Apr 11th, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Invasive Species Along the Rock Island Greenway

Conner Killian
Louisiana Tech University

Nathan Bolner
Louisiana Tech University

Ricky Brown
Louisiana Tech University

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Conner Killian[1], Nathan Bolner[2], Ricky Brown[3]

[1] *Forest Management, School of Agricultural Sciences & Forestry, Louisiana Tech University*
[2] *Wildlife Habitat Management, School of Agricultural Sciences & Forestry, Louisiana Tech University*
[3] *Wildlife Habitat Management, School of Agricultural Sciences & Forestry, Louisiana Tech University*

The Rock Island Greenway, also known as the Chatauqua Run, was named after the railroad that passed through known as The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway. Today a portion of this right-of-way is now a local park in Ruston, LA. The park runs North to South along Chatauqua Creek for one mile and has a crushed stone path throughout its entirety. The path is lined with many mature and understory native tree and shrub species, but invasive species have begun to move in. Species such as Chinese privet (Ligustrum sinense), Chinese tallow tree (Triadica sebifera), chinaberry (Melia azedarach), and kudzu (Pueraria lobate) have been detected and must be kept to a minimum to preserve the aesthetics and native species composition within the park. This area is being surveyed to find location, density, and species variation among invasive species.