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take place on Thursday, July 11, with a morning program in the Bradley Lake area led by Dave Anderson, education director and naturalist at the New Hampshire Forest Society. Look for details in the July *Beacon*.

Also, on Wednesday, July 31, an East Andover exploration of dragonflies and their habitat will be led by Carrie and Andy Deegan representing the New Hampshire Forest Society (Carrie) and the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (Andy). Again, look for details in the July *Beacon*.

Continuing in August and September will be additional guided walks in Andover locations to be announced.

And on Thursday evening, August 29, Andover wildlife photographer Rick "Mooseman" Libbey will offer a public presentation of his work at a place and time to be determined. Details will appear in the August *Beacon*. (See a cover photo and other examples of Libbey's work in the Spring 2013 edition of *Kearsarge Magazine*.)

The ACC's "Taking Action for Wildlife" project has been guided by New Hampshire Fish and Game and the UNH Cooperative Extension. You can learn more about the program and view Andover wildlife maps at Wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife_plan.htm. For more information, contact Mary Anne Broshek at MABandSadie@gmail.com, or 648-2539.



Japanese Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that's in Andover and must be handled carefully to keep it from spreading.

Photo: de.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Benutzer:MdE

Invasive Knotweed Discovered at Transfer Station

Be careful how you deal with it

By Mary Anne Broshek

Andover Conservation Commission

Japanese Knotweed is found throughout Andover, and it is important that we start controlling it. Japanese Knotweed is an invasive plant in New Hampshire and cannot be tossed in the compost/plant debris pile.

- Invasive species in the United States are a problem that costs somewhere in the range of \$138 billion annually to control.

- The reason for Japanese Knotweed's introduction to the United States was that it is an excellent plant to help control erosion, which is why it can be found in dense thickets along roadsides and stream beds.

- It produces a series of underground, root-like stems called rhizomes that will produce their own roots and eventually form new plants. This same property of the plant makes it extremely difficult to eradicate.

- The reason Japanese Knotweed is such a problem is that it has no natural predator. The weed will form dense thickets that will eventually crowd out native plant life and completely change the habitat it has been placed in.

- Japanese Knotweed can produce asexually from a single fragment of the plant. One node on the stem can produce the shoots and roots of a whole new plant.

According to Doug Cygan at the

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, you must be vigilant. Dig deep around the base of the plant, and try to remove all of the rhizomes running underneath the ground. Place it in a plastic bag (to help prevent its spread) and bring it to the hopper or the burn pile at the Transfer Station. Herbicides can be used, as well, but be careful, and try to use these only as a last resort. As a substitute to herbicides, salt water has been proven to be effective against Japanese Knotweed while having a minimal impact on our environment.

Because these plants are so resistant, using the compost at the Transfer Station can spread the problem, so look carefully where you have used this compost and remove it at first sight.

There are three steps to getting rid of invasive plants: Remove, Destroy, Replant with a native species. The native alternatives for Japanese Knotweed are Sweet Pepperbush, Maleberry, Silky Dogwood, and Elderberry.

Resources

- There is a large poster of all of the New Hampshire invasive plants in the recycling building.

- PLCnh.org/invasivesguide.htm has information on each New Hampshire invasive with color photos.

- Andover-specific invasive plant map at Wildlife.state.nh.us/invasives/.

- For questions, contact douglas.cygan@agr.nh.gov.

- The State Forest Nursery in Boscawen sells native plants, trees and shrubs: NHNursery.com.



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