

KC Weed News – February 2011

King County, Washington

(<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-news.aspx>)

TOPICS BELOW

- Weed of the Month: Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)
- Weed Tips for February
- 2011 State and County Weed Lists Bring a Few Changes
- State Legislators Consider Restricting Noxious Weed Listings, Eliminating the State Weed Board, and Extending the Washington Invasive Species Council
- Ecology Awards Grants to develop Aquatic Weed Management Plans for Lake Desire and the Sammamish River
- We Welcome our New State and Federal Lands Noxious Weed Specialist
- Symposium on Invasive Plants at Weed Science Conference in Spokane
- Seattle's Flower and Garden Show is Coming Up
- Save the Dates for our Annual Noxious Weed Workshops
- Recent "Weeds in the News" Stories from Near and Far



Weed of the Month: [Houndstongue](#) (*Cynoglossum officinale*), a Class B Noxious Weed in King County, Washington

Houndstongue's name alone makes it an interesting plant. Most sources say the name comes from the way the leaves resemble a dog's tongue, both in shape and texture. Some go even further and say the name comes from how much the leaves feel like a dog's tongue. [Wikipedia](#) reports an old belief that having a leaf in one's shoe can ward off dog attacks. I haven't tried that myself, so I can't comment on the effectiveness. In addition to dog-related remedies, houndstongue has been historically used for a wide range of medicinal uses. However, as is often the case with medicine, houndstongue can also be toxic. Have you heard the expression "the dose makes the poison"?

The toxins in houndstongue are very similar to those found in [tansy ragwort](#), and just as deadly when ingested in a sufficient quantity. Also similar to tansy ragwort is the fact that although most animals avoid houndstongue when it is green, they are more likely to eat it after it has been cut, sprayed or dried. Unfortunately, but both plants remain toxic when dry. In fact, most houndstongue poisonings occur when livestock eat it mixed with hay.

Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) is a European species that apparently found its way to North America by hitchhiking in grass seeds and has since spread to most of the United States and the southern Canadian provinces. The first recorded occurrences of houndstongue in the United States were in Oregon in 1893, and then in Montana in 1900. In Montana, there was a marked increase in the spread after 1950. The [UW Burke Museum herbarium](#) has specimens of houndstongue from Idaho dating to the 1920's and from Washington beginning in 1950.

Houndstongue is fairly common in eastern and central Washington and is present in most counties. West of the Cascades, houndstongue has been found in King, Pierce, and Skamania Counties.

In addition to catching a ride in seed mixes and hay, houndstongue also travels on animals, people, vehicles and other sorts of equipment. Houndstongue has very interesting [nutlets](#) that are covered with short, Velcro-like bristles that allow the nutlets to catch onto almost anything. In addition to helping the plant move around, this feature makes houndstongue very annoying to hikers and other recreationists who find themselves picking off the sticky burs and trying to get them off their dogs and horses. Beyond the annoyance factor, houndstongue increases costs for sheep and cattle ranchers who have to spend more to clean up their animals before marketing them. Perhaps even more seriously, the nutlets sometimes get trapped around animal's eyes and eyelids, and other sensitive tissues, and can cause infections and other problems. Although most often found in disturbed areas like roadsides, logging areas and abandoned fields, houndstongue can create significant infestations and out-compete beneficial vegetation in areas such as rangeland, open woodlands and pastures.

Houndstongue is found throughout much of North America, but it is uncommon in western Washington. We know it can grow here because we occasionally find it, but it hasn't yet become established west of the Cascades. It is hard to know whether it is being kept in check by our relatively high rainfall or some other factors, but it doesn't seem to be spreading here as much as in eastern Washington. However, it is hard to predict when or how a new invasive species will take off, so it is best to be cautious with this weed. Also, given how similar it is to tansy ragwort in terms of impacts to livestock and other animals, I think it is safe to say we should remove it when we find it.

Fortunately, houndstongue is relatively easy to identify and stands out from more common weeds. The stems are fairly tall and upright and I don't know any other common weeds in Washington with the same dull reddish-purple flower color. The flowers are held on slender, one-sided stalks that branch out at the tops of the stems and coil slightly. The whole plant is covered by long hairs and the lower leaves are really large and hairy (and, don't forget, they look like a dog's tongue). In fall and throughout the winter, the plant can be spotted because it retains some of its dried stems with nutlets still attached (waiting for an unwary animal or hiker to walk by). The nutlets are distinctively shaped and of course covered with hooked bristles so hard to miss. This time of year, you can find last year's rosettes over-wintering and starting to grow new leaves. Also, because this plant is such a widespread weed in this country, it is easy to find photos online by simply searching images in any web browser.

