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UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

2019 iMapInvasives Webinar Trainings



Registration is now open for several new webinar training opportunities scheduled for 2019. All trainings are available to current registered users of iMapInvasives as well as the general public.

- ***Invasives Near You: Mapping Your Local Natural Area***
June 6, 2019—11am to 12pm
- ***Three-Part Species Search Challenge: Water Chestnut, Hydrilla, & Wavyleaf Basketgrass***
June 25, 2019—10am to 12pm
- ***Overview of iMap 3.0: The Next Generation of iMapInvasives***
July 17, 2019—10am to 12pm

To register for one or more of these webinar trainings, please visit www.paimapinvasives.org > Events.

Goat Herds Can Serve as an Integral Management Component in our Landscapes

Allegheny GoatScape uses herds of goats in the Pittsburgh region to address invasive vegetation with myriad benefits.

Story by Gavin Deming, Executive Director of Allegheny GoatScape

Goats have been used to beat back brush for as long as the animals have been domesticated. They have an insatiable appetite, sturdy stomachs that allow them to eat a lot of vegetation—up to 8 pounds of leaves a day—and a wide variety of plants, and they work well together in a group setting.

In the past decade or so throughout the United States, goats have become

popular alternatives to addressing properties overgrown and overrun with unwanted and invasive plants, especially in urban and suburban locations where invasive species management has become overwhelming or nearly impossible.

Neighborhoods such as Oakland (in Pittsburgh) have employed them for quite some time, utilizing goats for removing unwanted vegetation, but also to impede wildfires.

(Story continued on page 2.)



Gavin Deming, executive director of Allegheny GoatScape.

Goats (cont.) >>>

(Story continued from page 1.)

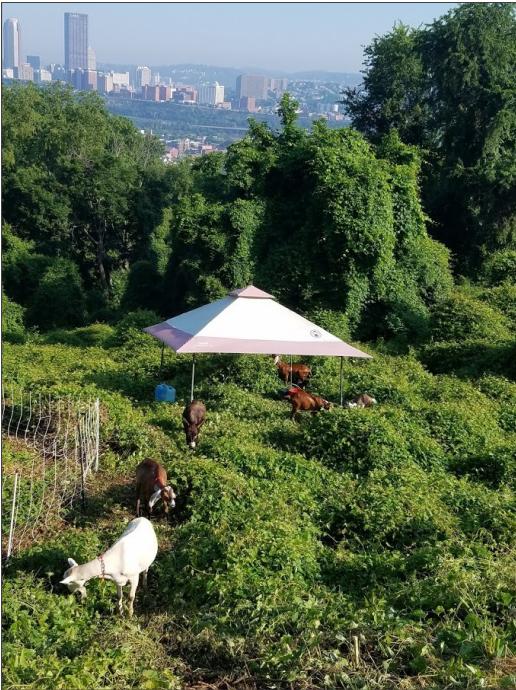
Recognizing the value of these animals, Tree Pittsburgh hired a herd in 2014 to address a large invaded hillside in West Penn Park in Pittsburgh. The goats ate through acres of Japanese knotweed and vines to “wipe the slate clean” so that eventually native restoration trees could be planted to stabilize the hillside and, with additional maintenance, subdue the presence of the invasive species.

In 2015, Steel City Grazers began operations in Pittsburgh to focus on mitigating unwanted vegetation after the initial successful treatment in West Penn Park. They addressed numerous locations in the Pittsburgh Parks system with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy’s guidance, focusing on locations with high densities of Japanese knotweed, grape vine, mile-a-minute, porcelain berry, multiflora rose, barberry, honeysuckle bush, honeysuckle vine, bittersweet, stilt grass, poison ivy, and others. In 2017, the business reincorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Allegheny GoatScape, to continue to address and mitigate invasive and unwanted plants in the region.

There are some key reasons goats can serve as a viable alternative to manual labor and chemicals in addressing our invasive plant problems. First, goats are able to address unwanted plants by doing what they naturally do: eat.

Goats are ruminants, with four stomach chambers. Their digestion keeps them eating around the clock. Though they do slow down a little at night, they only need about five hours of sleep each day, and the rest of the time they are either eating or ruminating. Goats’ excrement is pellet-like, similar to a deer or rabbit. There is little mess and it serves as high quality fertilizer. Plus, their extensive digestion process destroys seeds they may eat, reducing the local seed bank.

