

## July 2014 Newsletter



### Volunteers remove 1080 pounds of Garlic Mustard from Ken Reid Conservation Area



The 6th Annual Garlic Mustard Pull coordinated by the Invading Species Awareness Program in partnership with Kawartha Conservation and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council took place on May 16 at Ken Reid Conservation Area, in Lindsay ON.

Program staff along with volunteers pulled over 40 bags of rain soaked Garlic Mustard in just under three hours, making way for native plants to regenerate.

Invasive plant species like Garlic Mustard can be found across Ontario in a wide range of habitats. They can spread quickly and grow in dense monocultures which can reduce biodiversity, change soil chemistry and displace other plants. Native woodland plants like American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) a species at risk, and other plants like Trilliums, are threatened by the encroachment of Garlic Mustard.

Funding for this event was provided by the Biodiversity and Education Awareness Network. Click here to learn more about the [Biodiversity and Education Awareness Network](#)

## Invader of the Month Japanese Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is native to eastern Asia, and was introduced to North America as a horticultural plant late in the 19th century, when it was planted widely as an ornamental, for erosion control and as forage for livestock. It is listed as one of the world's top 100 invasive species. This plant is not well documented in Ontario, if you know of areas where it's growing, please note the location, take a picture, and report it through [www.EDDmaps.org/ontario](http://www.EDDmaps.org/ontario)



Japanese Knotweed showing white winged seed pods. Photo: E. Johnston, OFAH

## Invading Species Watch Monitoring Program

### Protect your lake and participate in the Invading Species Watch program!

Invading Species Watch is a free, volunteer based lake monitoring program for aquatic invasive species.

The program offers local residents, cottagers, and property owners the unique opportunity to monitor their lakes for the presence of aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels and spiny water flea at minimal cost.

Volunteers simply follow the instructions in the information kits provided by the OFAH and take water samples of their lakes using plankton tow nets.

For Information, call the Invading Species Hotline at 1 800 563 7711.



ISW Volunteers pictured with a plankton tow net.

**THE 2014 INVASIVE SPECIES HIT SQUAD HAS ARRIVED!**  
**26 STUDENTS ARE READY TO SPREAD AWARENESS OF INVASIVE SPECIES ACROSS ONTARIO**



Once again this year the OFAH Invading Species Awareness Program hosted a 2 day training session for our summer staff in Peterborough. The entire Hit Squad met at the OFAH Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre on June 5 and 6 for training on the history of the ISAP, aquatic and terrestrial invading species, pathways of invasion, governance, outreach activities and the new Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System.

The Hit Squad positions are funded through Canada Summer Jobs with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Fisheries and Ocean Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Working in partnership with others, the OFAH strives to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species in Ontario to ensure our lands and waters can continue to support healthy fish and wildlife populations.

To learn more about invading species, visit <http://www.invadingspecies.com/get-involved/hitsquad/>, and "like" us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/invspecies>.

To find out if a member of the Hit Squad will be working in your area call 1 800 563 7711.



## Monitoring for Water Soldier in the Trent Severn Waterway

Since it was identified in the Trent River in 2008, the OFAH in partnership with the MNR have been working to stop the spread of water soldier. This invasive perennial aquatic plant continues to form dense colonies which can crowd out native species, change water chemistry and decrease biodiversity. The sharp, serrated leaves and dense floating mats of vegetation make it very difficult to boat, fish and swim in these areas. Knowing the location of this plant on the Trent

Severn Waterway, and how dense the populations are, will determine the types of control that will be used.

Throughout the summer, OFAH and MNR staff will be on the water monitoring and mapping the water soldier colonies, thanks to a \$35,000 grant from the Invasive Species Centre, and supported by a Water Soldier Management Plan.

The OFAH monitoring crew will be sampling over 2200 points on the Trent Severn Waterway, and information from this monitoring will inform the control activities which are scheduled to take place in the fall of 2014.

To learn more about water soldier and what you can do to stop the spread of invasive species, visit the [Water Soldier page](#) on our website.



Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program

[www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)

Hotline: 1 800 563 7711

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