

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



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ARTHUR R. MARSHALL, LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Scouts Join In To Battle Invasives

As part of National Wildlife Refuge Week (October 13-19) two area scout troops are taking up the battle against invasive pest plants.

Local Senior Girls Scout Troop 853 from Boca Raton will be pulling cattail in one of the refuge impoundments on October 12. The impoundment had been planted with cypress tree seedlings as part of a cypress tree restoration project spearheaded by the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation. The scouts will be removing the rapidly growing cattail in order to give the young trees a chance to get established. The project is being led by Senior Girl Scout Amanda Alexandrich, who is in the Nova Service Unit of the Palm Glades Girl Scout Council, as part of her Gold Project.

On October 19, Senior Boy Scout Troop 325 will be removing exotic Brazilian pepper from the refuge along the L-40 Levee just south of the Headquarters boat ramps. Project Leader Stephen Alexandrich and his fellow scouts are part of the Gulf Stream Council in Boca Raton. The pepper removal is part of an Eagle Scout project. It is no coincidence that both Stephen and Amanda have the same last name. They are brother and sister and share an avid interest in protecting Florida's natural resources.

For more information call the Visitor Center at (561) 734-8303 or visit our web site at Loxahatchee.fws.gov.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of 538 national wildlife refuges. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife habitats

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for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management offices, and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

The Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System in 2003 marks the 100th anniversary of the world's largest network of lands and waters set aside to protect wildlife. From its beginnings at Florida's tiny Pelican Island, the Refuge System has grown to encompass hundreds of unique, spectacular and truly wild places that harbor diverse species and welcome more than 35 million visitors each year. To learn more, point your browser to <http://refuges100.fws.gov>.