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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Help Stop Invasive Knotweed! Stream Stewards Needed for Ashokan Watershed Project**

Join The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) Stream Stewards for a “Knotweed Pull” and information session on Saturday, May 22. Stream Stewards will demonstrate how to eradicate this invasive plant which infests the streamside, roadsides and gardens located in the Ashokan Watershed. Participants will meet at 10:00am at the AWSMP Office located at 6375 Route 28 in Phoenicia, then carpool to the site. The project will end at 12:00pm.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Educator, Michael Courtney will conduct a brief educational talk and a stem count monitoring demonstration then the group will proceed to remove Japanese Knotweed from a select site in the Watershed. AWSMP will provide drinking water, garbage bags and some tools. Participants are encouraged to bring their own labeled tools and are asked to dress appropriately.

Stream Stewards are full and part time residents of the Ashokan Watershed who participate in a myriad of important and beneficial activities. The purpose of the program is for volunteers to get involved in stream-based projects in the community as a way to visibly model positive stream stewardship practices and assist AWSMP in carrying out a wide range of community activities. In addition to the Knotweed Pull some of the other future activities available are: stream clean-ups, stream education, streamside plantings, stream monitoring, outreach to local communities, invasive species control, and organizing local events.

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*, [syn.](#) *Polygonum cuspidatum*, *Reynoutria japonica*) is a large, [herbaceous perennial plant](#), native to eastern [Asia](#) in [Japan](#), [China](#) and [Korea](#). In North America and Europe the species is very successful and has been classified as [invasive](#) in several countries.

For more information, please contact Colleen Griffith at 845-688-3047 or email [cas55@cornell.edu](mailto:cas55@cornell.edu)

For more information about CCEUC community programs and events call 845-340-3990 or visit us online at [www.cceulster.org](http://www.cceulster.org) or follow us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

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*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) is a 501(c) 3 subordinate government agency of the State of New York under Article 5, 224(b) of the NYS County Laws organization that utilizes research based knowledge through their partnership with Cornell University. This information is disseminated through their on-going community programming in the areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science and Environmental programs held throughout Ulster County.*

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Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ulster County provides equal program and employment opportunities.