

## What Can You do About it?

Stems can be pulled by hand or with the help of hand tools if the tree/shrub is small enough.

Once they become too large, it is necessary to cut the stems at soil level and then chemically treat the stem or cover it with a tin can or black plastic.

This can be done from spring to fall.

## Come volunteer with us!

### Volunteer Details

Buckthorn removal will consist of volunteers hauling buckthorn branches to a truck.

What to wear: Long pants, closed toed flat shoes, and gloves that can get muddy. Dress for the weather!

For safety reasons, we ask that one adult is present for every five youth K-8: and one adult is present for every three youth pre-K.

**Bring your friends, family, and/or associates to share this fun.**



Buckthorn Winter

Angela Anderson

# Supporters



## Volunteer to Remove Common Buckthorn



Angela Anderson

Buckthorn Flower

Buckthorn is an invasive plant that out-competes the native plants surrounding it for light, nutrients, and moisture. Its removal will allow native plants to grow.

## Yes! I would like to volunteer at buckthorn removal events!

Please return this portion to:

maria@riverkeepers.org or fax: (701) 235-2895  
River Keepers, 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Ste. B., Fargo, ND 58102

Event:

Participant Name/Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

### What is Buckthorn?

Buckthorn is an invasive plant brought to the United States from Europe and Asia. It was sold by nurseries as a common hedging material until the 1930s, when it was found to be invasive in natural habitats.

It thrives in wetlands, riparian (land adjacent to rivers and streams) areas, along roadsides, and pastures.

It serves as a host for other pests, and is hard to get rid of because its seeds can remain dormant in the soil for years.

Buckthorn is a tall understory shrub/tree that creates a dense shade and an impenetrable vegetation layer, which helps it out-compete many of the native plants surrounding it.

By preventing other plants from growing, buckthorn contributes to soil erosion.

It has multiple stems at its base, a loosely branched crown, small greenish-white flowers, yellow sapwood, and orange heartwood.

The two most common forms of Buckthorn found in Fargo-Moorhead are Common (European) Buckthorn and Glossy Buckthorn.

### What is an Invasive Species?

- Have negative impacts on the economy, the environment, and/or human health
- Thrive in environments they are not native to due to a lack of “natural controls”, allowing them to out-compete native species
- Can be a plant, animal, bacterium, or fungus living in an aquatic or terrestrial habitat
- Second largest threat to biodiversity
- Examples include: zebra mussels, silver carp, spiny water flea, purple loosestrife, saltcedar, and emerald ash borer

### Common (European) Buckthorn

- Grows to 25 feet tall
- Leaves are egg-shaped, smooth, dark, glossy, and finely-toothed
- Twigs often end in small, sharp, stout thorns
- Large, round, berry-like clusters of black fruit



Angela Anderson

Buckthorn Up Close

### Glossy Buckthorn

- Grows to 18 feet tall
- Leaves are oval, smooth, dark, glossy, and toothless
- No thorn at tip of twigs
- Small clusters of berry-like fruit that ripens to a distinctive red-brown to a dark purple