Second, goats are naturally good at traversing difficult terrains. This is especially pertinent in extremely hilly settings such as Pittsburgh. Goats



Before: Site with extensive population of invasive species.

are naturally curious and are also adept at getting to locations that are nearly impossible for people or machines, especially if they know

food is waiting for them. Allegheny GoatScape has been called on to address projects that landscapers refused due to the steep hillsides and other physical barriers.



Goats from Allegheny GoatScape herd.



After: Site severely diminished of invasive species, thanks to Allegheny GoatScape's goat herd.

(Story continued on page 3.)

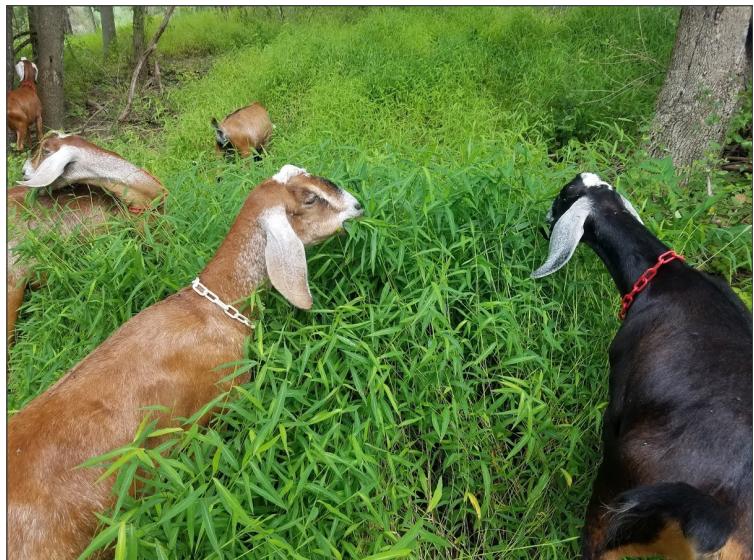
Goats (cont.) >>>

(Story continued from page 2.)

Third, goats are docile creatures and enjoyable to watch. Although they are fairly driven by their appetite, they are friendly with their caretakers and volunteers, making them easy to handle. Because of their social nature, they like to stick together and can often be seen playing if they are not eating. Goats are generally quiet creatures so long as they are happily eating, which also lends itself well to residential or park areas.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, goats serve as an environmentally friendly alternative to gas-powered machines and chemicals that have become the traditional means to mitigate unwanted vegetation. The City of Pittsburgh made an important change a few years ago, restricting use of herbicides to manage their properties. This was a big win for environmental health, but it also made the need to manage invasives by alternative means (i.e., goat herds) all the more important. Though applying a herd of goats to a lot is not an end-all be-all solution, it will have the same impact as herbicides or an annual cutting might have. If goats are applied to the same location in successive seasons, the unwanted plants continue to reduce to a much more manageable state.

iMapInvasives allows Allegheny GoatScape to track where we have addressed invasive plants and track their reduction over time. Good partners such as the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy also do this on a regular basis. This valuable database can inform Allegheny GoatScape and its partners on best locations to target, as well as show the long term impacts the goats have on our landscapes.



Goats from Allegheny GoatScape herd.



Goats from Allegheny GoatScape herd.

Although goats are a valuable tool for managing invasive species at affected sites, they are just one piece of the puzzle. Better policies for invasive control, greater use of shared information found on platforms like iMapInvasives, and an increased number of committed land stewards are all required for more effective invasive species management. Even so, goats are an important part of this vital work.

Gavin Deming is the executive director of Allegheny GoatScape, a non-profit organization operating out of Pittsburgh, PA. He became smitten with the concept of using goats to mitigate invasives after seeing how effective they could be when he helped hire Steel City Grazers while working for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC). The work of the Steel City Grazers goats allowed WPC staff to manage and plant native

trees in a quarter-acre location on a heavily traveled corridor soon after the goats came through. Gavin reincorporated the business as Allegheny GoatScape a few years later to ensure this valuable work in the Pittsburgh landscape could continue. Allegheny GoatScape's mission is to reduce invasive and unwanted vegetation in public spaces and vacant lots, utilizing goats for browsing. Working in and around Pittsburgh, Allegheny GoatScape accomplishes this mission by partnering with organizations, land owners, and businesses and allowing the goat herd to eat vegetation on the overgrown properties. For more information, please visit alleghenygoatscape.org.



