



Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

Protect Our Lake: Invasive Species Workshop August 9th

Join the Town Environmental Conservation Board on Thursday, August 9th at Onanda Park (4965 County Road 16), from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for an Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop.

The workshop will be presented by Bruce Gilman, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Conservation at Finger Lakes Community College and Director of the Muller Field Station. His teaching expertise includes aquatic ecology, field botany, glacial geology and environmental chemistry.

This hands-on presentation with samples of local invasive species found in Canandaigua Lake will offer a free family-friendly opportunity to learn about non-native species and what we can do about their infestation.

The introduction of non-native species is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm or harm to human health. An invasive species is able to maintain its life cycle within the local area. Although many non-native species are desirable (most agricultural crops and animals are non-native), unwanted invasive species cost time, effort and money to keep them at bay.

So, what do Eurasian water milfoil, Didymo, Water chestnut, Purple loosestrife, Hydrilla, and Starry stonewort have in common? They are all species from other parts of the world that have been accidentally introduced and which have flourished in our lake.

Some of these species were introduced into New York via ballast water discharge as ships from ports around the world travel up the St. Lawrence Seaway and into the Great Lakes.

And, as anglers and boaters move from water to water, these invasive species can be unknowingly spread. This can occur by failing to properly dry or disinfect boating and fishing equipment. Anglers and boaters are asked to be aware of the part they play in the spread of invasive species and take



action to help stem their spread. A boat steward from the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association will demonstrate proper boat cleaning during the presentation.

For all you aquarium aficionados, did you know that many exotic aquatic plants have been introduced through the home aquarium trade? Invasive plants such as Brazilian elodea, fanwort, and hydrilla are often sold as oxygenators for aquariums. These

plants can become established in the wild and cause dense infestation that compromise water quality or recreation and human consumption if they aren't disposed of properly.

Be on the alert for these intruders! And help us keep an educated eye on Canandaigua Lake.

Source: Materials from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. For more information, visit www.dec.ny.gov.



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