

BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Volume 2020, Issue 1

July 2020

Bucktail Watershed Association

Contact information:

P.O. Box 123
Emporium, PA 15834
www.bucktailwatershed.com
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Important Dates:

Monthly meeting
1st Tuesday of January,
March, May, July, September,
and November.
Cameron County
Conservation District Office
4:30 pm

BWA Board of Directors

Steve VanEerden
Kirk Bainey
Gary Russell
Josh Morgan
Denny Neal
Ken Straub

2020 Invasive Plant Program

There seems to be no end to the war against invasive plant species that are invading Cameron County. The BWA is fighting the good fight, however, by working closely with the Cameron County Conservation District (CCCD) to obtain grants that pay for keeping up to 3 contractors busy during herbicide application season treating these undesirable weeds. Filling the void left by Kate Morgan's departure from the district staff, the CCCD's Watershed Technician, Jon-Marc Burdick, has taken the reins in handling most aspects of the invasive plants control efforts. The treatment area encompasses the Driftwood Branch drainage and is largely being funded through the Sinnemahoning Stakeholder Committee monies derived from reparations that Norfolk Southern railroad paid as a result of the damages incurred to the watershed from the 2006 train wreck that occurred along Big Fill Run in the Gardeau area of McKean County and that severely impacted the Driftwood Branch downstream to Sinnemahoning. Work is also being done along the lower First Fork where contractors are being paid with the remains of a Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener grant to treat Oriental bittersweet, where it has gained a solid foothold.

Currently, 1 high-volume and 2 low-volume contractors are being utilized for treating larger, denser weed patches and smaller, less dense areas, respectively. The lion's share of invasive plant treatment is focused on Japanese knotweed and Mile-a-minute vine but they are certainly not the only species upon which war is being waged. Others include Goat's rue, Poison hemlock, Wild parsnip, Tree-of

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The BWA Needs YOU as a Member in 2020!

In 2020, the BWA plans to continue its dedication to conserve and protect our aquatic resources but your support is key! Consider making a membership in the Bucktail Watershed Association and participating in our activities. A membership form is provided.

Invasive Plant Management

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-heaven (*Ailanthus*), *Phragmites*, Buckthorn, and, on the First Fork, besides Oriental bitter-sweet, Lesser celandine (discovered there in 2019). Other “targets of opportunity” that can be hit while tackling the primary species include Multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, Purple loosestrife, and Japanese stiltgrass although that is, at least for the time being, completely out of control. While these efforts may have to persist perhaps far into the future, as long as funding can continue to be obtained, we can persevere in successfully keeping most of these species at bay, thereby allowing indigenous species to occupy their proper place in our local ecosystems. For those landowners cooperating with the BWA and the CCCD in controlling invasive species on their properties, Jon-Marc has prepared new landowner agreements that are being implemented, as appropriate, in order to keep the two organizations and property owners on the same page.

Membership Meetings

We need volunteers to help us accomplish our goals in 2020 and beyond. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every other month at 4:30 at the Cameron County Conservation District Office. Please attend.

Spray Equipment Available to Landowners

Over the years the BWA has acquired various pieces of equipment to spray invasive weeds. That equipment is now all being stored at the Cameron County Conservation District office and storage shed. It is available at no charge to local landowners to be used to treat invasive weeds on their own property. The following equipment is available: backpack sprayers, ATV sprayer (25 gallon), gas powered sprayer (50 gallon), and a gas powered mist blower. If you are interested in using any of the equipment contact the Cameron County Conservation District at 486-2244 for details.

If you need help identifying weeds on your property or need assistance on treatment options please contact the CCCD.

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EMPORIUM, PA 15834**

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WWW.BUCKTAILWATERSHED.COM

**BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

If you are interested in becoming a member or renewing your membership, please send this form along with cash or a check for the annual dues to:

Bucktail Watershed Association
P.O. Box 123
Emporium, PA 15834



Name

Address

Phone

Sign up for:

- Individual Membership
- Family Membership

Annual Dues

\$5.00

\$7.00

Amount Enclosed _____

Email Address