Greater spearwort in flower.

New to the United States - Invasive Buttercup Found in Montgomery County

A team of botanists discovers a new non-native species not previously known from America. Reports of this and other early detection species are important to limit new species' spread to non-infested areas.

Story by Scott Schuette, PhD, Heritage Inventory Manager, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy & Christopher Hoess, Biology Instructor, Delaware Technical Community College

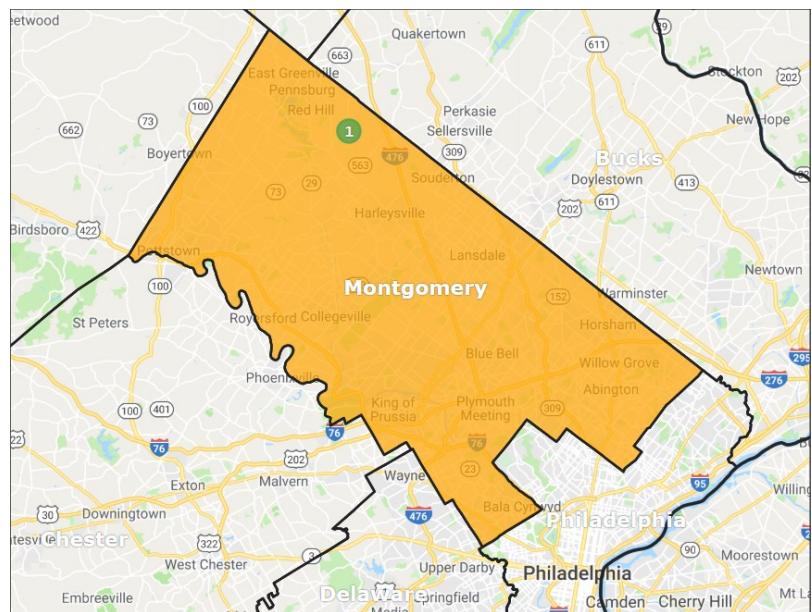
A field excursion to study the unique plant communities associated with mafic geology in Montgomery County led to the discovery of a new non-native invasive plant species to Pennsylvania. On June 20, 2018 while waiting for our survey team to rendezvous under a powerline right-of-way, a large and attractive yellow-flowered plant was noticed in a small drainage that appeared to look very much out of place. Upon further investigation and much discussion, the plant was determined to be greater spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*), also known as water spearwort, native to Europe, the Middle East, Russia, and the United Kingdom (IUCN, 2014).

This attractive wetland plant is in the buttercup family and has bright, glossy yellow flowers characteristic of many species in this plant family that bloom from June to August. Stems stand between one and five feet tall and have few branches. The stems, like some of the Pennsylvania native buttercups, are hollow and have the ability to root at the nodes if the plant is lying on the ground.

The bluish-green leaves are long, strap-shaped, hairless, and come to a sharp point. Throughout its native range, the greater spearwort is found in base-rich wetlands and around the margins of lakes and ponds, either natural or artificial. It is often found growing in standing shallow water. The plant can reproduce by seed or plant fragments, primarily rhizomes and above-ground stems, but successful establishment is highly correlated with water level fluctuations (Johansson & Nilsson, 1993).

The ability of greater spearwort to establish stable populations quickly is a desired characteristic when land managers in the U.K. and Europe are planning native plant restorations around lakes, ponds, and other wetlands. It is for those same reasons that persons with garden ponds and attractive personal water gardens desire to have this plant integrated into their landscaping. The plant is widely available in the water garden plant trade and can be purchased from any number of nurseries overseas and in Canada.

(Story continued on page 5.)



Location of greater spearwort finding in NE section of Montgomery County, PA.



Greater spearwort leaf

(Story continued from page 4.)

Fortunately in the United States, this plant was identified as a potential aquatic nuisance species that led to its placement on the regulated plant list in Chicago, IL making it illegal to sell or possess greater spearwort (Keller & Lodge, 2007).

Finding greater spearwort in a disturbed powerline right-of-way in Pennsylvania is somewhat alarming, especially given the invasive potential of this plant. Although there were only a handful of plants at this location, they were well established and in full flower. Since this is the first documented occurrence of the species in the wild, voucher specimens were collected and deposited at the Academy of Natural Sciences and Carnegie Museum of Natural History herbaria. Prior to being documented in the PA iMapInvasives database, this occurrence was submitted to iNaturalist as an observation point.

