

# Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Northampton County  
Conservation District,  
<https://www.northamptoncounty.org>

## Invasive Species: Our Backyard Invaders (Awarded 2018)

### SUMMARY

The workshop offered local educators the opportunity to earn continuing education hours and learn about invasive species removal, identification and the threats they pose to the Lehigh Valley. Penn State Extension presented an introduction to invasive plants and insects; followed by fun, hands-on ways to keep their students engaged in the topic of invasive species. The PA Fish & Boat Commission then gave an informative lecture on the many aquatic invasive species affecting our watersheds. The group was then taken on an invasive plant identification tour of the Camel's Hump Farm at the Johnston Estate and assisted with stilt grass removal.



### CHALLENGE

Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that spread to a degree that causes harm to the environment, local species, or human interests. They are spread primarily through travel and commerce, which displaces them from their native ecosystem. Once a new species is introduced and is able to breed, it can become very difficult to control. These foreign competitors can impact habitats of our local plants and animals, feed excessively on our native plants, forests and croplands making them less productive and attractive. We must control these species and the effects they cause, and prevent future invasive threats from occurring to preserve Pennsylvania's local beauty, wildlife, and productivity. In particular, a current invasive concern is the Spotted Lantern Fly, which was discovered in Berks County, PA about five years ago, has now spread to thirteen Counties in southeast Pennsylvania, including Northampton County. If allowed to spread across the United States, this pest could seriously affect the country's grape, orchard, and logging industries.

### FUNDING

**Grant Award:**  
**\$1,550.00**

**Match:**  
**\$2,563.74**

**Total Project Cost:**  
**\$4,047.73**

### PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

#### Penn State Extension

**Amy Korman and**

**Brad Kunsman: Presenters**

#### PA Fish and Boat Commission

**Andrew Desko: Presenter**

#### Friends of Johnston, Inc.

**Vicky Bastidas: planning  
and facility assistance and  
provided field presentation**



**Northampton County  
Conservation District**



## SOLUTION

By offering this workshop we promoted conservation education within the Lehigh Valley and encouraged our community to share and implement what they have learned for the betterment of our environment. By promoting invasive education we are spreading the knowledge of not only identification but removal of invasive species that can potentially harm our streams and waterways. We are encouraging our teachers to put together lesson plans that promote implementation of our workshop such as hands-on invasive plant removal activities and backyard cleanup efforts. By offering our event specifically to local educators, our message is spread throughout Northampton County by reaching an exponential number of individuals of the community through our students.

## RESULTS

The workshop was offered on October 25, 2018 at the Camel's Hump Farm at the Johnston Estate in Bethlehem, PA. Twenty local certified teachers and educators attended the workshop. Northampton County Conservation District is an approved provider through the PA Department of Education to provide Act 48 continuing education hours for certified teachers; seven hours were provided for those that attended the workshop. The teachers scored on average a 54.2% on their Pre-Test and a 92% on their Post-Test, showing an increase in content knowledge. The evaluations for the event were all positive resulting in an average score of 4.5 on a scale of 1-5. Overall, the teachers found the workshop very valuable and plan to incorporate what they learned into their curriculum. In addition, they were introduced to the preservation efforts of the Camel's Hump Farm at the Johnston Estate and expressed interest in assisting with the mission to preserve and improve this local treasure for environmental education as well as for historical value to the local community.

### Contact



[www.LVgreenways.org](http://www.LVgreenways.org)

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