

WATER LETTUCE (*Pistia stratiotes*) invades Schuylkill Canal



❖ Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) is an invasive plant that has overtaken the lower part of the Schuylkill Canal during the warmer months. This weed is a free-floating, stoloniferous plant with rosettes of leaves that resembles a head of lettuce. First noticed this summer, it rapidly spread from the downstream end of the canal to the Port Providence spillway.

❖ This weed reproduces into a dense mat that clogs the waterway. It is difficult to eradicate because it mixes in with native vegetation along the banks and it is a prolific seed producer with a highly viable seed.

❖ The Schuylkill Canal Association (SCA) held two volunteer events last summer, removing over 60 pickup trucks of the weed and disposed it at the Upper Providence Township composting facility.



❖ It is anticipated that control measures will be long-term. The SCA is developing a maintenance program and identifying partners to help remedy the problem. At least TWO volunteer removal events will be held 2017. Check out <http://schuylkillcanal.org> for more information.



❖ If you want to help, contact the Schuylkill Canal Association at <mailto:info@schuylkillcanal.com>