The small population was subsequently destroyed after being documented with accurate GPS information and photographs. However, the likelihood of other escaped populations of this plant is relatively high if the source

population remains unknown. The small drainage where the plants were found flows southeast towards Unami Creek that flows into Lake Delmont where another problematic invasive species, European water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) is established and abundant.

As with many invasive aquatic plants, it is very important to eradicate them quickly before they expand into larger areas of natural habitat. Given the close proximity to Unami Creek, it is likely other populations of *Ranunculus lingua* either are or soon will be present along Unami Creek and Lake Delmont. If more populations of this plant are found, they should be carefully removed, making sure to get all above and below ground plant material to prevent further spread of this species.

As field botanists, serendipitous discoveries of new species in our region highlight the importance of having boots on the ground to keep tabs on our natural environment. Sometimes those discoveries are of rare (native) species, but it is becoming more and more common to find new alien species escaping from gardens into the natural environment.



Specific location of greater spearwort finding in Montgomery County, PA.



Authors Scott Schuette (left) and Chris Hoess (right).

References:

Keller, R.P. and Lodge D.M. 2007. Species invasions from commerce in live aquatic organisms: problems and possible solutions. *Bioscience* 57(5): 428-436.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-1.RLTS.T175245A42407352.en>

Invasive Threat to Local Environment >>>



Invasive “Frankenfish” Poses Threat to Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Many experts believe the northern snakehead is past the point of eradication in places throughout the region where it is known from. However, continued awareness of this invasive species is important to contain its known populations and limit its spread.



Mary Walsh

Story by Mary Walsh, Aquatic Zoology Coordinator, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

A predator is on the loose in Mid-Atlantic streams. Dubbed the “frankenfish” and “fishzilla”, the northern snakehead (*Channa argus*) has sizeable teeth and the unusual ability to move short distances out of water, making the fish an infamous invader. The large-bodied northern snakehead is built for preying on other fish; however, it is harmless to humans, despite its menacing appearance. Once available in pet stores and sold live at food markets, the fish was likely introduced into North American waterways through an aquarium release.

This fish invader from the Yangtze River basin in China appears to be expanding its range in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The northern snakehead, first discovered within the bay watershed in a Maryland pond in 2002, has persisted in tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia and Maryland (USGS 2004). Recently discovered in Octoraro Creek in Pennsylvania, the northern snakehead likely has been established for several years in this warm water stream. The creek meanders

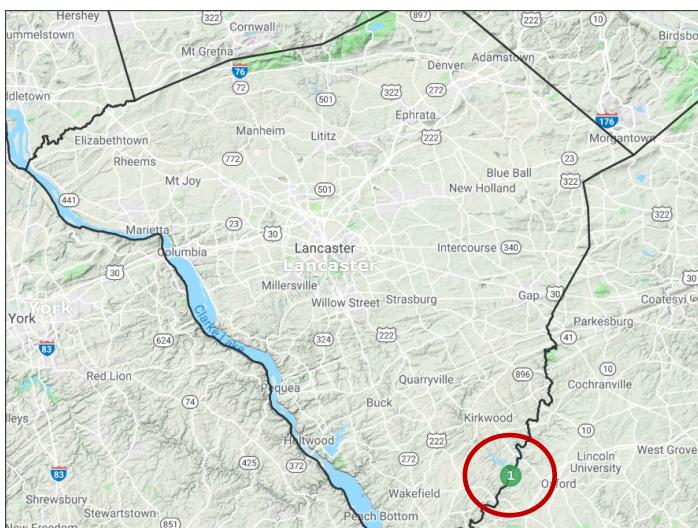


Image depicting an aquarium release, a known mechanism for the unwanted spread of aquatic invasive species.

south into Maryland and enters the Susquehanna River on the eastern side. The northern snakehead also occurs in the Delaware River and tributaries in Pennsylvania; it was first encountered in 2004 in Pennsylvania in Meadow Lake near the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. It has spread widely in the middle and lower Delaware River watershed in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The invasion of northern snakehead across the Chesapeake Bay watershed has been well documented. Occurrences have been noted in the tidal freshwaters of the bay and migrations further upstream in tributaries during spawning season. It has broad tolerances to environmental conditions and the ability to disperse long distances.

(Story continued on page 7.)



