Knotweed Network update, June 11, 2019, Housatonic River Commission

Wild and Scenic Housatonic Japanese Knotweed Survey was completed on the main stem, in September, 2018.
Phase Two: buffer zone, tributary, and town-wide mapping should proceed in the Summer of 2019. North Canaan map (includes **Blackberry River**) is nearly complete. **Cornwall** mapping is in progress. **Ten Mile River** GPS data was provided to HVA by David Paton in early June.

Knotweed Control Options:
Prevention: The majority of new knotweed infestations are self-inflicted by human vectors, and contaminated fill and soils. Town Surveys should include all gravel pits and storage areas such as town garages, and landfills. All knotweed in these areas should be foliar treated late in growing season. Foliar treatment of roadside knotweed patches should occur before mowing on Town and State roads. A BMP presentation to NHCOG town supervisors occurred in April.

Chemical: Two demonstration sites on the West Bank of the Covered Bridge reveal effective foliar treatment of massive knotweed patches by River Commissioner, Bob Gambino & Co, with assistance from Christian Allyn. Conservation ground cover was established 20 months after initial treatment. Followup spot treatment by stem injection is expected to occur in Sept.

Mechanical: Smothering effort on East Bank at Covered Bridge was not effective due to light weight of fabric/plastic, too small coverage area, inadequate tarp attachment or weights.

Biological: USDA-APHIS is currently soliciting comments relating to the biological control program using the knotweed psyllid *Aphalara itadori.* Your supportive comments can greatly help to ensure that this program is permitted for implementation. To view the Federal Register posting with links to the Environmental Assessment and comment portal go to: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/28/2019-11026/notice-of-availability-of-an-environmental-assessment-for-the-release-of-aphalara-itadori-for-the
The biological control insect has been thoroughly tested and reviewed and is host specific to Japanese, giant, and hybrid knotweeds. **Comment period ends June 27.**

Knotweed Ecological Impact Study: A Riparian vegetation experiment designed by entomologist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, will compare Native and Novel (knotweed) vegetation impact on insect herbivores at the base of the food web. Will specifically measure drift insects, which are a primary food source for Salmonids (trout) in the summer months. The study, at three sites on the Housatonic, is led by Colleen Lutz as part of her SUNY Albany, Masters Program.

Public Outreach and Education: Two public talks occurred in Cornwall and Salisbury in April. Cornwall Library lecture can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lStWS8lBpL4 Advance slide button to 5 min mark to skip intro. Other public venues are sought.

HRC and HVA Web Sites information pages on knotweed management in the Wild and Scenic Housatonic could greatly enhance public education and help reduce impact of Knotweed neglect and mistakes in our W & S section. Please include Knotweed identification and BMP.
Tom Zetterstrom, Knotweed Initiative