

BEACON NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 6

NOVEMBER 2014

This is the sixth BEACON newsletter. We're winding down a little bit from the madness of the summer and all the balsam bashing! At this time of year BEACON hosts workshops, training, and gives talks to the local community. We also spend time mapping progress made this year, and planning for next summer.

FARM WORKSHOP

Last month, BEACON and Natural England got together to host a Farm Workshop at Rostherne. This workshop provided farmers and landowners with more information on controlling invasive non-native species, water friendly farming and agri-environment schemes. There were indoor presentations and outdoor practical field visits and demonstrations held at Rostherne Mere. The Environment Agency also contributed to the day. The farmers found it useful to see practical demonstrations given, and everyone felt they had learned something they could apply to their daily work.



SCHOOLS SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

At the start of October, BEACON hosted sustainability workshops as part of Bollin Valley Partnership's Sustainability Week. Three local schools were visited for the day, and pupils got involved in indoor and outdoor activities that investigated what habitats and invasive species are, and how invasives can affect the sustainability of our local habitats. St. Anne's school in Wilmslow had lots of different habitats in the school grounds for the children to explore, and the photo opposite shows BEACON Project Officer Sally Potts showing the students the residents of the schools' bug hotel.



VOLUNTEER SURVEYORS TRAINING

New volunteers have recently been trained to survey Birkin, Mobberley, Rostherne and Sugar Brooks for diffuse water pollution. The workshop was co-hosted by APEM, with indoor presentations, and outdoor practical sessions held along the River Bollin at Styal and Wilmslow. Diffuse pollution is caused by pollutants from a various activities that individually may have no effect, but at the catchment scale, can have a significant impact on the water environment. If you would like to volunteer to become a surveyor for this project please contact Sally Potts on sally.potts@nationaltrust.org.uk or 07825 115 303



ERNEST COOK TRUST

BEACON has successfully been awarded £8,000 from the Ernest Cook Trust. Rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, the Ernest Cook Trust actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land by offering grants. BEACON will be working with local schools and youth groups next year to teach them about invasive species and water quality, both in the classroom and outdoors.



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

This summer has been a busy one, and the statistics below show that BEACON has done more this year than last year, and that the project keeps going from strength to strength. Thank you so much to everyone who has given their time to support the project this year, your help is invaluable.

Himalayan Balsam: 42 bashes at 20 different sites. Over 600 people attended giving 1,545 hours of their time. 27,353m² of balsam cleared from catchment.

Giant Hogweed: Control done on 6 different sites by 4 volunteers giving 30 hours of their time. Contractors have done clearance in some areas. 14,151 m² of giant hogweed treated.

Japanese Knotweed: Control done on 9 different sites with 5 volunteers giving 40 hours of their time. 5,110 m² of JKW treated.



NATIONAL NEWS

The Environment Agency would like your views on draft updates to river basin management plans. These plans will shape decisions, investment and action, and deliver significant benefits to society and the environment. This is your chance to let them know how you think your water bodies (river, lakes, canals groundwater, estuaries, coastal waters and reservoirs) should be managed in the future. For more information please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/update-to-the-draft-river-basin-management-plans



COMING UP

- Surveys will be done in the catchment to look for diffuse pollution in rural areas
- Areas where control work has been done will be mapped, and plans made for next summer
- A Volunteer Thank You event will be held in January
- Keep checking the BEACON website at www.beacon-bollin.org.uk for more news updates

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Sal Potts—Invasives Project Officer
Norcliffe Farm Barns, Styal Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 4HZ
Tel: 07825 115 303
Email: sally.potts@nationaltrust.org.uk



Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/BollinNonNatives
Follow us on Twitter @Sally Beacon