Location of northern snakehead finding in Octoraro Creek (Lancaster County), as depicted in the Pennsylvania iMapInvasives database.

Invasive "Frankenfish" (story continued) >>>

(Story continued from page 6.)

For these reasons, the northern snakehead has been spreading at a rate of about 2.7 subwatersheds per year in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It is predicted to occupy the entire bay watershed in approximately the next five decades (Love and Newhard 2018). In Pennsylvania, the northern snakehead also occurs in the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. Northern snakehead was observed entering

the lower Susquehanna River by the fish lift at the Conowingo Dam (Love and Genovese 2018); it likely

occupies the Conowingo Reservoir on the Susquehanna River, which straddles the Pennsylvania and Maryland state lines.

Regulations for Northern Snakehead in Pennsylvania:

- It is unlawful for a person to sell, purchase, offer for sale, or barter live Snakehead species in Pennsylvania.
- It is unlawful to possess live Snakehead species in Pennsylvania.
- It is unlawful to introduce or import live Snakehead species into Pennsylvania waters.
- Transportation of live Snakehead species in or through Pennsylvania is prohibited.



Northern snakehead

Credit: Matt Shank, Susquehanna River Basin Commission

food webs (Vitule et al 2009), and may spread pathogens (Densmore et al 2016).

Eradication of northern snakehead from the Chesapeake Bay watershed is not possible, but there is hope for keeping the numbers of northern snakehead in check. The northern snakehead is attractive to fishermen for their tasty filets and the challenge of reeling in these strong, feisty fish. Commercial harvest of northern snakehead has skyrocketed due to an education campaign and promotion of snakehead fishing in Maryland. In the state, licensed bow hunters sold nearly 9,000 pounds of snakehead in 2016-2017, although the harvest of snakehead in Maryland is still very low compared to other commercial fisheries in Maryland and the abundance of invasive fish in the watershed (Love and Genovese 2018). Fisheries biologists in Maryland and Virginia are continuing to study the impacts of the northern snakehead introduction and the harvest. Pennsylvania has yet to adopt a northern snakehead management strategy, but can learn from the experiences of natural resource managers in the bordering states.

biodiversity (Sala et al. 2000), alter

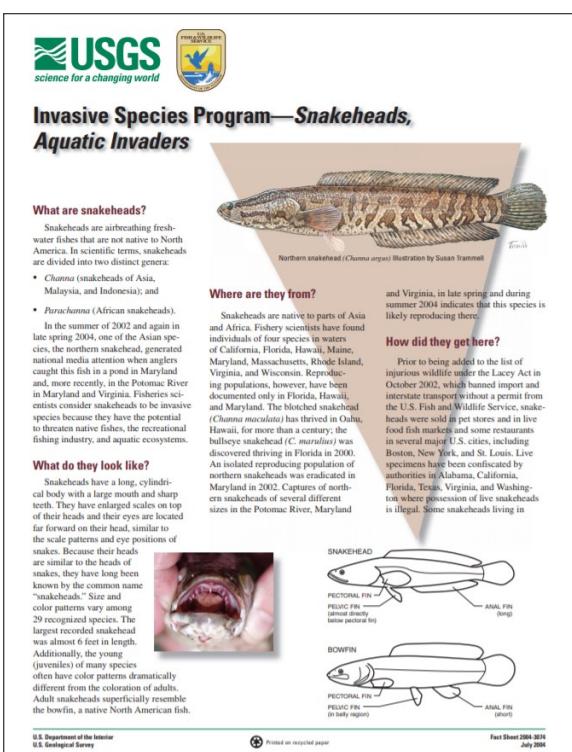
If You Capture a Northern Snakehead:

- Do not release the fish or throw it up on the bank. Northern snakeheads live for a time out of water and travel short distances across land.
- Kill the fish by freezing it or putting it on ice for an extended length of time.
- Photograph the fish and note the location. Add the record to Pennsylvania iMapInvasives.