Although houndstongue has been on the Washington State Noxious Weed List since 2000, it has just been added as of 2011 to the regulated list for King County and several other westside counties. It has been found recently on a few roadsides, so we would like to keep a close eye out for new populations and get rid of them quickly before the weed has a chance to get established here. For more information, photos and links, you can visit our [website](#) or contact us by [email](#) or phone at 206-296-0290. And if you do spot any houndstongue in King County, please let us know by reporting it [online](#).

Weed Tips for February

It's a great time to plan and do some research. The wet, cold days make it hard to feel like working outside, but this is a great time to walk your property and plan for the rest of the year. Look for areas where the weeds got away from you last year and make a plan now for what to do later. Read up on the county's [Best Management Practices](#) or talk to our helpful weed specialists

and see if there's an approach that will fit your budget and time better this year. Also look for bare areas or places where the existing grass or landscaping is struggling. These are going to be prime places for weeds to get a foothold. Consider making some changes to how you maintain your grass or whether to replace plants or lawn with more site-appropriate vegetation. In really shady spots, lawns will always struggle, so maybe it's time to replace that patchy area under your trees with some shade-tolerant natives. Check out the [Native Plant Guide](#) online or talk to your local nursery for suggestions.

Does it seem like the hardest weeds to control are your neighbor's weeds? Maybe this is the year to work on developing a good neighbor partnership with others in your community. If your neighbor's blackberry vines keep climbing over the fence into your backyard or their tansy ragwort seeds blow into your fields every summer, this would be a great time to start working on a better relationship with them (the neighbors, not the weeds). It's early enough in the year that you can try to work out a way to improve the situation. If they have trouble doing their own maintenance (too busy, not physically able, etc.), maybe you can offer to help keep their fence line cleared or help pull the weeds near your property, and in return they can do something for you like watch your house while you're gone or feed your pets. Or maybe you can get several neighbors together and pool your money to hire someone to tackle everybody's weeds. It's often cheaper to hire someone for one large area as opposed to hiring them individually for each small property. Neighbors can be the best thing in the world or the biggest challenge to home ownership, and weeds are sometimes one of the most obvious symptoms of a bad neighbor relationship. It doesn't have to be that way, and if you can work out a solution, everyone will benefit.

On a nice day in February, getting out and pulling weeds can be very rewarding. Not only does it feel good to get outside when the sun comes out this time of year, it's also a great way to save you work later on. For example, this is the best time of year to dig up small patches of [creeping buttercup](#), before the roots form dense mats again. It's also a great time to find overwintering rosettes of biennials and winter annuals like [garlic mustard](#), [milk thistle](#), [bull thistle](#), [tansy ragwort](#), [poison hemlock](#) and more. While most plants are still dormant and leafless, overwintering rosettes are more visible and easier to spot. It's also a lot easier to get to them now. Have you ever had to pull garlic mustard hiding under nettles? Or how about trying to find thistles in a field of full grown hay? It's definitely easier now. Roots of rosettes typically hold tight to the ground though, so bring your favorite digging tool to help get all the roots out. Roots can break off when you try to hand pull them and, besides, using a shovel won't get your hands as wet and cold as hand-pulling this time of year.

Remember that we have a couple of handy tools that might help. If you have [Scotch broom](#), maybe you will want to borrow one of our weed wrenches. This handy tool works best on woody plants like broom that have deep, non-spreading roots and a sturdy stem. It provides just the leverage you need to get out those long roots without resorting to heavy machinery. They are available for sale online at the [Weed Wrench Company](#), but they aren't cheap, so borrowing one of ours might be the way to go. Also, we have [stem-injectors](#) for controlling [knotweed](#) that we can loan out in the summer to anyone who's been to one of our knotweed classes. It's way too early to start injecting knotweed of course, but keep this in mind if you are planning on controlling your knotweed this summer. If you have taken a knotweed control class from us in the past, you are already eligible to borrow a stem-injector. If you haven't had a class yet, then check our website in April or contact us later in the spring to check our class schedule. We typically offer several of these classes in June and July in different parts of the county. Or [email me](#) now and I'll make sure to let you know when we have the classes scheduled. Weed wrenches can be reserved any time of the year by calling our office at 206-296-0290. Stem-injectors loans are scheduled in the summer, but you can call us anytime for more information.

