

## “The Vine”

### *Upland “bad boys” – bittersweet, multiflora rose, etc*

-The NRCS has had success rotationally grazing pigs on a heavily invaded site. This tears up the soil, which can then be mowed. After two years, the site was planted with low growing perennials.

-The Town of Stow began an invasive mapping and removal project on town conservation lands. The town also began dealing with Japanese knotweed last year to great success, and has planned two years of follow up.

-S.W.E.E.T. is working on an invasive species guide for Sudbury, and offers help with alternative control methods.

-Friends of the Assabet River NWR have been successful with their brush grubber in pulling large buckthorns and multiflora rose. They have also been dealing with large amounts of Japanese stiltgrass, but have been able to beat it back by weed-whacking early in the season, then hand pulling the rest later in the season.

-The New England Wild Flower Society also noted the heavy prevalence of Japanese stiltgrass in the area. MIPAG is making a list of contractors that can help organizations and towns deal with invasives.

### *Japanese knotweed*

-The Town of Stow Conservation Commission mentioned that one of their members mapped all of the Japanese knotweed along roadways in the town a while ago. The Commission is planning on redoing this mapping to see how the plants’ distribution has changed.

### *“Wet feet” – Pepperweed, loosestrife, phragmites, etc*

-NEWFS says that pepperweed control projects are still ongoing in coastal towns, particularly on the North Shore. Hand-pulling and chemical applications have been used.

-Jeff Collins of Mass Audubon says that Phragmites was controlled with spray application in Rough Meadows to great success in 2015. 500,000 Galerucella beetles were raised by all partners last year for biocontrol of purple loosestrife.

### *Aquatics*

-The Hop Brook Protection Association harvested water chestnut off of several ponds, including Carding Mill and Stern’s Pond. Students at Assumption College evaluated these harvests and found that they could make good fertilizer.

-OARS hired a seasonal crew of two to clear water chestnut from the Assabet River last year, and plans to do the same this year.

### *ED Species*

-Friends of the Assabet River NWR have been dealing with narrow-leaf bittercress. Handpulling in Lincoln appears to have been effective, as the plant was pulled before a large population was established.

-The Town of Westford Mile-A-Minute removal program appears to have been successful, as the plant was dealt with early on. The program is in its fifth year, and volunteer engagement has been vital.

-NEWFS warned that several species may be approaching ED status, and asks CISMA members to be on the lookout for Japanese tree lilac, *Geum thumbergii* and Japanese zelkova.

*Other*

-The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust spoke about a project currently underway to turn an old hayfield into a pollinator meadow. The project will test the effects of soil nutrient imbalances on invasive plant establishment.