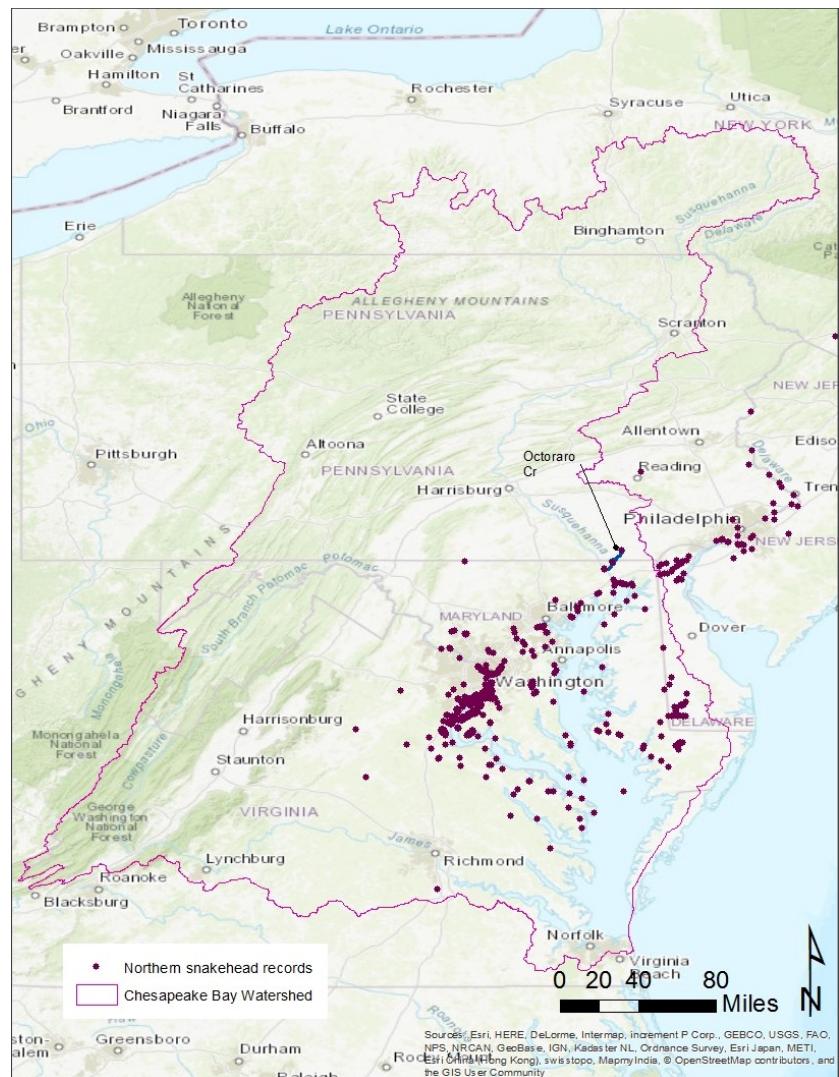
Invasive "Frankenfish" (story continued) >>>

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Learn more about Snakeheads including their native origins, how they got to the U.S., identification tips, and what the potential negative effects to our waters are. This flyer created by USGS is accessible at https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/pdf_files/snakeheads.pdf.



Data from USGS NAS showing northern snakehead findings in the region, including the finding made at the Octoraro Creek site.

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U.S. Geological Survey, 2004. Invasive Species Program—Snakeheads, Aquatic Invaders. Fact Sheet 2004-3074, https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/pdf_files/snakeheads.pdf

U.S. Geological Survey. 2019. Specimen observation data for *Channa argus* (Cantor, 1842). Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database, Gainesville, FL.

<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/viewer/omap.aspx?SpeciesID=2265>, Access Date: 1/4/2019

Using iMapInvasives to Document Findings of Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Wavyleaf basketgrass is a new emerging invasive species in Pennsylvania, currently known only from York County. To prevent it from spreading, users of iMapInvasives are

encouraged to be on the lookout for this high priority invader and report their findings.

Story by Eli DePaulis, Penn State Wildland Weed Mgmt. Unit

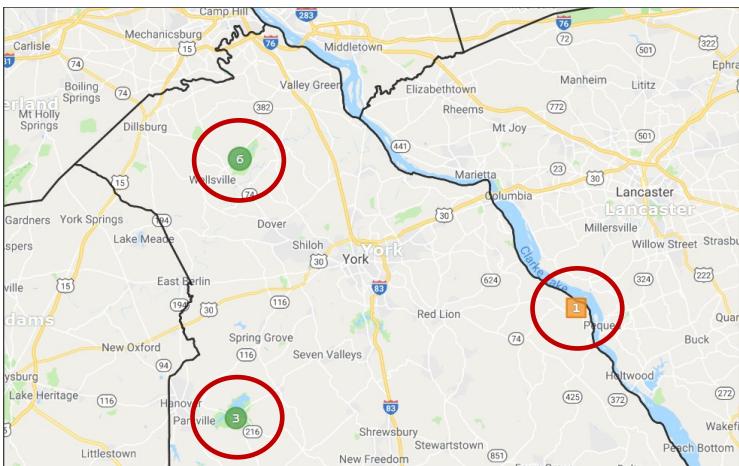
Since it was first discovered in Howard County, Maryland in 1996, wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) has been rapidly expanding its footprint in the Mid-Atlantic region. Currently in Pennsylvania, wavyleaf basketgrass has only been found in York County, specifically at Gifford Pinchot State Park, Codorus State Park, and Apollo Park.



