



Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District's Conservation Corner

Highlighting the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's projects, programs, and events.

October 2011

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Working to manage and promote the wise use of natural resources in Hamilton County since 1965

Water Quality Coordinating Committee to hold meeting

You are invited to the Hamilton County Water Quality Coordinating Committee reactivation meeting November 3 at the Indian Lake Byron Park Log Cabin from 10 to 12.

The Water Quality Coordinating Committee is a dedicated group of individuals who recognize the importance of our water resources and through a cooperative effort have developed an effective water quality program. The mission of the Committee is to maintain and restore the quality and quantity of our water resources by using a coordinated,

comprehensive, educational and efficient interagency approach at a county level.

The Hamilton County Soil and Water

The Water Quality Coordinating Committee needs YOU! Reactivation meeting November 3 at Byron Park, Indian Lake, 10-12.

Conservation District is looking for input from the community regarding residents' local water quality concerns, priorities, or projects within the county. Come and have your voice heard!

At the meeting, we will review our Committee Strategy and establish priority projects and initiatives as focus points for county partnerships. A presentation will highlight the Committee's history and accomplishments. Displays and information will be available on invasive species, the District's water quality programs, and the Three R's (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle). Please RSVP by November 2 to 518-548-3991 or hcswd@frontiernet.net.

The Battle Against Japanese Knotweed (cont. on page 2)

The battle against Japanese Knotweed was in full force this August as Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Technician Lenny Croote and the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program teamed up to manage this deadly invasive plant.

Knotweed grows along Hamilton County's roadways, in wetlands, and on private property. This invader forms dense stands 10 feet tall that



Injecting Knotweed stems.

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Japanese Knotweed (*from page 1*)

outcompete native vegetation for water, soil nutrients, sunlight, and growing space. Rhizomes can stretch up to 50 feet under the ground and when broken, send up new shoots. Rhizome and stem fragments that are left on the landscape after cutting or mowing, or that are transported to new locations in contaminated fill, take root. Fragments are also carried to new locations via streams. A one inch piece of rhizome is all that is needed to begin a new colony!

Early spring emergence gives Knotweed a jump start on native Adirondack vegetation. During the winter, biomass remains on the landscape, resulting in fire hazards. When knotweed dies back in the winter, the exposed

ground is prone to erosion.

Croote is a New York State certified Commercial Pesticide applicator. Armed with an Injector Tool, he injects each individual stem with a needle that delivers a powerful “death elixir” into the plant. A marking pen above the needle allows him to see what stems have already been treated and what stems remain to be injected. Follow-up treatments will occur next year for plants that were missed or plants that re-grow.

Stem injection is highly successful for managing Japanese Knotweed because it is cost effective; can be implemented on rainy and windy days; and is precise, preventing

nearby plants from being exposed to the herbicide.

The time frame for treatment is narrow. In August, plants begin to flower, and stem injection must occur between this time and the first hard frost. During this window of opportunity, plants carry nutrients and herbicide to the root system, killing the plant.

This August, Croote treated high priority sites along rivers and lakes due to the great potential for spread into sensitive wetland areas. Combined efforts of Soil and Water and the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program staff resulted in approximately 250 hours of Knotweed treatment.

Do YOU want to rid your landscape of Knotweed? Contact the District or the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program (<http://www.noknotweed.org/>) for more information.



Before Treatment.



After Treatment.

This stand of Japanese Knotweed (“before treatment” photo) persistently grew in the lower parking lot at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Lake Pleasant. This August, the stand was treated with the stem injection method. The “after treatment” photo was taken in September, and the impacts of herbicide treatment are evident in the defoliated stems and dying leaves.