

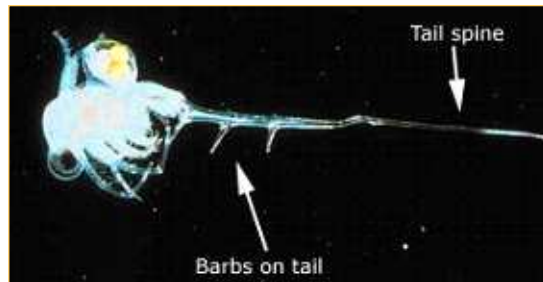
The Conservation Corner

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A publication developed to highlight
HCSWCD conservation efforts,
programs and events.
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Spiny Water Flea Invades Sacandaga Lake

The Spiny Water Flea (SWF) has recently been confirmed in Sacandaga Lake, in addition to the Great Sacandaga Lake, Peck Lake, and Stewarts Bridge Reservoir.



This invasive crustacean is native to Eurasia. Even though this organism is only half an inch in length, its impact on aquatic ecosystems is devastating.



Fleas on monofilament

Barbs on the tail spine are thought to make the SWF unpalatable for small fish. These invaders eat native zooplankton (microscopic aquatic animals) which fish depend on for food.

Rapid reproduction results in gargantuan populations of SWF in lakes. Warm water temperatures during the summer allow females to lay 10 eggs every 2 weeks. Eggs withstand

freezing and drying, and are hardy enough to overwinter and hatch the following spring. Asexual reproduction occurs where offspring hatch from eggs produced by the female that are not fertilized by a male, and all offspring are female clones of their mother. In addition, eggs hatch after being consumed and excreted by birds or fish.

Eggs and adults are spread to new lakes via bilge water, bait buckets, livewells, fishing gear, water craft, and trailers. They foul fishing gear by attaching themselves to monofilament, clogging eyelets, and hindering fish from being landed. SWF disrupts the food chain by consuming native zooplankton species and causing small fish to shift their diet. Scientists do not know how to manage SWF infestations, and no known eradication methods exist. Spread prevention is key to stopping new infestations in Hamilton County lakes.

STOP the Spread!

CHECK your gear, boat, equipment, and trailer **BEFORE** you leave the boat launch. Leave all plant and animal material and mud in the garbage or upland to dry out.

CLEAN your equipment with hot water, bleach, or detergent.

DRAIN water from livewells, bait buckets, bilges, and reservoirs **BEFORE** you leave the boat launch.

DRY all boating equipment for 48 hours or more before recreating on another lake.

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program is working with Hamilton County organizations to educate the public about the SWF and prevent its spread into other lakes.

We removed **960 lbs** of Purple Loosestrife from Hamilton County wetlands and roadways this summer! Contact the HCSWCD to become a volunteer and manage invasive plants in your area.

New DEC Law

Household Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law

The sale of household dishwasher detergents containing phosphorus has been prohibited. January 1, 2012: the application of phosphorus lawn fertilizer on established lawns will be prohibited. July 1, 2013: commercial use of phosphorus dishwasher detergents will be prohibited.

For more information: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html

Crazy for Conservation

One-hundred and four Hamilton County 5th and 6th graders were crazy for conservation at the 31st annual Lynn Galusha Memorial Conservation Field Day on September 23. They hiked the HCSWCD's nature trail and learned about recycling from Bill Weaver (Lake Pleasant Transfer Station), backcountry behavior from Joe San Antonio (Trail Blazers), macroinvertebrates from Rob Streeter and Vince Spadaro (DEC), invasive insects from Tom Colarusso (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), electricity conservation from

Nancy Welch (Hamilton County Cornell Cooperative Extension - HCCCE) and wetlands from Caitlin Stewart (HCSWCD). The students asked intelligent questions during Wendy and Steve Hall's Birds of Prey final presentation. Students may enter the 5th grade essay or 6th grade poster contests. The coveted prize for the two overall finalists for each grade is a week at 4H Camp generously donated by HCCCE. Thank you to our volunteers, staff and

presenters who helped to make this day a tremendous success.



Students learn that recycling can be fun.

Making a Dent in Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed (JN), beware! Lenny Croote, HCSWCD's Conservation Technician, is now certified in herbicide application, and is armed and anxious to kill Knotweed stands. This terrestrial invasive plant overruns ditches and stream banks. JN easily escapes gardens and invades other yards by rhizomes, or underground stems that send up new shoots.



Stem Injecting Knotweed.

Fragments that break and float down a river wash up to a new location and take root. Lenny uses a stem injection method where a special "death elixir" is shot into stems. Trial runs on stands in Blue Mountain proved to be successful, with plants wilting and dying a few weeks after treatment. Contact the HCSWCD if you would like JN treated on your property.