Eli DePaulis

Since 2016, extensive surveys have been conducted by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) to document the footprint of wavyleaf basketgrass in Gifford Pinchot and Codorus State Parks, but few surveys for wavyleaf basketgrass have been conducted on private lands and county-owned properties. Given the lack of surveys, it is likely that undocumented populations of wavyleaf basketgrass occur elsewhere in Pennsylvania. This lack of information presents an opportunity for users of iMapInvasives to document potential new populations of wavyleaf basketgrass, especially in the southern counties of Pennsylvania near the current known populations.

iMapInvasives users looking to detect new populations of wavyleaf basketgrass should focus their survey efforts during late summer and early fall. Work conducted by DCNR and PSU indicates that wavyleaf basketgrass seeds germinate throughout the growing season and can increase the chance of observers making false identifications during spring and summer surveys. It's also important for users of iMapInvasives to keep in mind that sticky wavyleaf basketgrass seeds, present in the fall, can adhere to clothing and equipment. Be sure to check yourself for seeds when searching for populations of wavyleaf basketgrass in the fall.



Known locations of wavyleaf basketgrass findings in Pennsylvania (so far only in York County). Information shown here is from the PA iMapInvasives database.



Accidental transportation of invasive species is all too common. Here a dog is covered in wavyleaf basketgrass seeds after being in an infested location.

Although wavyleaf basketgrass has expanded its footprint in Pennsylvania, there is still a chance of containing this species if new populations are found and eradicated quickly. iMapInvasives users can play an important role in stopping or slowing the spread of wavyleaf basketgrass by documenting new populations in the database. All populations of wavyleaf basketgrass currently known from Pennsylvania are viewable in the iMapInvasives database. Anyone living in or near an impacted location is encouraged to search for new populations and to tell others about the harm wavyleaf basketgrass can do to our natural and wild spaces and how to avoid spreading it.



Credit: Andrew Rohrbaugh (DCNR BOF)

Invasive Species Profile >>>

Wavyleaf Basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*)

Species at a Glance: Wavyleaf basketgrass is an introduced subspecies of the native basketgrass (*O. hirtellus* (L.) P. Beauv.). It is a fast-spreading, perennial, understory grass that forms dense stands that can crowd out native herbaceous plants and threaten the deciduous forests of eastern North America.

Identification: Leaves: Flat, dark green leaves are about 1.2 cm (0.5 in) wide and 4-10 cm (1.5-4 in) long with rippling waves across the blades and elongated, pointed tips. The leaf sheaths and stems are noticeably hairy. Fruits/Seeds: Seeds, which begin to appear in late summer, are covered with a glue-like substance that allows them to stick to other objects and organisms. Stems/Roots: Stems are branching and covered in fuzzy hairs. Rooting occurs at the nodes of the stems.

Similar Species: While wavyleaf basketgrass resembles Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), these species differ in that the leaves of Japanese stiltgrass have a silvery row of hairs running down the midvein and end in a blunt gradual point. Wavyleaf basketgrass leaves are rippled across their width and end with an elongated sharp tip.

Habitat: Wavyleaf basketgrass is a shade tolerant species that avoids sunny environments. It is mainly found in shaded, moist, deciduous forests.

Spread: Wavyleaf basketgrass spreads quickly through rhizomes and seeds. The sticky substance on the seeds allows them to adhere to passing animals, people, or vehicles, easily spreading to new locations.

Distribution: Native to Europe and Asia, it's unclear how wavyleaf basketgrass was first introduced to the United States; however, it's possible it was through contamination of hanging baskets. It was first found in Howard County, Maryland in 1996. In 2000, it was found growing along a stream in Baltimore County, Maryland. Documented locations have also been found in Virginia. *Note from PA iMapInvasives administrator: Findings of wavyleaf basketgrass have been documented in York County, Pennsylvania beginning in 2016.

