

FALL 2014

Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District



New Bill Aids in Fight Against Aquatic Invasive Species



New legislation signed by Governor Cuomo makes it the responsibility of boaters launching watercraft to use common sense when putting in and taking out their boats. Before transportation or launch, the boater should first clean, drain and dry the boat, trailer, and any other exposed equipment of visible plant and animal matter, or have taken other reasonable measures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Invasive species are a threat because they have few natural predators in their new environment and can carry harmful diseases. Ultimately,

invasives can outcompete native plants and animals and change entire ecosystems. Invasives cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$120 billion per year, and while the State has implemented various programs designed to control the spread of aquatic invasive species, it is far more cost-effective to prevent them altogether.

Over the summer the DEC adopted regulations similar to this bill that prohibits boats from launching or leaving water access sites on DEC land. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation this summer published proposed regulations that would place similar requirements at State Parks. Several local municipalities and organizations in the State have already adopted local laws to address the spread of aquatic invasive species, including boat inspection and washing requirements. In 2014, the State adopted the first ever mandatory invasive species inspection programs at all boat launches on Lake George.



Aquatic Invasive Disposal Stations

In an effort to combat the introduction and spread of invasive aquatic species the Wayne County Water Quality Coordinating Committee is in the process of building Invasive Species Disposal Stations. The goal of these stations is to provide a dedicated location for anglers and boaters to dispose of invasive species clinging to their fishing and boating equipment. The stations also serve as a billboard encouraging users to carefully inspect their equipment and remove and properly dispose by hand of any invasives found. These simple actions are the most effective way to combat the spread of invasives from water to water.

Watch for these at local marina and launch sites in 2015.

Our Ash Trees Will Be Under Attack!

A serious matter is upon us and much like 84 years ago when our region began losing elm trees to the Dutch elm disease. Today the threat is to our white, green, black and blue ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) from the Emerald Ash Borer



(*Agrilus planipennis*). Native to eastern Russia, northern China, Japan, and Korea. It likely traveled to the U.S. and Canada in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo.

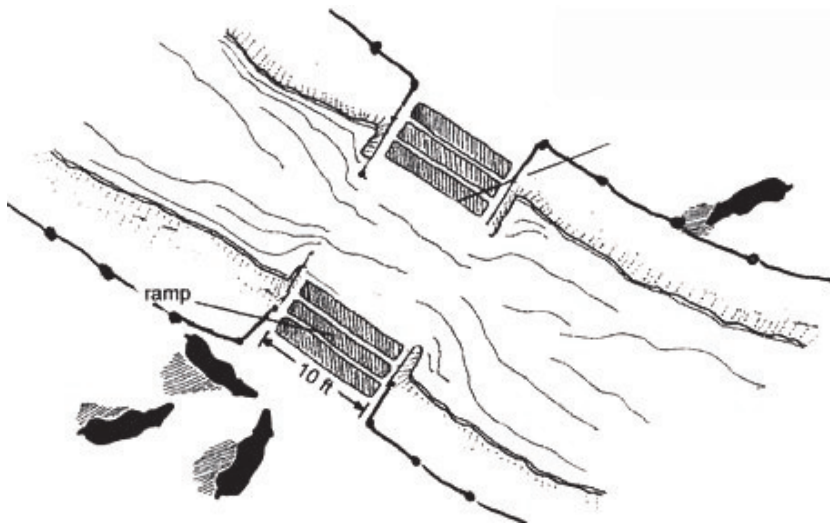


These beetles can have a one or two year life cycle. Adults begin emerging from trees in mid to late May with peak emergence in late June. Adult beetles leave D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the trees trunks and branches. Females usually begin laying eggs on the surface of or just under the bark or in cracks and crevices about 2 weeks after emergence. Eggs hatch in 1-2 weeks, and the tiny larvae bore through the bark and into the cambium of the tree (the area between the bark and wood where high amounts of water and nutrients are transported). The larvae feed under the bark for several weeks, usually from late July or early August through October.

Signs of infection included tree canopy dieback, yellowing, and browning leaves. "The biggest concern about EAB is that you will more than likely notice your ash tree dying before you ever see the insect responsible for its decline (Wedge Community Coop Newsletter, Aug-Sept, 2009)." Heavily infested trees exhibit canopy die-back usually starting at the top of the tree. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in the first year.

For more info www.waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org/EAB_news_alert

Best Management Practices / Access Control Systems



For farms that have pasture or other areas where animals have access to water bodies, one of the easiest ways to protect water quality is to provide an access control system.

These systems are easy to implement and are relatively low cost. Essentially, these systems involve limiting access to the water body, most likely using fencing.

If fencing the water body would result in cutting off access to part of a field, other measures such as culvert crossings can be included. Also, alternative water supply systems can be incorporated if needed. This practice reduces the risk of contamination from nutrients, pathogens, and sediment, and

helps to improve neighbor relations due to increased aesthetics in the stream corridor.

**Visit www.waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org
Sign up for news updates.**

Attention Teachers— Envirothon Time



The New York State Envirothon, sponsored by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation District, is designed to:

- Test students' knowledge and understanding of natural resource issues and local conservation concerns.
- Cultivate students' desire to learn more about natural resources & environmental issues.



The spirit of competition stimulates students' interests in environmental concerns and motivates them to further develop their skills and grow into environmentally-aware, action-oriented adults. Program is geared toward grades 9-12 and is a co-curricular activity

Your School is Invited

Let us work with your school or club

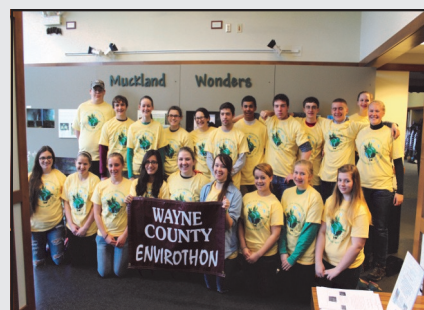
Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) will provide the following tools to get your class started toward Envirothon:

- ◇ The foundational course outline
- ◇ Information on where to find supplemental materials and resources for developing lesson plans
- ◇ List of classroom sample activities
- ◇ WCSWCD guest speaker presentations and field activities

Call us to learn more: 315-946-4136

This is an excellent opportunity to get your students out of the classroom

Wayne County Envirothon is April 22nd, 2015 at the Montezuma Audubon Nature Center.



Aquatic Vegetative Control Wrap Up

AVC Harvest Totals As of 9/5/2014

Embayments	Loads	Tons
Port Bay	36	72
East Bay	15	30
Maxwell Bay	9	18
Blind Sodus Bay	6	12
Sodus Bay	662	1324
TOTAL	728	1456

The 2014 Aquatic Vegetative Control Program has come to an end. This year's cooler temperatures and high waters resulted in slower vegetative growth.

For the 2014 season the crew harvested approximately 1456 tons (as of September 5th).

Wayne County is one of five Soil & Water Conservation Districts in New York State that operates a Weed Harvesting program. The AVC program has been in operation since the late 80's and has removed a total over 27,050 tons of nutrient material (invasive aquatic weeds) from 1988 through the 2014 season.

The program serves five embayments with short-term remediation of aquatic vegetation: Maxwell Bay, Sodus Bay, East Bay, Port Bay, and Blind Sodus Bay.

WAYNE COUNTY



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