

A newsletter for groups or individuals in the Sudbury - Assabet - Concord River Watershed interested in management and control of invasive plant species.

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SuAsCo CISMA Highlights

Welcome everyone to the first edition of the SuAsCo CISMA's electronic newsletter! We hope you enjoy the following articles! For upcoming events, be sure to check out our website's [calendar](#) or this newsletter. Hope to see you in the field!

Congratulations to the grant recipients for our early detection funds:

Town of Stow

Sudbury Valley Trustees

Westford Conservation Trust

Funds are still available for early detection projects! Please submit proposals

to: acarr@massaudubon.org

Amber Carr

Field Ecologist/ SuAsCo CISMA Coordinator
Mass Audubon's Ecological Extension Service



Amber taming Multiflora Rose

Report Invasive plant sightings to CISMA by clicking the button below

Report Invasives

2015 Invasive Plant Identification Field Trip Report

On June 9th, the SuAsCo CISMA Control Subcommittee sponsored a plant ID field trip for two lesser known invasive plants. A small group gathered in Lincoln to join Anna Wilkins of the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust for a tour to see two plants which soon may be creeping into open space areas near you. The first plant, [wall lettuce](#) (*Mycelis muralis*), is an herbaceous perennial originally from Europe. It is happy to take over the ground cover in mature forests and can quickly become dominant. Within a day or two, the small yellow flowers (5 petals) form dandelion-like seeds which spread on wind currents. The group visited a site that showcased both the population habit and all forms of the plant from the seedlings to inflorescence.

The second site we visited featured [narrow-leaf bittercress](#) (*Cardamine impatiens*). This plant is in the mustard family and is an herbaceous annual or biennial that loves moist woodlands. Very distinct leaves have pairs of 6 to 20 leaflets along the stem. The first year basal leaves have rounded lobes. The flowers are tiny (if present) and white, form seed capsules (silique) which break open and shoot the seeds in all directions, much like its cousin garlic mustard. Due to ongoing control efforts, the group was happy to find only a handful of plants left in that particular location. It was enough to see the habit and form of the plant which prompted a discussion on how early detection and rapid removal of these plants can be extremely successful. With some time to spare, the final bonus stop was to see a patch of [Japanese stiltgrass](#) (*Microstegium vimineum*) which was only about 2" high by this point in the season. Participants were glad to have the chance to see this pernicious plant at such an early stage, when it can easily be mistaken for other grasses. Everyone agreed seeing these plants up close and in context was helpful and important as they work to protect their own natural areas.

The Control Subcommittee will be sponsoring another **Invasive Plant Walk on August 18th from 3-4 p.m. at the Assabet National Wildlife Refuge visitor's center off Hudson Road in Sudbury**. The plants featured will be Japanese stiltgrass, wineberry and hops.

Anna Wilkins
Lincoln Land Trust Outreach Coordinator
wilkins@lincolnconservation.org



A Field of Wall Lettuce in Lincoln



Wall Lettuce Flower in Early June



Narrow Leaf Bittercress



Japanese Stiltgrass - Note silver striped leaf

Riverfest 2015 Fourth Annual Water Chestnut Pull

RiverFest 2015 celebrated our Wild and Scenic Rivers with 44 events on June 20 and 21. In its 14th year, Riverfest brings people into close contact with nature through three river paddles, fishing, picnics and bird walks. Two events focused specifically on invasive plants. On Saturday, 25 people participated in the 4th annual water chestnut pull on Stearn's Mill Pond in Sudbury. While Saturday was graced with perfect weather, Sunday brought downpours. This canceled the demonstration of the aquatic weed harvester on Carding Mill Pond in Sudbury. We hope to have it back next year for those enamored with these large, floating orange machines that transform our waterways! For more detail and photos about these events read an article from the *Metro West Daily News* [here](#).

Alison Field-Juma
OARS Executive Director
oars3rivers.org



Pulling Water Chestnut



Navigating Stearn's Mill Pond

Lincoln-Sudbury High School 2015 Senior Service Day

High school students often have community service requirements for graduation, but Lincoln-Sudbury High School seniors take their commitment to community seriously. For each of the past five years,

seniors at Lincoln-Sudbury participating in their annual Senior Service Day have volunteered their time with the Walden Woods Project to manage a Glossy Buckthorn infestation at our self-guided interpretive trail, Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill.

