



Niagara Nature News
 An Environmental Publication by Niagara County
 Soil & Water Conservation District
 SUMMER 2011 - ENEWS

Niagara County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
 4487 Lake Avenue
 Lockport, New York 14094
 Phone: (716) 434-4949
 Fax: (716) 433-1070
 www.niagaraswcd.com



JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON THE RISE

A native to Eastern Asia, Japanese Knotweed came to our country by way of England in the 1850s as an ornamental for use in erosion control. Since then it's been crowding out our native species and everything else in its path. It now inhabits 39 of the 50 states and is on many state noxious and invasive species lists, including New York's.

Japanese Knotweed is an herbaceous plant and a member of the buckwheat family (Polygonaceae). It is often called Japanese or Mexican bamboo, due to its thick, hollow, reddish-brown stem that reaches a height of 6-10 feet. It has a specific family trait of an ocrea, a membranous sheath that surrounds the stem at the nodes, giving an appearance similar to that of bamboo. Its pointed leaves are four to six inches long with smooth margins. A loose branching of pyramid-shaped greenish-white flower clusters appear in the summer and fall.

The big question is...how do you get rid of it? Well, there are certain strategies you can employ, but bottom line is to attack it with vigilance and repetition. And while the towering stalk looks menacing, the real issue is the rhizome-- the thick stem which travels underground, producing shoots that develop into new plants that randomly appear in the yard. You can cut down the stalks and mow over the vegetation, but you must be diligent about removing the rhizomes, which can extend up to 30 feet from the parent plant. The best approach of control is through a combination of cutting and application of an herbicide containing glyphosate concentrate (such as Roundup Plus). The key to effective herbicide use is the correct dosage, so follow the label instructions carefully.

This can be done repeatedly throughout the growing season on dry days that will be rain free for at least an hour after treatment. You will want to cut the stem and immediately apply the chemical to only the rim of the stem, as the plant will start to seal itself from the injury. Then wait 7 days before re-cutting, mowing or disturbing the treated stem. The herbicide needs time to sink into the below ground structure to be effective. Foliage may be sprayed, too, as long as it is done before bloom.

Another more organic method to use in the spring before the plant emerges is to mow the ground, dig up as much of the underground root structure as you can (making sure to securely bag it so seed doesn't blow over in another part of the yard) and then tarp the entire area. This smothering does not allow the plant's photosynthesis to operate. Be sure to use the largest and thickest tarp you can find as this "itadori" (Japanese for "strong plant") has been known to bust through it. Then, lay down a layer of mulch to disguise the tarp and protect it from UV rays. So think "persistence" as it may require several seasons before satisfactory results are achieved. In fact, waging an all-out offensive will increase your chance of success. Plan on making this war of eradication your new hobby!

Information obtained from Purdue University Weed Science, and David Beaulieu, Landscape Writer for Ask.com.

District Directors

David C. Wilson
Chairman

James Bittner
Vice Chairman

Barry Butski
Treasurer

Mary Gumaer
Member

Richard Lang
Member

Gerald K. Farnham
Legislator

John Syracuse
Legislator

District Staff

Mark J. Seider, P.E.

District Engineer
mark.seider@ny.nacdnet.net

Darcy Rae Tone

*District Secretary/Education
Program Administrator*
darcy.tone@ny.nacdnet.net

Victor F. DiGiacomo, Jr.

Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
victor.digiacom@ny.nacdnet.net

Gregory Briggs

Natural Resource Laborer
gregory.briggs@ny.nacdnet.net

USDA NRCS

Gregory A. Tessmann

Conservation Program Manager
gregory.tessmann@ny.usda.gov

(716) 434-4949 Ext. 110

Inside this issue:	Page
Local Envirothon Winners	2
Fish Order Forms	3
Fish Facts	4
Riparian Restoration	5
Tessmann FREE AT LAST	5



NCTC COMPETES AT STATE ENVIROTHON



2011 Niagara County Envirothon Winners

L-R: Nickole Bain, Erika Batt, Josh Bond, Adam Robins, and Charles Ninischer.