Mulch before the weeds pop up. If you have ever struggled with garden beds full of pesky annuals like [bittercress](#) a.k.a. shotweed (*Cardamine hirsuta* and related species), then mulching now might be your answer. Bittercress is happily growing right now, undeterred by the winter chill, and will be bolting and seeding before you know it. There are many other annual weeds that can also be managed well by a nice thick layer of mulch in garden beds and any areas that lack good plant cover to keep the weeds in check. Mulch is a good way to smother weed seeds and keep them from germinating. There is the added benefit that you will improve your soil and help the plants you want to grow better, which will in turn help keep out pesky intruders later in the year.

Green up your community by joining a neighborhood work party. If you are looking for a way to help out in your neighborhood, helping out at a restoration work party can be very rewarding. Not only do you get to meet your neighbors and feel good about helping, but it's a great way to get exercise and warm up on a chilly day. A recent article in the Seattle Times lists a few opportunities in Seattle, [Green community-building projects around Seattle](#), including one where you get to listen to live music while you pull weeds. We also list a few helpful links on our [Volunteers](#) web page. In general, a great place to start is with your local parks department or neighborhood school, where there may already be restoration project underway. There is so much to do and public resources are increasingly scarce, so it's a great time to chip in and help out. Besides, it's hard to think of something more satisfying than watching a tree grow that you planted or to see the birds and other critters return to a forest you helped to restore.

2011 State and County Weed Lists Bring a Few Changes

Following a public hearing and meeting in November 2010, the Washington State Weed Board approved the following changes to the [State Noxious Weed List](#):

- [Yellow archangel](#), *Lamium galeobdolon*: changed from Class C to Class B, designated in Clallam, San Juan, Cowlitz, and Skamania counties
- [Hairy willow-herb](#), *Epilobium hirsutum*: changed from Class C to Class B, designated everywhere *except* Whatcom, Island, Thurston, Grant, Whitman, Skamania, Klickitat, Benton, and Franklin counties.
- [Hoary alyssum](#), *Berteroa incana*: will now be designated south of Hwy 20 in Ferry County
- [Eurasian watermilfoil](#), *Myriophyllum spicatum*: designated in Chelan and Okanogan counties
- [Houndstongue](#), *Cynoglossum officinale*: designated in Region 5 (Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap, Pierce, King and Thurston counties)

There were other proposals brought up at the hearing that were rejected, including a proposal from the King County Weed Board to add [English holly](#) to the weed list. This proposal produced a lively debate before and during the state weed board hearing, although most comments were delivered to the state weed board before the hearing. Overall, there were 46 written comments supporting the listing of holly and 24 written comments opposing. At the public hearing held in Yakima, there were two oral testimonies supporting the listing and seven opposed.

The main concern of the people against the proposal was that listing holly as a noxious weed would hurt the commercial holly growing industry of Washington and Oregon. The King County Weed Board's proposal was to "Add English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) to the Class C Noxious Weed List, with the understanding that this listing will not limit existing commerce in holly products". Even though the proposal's goal was not to limit the sale or production of English holly, the holly growers still felt that adding the species to the noxious weed list would adversely affect their business.

The English holly proposal was rejected by the state weed board in a unanimous vote. [Alison Halpern](#), Executive Secretary for the State Weed Board, explained the Board's position in an email sent to people who submitted comments. Here is an excerpt of her email:

“Although there is no dispute that English holly can be spread into forests by birds, there is insufficient scientific research at the present time to indicate that it meets the criteria of a noxious weed as defined in RCW 17.10.010. Specifically, scientific research is lacking at this time to demonstrate that its presence in forests causes detrimental ecological impacts. If a plant is not on the state noxious weed list (WAC 16-750), then a county noxious weed control board does not have the authority to enforce control on that species. However, county noxious weed control boards are still able to educate about unlisted, weedy species, which was one of the goals of the county weed board submitting the listing proposal for English holly. It was not the intention to cause any harm to growers of an agricultural commodity, and the Board strongly considered potential direct and indirect economic impacts of listing English holly when making its decision.

