

Invasive Pulls

Due to the virus, invasive plant activities will continue to be done safely and informally by a small group. If you are interested in being notified of those activities, please contact Katherine Howard at Katherineh998@gmail.com.

About the Plant Invaders



Black Swallow-wort is a vine with glossy, opposite leaves, small purple flowers, and long seed pods that burst in late summer dispersing massive numbers of seeds into the wind. It is our newest invader and a formidable problem. It is also a threat to Monarch butterflies: because it is in the milkweed family, they may get mixed up and lay their eggs on it, but the larvae can't eat it and die. Dig up the spaghetti-like roots, or at least pull off all the seed pods in mid summer before the pods burst (put the seed pods in trash, NOT yard waste).



Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, because any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until then we must control by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job.



Buckthorn is another non-native shrub that is proliferating in forested areas (see Cold Spring Park), covering the understory and preventing native forests from re-seeding.

Our sessions also tackle garlic mustard, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, oriental bittersweet, and black locust.

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As explained in past newsletters, Amazon Smile is a program through which Amazon donates 0.5% of most purchases (yes, \$5 of every \$1000) to a nonprofit (501c3) organization of your choice (the Newton Conservators, we hope!).

How does one use Amazon Smile? Instead of going to Amazon.com, you go to Smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, you will be asked to choose a nonprofit organization to receive the bonus donation. Enter "Newton Conservators," and you are ready to go. The rest of your shopping proceeds exactly the same as if you had logged in to Amazon.com initially.

Even with relatively few members using the program so far, the rewards have grown. For the first quarter we participated in 2014, we received \$22.32. In 2018, we received \$171.04, and it has now grown to \$100 per quarter.

If you have any further questions about the program, check the FAQ page: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.