Five students from Niagara Career and Technology Center (NCTC) joined hundreds of high school students this past month at Hobart & William Colleges in Geneva to participate in the 2011 New York State Envirothon. Team members Josh Bond, Nickole Bain, Charles Ninischer, Adam Robins and Erika Batt recently won the Niagara-Orleans Regional Envirothon competition held at Bond Lake Nature Complex. They traveled with their advisor, Paul Dewey, to compete at the state level for scholarships and the opportunity to represent New York at the international Canon Envirothon this summer at Mt. Allison Uni-

versity in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. Other participating teams were from Royalton-Hartland, Starpoint, Lyndonville and Kendall.

Sponsored by New York Power Authority for over twenty years, other local supporters included M&T Bank, Albion Sports and Graphics, Orleans Poverty Hill Farm and Newroyal Orchards.

Envirothon is a series of hands-on contests in which teams of four to five students compete to solve environmental problems in five subject areas including aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current issue. Each team is also required to give an oral presentation based

on the current issue, which this year was "Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries".

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Niagara and Orleans Counties jointly coordinate the Regional Envirothon to incorporate environmental studies into the school curriculum and expose students to career options in conservation. Beyond motivating students to learn more about the environment, the Envirothon emphasizes development of practical skills such as research, teamwork and public speaking. Held throughout the U.S. and Canada, the program reaches more than 500,000 students every year. To learn more about the Envirothon visit www.nysenvirothon.net or

FYI...

The District is now selling reusable shopping totes. They are a generous size: 13"h x 12"w x 8"d and are made from 100% recycled material...and washable! Only \$1.85 plus tax.



LOCAL RESIDENTS WIN ENVIROTHON RAFFLE

Joseph Fischer of Newfane was the winner of two handmade Adirondack chairs, and Terry Boyd of Cambria took home a six-foot picnic table with two benches.

Each May, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Niagara and Orleans jointly host the Regional Envirothon, an environmental competition for high school students. This year, the Districts held a raffle featuring prizes of two Adirondack chairs and a six-foot picnic table with two benches that were handmade and donated by the conservation class at Or-

leans-Niagara BOCES Niagara Career and Technology Center. The quality of the chairs is really remarkable, especially when conservation teacher, Paul Dewey, discussed the process to create them.

"The students actually cut down the trees, milled the lumber, and constructed the furniture. They totally processed native wood from tree to chair," Dewey said. "And this was our first attempt at the picnic table and benches and I think the students did a good job."

Those experiences are what the Regional Envirothon is all about. Students

study four basic subjects, including aquatics, wildlife, soils, and forestry and current issues. Throughout the process, they develop skills in research, teamwork, and public speaking. Mr. Dewey's class took it one step further by handcrafting natural materials into usable items.

When Fischer came to pick up his Adirondack chairs, he commented on how comfortable the chairs sat. Boyd was already planning a family cookout when he came to claim his prize and said the new picnic table is special because his stepson attends Mr. Dewey's class and had a hand in making it.



Envirothon Raffle Winner

Joseph Fischer of Newfane tries out one of his new chairs.

The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established as a public benefit by the County of Niagara in 1954. Your support of our programs aid in the District's conservation efforts to protect natural resources and water quality for our residents. In these wavering economic times, we thank you for your continued assistance in fulfilling our goals.

2011 POND STOCKING AND GRASS CARP PROGRAMS

Pond Stocking

Order Deadline: August 3, 2011

Pickup Date: Thursday, August 18, 2011 10:00am SHARP

General Information: All fingerlings will be 1-2" in size. Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and 500-600 minnows per surface acre. If your pond is relatively new, be sure there is vegetation for reproductive habitat and aquatic life for a food chain. Recommended time to establish a pond before stocking is one year. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup. Applications are available in our office.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. Your order will be pre-counted and in an aerated bag for your convenience. You will just need to bring a box or cooler in which to stabilize the bag for transport. Transferring the fish to your pond immediately is of utmost importance due to oxygen needs. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so **PLEASE BE PROMPT!**

Triploid Grass Carp for Aquatic Weed Control

Order Deadline: September 1, 2011

Pickup Date: Tentatively scheduled for the third/fourth week of September

General Information: The average size of the carp will be between 10-12". You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. There is no charge for the permit. If you require a permit application, our office retains a supply of them. Stock grass carp only in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters.

