

## Nature Journaling at Newport State Park: Invasive Plants

1. Make sure all participants have a non-lined pad of paper and multiple pencils. Extra sharpeners are needed when out on the trails.
2. After introductions, begin by drawing what you see when you get to where you intend to explore/start. Some people find it easier to identify something from each of the 5 senses.
  - Close your eyes, what do you HEAR?
  - What do you SEE around you? What do the clouds look like?
  - What do you SMELL?
  - Stick your tongue out...can you TASTE the air?
  - Where are you? Are you sitting? Standing? Reach down and TOUCH the ground. What does it feel like?
3. Now put the date, time, temperature, and physical location (address if known) of your location.
4. Meet at Lot 3.
5. What does invasive mean? (non native species that comes into a new area and takes over and spreads quickly and alters the ecosystem)
6. We have lots of invaders: some examples are:
  - Water: zebra mussels
  - Aquatic plants: purple loosestrife
  - Terrestrial plants: garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, phragmites
7. Have some brown paper lunch bags with a variety of M&Ms in it. Remove all green ones and place in one bag. Have participants wash their hands. Then, reach into a bag and put the candy picked into their own bag. Then repeat with other person picking candy. Continue for a while. After a few minutes, have participants empty their bags. Look for

the green ones. This will be a quick example of how invasive species can take over an ecosystem.

8. Heading towards the beach will show a good example of phragmites. Some participants might identify it on the sides of roads. Phragmites was planted along new roads being built. We actually planted it!
9. Drawings and labeling would complete this venture. Be sure to look for the runners of the phragmites.