

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, April 26th, starting at 1 pm, an effort by the BWA and ESU Students to remove Japanese Knotweed from ESSA's property on lower 8th street in Stroudsburg will take place.

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As a function of its continuing effort to control and manage the spread of non native invasive plant species, the Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) has completed a survey of exotic invasive plant species throughout the watershed, identifying key target species for management and the restoration of local flora. This study was made possible through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

BWA, along with ESU Professor Jeri Jerilyn Jewett-Smith, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Biology Director, Environmental Studies Program Department of Biological Sciences ecology students, Trout Unlimited, the Stroud Regional Open Space Commission and community volunteers, will be working with ESSA to remove Japanese Knotweed from ESSA's property on lower 8th street in Stroudsburg this Sunday, April 26th, starting at 1 pm.

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is widely considered an invasive species or weed. It is listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species and is now considered one of the worst invasive exotics in parts of the eastern United States. It can be found in 39 of the 50 United States.

The BWA and its volunteers will maintain the area as a "demonstration site," replanting with attractive native

flora and continuing to remove invasive plants, esp. Japanese Knotweed, from this location throughout the summer. Other locations will be managed by the BWA's Knotweed Army throughout the summer and fall.

ESU Professor and BWA board member Jeri Jerilyn Jewett-Smith states, "The BWA hopes the "demonstration site" will be respected as an ongoing illustration of how to restore native biological communities throughout the watershed." The BWA hopes this will help create awareness, educate and encourage local landowners to contact us about eco-sound water way management methods, native plant replacement and other issues that affect the ecological balance of our local waterways."

The Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to protecting and improving water resources and the environment in the Brodhead and Cherry creek watershed. The BWA assists municipalities, residents, businesses and groups with protecting natural resources through education, workshops, seminars, public programs, stream monitoring and baseline data collection and stream cleanups.