Join the Charlestown Weed Warriors!

The Charlestown Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) and Parks and Recreation board have formed a Weed Warrior program to combat invasive species threatening the health and beauty of our township parks. We are seeking gardeners and outdoor enthusiasts interested in beautifying and improving the ecological health of our preserved land. **Our inaugural Weed Warrior event will take place 10 AM on Saturday, April 2nd, 2022, at the Brightside Farm Park (park at the community gardens) (rain date 10 AM Sunday, April 3rd).** We will be tackling the invasive Multiflora Rose.

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) is a highly invasive rose species from Europe that is listed as a noxious weed in Pennsylvania. Prolific seed production and spread allows it to take over cropland and natural areas quickly. It grows in dense thickets with long arching canes that exclude native species and the mass of sharp thorns makes management and removal difficult. White flowers bloom in May - June with small red berries (hips) appearing in August. Multiflora rose can be identified from native rose species by the fringed petiole where the leaves join the main stem (see image at right). Multiflora rose also produces leaves much earlier than other native species, so it stands out in early spring when most

James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

other species are still dormant. Read more at: https://extension.psu.edu/multiflora-rose.

To manage Multiflora rose, canes should be cut 1" from the ground 3-6 times per year to slow the growth of the plant and kill it. Seeds can survive for up to 20 years in soil, so cutting the plant back before it flowers and fruits is essential to slowing its spread! Share your progress tackling Multiflora rose on your property with us on Facebook or Instagram (tag @CharlestownDay or @CharlestownPAParks in your post)!

Visit the EAC's page on the Charlestown website for more invasive species information: http://www.charlestown.pa.us/environmental_advisory_committee.aspx