

Control Burn,

March 15, 2018
Papakeechee Lake Wetland
By Joyce Arleen Corson



Thank you to qualified volunteers our burn was successful.

Until recent times, fire was a natural part of life for our native woodlands, wetlands, and prairies. They were often precipitated by Lightning strikes and considered normal. Ecosystems native to the Midwest depend on periodic fire events to rejuvenate growth and ensure long-term survival. The human nature tendency to suppress fire allows invasive plants (weeds) to out-compete our native grasses and flowers, therefore reducing plant and animal diversity.



Muskrat slithered to his den in Tri-3.



Fire is one of the best management tools for continued invasive plant control.

One of the most notable contained burning benefits is to maintain the health of an existing natural area containing native plants. The fire helps manage weeds and other growth and thus helps to reduce the risk of wildfires, but it also can help restore nutrients and help lead to more desirable plant growth in the future. Woodlands, prairies, and wetlands are perfectly natural communities for contained fires. Seeds pods are heated to the point they spring open and scatter seeds to desirable locations.

Spring and fall are the two primary seasons for burning. however burns can occur at any time from mid October through mid April. The spring burn season, usually the longest of the two, typically begins in early to mid March and runs through mid April. Prairies can be burnt well into April, but it's preferable to finish woodlands and wetlands by April 1st.

Technicians trained in controlled burning are an important asset.



Fall fires are typically conducted about two weeks following the first killing frost, usually around November 1st. The season lasts only until the first snow fall in early December. However, if conditions are appropriate, they can take place well into the winter.

Appropriate conditions include atmospheric conditions and time, which limits the scheduling of a burn to no more than one day in advance. Conditions to determine optimal burn weather include: Temperature of 28-70 degrees Fahrenheit, Humidity at 30-65%, Chance of precipitation of 20% or less, Wind Speed of 5-20mph and Wind Direction specific to the burn site.

Burning 70% of the preferred area will give credible treatment.



Burned area in Tri-County Game Preserve helps keep invasive plants from spreading.



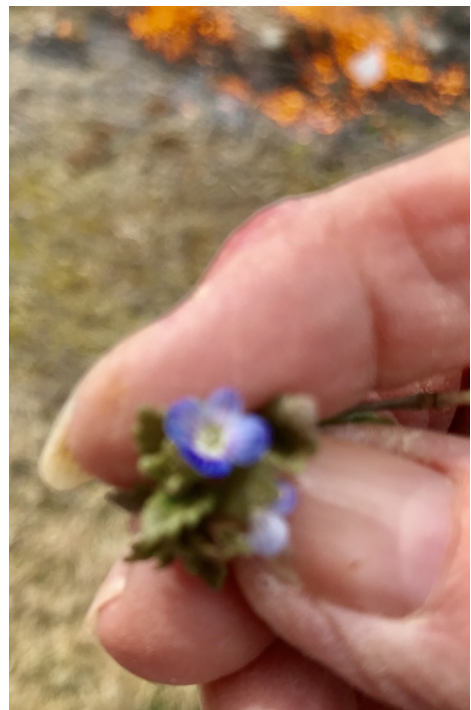
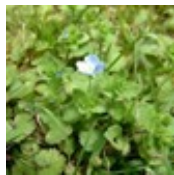
and Flowers

http://m.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=2614

Veronica: Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin vera 'truth' and iconic 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

Common Name(s) Scrambling speedwell, Persian speedwell and Baby Blue Eyes . This flower has four petals. Three are blue and one is white.

Living up to the name, victory, this flower speedwell definitely has been a success point to our wetland, this last inspection may not be needed. Blooming steadily along the birm of trisect three.



On Friday, March 16, I met with Bill Holder, Kosciusko County GIS Director and we worked on wetland maps that could be used for identification purposes. Most recent photo of our wetland was November, 2017. It is 0.24 acre of emergent wetland and is constructed on landward side of the reconstructed Lake Papakeeche dam. Not being a map maker I asked Bill to give me some direction. Exact marking is what I asked for and with the help of Landon Vine, WCC Scientist, we were able to get the exact shapefiles through email.

To build the dam 0.12 acres of wetland needed to be removed from the existing pond nearest the dam. We were required to add double that amount, 0.24 acres, of wetland mitigation area. When WCC measured the actual area of the mitigation wetland it turned out to be 0.28 acres.

