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SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN STUDENTS TEAM-UP TO CONTROL INVADING MUSTARD

Traveling Trophy Passed to the 2021 Winning Team!

Eagle, WI, July 26, 2021 - The [2021 SEWISC Garlic Mustard Pull-a-Thon](#) was not a battle among giants but one among very young people! Two elementary schools were at the heart of this year's battle: Eagle Elementary School (Palmyra-Eagle District) and Woodside Elementary School (Hamilton District).

The [Eagle Nature Trail Team](#) won the competition in 2019 and will take back the title and trophy from the 2020 winners, [Mr. Dargatz's Nature Kindergarten Team](#) from Woodside Elementary School. The Eagle Nature Trail team enjoys the help of the Eagle Elementary School each year.

Team leaders will meet on Thursday, July 29 at the [Eagle Nature Trail](#) to pass the trophy at 4:45.

The Eagle Nature Trail team bested this year's 13-team competition with 2,520 pounds of garlic mustard and Dame's rocket pulled. That is 84 33-gallon garbage bags! The team also raised \$3250 raised for the fight against invasives in our woodlands.

Mr. Dargatz's team was the closest in this year's competition with 1515 pounds pulled.

In the two month-long effort through May and June, the Eagle Nature Trail team involved 181 people. Though both teams have adults involved in this competition, "the stars are the children. They are learning how to help nature through their actions, and as they carry that knowledge forward, they will become good land stewards." said Eagle Nature Trail Chair Jean Weedman.

To prepare the students and staff at Eagle Elementary School for the June 2 workday, the trail committee prepared door posters that pictured and described the weedy targets. Children each received a Weed Warrior badge after they finished at the trail.

Weedman added how proud she is of the team, "This year's total is our highest since we began our involvement with SEWISC's Garlic Mustard Pull-a-Thon in 2013! Our total through those years comes to **12,617** pounds of invasives removed from our woodlands!"

The Eagle Nature Trail team completed most of the work early this year, partly because of extreme heat making it very hard to work (and get volunteers!) by mid-June.

In May and June each year people of all ages go into the local woodlands to rescue our native plants from invading weeds. Those teams are organized through the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) to fight garlic mustard and Dame's rocket.