Environmental Impacts: This species can completely cover the forest floor, providing competition against native forest species. With the decrease in plant diversity, wavyleaf basketgrass also provides very little wildlife value. Because it is still relatively new in the United States, its ecological impacts are mostly unknown.

This species profile comes from the [Mid-Atlantic Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species \(2016\)](#).



Credit: Eli DePaulis



Credit: Art Gover

Ecological Field Services Mindful of Native Species When Battling Plant Invaders

For Ellery Troyer and his staff at Ecological Field Services LLC, protection of native plants and their habitats is a top priority when treating invasive species.

Story provided by Ellery Troyer, President of Ecological Field Services



Ellery Troyer

Ecological Field Services (EFS) is a company based in Waterford, Erie County that performs ecological restoration and consulting work to aid land owners and land managers in



Staff of Ecological Field Services treating a site containing invasive species.

effective and efficient management of their natural areas. With projects in western and central Pennsylvania, northeast Ohio, and southwest New York, the majority of EFS's work involves the treatment and control of invasive plants. This work is important to Ellery Troyer, EFS President, as well as to the individuals he employs, because it is one way the company can contribute to the restoration of the natural areas in the region.

EFS primarily performs their work through the use of chemical control, but the company has also completed projects using mechanical means. EFS views chemical control methods as efficient and cost effective, but if used improperly, can quickly cause unacceptable collateral damage to the ecosystem and surrounding native vegetation.

When considering potential sites for treatment, EFS takes a number of factors into consideration. These include the goals of the land manager, the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered native species, quality of the habitat,

intensity of infestation, proximity to a waterbody or wetland, age of the target plants, and available funding.

Within the Lake Erie watershed, EFS has worked on a number of properties, each of which are different in strategy and approach. For example, in Fairview, PA, EFS performed work in a fen (i.e., a low and marshy or frequently flooded area of land) owned by Mercyhurst University, and together with staff from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP), EFS treated common reed (*Phragmites australis ssp. australis*) and narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), two high priority invaders.

(Story continued on page 12.)



Staff of Ecological Field Services treating a site containing invasive species.

Invasive Species Management (cont.) >>>

(Story continued from page 11.)

In treating the dense stand of common reed, backpack sprayers were utilized; however, when treating the narrow-leaved cattail, EFS and PNHP staff used a hand-wiping method to eliminate any collateral damage in this high quality area.

In 2018, EFS completed their third treatment on a portion of the Lower Elk Creek Nature Reserve owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. EFS found and treated Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*) on this site, a first-time find for Erie County. The property's once dense stand of multiflora rose and privet are now gone, and the native species still in the seed bank are beginning to make a comeback.

EFS considers itself to be on the front lines of restoration work, not just because they are in the field performing this type of work, but because the staff of EFS methodically cover so many acres in a given year. For example, in 2018, EFS performed invasive species control work on over 1,150 acres of natural areas.

"To me, it's important that all of our crew members are competent in their invasive species identification", Ellery remarks regarding the skill sets he requires of his staff. *"Many have a bachelor's degree in biology, and I ensure that everyone can identify the native look-a-likes for each invasive species in our area. We are constantly looking for rare [native] plants and previously unknown invasive species at each site we work at. Additionally, EFS staff have a passion for nature as well as its stewardship and restoration."*

Working along the floodplains and forests of the waterbodies throughout Erie County is especially important to Ellery because these areas serve as corridors for bird migration. Eliminating the presence of invasive species (and their seed production) in these well-known migratory bird corridors is an added benefit of the work EFS does.

Last but not least, the importance of utilizing iMapInvasives should not be understated. Anyone is able to sign up to utilize this program, and the more data available in iMapInvasives regarding the extent of invasive species populations, the better EFS and other land managers are able to make management decisions.

Encouraging Words >>>



Stacie Hall, Pennsylvania DCNR, Assistant Manager at Pymatuning State Park

"As a manager of a large resource, mapping invasive species and related control efforts is vital to understanding the significance of a population in the landscape, size of necessary control measures, and tracking effectiveness of treatments. At Pymatuning, I have been using iMapInvasives over the last three years to assist in the management of several invasive species including hydrilla, a significant concern for the health of the reservoir. Not only am I able to track my own records, I am able to use the statewide data when speaking to others on the spread of hydrilla."