Pickup Information: Tentative pickup will be the end of September at the County Fairgrounds, Rte. 78, Lockport. We will contact you by phone when a definite date has been scheduled. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 4 carp) filled 1/2 full with pond water. These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible. For more information on Triploid Grass Carp and how they can benefit pond weed control, call #434-4949 ext.115

Payment Information: Submit payment by check or money order with the bottom portions of this form, payable to Niagara County SWCD. Keep the top portions as your delivery date reminders.

2011 Pond Stocking Program			
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount
Largemouth Bass 2" - 4"	25/\$52.50		
Channel Catfish 4" - 6"	12/\$32.00		
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20.00		
Koi (asst. colors) 4"	4/\$30.00		
Daphnia (to start food chain)	1qt/\$28.00		
		Subtotal	
		x .08 Tax	
		+ Delivery	\$5.00
		Total Due	

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Daytime Phone: _____

**Mail to: Niagara County SWCD
 4487 Lake Ave.
 Lockport, New York 14094**

2011 Triploid Grass Carp Program	
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	
Daytime Phone: _____	
Number of Carp _____	
x \$21.00 _____	
+ Delivery \$3.00	
Total Due _____	
Mail payment WITH ALL 3 ORIGINAL COPIES of your DEC Permit to:	
Niagara County SWCD 4487 Lake Avenue Lockport, NY 14094	

FISH FACTS

The following are brief descriptions of the fish we offer for our Pond Stocking and Triploid Grass Carp programs. Order forms are included in this newsletter on page # 3.

Largemouth Bass – Found throughout NYS, they are considered one of the state's most important sport fish. These members of the Sunfish Family (Centrarchidae) prefer weedy, rocky areas to provide both protection and food supply. Usually weighing 3-5 lbs, they can get over 10 lbs and 2 feet in length. They are carnivorous; which means they'll eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and some small mammals and birds if given the opportunity.

Channel Catfish - Catfishes are characterized by scaleless skin and barbels, better known as whiskers, about their mouth. Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail and dark spots. The spotting, however, diminishes with age. Consequently, older channel cats are frequently mistaken as blue catfish. But the anal fin on blue cats has a flat outer edge and channels have a rounded edge. They can grow to be 4 ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Minnows – A general name for a family of fishes that is by far the largest such family in NYS. Some 48 species of minnows are found – five of which are introduced species, among them the goldfish (Koi). Various kinds of minnows live in almost all freshwater habitats, widely distributed between both cold and warm water locations. Although the exotic **Koi** are large and may live 7-10 years, most native minnows seldom exceed 4" and live only 3 years. Aquatic insects, plants and animal plankton are the main foods of this fish. The fathead minnow is a hardy bait fish. It is widely raised for this purpose, providing an important link in the food chain for larger game fish and fish-eating birds.

Daphnia – Small freshwater crustaceans used to start a food chain in new ponds. These microscopic aquatic arthropods, nicknamed "waterfleas", also help control pond water quality by feeding on particulate algae.

Triploid Grass Carp – The grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 lbs. They can live up to 10 years. Native to Asia, this carp lacks the barbells and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of its North American relatives, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub. It is called "triploid" since it has been bred to retain an extra chromosome, rendering it sterile. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and are effectively used as aquatic plant control agents in over 50 countries.

TREE PROGRAM THANKS!



The District would like to thank the entire community for their never-ending support of this program. Together we are planting over 46,000 seedlings in and around the county this year! Thanks so much for assisting in the reforestation and wildlife habitat enhancement of our area.

A big thank you to Mike Bienas and Niagara County Sheriffs Work Program for all their help. A special thanks to Quality of Lockport, TOPS Wrights Corners, and TOPS Lockport for all the packaging supplies. Please remember to support our local businesses!!

E-NEWSLETTER REMINDER

Just a friendly reminder that Niagara County SWCD is transitioning to an electronic newsletter to reduce paper waste and defray from office printing costs. If you have not done so already, please provide us with your email address by calling the office at (716) 434-4949 or email Victor DiGiacomo at victor.digiacom@ny.nacdnet.net.

