

Partnership/People

Spatterdock Collection for Habitat Restoration– River's Project

SUMMARY: Biologists from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Rivers Project Environmental Stewardship Team partnered to collect spatterdock from the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area for use in USACE habitat restoration projects. Spatterdock and other native aquatic vegetation have declined throughout the Upper Mississippi River floodplain due to altered hydrology, reduced water clarity, and invasive species. The collected plants will be used to enhance wetland and pond habitats at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, providing important cover, food sources, and breeding habitat for fish and wildlife. This effort also provides a cost-effective alternative to purchasing limited quantities of native aquatic plants from commercial sources.

COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES:

- Showcase a partnership effort to restore an important aquatic species that has experienced regional decline.
- Demonstrate a cost-effective solution to acquiring aquatic plants for habitat restoration.

KEY TAKAWAYS:

- Partnership opportunities allow agencies to leverage resources and expertise to achieve cost-effective and environmentally sound methods for habitat restoration.

PHOTOS:

Top Right and Left: USACE and MDC biologists collect native spatterdock by harvesting rhizomes and roots from an established population.

Bottom Left: Spatterdock is collected and transported in a water tank.

Bottom Right: Collected plants are placed in water basins and treated to prevent the spread of unwanted species before planting.

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