

## Stewardship Work Day at North Oakland Headwaters Preserve

Young Birders club conducted a stewardship work day at the Kimball Preserve, a property owned by the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) on **September 22**. No young birders attended, however nine adults worked to control invasive species and planted native plants at the Preserve. The Nels Kimball Preserve is a 20-acre natural area along the Clinton River in Clarkston, Michigan. Oakland Audubon joined forces with the NOHLC to help the conservancy do stewardship on this preserve. The volunteer group armed with loppers and pruners **removed about three cubic yards of Glossy Buckthorn**. Small shrubs were also pulled by hand. Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) is an invasive shrub/small tree that grows in woodlands and along wetland edges. It grows rapidly and within a short time, forms dense thickets that outcompetes native plants. Native to Eurasia, Glossy Buckthorn was introduced as a wildlife planting, but soon its aggressive nature becomes apparent. This plant is difficult to control and negatively impacts native plants. Displays of spring wildflowers like trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit are replaced by monocultures of Glossy Buckthorn.



The group also planted milkweed; Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and Butterfly-Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Both species are favorites of Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators. This workday was one of many events throughout the Clinton River Watershed. The Clinton River Watershed Council sponsored this event and provided snacks and more. This was a great chance for Oakland Audubon to support stewardship in the community and assist non-profit agencies in preserving natural areas that birds need. Special thanks to **Kathleen Sexton** and **Jack Benson** from the Clinton River Watershed Council and **Sue Julian** from the NOHLC along with the volunteers who came to help.



Photos by Kathleen Dougherty & Buckthorn by B.S. Walters