

Catoctin addresses exotics

Catoctin Mountain Park (Maryland), in cooperation with Hood College, initiated an exotic plant research project funded by a Canon-National Park Foundation Expedition Into the Parks grant awarded during 1999. The goal of this project is to develop a park management plan for exotic plants. During the 1999 field season, extensive survey work was completed of the park boundary, roadsides, and interior areas with the assistance of the Youth Conservation Corps. Permanent vegetation plots were established to monitor the spread of exotics.

Four experimental plots were also established to evaluate control measures of hand pulling, herbicide treatment, and torching for three invasive species; Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, and Japanese stilt grass. Data analysis is underway, and

the success of the control techniques will be assessed in 2000 following the next growing season. Preliminary results indicate a strong correlation between the spread of Japanese stilt grass and disturbance in the form of roads and trails.