This year's Senior Service Day was dedicated to Jane Young, a beloved math teacher, who died too soon. Over 340 seniors from the Class of 2015 volunteered at 33 project sites in the area. The students we met and worked with provided terrific assistance, and showed themselves to be true assets to their community. The two photos below show students using weed wrenches to remove invasive Glossy Buckthorn.

Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill, at the intersection Route 2 and Walden Street in Concord, is a self-guided interpretive trail that honors the many contributions of Henry David Thoreau. It offers an opportunity to reflect both on the nature of Brister's Hill, and on the visitor's own place in nature.

At one location on Brister's Hill, we have been working to control a thick stand of [Glossy Buckthorn](#), an invasive shrub that displaces native forest vegetation and negatively affects wildlife. Up until this day, this stand had been untouched. Control thus becomes a matter of physically pulling the shrub from the ground using weed wrenches. This year, our crew of six young men and two of their teachers removed two truck-loads of buckthorn, making a great dent in the stand. Great Job LSHS Seniors!

Matt Burne

Matt.Burne@Walden.org



Controlling Invasives in Lincoln 2015 Season Highlights

Town-wide garlic mustard pull reduces its population, makes room for wall lettuce:

Success of the past years' tireless efforts to pull [garlic mustard](#) was noted in the number of collection bags we handed out and in the density in our pulling zones. While we handed out significantly fewer "garlic mustard bags" to residents this season, the number of households pulling remained within the average of previous years. In areas where the staff has been continually pulling, the garlic mustard is not coming back as dense as before. While this is encouraging news, we have found that the early detection species known as wall lettuce has infiltrated some of the areas where we have managed garlic mustard. Over the past few years we have increasingly dedicated more and more time towards the management of [wall lettuce](#) but it is still spreading rapidly around the Town. A similar story can be told regarding the success of our cooperative water chestnut pulling efforts on the Sudbury River. Populations of [water chestnut](#) on the Sudbury River become less each year, but over the past few years, another early detection species, four leaf water clover, has established itself in our management zone of the river. The presence of these early detection species is important to note but the absence of the managed species has more ecological value.

Early-detection works:

Another early detection species, narrow-leaf bittercress, was found on one of our properties this Spring. This outbreak was small enough to pull in a few hours.

Getting students involved:

In June, we hosted seniors from Lincoln-Sudbury High School, for the second straight year, at one of our

management zones. At this location we managed [glossy buckthorn](#), [burning bush](#), and [oriental bittersweet](#). This work has restored the view of a historic stone wall and allowed room for the native populations of plants that are currently there to thrive.

David McKinnon, Land Manager,
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Invasives and Invasive Control

* In The News *

Sudbury Mass: Beetles released into wetlands devour nuisance weed.

See the full story from the July 14, 2015 *MetroWest Daily News* [here](#).

Australia: Australia tries using spaniels to hunt for invasive plants called orange hawkweed, a.k.a 'Grim the Collier'.

See the full story from the July 16, 2015 *Wall Street Journal* [here](#).

SuAsCo CISMA Calendar of Events

August 18th 2015 3:00-4:00p.m. Invasive Plant Walk with Amber Carr

The best way to prevent infestation is to recognize problem plants early. Come to the beautiful Assabet River NWR (680 Hudson Road Sudbury, MA) where we will show you examples of Japanese stiltgrass, wineberry, and Japanese hops.

October 29th 2015 3:00-5:00p.m. Roundtable: When are you done? Lets talk about Restoration and Monitoring Location: TBA

Do you have a site that you have been managing for several years and now "looks pretty good" if you say so yourself? Before you pat yourself on the back and walk away forever, come to the next Roundtable discussion. See if you are truly done or need to begin PHASE 2.

November 17th 2015 3:00-5:00p.m. Fall Meeting

Assabet River NWR visitor center
680 Hudson Road Sudbury, MA 01776

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