The Board brought this proposal to hearing to make sure both sides were heard and to allow the Board to make a well-informed decision. It was evident in the written comments and oral testimony presented at the public hearing, and in discussion following the Board's voting at the November 3 Board meeting, that many proponents of the listing proposal did not want to impact the holly growers in any way, and that some opponents of the proposal did not want to prevent control of escaped English holly in King County. The Board suggested that holly growers and county weed boards communicate directly and work together, perhaps through a task force, and was encouraged by the interest on both sides to find solutions at the local level that do not include listing this species as a state noxious weed.”

Now that the state weed list is finalized, each county weed board is meeting to decide on their county's weed list. The [King County Noxious Weed Control Board](#) met on January 12 to approve our weed list. Of course, many of the weeds on the county lists are decided at the state level. All Class A weeds must be included on every county's list. Also, any Class B weeds that are designated by the state for required control in a county have to be included. County weed boards can also elect to include additional noxious weeds on their list, and can require control of any state-listed species in all or part of their county.

The [King County noxious weed list](#) looks very similar to last year's list. The only difference is that houndstongue and hairy willow-herb are now regulated Class B weeds (hairy willow-herb was already regulated in King County, but it had been on the Class C list). Although yellow archangel is now a Class B weed on the state list, it is not regulated in King County, so it stays on the county non-regulated weed list. Everything else stays the same as last year.

State Legislators Consider Restricting Noxious Weed Listings, Eliminating the State Weed Board, and Extending the Washington Invasive Species Council

There has been considerable interest among some of us noxious weed folks about three pieces of legislation being considered in Olympia this legislative session. First, there is once again a proposal ([House Bill 1371](#)) to eliminate a number of State Boards and Commissions including the State Noxious Weed Control Board. HB 1371 essentially would re-assign the duties and responsibilities of the state weed board to the Department of Agriculture. The second issue is

related to the concern of the holly producers and the Washington Farm Bureau that English holly would be proposed for listing again. Bills were introduced in both the State House and the State Senate ([HB 1169](#), and [SB 5087](#), respectively) that would prohibit adding any species to the state weed list that are commercial produced in Washington State. Both bills have been heard in committee. There has been no action as of this writing on the Senate Bill. For the House Bill, two amendments have been proposed, but no further action taken. Of course by the time you are reading this, there may be additional information. For updates, please visit the [Washington State Legislature website](#) and go to the Bill Search tab.

The third proposed legislation, [SB 5090](#) and [HB 1413](#), would extend the existence of the [Washington Invasive Species Council](#) until at least June 30, 2017. I think that this extension represents a vote of confidence in the work of the Washington Invasive Species Council and recognition of the importance of its work, even in this time of extreme budget restraints. The purpose of the Invasive Species Council is to provide policy level direction, planning, and coordination for combating harmful invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of others that may be potentially harmful. The Council brings together state agencies as well as local and federal agencies and organizations in order to coordinate efforts to combat invasive species. The Council has been especially active in the area of planning strategies to deal with invasive animals and other organisms for which there had been little coordination, almost no supporting legislation, and no local agencies specifically tasked with preventing and eradicating new species. There is no equivalent to the county noxious weed boards for invasive animals, and there hadn't been an overall state policy or legislation for how to deal with new intruders like zebra mussels or other noxious critters before the Council began its work.

Ecology Awards Grants to develop Aquatic Weed Management Plans for Lake Desire and the Sammamish River

In January, the King County Noxious Weed Control Program received two grants from the Washington Department of Ecology to create Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plans (IAVMPs) for Lake Desire in south King County and for the Sammamish River. IAVMPs look at the weed problems on one water body and assess all control options to come up with a comprehensive plan for weed management.

Lake Desire

Lake Desire, located east of Renton in unincorporated King County, has the worst infestation of [purple loosestrife](#) of any small lake in the county, plus a rapidly increasing [Eurasian watermilfoil](#) population, spreading [fragrant water lily](#), and one of very few stands of [reed sweetgrass](#), a class A noxious weed, in the county. The Lake Desire community last year requested our help dealing with these weeds, and noxious weed specialist [Ben Peterson](#) applied for a grant to get the ball rolling. Working with the community, he will have the IAVMP ready by the end of 2011.

Sammamish River

The Sammamish River hosts significant infestations of noxious weeds along its entire 14 mile run from Lake Sammamish to Lake Washington, including [purple loosestrife](#), [garden loosestrife](#), [Brazilian elodea](#) and [common reed \(Phragmites\)](#), plus a plethora of unregulated noxious weeds, including [knotweeds](#), [blackberry](#), [reed canary grass](#), [yellow-flag iris](#), [Eurasian watermilfoil](#) and [curly-leaf pondweed](#). [Katie Messick](#), aquatic weed specialist, has convened a steering committee of state and local governments, private property owners and community groups to help prioritize vegetation management issues and come up with a plan that has the support of all stakeholders. This ambitious project should be completed at the end of 2012.

