

Presentation details removal of invasive plants in winter

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — The borough and homeowners here seem to be in an endless battle with invasive species of plants, ranging from bamboo to the tree of heaven, a favorite breeding spot for the spotted lantern fly.

The borough's Environmental Commission encouraged residents to watch a Zoom presentation Jan. 5 from Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), that explained how invasive trees can be controlled in winter. They include tree of heaven, royal paulownia, callery pear, Norway maple and mimosa.

Deciduous vines that can be removed in winter include Asiatic bittersweet, porcelain berry and wisteria. Evergreen or semi-evergreen vines that can be addressed in winter include Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, winter creeper and vinca.

Blue Ridge PRISM Program Director Beth Mizell advised reading labels on herbicides carefully before applying to invasive plants. Protective gear should be worn when applying herbicides: gloves, a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks,

study shoes or boots, safety glasses and a hat, she said.

If print on an herbicide label is too small to read, Mizell recommended searching for the product on the internet or taking a photo of the label with a phone and magnifying it.

Patti Nylander, senior area forester for the Virginia Department of Forestry, said using more herbicide is not better.

"The amount that they're putting on the label is the appropriate amount to be used," she said. "Just because you have a larger tree or a larger shrub, more product on that larger tree or larger shrub is not more effective," she said.

Nylander advised being patient with winter applications of herbicides as it may be spring before it is apparent what follow-up work needs to be undertaken.

Patricia Greenberg, an ecologist and program manager with Fairfax County, Va., Integrated Pest Management, said a resident wanted to remove bamboo from her property and asked if it made sense to apply more glyphosate to the stumps after it had been cut months earlier. Greenberg said applying the glyphosate would not work on the stump since the herbicide must be

applied to a leaf or fresh cut of the bamboo.

Nylander said she focuses on woody trees, which can be sprayed with a basal bark herbicide, for winter removal.

"We look at trees and think they are not doing a lot in the winter, but they actually are," she said. "They are still active; they are still moving nutrients and resources within their roots in particular."

The herbicide goes into the tree through the bark, soaking down into the roots and kills the tree from the root, Nylander said.

Nicola McGoff, owner of Wild Ginger Field Services, a private environmental consulting company, said winter is an excellent time of year to use a device to cut kudzu down to the ground, ranging from a machete to a tractor. Herbicide treatment of the kudzu can begin in May, she said.

Herbicides should never be sprayed overhead but sprayed down toward the ground using as little as possible, McGoff said.

Greenberg recommended digging out the roots of honeysuckle and English ivy, both of which have shallow roots. She said a good time to dig out roots is after a snow melt when soil is soft.

Removing invasives is not a "one and done," Nylander said. It may require multiple treatments and multiple years to get rid of invasive species from a property.

Mizell said some were concerned about using herbicides and prefer to remove invasives with cutting and pulling. McGoff said mowing or weed whacking can be used as a basic tool.

Greenberg said she used a root puller tool known as the "Pullerbear."

"With Bradford pears, you have to be really careful because those roots have a longer tap root, and those

will break off on you and resprout again," she said.

Another root pulling tool is called the "Extractigator." Mizell said it was effective in pulling out smaller autumn olive roots.

Nylander warned of storing herbicides in used soda bottles. Tools and equipment should be washed outdoors, not in a kitchen or bathroom sink, Mizell said.

Greenberg said the "hack and squirt" method of applying basal bark herbicide used less chemical. A cut is made in the tree and the herbicide applied at that spot.

She said tools used when

spraying herbicide should be kept separate from other tools and stored with the herbicides. Greenberg said herbicide labels would indicate the temperature limits to when it can be applied.

McGoff said the only reason to stop applying herbicides from March to June is the due to the rising sap from the roots up to the crown of the trees. She said it made the chemicals less effective in killing the whole root mass below ground.

More information is available on the Blue Ridge PRISM website: blueridge-prism.org.

FEMA makes CRS points harder to get

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk said FEMA is making it more difficult to get discounts on flood insurance.

During the first Borough Commission meeting of the year Jan. 6, she said she learned during a New Jersey Coastal Coalition meeting earlier that day that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is taking away points from municipalities in relation to the Community Ratings System (CRS), which will cause the borough to have to find new ways to accumulate points.

Communities earn National Flood Insurance Program rate discounts of 5 percent to 45 percent based on their CRS classification.

She said FEMA is asking the borough's watershed plan to show a five day, 100-year storm instead of three days of high tides.

"We've never had that ever," van Heeswyk said.

With rising tides and climate change, it could occur sometime, she said.

"But these things are being pushed on us to show how we're going to deal with these things when they have never really happened before," van Heeswyk said.

It is helpful to be a part of the Coastal Coalition since information can be shared from other municipalities, she said.

The Coastal Coalition is a group of representatives from waterfront communities who meet monthly in a workshop setting to discuss common municipal flooding issues.

The group was formed in response to the Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Its mission is to build more resilient communities at the shore by developing policies and

best practices that will anticipate future concerns and to create solutions to be shared by all participants.

In other business: Commissioner Catherine Busch commended the borough's Department of Public Works for their work clearing roads and removing downed branches in last week's snowstorm. The department had assistance from Cape May Point State Park staff with which the borough has a shared services agreement, she said.

Plowing roads was complicated by it being trash day with cans placed along the road, Busch said. She suggested in the future, residents place cans farther back from

the road if snow is forecast.

Mayor Robert Moffatt said Borough Administrator Ed Grant was continuing negotiations with the city of Cape May for the borough's police contract. Cape May provides police services to Cape May Point and West Cape May.

As part of its annual reorganization, Borough Commission appointed John Amenhauser of the DeWeese Law Firm as borough solicitor and labor counsel, Michael Sullivan as borough planner, Triad Associates as grant consultants and affordable housing administrative agent and former county engineer Dale Foster of Greenman-Pederson as borough engineer.

TIDES: Jan. 12-19, 2022

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
12	3:56	4:11	10:09	9:56
13	4:44	5:03	11:01	10:42
14	5:29	5:50	11:48	11:26
15	6:11	6:34	12:32	12:32
16	6:51	7:16	12:07	1:12
17	7:30	7:55	12:47	1:50
18	8:07	8:33	1:25	2:26
19	8:43	9:10	2:04	3:02

MOON PHASES

Full moon, Jan. 17 • last quarter, Jan. 25

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