Once you provide us with your email address, you will receive our new "electronic only" Spring and Fall edition newsletters in addition to Summer and Winter editions you already receive. Spring and Fall newsletters are only distributed via email, so send us your address today.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Trees Sold - 46,400 to 683 customers
- Ag Value Assessments - 131 totaling 8,213.23 acres
- Ponds Stocked - 4,958 fish to 21 ponds
- Grass Carp - 158 carp to 23 ponds
- Pond Site Evaluations - 15
- Technical Assistance Request - 172
- Resource Map Requests - 28
- Environmental Field Days - 647 students
- Regional Envirothon - 10 teams
- Newsletters - 4,460 mailed twice a year
- Stream/Shore Stabilization - 2
- Tile Drainage Surveyed - 29,600 ft.
- Open Ditches Surveyed - 9,020 ft
- Grassland Management - 240 acres
- No-Till Drill Plantings - 13 acres
- Critical Area Seeding Sites - 2
- Silage Leachate Systems - 3
- Ag Waste Mixing Facilities - 2
- Ag Waste Certifications - 3
- Barnyard Runoff Mgmt Systems - 2

USDA/NRCS PROGRAMS

- AMA Funded - 3
- WRPs Underway/In Process - 2
- EQIP Contracts - 4
- EQIP Practices - 12
- EQIP Applications - 12

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

Niagara County Public Works, Sheriff's Work Program, Cities of Niagara Falls, Lockport, North Tonawanda, Towns of Hartland, Somerset, Newfane, Wilson, Porter, Royalton, US EPA, US Army Corps, US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA, NYS-DEC, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York Power Authority, Aquarium of Niagara, NC Federation of Conservation Clubs, Tuscarora Environment Program, Ecology and Environment

HIGHLIGHTS

- With NRCS, accomplished some Niagara County "Firsts" - Install of 2 high tunnels, 1 Ag handling facility, 1 organic grazing system, and 1 orchard irrigation system.
- Received federal award of \$125,000 to conduct Lake Ontario LaMP outreach.
- Assisted with 4H Youth Pheasant Program and Safari Club Pheasant Program.
- Published 2010 RAP Report Card.
- 18 Mile Creek Food Web Model project
- Published 18 Mile Creek Report Card



NIAGARA RIVER RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROGRAM

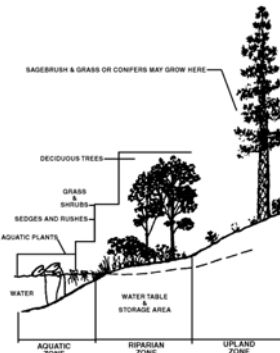
Landowners play an important role in Niagara River riparian restoration and protection. Living at the water's edge along the Niagara and its tributaries, they have the opportunity to serve as stewards of the local environment, ecologically restoring their lands and serving as models to others in the community. While many riparian landowners appreciate their access to water and are interested in restoring the environment, they may need technical assistance. To address the gap between willing landowners and the resources required for on-the-ground restoration, Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER's riparian restoration program--funded by New York Power Authority funds through the Niagara River Greenway Commission--coordinates with landowners to develop forest buffers or other habitat features such as rain gardens, small-scale soft shoreline stabilization, meadows,

and wetlands on their property. With an agreement between the property owner and Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER, we provide the technical knowledge from the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District and on-the-ground installation of the project.

BENEFITS OF A BUFFER

A riparian forest buffer is an area of forested trees usually accompanied by shrubs or grasses that border along the edge of a river, stream, or lake that is managed to maintain the integrity of the waterway. There are many benefits to having a buffer zone: Flood management increased; Groundwater recharge; Lower water temperatures; Absorption of air pollution and pesticides ; Lower stream velocities; Management of invasive species; Improved Water Quality; Enhanced fish habitats; Greater wildlife diversity; Stabilized stream banks and; Greater habitat for birds.

Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER is looking for landowners in the towns of Porter, Niagara, and Wheatfield; cities of Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda; and Village of Lewiston to participate. In addition, we could use some volunteers to help us plant. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://bnriverkeeper.org/programs/habitat/habitat-restoration/> or call Larry Brooks, Watershed Restoration Project Manager, 852-7483 ext. 17 or lbrooks@bnriverkeeper.org



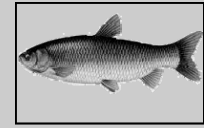
GREG TESSMANN RETIRING AFTER 33 YEARS

I would like to formally announce that I will be retiring from NRCS at the end of June 2011. I would like to say thank you to the many landowners and producers that I have worked with here in Niagara County since 1997. The staff at the Lockport Field Office, the Niagara County SWCD and USDA FSA, are very loyal workers for the people of the County and

really make it all happen. It has been a pleasure working with the various agencies and the local boards as well. After 33 years in the field, I will be moving on into the private sector and look forward to working with many of you in the future. Thank you one and all for all the memories, accomplishments and may GOD bless you all and our great nation. GAT



Species Profile



Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)

Description:

The grass carp is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 pounds. Native to the rivers of eastern China and the Soviet Union, it has been introduced into over 50 countries worldwide due to its uncanny ability to control a wide variety of aquatic plant species. Although grass carp are related to both common carp and goldfish, distinct differences exist both in appearance and feeding habits. Grass carp lack the barbels and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of goldfish and common carp, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub or common shiner. Coloration of the fish ranges from dark grey to golden brown on the back, blending to white on the belly. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and do not share the bottom feeding habits typical of common carp and goldfish.

Although fertile (diploid) grass carp have seen widespread use abroad, the majority of states in the US presently prohibit the fish. This is due to concerns over the potential impact fertile grass carp could have on sensitive aquatic habitats should uncontrolled reproducing populations of the fish become established. **In New York State, use of diploid grass carp is prohibited!**

In 1983, US grass carp producers began production of a sterile (triploid) form of grass carp, mitigating the reproductive concerns associated with the diploid fish. Triploid grass carp are created through shocking grass carp eggs immediately after fertilization with either hot or cold water. This temperature shock results in the retention of an extra chromosome set, rendering the fish incapable of producing viable young. With the exception of this extra chromosome set, triploid grass carp are identical to their diploid counterparts. Triploid grass carp are the only form of grass carp legal in New York State.

For more information about Grass Carp, please visit: www.dec.ny.gov

Non-Discrimination Statement

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer."



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOCKPORT, NY
PERMIT No. 510

**Niagara County Soil & Water
Conservation District**
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, New York 14094
Phone: (716) 434-4949
Fax: (716) 433-1070
www.niagaraswcd.com


DRAIN TILE
CULVERT PIPE

MAWHINEY
TRENCHING AND TRUCKING INC.
SPECIALIZING IN UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE
LASER CONTROLLED MACHINE

5082 UPPER MOUNTAIN RD.
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094

BACKHOE SERVICE
DUMP TRUCK SERVICE

DOUGLAS MAWHINEY
PHONE (716) 434-7536

 **Bruce Muck**
AUCTIONEER

"Let's talk your treasures into tender"

Farm
Home
Business Liquidations

3490 Rt. 425
Wilson, NY 14172
(716) 751-9835

**SPACE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR ADVERTISEMENT
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PRICING CALL,
(716) 434-4949 X 115**

 **NIAGARA FRONTIER**
EQUIPMENT SALES INC.


Call Karl: **716-622-7041**

4060 Lake Ave (Rte 78N) Lockport
40+ Years of Professional Service
NFESales.com - Sales@NFESales.com

Sales-Service
Parts-Rentals

Office: 716-434-2000



 **MOLEY ELECTRIC MOTOR REPAIR**
4573 Shadigee Road
Newfane, New York 14108

John Moley (716)751-9281

6136 First St.
Newfane, NY 14108

Edward S. (Bubby) Pawlak II
(716) 778-5499

HylTech Concrete
CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION
BULLDOZING - EXCAVATION - DUMP TRUCK SERVICE
STONE SLINGER SERVICE - EROSION CONTROL - WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Estimates • Insured • Licensed

**SANBORN HOME
IMPROVEMENT**



ALL TYPES - Siding • Trim • Gutters • Roofs • Decks
DOORS - Entrance • Storm • French • Sliding
WINDOWS - Replacement • Bow • Bay • Garden
GARAGE DOORS - Installed & Serviced



Sanborn, NY

John Kisloski
731-3138

Devereaux Antiques

- ▼ Buying & Selling
- ▼ Appraisals
- ▼ Estate Sales

David Devereaux
Proprietor

716.998.7445
lastingglow2@aol.com