We Welcome our New State and Federal Lands Noxious Weed Specialist

Congratulations to [Trish MacLaren](#) who will be moving from her position as regional weed specialist in southeast King County, which she has held since 2005, to become our program's new State and Federal Lands coordinator. Trish is replacing Dennis Chambreau, who retired at the end of last year, making him the first person to leave our program through retirement – congratulations Dennis! Trish will take over the coordination and communications with state agencies such as WSDOT, State Parks, State Fish and Wildlife, State DNR and others, as well as being the program's point person for working with the Port of Seattle and federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service. It's a big job, but Trish is ready for it, having worked with many of these agencies already in her capacity as a regional weed specialist, as well as assisting Dennis with his work. Trish also brings many years of past experience working with agencies in Washington and Florida on invasive species and natural resource issues. Trish can be reached at 206-214-5871 or trish.maclaren@kingcounty.gov after she starts on February 28.

Symposium on Invasive Plants at Weed Science Conference in Spokane

The [Western Society of Weed Science](#) (WSWS) annual meeting being held in Spokane in March is featuring a special symposium titled "Ecological Effects of Invasive Plants". The organizers of the symposium are Shawna Bautista and Tim Harrington of the US Forest Service. The conference will be held in Spokane at the Doubletree City Center Hotel on March 7-10, 2011. This regional conference rotates through the western states and is often too far from here for easy travel (last year it was in Hawaii for instance), so this is a good opportunity for Washington and Oregon residents. At this annual meeting, weed science researchers from all over the western states will be presenting on a wide range of topics, including a section on Rangeland and Natural Areas that covers invasive weeds and restoration techniques. You can register separately for the symposium, which will be held on Thursday March 10th from 9:30 am to 4 pm, or attend the whole conference. Check out the [WSWS website](#) for more information.

Seattle's Flower and Garden Show is Coming Up

Always welcome this time of year is the spring-like experience brought to us in the [Pacific Northwest Flower and Garden Show](#). The show is being held from February 23 to 27, at the Convention Center in downtown Seattle. When you're browsing the booths in the vendor section, make sure to stop by the WSDA-Noxious Weed Board booth and the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks booth. There will be noxious weed experts on hand at the state noxious weed table and plenty of great gardening and weed resources at both booths.

Save the Dates for our Annual Noxious Weed Workshops

We will once again be offering noxious weed workshops for vegetation management crews, landscapers, restoration practitioners, agency staff and others. This is a great way to freshen up your noxious weed skills, train new staff, and get pesticide license recertification credits. The dates are **May 4, May 11 and May 18** this year. The May 4 session will be held in Kent, the May 11 session will be in Kenmore, and May 18 will be in Preston. All three classes will be from 8 to 12. As in previous years, we will be covering identification and control of noxious weeds and invasive plants in King County as well as other special topics related to noxious weed control. As always, these workshops are free and we will be applying for WSDA recertification credits. The agenda and locations will be posted on our [website](#) when they are finalized. We do ask that everyone registers ahead of time because we tend to fill up. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Sasha Shaw by [email](#) or phone at 206-263-6468. If you are registering, please provide your name, agency/company, email, phone number and which session you would like. You can use one email for multiple staff, but please provide all their names if possible (that helps me make the sign in sheets).

Recent "Weeds in the News" Stories from Near and Far

[Olympic National Park growing nature's 'defenders' for Elwha River restoration](#). This experiment in large scale restoration includes a plan for keeping invasive plants at bay. This is great news because this issue is all too often left until the problem is already there. Prevention is much cheaper and it sounds like they will be making every effort to stay ahead of the weeds. It will be worth watching to see what works and what doesn't.

[Restoration project helps heal the ecosystem: The University of Washington joins Pierce in a collaboration to restore the Oak Prairie ecosystem through academics and community outreach](#).

This project at Pierce College is working to restore a piece of the prairie habitat that used to be much more common in Pierce County and other parts of south Puget Sound. The main obstacle is, not surprisingly, Scotch broom.

