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Invasive Vine Action Workshop
What do invasive vines, goats, and you have in common?

Just about everyone who drives along the Saw Mill River parkway these days can't help but notice the ghostly appearance of many of our trees and forests covered in a cloak of tangled vines. These are invasive plants, and they are choking our native trees.

On Thursday April 28, the Saw Mill River Coalition and the Greenburgh Nature Center will sponsor the Invasive Vine Action Workshop as part of Earth month. The workshop will be held from 10-2pm at Westchester Manor in Hastings on Hudson. It is free and open to the public. Lunch will be served to all who register.

The goal of the workshop is to bring stakeholders including DOT, government officials, environmentalists, landscapers, and community members, together to develop a long-term action plan to eradicate these vines that are killing our trees and destroying native habitat on which native plants and animals depend. Affected trees eventually fall and, in this way, also pose a threat to the people who drive along the Parkway and who enjoy the South County Trailway.

As part of the workshop, participants will visit the Targeted Watershed restoration site that the Coalition has been working on and learn from experts about new management approaches to invasive vines. Three goats from the Greenburgh Nature Center will make an appearance and display their eagerness to eat these invasive vines. They will munch away on nuisances such as poison ivy and thorny multi-flora rose. Strategic grazing using goats is a new weapon in the campaign to halt the spread of invasive species.

Presenters at the Workshop include Ken Kleinpeter, Director of Farm and Facilities at Glynwood Institute; a practitioner in the strategic grazing using goats; Robert Del Torto, a member of the Board of Directors of the Bronx River Parkway Conservancy and former Head of Volunteers for the Westchester County Parks Department; and Sven Hoeger, a local ecologist who works on habitat restoration projects throughout the metropolitan area.

The Saw Mill River Coalition is organizing this workshop in the fifth year of its Free-a-Tree program, which is backed by ongoing support from the Department of Transportation and Westchester County Parks. Free-a-Tree rallies volunteers each month to cut vines and clean up the River. A key focus of

the Coalition's efforts is the Farragut Avenue site on the Saw Mill River in Hastings-on-Hudson. Hundreds of volunteers have cleared tons of invasive vines and planted over 150 native trees and shrubs at this location. This work was supported by a three-year EPA Targeted Watershed Grant, which is now coming to a close. While great progress has been made through volunteer efforts, the spread of invasives to the larger Saw Mill River corridor is a problem much too large for a group of local volunteers. Invasives need to be addressed on many fronts and by all stakeholders.

The Coalition recognizes that we need a management plan in which all parties play a part in promoting long-term habitat improvement, environmental stewardship, safety, and sustainability. If we all pitch in a little, we can achieve a lot.

To RSVP call 914-375-2151, email Emily@groundworkhv.org or register online at http://invasivevineactionworkshop.eventbrite.com/.

The Saw Mill River Coalition, a program of Groundwork Hudson Valley, is an alliance of municipalities, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and others dedicated to revitalizing and protecting the Saw Mill River. With its Saw Mill River RATz (Restoration Action Team) volunteer program, it is restoring wildlife habitat and biodiversity along the Saw Mill River. For more information, call 914-375-2151 or email annmarie@groundworkyonkers.org.

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