Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist tackles Japanese knotweed

Issue

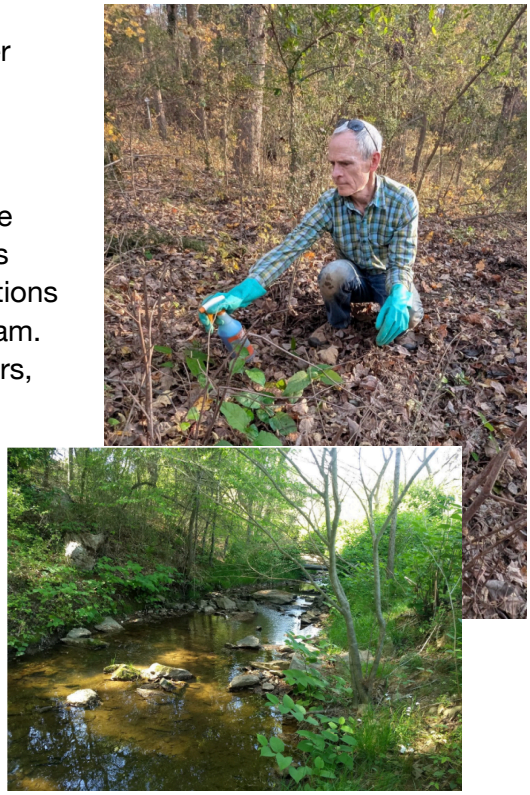
Japanese knotweed, *Reynoutria japonica*, a highly aggressive invasive species, is widespread in the NC mountains and has recently begun to appear in the NC Piedmont. By forming dense stands, crowding out native vegetation, and clogging waterways, it poses a severe ecological threat to our native plant species and water quality. Because it spreads easily through stem fragments washed into streams during floods, the Eno River watershed is vulnerable to its spread.

Project

As a member of the Hillsborough Tree Board, Master Naturalist Tim Logue initiated a volunteer-run invasive species removal project along the town's Riverwalk in the fall of 2021. This year, his team discovered large populations of Japanese knotweed growing near the Eno River and one tributary stream. With funding from the town and after securing permission from landowners, he assembled the equipment, herbicide, and volunteer crew to cut and treat these two infestations.

To raise public awareness of this invasive species, Tim also created a short video that was posted on the Town's website and shared in its weekly newsletter. The video describes how to identify knotweed, explains the ecological threat it poses, and invites viewers to report sightings to the town.

So far, he's visited six sites, treating smaller ones himself and making recommendations to landowners with larger infestations. He plans to monitor these sites and treat any new growth to prevent reinfestation.



Logue treats knotweed (top). Knotweed stream side in Hillsborough (bottom)

Student

This project is the work of Tim Logue

Impact Projects

Beyond classwork, a key feature of the Master Naturalist Volunteer program is the Impact Projects students develop. These projects integrate course concepts and benefit a Partner Organization.

Highlights

Partner Organization

Hillsborough Tree Board

NCMasterNaturalist.org | Program@NCMasterNaturalists.org

NC State University and N.C. A&T State University are collectively committed to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.