[Island Gets Ready to Attack Broom](#). Here's another story about fighting Scotch broom. On Vancouver Island, the [BroomBusters](#) are getting organized for their annual fight against the plant first introduced there by a homesick gentleman from Scotland. This is a well-coordinated and inspiring project. One interesting thing I noticed is their recommendation to not pull Scotch broom and instead to always cut it down when it's blooming. This is good advice when you won't be able to follow up by pulling the seedlings that will pop up once you disturb the soil or for large areas where pulling is simply not feasible. However, I still feel that manual removal with a Weed Wrench or something similar can be the way to go in many cases, since some broom plants will survive after being cut and will be much harder to control if they re-grow with multiple trunks. Young broom that is still green can even come back so densely after being cut that it forms a sort of nasty broom turf. Also, cutting is more effective on broom when it is drought-stressed during the hot summer months and may not work that well other times of the year, especially during the rainy season.

[Killer weed invades farms, grazing lands, and national parks](#). O.K. this story is from Kenya, but I couldn't resist the dramatic headline. The weed in question is from Central America, so not very likely to be a threat in our colder climate. Still, it is an interesting look at how similar the issues and impacts are globally with noxious weeds.

NOTE: The following news articles come courtesy of and annotated by [Wendy DesCamp](#), the new Education Specialist for the Washington State Weed Board (thanks Wendy!). If you aren't on Wendy's email list, but would like to receive updates and information from the State Weed Board, send her an email at [Wendy DesCamp \(WDesCamp@agr.wa.gov\)](mailto:WDesCamp@agr.wa.gov).

[English holly and English laurel – uninvited guests](#). An article about English laurel and holly from Mukilteo Washington.

[Weeds lurk in package of wildflower seeds](#). This article talks about wildflower seed mixes and how some of these packets may contain noxious weeds. A few good points highlighted here are: not all species are listed on wildflower seed packets, a 'native' seed mixture may not be native to where you are actually planting the seed mix and that planting a trial section in your yard first is a good way to see what species are in the packet of seed you purchased. The studies on this were done at the University of Washington.

[New Weed Publications available from Montana State University Extension](#). Montana State University has four new extension publications available on the biology, ecology and management of noxious weeds: knotweed (complex), flowering rush, Scotch broom and yellow starthistle. I

couldn't get their link to work to the store site at the bottom of the page for the publications so here are the links to each (these are free downloads— PDF link).

- [Yellow Starthistle Identification, Biology and Integrated Management](#)
- [Biology, Ecology and Management of Scotch Broom](#)
- [Biology, Ecology and Management of the Knotweed Complex](#)
- [Biology, Ecology and Management of Flowering Rush](#)

[Boat stickers proposed to fight spread of invasives](#). This article talks about an effort in Minnesota to have boats use stickers (red or green) to denote if they have been in clean or invaded lakes. The idea is that boats that are used in uninvaded or 'clean' lakes would have a green sticker and can go in other clean lakes while boats with red stickers would boat in invaded lakes. For a boat with a red sticker to go into a clean or green sticker lake, the boat would need to be inspected to make sure it is not transporting any invasive species. It's an interesting proposed program and is one to watch to see if they can make it practical to implement.

[Winter-long, Officials Prep to Fight Invasive Species](#). This second Minnesota article on invasive species mentions a few we are familiar with here (parrotfeather, purple loosestrife and Eurasian watermilfoil) and how some of the aquatics may not be growing as much this winter due to the large amount of snow they have (less light is penetrating the ice for the aquatic invasives).

[Building an outdoor classroom in McKinleyville: Land trust, Dow's Prairie effort explores seasonal wetland for education](#). In McKinleyville, California school children are taking part in a restoration project called the Dow's Prairie Schoolyard Habitat Program. The program, funded by grants, teaches the school children all about a wetland that they are working to help restore. Restoration work includes removing invasive plants we deal with here including Scotch broom and blackberry. Involving schools that are close to restoration projects may be something many of your are doing already or could be something to try in the future.

[Effort by Legislature to stop invasive plants shrivels](#). News update on Texas and invasive aquatic plant species: it looks like the white list effort in Texas—creating a white list of aquatic plants (vs. a black list approach) is being dropped.

[Grazing Arizona: Goats vs. Mesa weeds, Round 2](#). I received a question about using goats this last week that Judy at San Juan County Noxious Weed Board helped me answer which inspired me to include this link. This article talks about goats being used in Arizona to control weeds including saltcedar. There is a nice video here if you are interested in watching the goats in action, along with how and why they are being used in this area.