

## Greenwood Cemetery Walk

August 2021

**Black snakeroot**—*Ageratina altissima* syn. *Eupatorium rugosum*). A member of the sunflower family, snakeroot is a tall growing native plant of North America. Like many flowers prized as ornamentals contain poisonous toxins and shouldn't be consumed by people or pets.

**Black jetbead**- *Rhodotypos scandens* is a deciduous ornamental shrub in the rose family that was introduced from eastern Asia in 1866. It is most commonly found in disturbed areas with degraded soils. It grows in either full sun or full shade but prefers moist, well-drained soils. It is commonly found along roadsides, forest edges and forest understories. This plant can form a dense shrub layer that shades out native species and restricts the establishment of tree seedlings. It spreads primarily through root suckers and seeds that are moved by wildlife. *Native Alternatives:* *Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)*, *Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)*, *Black Chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa)*.

**Japanese knotweed** -*Polygonum cuspidatum*. Sometimes known as "Mexican bamboo" or "Michigan bamboo," Japanese Knotweed bursts up over the summer with massive red-green stalks and broad leaves. It's illegal to move or plant knotweed, but it is legal to have it growing on your property (local ordinances may vary). If you see it in your yard, approach with extreme caution. It's the Incredible Hulk of plants. Whatever you do, don't make it angry. It's not easy to get rid of. If you mow it down, it spreads. If you dig it up, it spreads. Tiny bits of it can take root anywhere. Any viable rhizome fragments can and probably will regenerate.

**Tree of Heaven** - *Ailanthus altissima* has rapid growth and can grow into a large tree, reaching heights of 80 feet and up to 6 feet in diameter. The bark of tree-of-heaven is smooth and brownish-green when young, eventually turning light brown to gray, resembling the skin of a cantaloupe. Host to invasive spotted lantern fly.

**Oriental Bittersweet** is a climbing vine that is native to Eastern Asia. It was brought over to the United States in the 1860s and has been running rampant ever since. When left unregulated, established bittersweet vines will literally take over the landscape, smothering out native species of trees, shrubs, and plantings. The tangled vines can also become so heavy that entire trees and plants may be uprooted once the bittersweet plant takes over. The United States Department of Agriculture has the bittersweet plant listed as a national invasive species.

**Chocolate vine**—*Akebia quinata* is an invasive deciduous to evergreen climbing or trailing vine that invades forested areas throughout the eastern United States. The twining vines are green when young, turning brown as they age. It is able to invade forested habitats because it is shade tolerant.

**Honeysuckle**—The majority of the *Lonicera* spp. are non-native and invasive. upright, spreading shrubs between 6 and 16 feet tall, though Japanese honeysuckle is a vine. Invasive honeysuckles have flowers—and therefore fruits—all along the younger twigs, while native honeysuckles bear their flowers and fruits at twig tips, backed by leaves joined to form a "dish." Additionally, invasive honeysuckles have hollow stems (especially on older branches).

**Burning bush**—*Euonymus alatus* and its cultivars have been identified as a threat to natural areas because they seed in so prolifically and become dominant, forcing out other important plants.



Jet-bead



Alternately arranged leaves on zig-zag stem

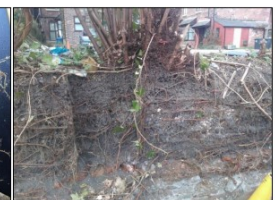


Jointed/segmented stem

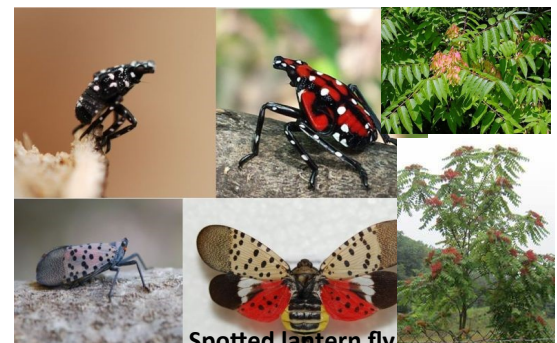
### Japanese knotweed roots



Crown/rhizome



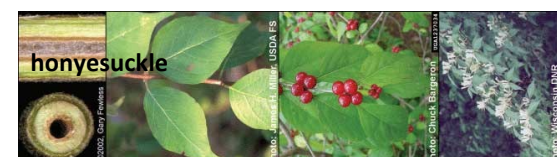
Underground rhizome structure



Spotted lantern fly



chocolate vine



honeysuckle