

Sample Press Release

From New England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, MA

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News for Immediate Release

Final Training Session Set for 36 Town Invasive Plant Surveys

Framingham - New England Wild Flower Society is **seeking volunteers** to help with the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (SuAsCo Cisma)'s EARLY DETECTION INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYS. **The final volunteer training session is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, at the Bolton Town Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton. Call Ted Elliman, 508-877-7630, ext. 3203 or email telliman@newenglandwild.org to register for this training session.**

The goal of the project is to develop a prioritized list of invasive plant populations for management by means of documentation, mapping, and control of early detection invasives plants that are just starting to enter the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SUASCO) River watershed area.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN STOPPING THESE INVASIVE SPECIES BEFORE THEY BECOME WIDESPREAD AND UNCONTROLLABLE!

Volunteers receive one day of training in early detection invasive surveys, then are assigned to survey for the target species. The training sessions run from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and include a powerpoint presentation on the early detection species with a discussion of their identification, habitats, impacts, and control. The rest of the morning includes a discussion of survey and documentation methods, survey locations, use of GPS, and how/where to report findings. Volunteers will receive training packets and invasive plant identification guides at the training.

The afternoon part of the training is primarily in the field, honing your skills in invasive plant identification and documentation. The SuAsCo Cisma partnership plans to start controlling some of the populations documented by volunteers within this field season.

After the training session, volunteers are assigned to specific sites in their hometowns (and further afield, if they prefer) to look for the invasive plant species listed below. The SuAsCo Cisma partnership plans to survey in each of the watershed's 36 towns.

To volunteer for the training and survey work, please contact Ted Elliman, Vegetation Management Coordinator for New England Wild Flower Society at telliman@newenglandwild.org, or by phone at 508-877-7630 x 3203.

There is one training session left and there is still room for more volunteers:

- Saturday June 5 - Bolton Town Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton 01740

The eleven early detection species that are the targets of the survey, taken from the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group list, are:

- Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)
- Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- Reed mannagrass (*Glyceria maxima*)
- Tansy ragwort/ stinking willie (*Senecio jacobaea*)
- Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*)
- Great yellowcress (*Rorippa amphibia*)
- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- Parrot-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

This is an extremely important project for the 36 towns which comprise the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River watershed area. It is most important that these invasive plants populations be documented, then removed to protect our native plant populations and their habitats.

All volunteers under 18 must have a permission form signed by a parent or guardian. Email Ted Elliman (telliman@newenglandwild.org) for a copy.

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