

a) Honewort (*Cryptotaenia*)

- Native annual herb in celery family grows to about 18"
- Makes a delicious soup broth
- Thrives in riparian zones, forms colonies
- Establishment: collecting wild seeds and sowing patches along riparian zones

b) Groundnut/Hopniss (*Apios americana*)

- Native perennial leguminous vine
- Edible tubers (similar to new potatoes in sizes on wild plants, larger on cultivars)
 - **possibility that people can develop allergies to old or anaerobically grown tubers
- Very vigorous, can smother trees, but won't grow above 15'
- Establishment: plant tubers

c) Juneberries (*Amelanchier* spp.)

- Native perennial self-pollinating fruit ranging in size from 6' shrub to 50' tree
- Fruit ripens in early summer, flowers also very ornamental
- Do well in many different habitats, good potential in sunny forest openings
- Establishment: Transplant
- Thicket forming species may be a good option to replace privet and keep it from encroaching further

d) Medicinal herbs

- Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
 - Perennial herb forming dense, large colonies in sunny patches
 - Naturalized in most of US, very nutritious and a dynamic accumulator
 - Establishment: Transplant
 - Another potential substitute for privet's niche
- Ramps (*Allium tricoccum*)
 - Native spring ephemeral, does well in part shade
 - Establishment: Can be started from seed or transplanted
 - Good to interplant with other herbs, such as wild ginger
 - For sustainable harvesting, take only 1/7 of total patch
- Ginseng/Goldenseal
 - increase native herbaceous layer diversity
 - Establishment: Transplant, takes 5-7 years to mature, stock can be expensive so maybe start nursery on farm

e) Sunchoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)

- Native, spreading tuberous plant likes sun, so better at forest edge
 - Establishment: plant tubers
 - Plant only if it will be actively managed or contained
3. Species to increase and encourage:
 - a) Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
 - create gaps in canopy around existing pawpaws, add more varieties for cross-pollinating, attract more pollinators
 - b) Persimmon (*Diospyros virginia*)
 - plant cultivars or seeds along forest edges
 - c) Chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*)
 - plant cultivars in groves for cross-pollinating
 - d) Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
 - take cuttings and propagate
 - e) Hazel (*Corylus americana*)
 - add varieties for cross-pollinating
 - beware of squirrels
 - Hybrids of American and European hazels very vigorous

 4. Species to give more space
 - a) Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
 - b) Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
 - c) Sassafras (*Sasandra albidum*)
 - d) Hazel (*Corylus americana*)

 5. Species to be harvested and discouraged from spreading:
 - a) **Privet** (*Ligustrum sinsense*)
 - challenging because it suppresses herbaceous layers and canopy seedlings
 - Spreads by rhizomes, seeds carried by animals, stumps resprout
 - Management ideas:
 - Harvest liberally for goat fodder before plants go to seed
 - Clear-cut small patches and manage well by adding herbaceous and shrub species to prevent privet from reclaiming niche
 - Controlled burning, but plants may be too large and risky
 - b) Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
 - not as expansive as privet, but can strangle trees
 - Management ideas:
 - clear from plantings
 - feed to goats

 6. Strong potential yields
 - a) Tapping syrup trees: box elder, other maples, and walnut
 - b) Spicebush products
 - c) Wild food workshops

 7. Good potential yields:
 - a) Blackberries

- b) Acorns
- c) Hickory nuts
- d) Mushrooms
- e) Pawpaw
- f) Medicinal herbs
- g) Hazelnuts
- h) Nut oils
- i) Muscadine grapes
- j) Fruit wines and vinegars
- k) Medicinal trees
- l) Honey and other bee products
- m) Canegrass
- n) Ginseng and Goldenseal
- o) Ostrich fern