



Loving our Beautiful Woodlands Also Means Controlling Invasive Species

By Kathie Jarva, Chair, Woodlands Committee

The surroundings are surely a big part of why we all love to live in Greenbelt. In fact, the woodlands of GHI and Greenbelt are part of what make us unique in this dense and sprawling Metro area.



Volunteers gather after a successful work day clean up.

The GHI Woodlands Committee oversees and cares for the green and wooded spaces we all own, cooperatively. A Forest Stewardship Plan with the State of Maryland protects most of the GHI woods, assuring that the forest will not be sold, developed or otherwise removed from its natural state. One of the major responsibilities we have is controlling invasive species in the woods. It is a huge task that requires constant effort from the Committee, GHI members and GHI staff. Many of our monthly workdays (open to all members) focus on invasive removal. We also work to maintain and improve woodland trails, protect native species, counteract erosion, remove trash, and educate the public about the value of the woods around us. In addition, the Woodlands Committee works to create new spots of beneficial beauty in the green spaces around us, such as rain gardens and pocket parks which become new habitat for

pollinators, reduce water runoff, and save on mowing costs.

The Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7pm to 8:30pm and sponsors a members' workday on a Saturday or Sunday at a different site nearly every month. All GHI residents are welcome to attend and help with our efforts. It is also helpful if everyone alerts GHI staff to problems in the woods (for example: trees down across paths, dumping, camping, and burning.)

Visit the Woodlands Committee online at <http://ghi.coop/content/woodlands-committee> for more information about the activities, schedules, information about invasives, and more.

Below are some of the most common invasive plants in our woods and none have native enemies. Pull or cut them anytime you can but always protect yourself from poison ivy and ticks.

English Ivy - long green vines cover the forest floor and smother native wild flowers. The vines climb trees and smother them by blocking light or by sheer weight.

Trailing Honeysuckle vines - long vines on the forest floor, climb all upright vegetation and strangle it with tight girdling stems.

Multiflora Rose - very prickly bushes that grow very large and propagate themselves everywhere in our woods. Although they may provide some cover for small wildlife, they are of no food value and smother other beneficial plants. Their long stems will cover and block sunlight from other vegetation.

Vinca, aka Periwinkle - groundcover with purplish-blue (periwinkle blue) flowers. Spreads rapidly and can cover the forest floor in just a few seasons, choking out other wild flowers and small native plants foraged by woodland animals.



"Like" us on
Facebook
"Greenbelt Homes"

Subscribe to our eNewsletter for the most up-to-date information! Visit www.ghi.coop and click on "I Want To...Subscribe to GHI E-News"

Follow us on
Twitter:
"GHImgmt"



2014 Community Beautification Program Kicks Off

The annual Community Beautification Program is now in progress. The Program's primary goal is to ensure that our community always looks great for our neighbors and prospective new members. By complying with the *minimum yard maintenance standards* in the GHI member handbook (pages 36-37) you can help keep our co-op looking beautiful. Starting in mid-May, a GHI staff member will visit each member's yard (no advance notice is given) and leave an inspection report on the door knob of the service side entrance. The inspection report contains:

- Notification of "Pass" or "Your Yard Needs Some Work",
- Due dates for actions required
- The date for GHI staff to correct the deficiency, and
- Helpful information about how the process works, plus how to get assistance.

GHI's warehouse has some tools and supplies available to members for free which can help members maintain their yards and home exteriors.

So, what are the top five citations given each year?

5. BARE SPOTS in yard need to be seeded or planted with a ground cover.
4. TOYS/TOOLS need to be stored neatly in yard.
3. SIDING* needs to be cleaned to remove mold or mildew.
2. DEBRIS* or trash needs to be removed from yard area.

And the most common citation:

1. LAWN*: Grass/weed growth exceeds 8".

* *These issues can also be cited by the City of Greenbelt.*

If you have any questions about the Community Beautification Program, please contact GHI's Assistant Maintenance Manager, Evander Toney: 301-474-4161 ext. 129, or email etoney@ghi.coop; or GHI's CBP Inspector, Herb Jackson: 301-474-4161 ext. 139, email hjackson@ghi.coop.

Member Announcements

Changes in the GHI Maintenance Department

Matt Berres resigned his position with GHI effective May 14th. Matt started with us as a Landscape Specialist in 2004, leaving for a short time in 2008 to work for a non-profit in Annapolis. He returned in September 2008 as the Manager, Sustainability & Quality Assurance. After serving as the Maintenance Manager, he was promoted to the Director of Maintenance Operations by General Manager Eldon Ralph in 2011. We thank Matt for his services to GHI members, and wish him much success in his new job.

After a long recruitment effort: **Evander Toney** (email etoney@ghi.coop, phone Ext. 129) was hired as Maintenance Manager in April.

Effective May 15th, **George Bachman** (email gbachman@ghi.coop, phone Ext. 132) will serve as GHI's Acting Director of Maintenance Operations, and **Matt Thomas** (email mthomas@ghi.coop, phone Ext. 155) has been appointed Acting Contracts/Fee-For-Service Coordinator, thus assuring continuity in the service we provide to GHI members.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the GHI Administration Offices on Hamilton Place, and are open to all GHI members. Dates are subject to change.

June		
2	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
3	8:30 am	Yardlines Committee
6	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
8	12-3pm	Community Wide Open House
9	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
9	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
10	7:00 pm	New Member Social
11	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
17	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
18	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
20	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
23	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
25	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
28	11:00 am	Pre Purchase Orientation

* Emergency maintenance service is available outside of normal hours or when GHI is closed. Call 301-474-6011.

Spring Contract Work in GHI

Contractors are performing GHI's spring gutter cleaning and concrete sidewalk repair throughout the community this month. If you have questions or concerns about the work being done, contact Peter Joseph at 301-474-4161, ext. 141.

Writers Wanted: Communicator Newsletter

Do you enjoy reading this monthly newsletter? Out of 1,600 homes in the co-op, there are currently only four members producing this newsletter each month. The Communications Committee could use your ideas and help to continue to keep members informed of important issues and events. If you like to write and would be willing to contribute at least one article a year, please contact Lauren Cummings at lbcummin@hotmail.com. GHI is made stronger when we all contribute.



GHI Community-Wide Open House of Homes for Sale

Sunday, June 8th from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Pick up map and information at the Roosevelt Center, near the Farmer's Market.

Help us market this event to your friends, family and co-workers.