

Research Project Suggestion for the Tibor T. Polgar Fellowship Program: Investigate the potential effectiveness of bio-control on mile-a-minute vine

The Mile-a-Minute Project of the Hudson Valley is suggesting research projects on the invasive annual vine, mile-a-minute, and seeking a faculty advisor that can sponsor an undergraduate or graduate student to apply for the Polgar Fellowship Program.

Deadline for applications is 5:00 pm, Monday, February 23, 2009.

The Tibor T. Polgar Fellowship program is a research program conducted jointly by the Hudson River Foundation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. It provides \$3,800 for summer research on the Hudson River for undergraduate or graduate students. Advisors receive \$500.

Application information is available at: <http://www.hudsonriver.org/polgar.htm>

The following are suggestions. Students are welcome to submit other research applications on mile-a-minute or any other topic.

Mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata* (L.) H. Gross, formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum* L.) has been in the Hudson Valley for about two decades. Its northern extent in New York is Orange and Dutchess counties.

Weevil:

A stem-boring weevil, *Rhinoncomimus latipes* Korotyaev, has been released in several states as a biocontrol agent for mile-a-minute. Three sites in the Hudson Valley are in the process of obtaining permits to release the weevil for the first time in New York State in 2009. The proposed research would include monitoring the initial weevil release, following protocols developed by the University Delaware to continue monitoring each site throughout the season, and any other relevant research of interest to the student.

The release sites are Iona Island (Palisades Interstate Park Commission) in Rockland County, Ward Pound Ridge (Westchester County Parks) in Westchester County and

Stewart Forest Preserve (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation) in Orange County.

Goats:

In addition, goats will be tested as a control agent at Iona Island in summer 2009, in cooperation with the Glynwood Center, an agricultural education and research center in Cold Spring, NY. The proposed research would include relevant literature review, monitoring grazed areas and studying the potential of seed spread; determining seed viability after passing through goat digestive tracts.

Students must work independently. Rustic, shared accommodations may be available at Ward Pound Ridge.

For more information on this research, contact: Emilie Hauser eehauser@gw.dec.state.ny.us or Edwin McGowan Edwin.McGowan@oprhp.state.ny.us

For more information about the mile-a-minute vine please see the following links or documents:

<http://www.css.cornell.edu/WeedEco/Published%20WT19-04-1071-1077.pdf>

<http://ag.udel.edu/enwc/research/biocontrol/mileminute.htm>

http://www.hrnerr.org/public/training/MAM/index_MAM.html

2008. Hough-Goldstein, J. and E. Lake. **Journal of Applied Forestry** 25(3). *New Developments in Biological Control of Mile-a-Minute Weed.*

2004. Firko, M. **USDA APHIS.** *Field Release of Rhinoncomimus latipes (Coleoptera: Curulionidae), a Weevil for Biological Control of Mile-a-minute Weed (Polygonum perfoliatum), in the Continental United States: Final Environmental Assessment, July 2004*