

States and Canada. Imported from Europe in the early 1800s, this plant is virtually impossible to eradicate, and its vegetative dominance often crowds out native plants and animals.

Ms. Kiel's essay is the winner of a recent essay contest for Michigan high school students sponsored by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and The Muskegon Chronicle. Students were asked to propose a creative, realistic and environmentally sound plan for managing an aquatic non-native invasive species in the Great Lakes.

As a Member of Congress whose district borders roughly 200 miles of beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, I have observed firsthand the devastation invasive species can cause to the ecosystem and the economy. I am pleased to insert this essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I hope that its presentation will continue to raise awareness of this serious environmental problem.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE: A BEAUTIFUL KILLER
(By Alyn Kiel)

Imagine a quiet walk along the lakeshore after a long absence. As you stroll along, you notice clusters of lavender flowers, and remark at their beautiful appearance. But as your journey continues, you see that most of the usual flora and fauna you would have observed a decade ago have completely disappeared. The culprit? The supposedly innocent plant you remarked upon earlier: purple loosestrife.

Purple loosestrife, or *Lythrum salicaria*, was brought to the eastern United States in the early 1800s by settlers as a medicinal herb and in the ballast holds of European ships. The spread of purple loosestrife increased with the construction of waterways, railways and canals. By the 1930s, it had moved inland [and could be found in most states and provinces] in the United States and Canada.

One of the most recognizable features of this marsh monster is a ridged, square stem. One plant can produce up to 30 stems from one central root mass. Leaves are smooth and attached directly to the stem. Flowers appear between late June and late September, and are purple in color.

Over 3 million seeds can be produced by one mature plant. Seeds are small, light and easily dispersed by wind. Each seed has high viability (nearly 100 percent germination rate) and remain so after years of being buried under soil or submersion under water. Seeds can be transported by animals, clothing, vehicles and rainfall, which carries them into river systems and wetlands.

Nicknames for purple loosestrife—beautiful killer, marsh monster and exotic invader among them—are extremely illustrative. Purple loosestrife easily establishes itself within urban and rural wetland areas. Once it's present, it's nearly impossible to destroy. It has a tendency to dominate native vegetation. This change in species composition has drastic effects on the wildlife population. Loosestrife [frequently] blocks water flow in ditches and irrigation canals.

No herbicides are currently approved to control loosestrife,** but small outbreaks can be removed by hand digging, as long as all pieces of root tissue are removed. However, for large scale infestations, this is costly and time consuming, and therefore is not a practical solution.

One innovative option being used in many wetlands across Canada and some areas of North America is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Through this form of biological control, purple loosestrife is reunited with its natural enemies. Four insects are cur-

rently being used—two leaf eating beetles, a root mining weevil, and a seed weevil. These plant eating insects do not harm any other native plants or the natural environment. In certain areas of North America, IPM is providing total control of loosestrife. Through this method, purple loosestrife is effectively destroyed and herbicides and chemicals do not have to be used in sensitive areas.***

A second method of biological control is the removal of garden varieties of purple loosestrife. Although it was originally believed that garden varieties of loosestrife were sterile, recent scientific studies have shown that they are indeed capable of seed and pollen production. These varieties of loosestrife can exchange pollen with other cultivars and the wild population. The majority of wild infestations of purple loosestrife are the result of garden escapes.

The best way to remove loosestrife from a garden is through hand digging. All pieces of root tissue should be removed and plant material should be dried out thoroughly before disposal. Root masses can be treated with an herbicide, such as Round-Up. All plant material should be placed in a dark colored garbage bag and secured tightly to prevent infestation of the landfill.

In Canada, an exchange program has been created to exchange purple loosestrife for an environmentally safe native plant. Experts dispose of the loosestrife correctly, and residents are given native plants similar to loosestrife to replace in their gardens. A program such as this would be beneficial for Western Michigan. In this way, the purple loosestrife population is controlled, and the rebuilding of native habitats is promoted.

In order to prevent infestation of native habitats, it is necessary for informational programs to be created and promoted further within this area. As community members are informed of the danger of loosestrife, the greater amount of supporters will be gained for its control. If the entire community works together to exterminate this problem, [we will come] closer to rebuilding our wetlands.

* A healthy, mature plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds per year.

** Currently, glyphosphate, sold under the trade name RODEO, is the only effective purple loosestrife herbicide that is registered for aquatic use. However, it is non-selective and will affect the vegetation surrounding the target plant.

*** Based on studies, three insects have been approved for release in the U.S., including one root boring weevil and two leaf eating beetles. The use of a pest's natural enemies to regulate its population and reduce damage is referred to as biological control. Biological control is only one method of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is a strategy to control a pest using a combination of methods.

Source; Purple Loosestrife in Michigan: Biology, Ecology, and Management, 1997, produced by Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension.

HONORING JAMES OWEN RUSH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Irish Catholic and New Deal Democrat, Jim Rush. Beloved husband of Joan, Jim passed on January 2, 2004 after a hard-fought two year battle against cancer, surviving much longer than the doctors had ever predicted.

James Rush was born December 9, 1938, at Providence Hospital in Oakland, to two veterans of the Oakland General Strike, Eugene Rush and Esther Kelly-Rush. He attended and graduated Sacred Heart and St. Elizabeth's High School in Oakland. Just like his father, he lived his entire life at 472 & 474 W. MacArthur Boulevard, in the houses his grandfather, Owen Code Rush built sometime near 1870.

After high school, Jim was the night-manager at Doggie-Dinner's in Oakland. In 1962 he joined Teamsters Local 70 and was elected Chief Steward at Sears in 1969. He was arrested 3 times in the Coors Strike in Alameda in 1970. In 1972, he led the Sears Strike and was also elected Recording Secretary of Teamsters Local 70. Jim was injured on the job in 1980 and joined the law offices of John E. Hill, investigating "Serious & Willful Fraud of Injured Workers by Employers & Insurance Companies."

In 1981, Jim became interested in Palmistry & Tarot Card Reading, eventually becoming a world-renowned spiritualist and author. Published and broadcast under the name Jay Owen Swift, he founded Oakland's Palmistry Academy of Ancient Wisdom and until 2001, hosted the "Mystic-Eye," a spiritually oriented radio show on KEST in San Francisco.

In 1985, Jim was elected to the board of directors of the Instituto Laboral De La Raza, a non-profit community organization dedicated to assisting Latino immigrant working families in San Francisco, where he remained an Advisory Board Member until his death. In 1996, Jim was elected to the Executive Board of SEIU Local 616 after organizing the staff of his law firm into the union. He was appointed as a delegate to the Central Labor Council of Alameda County AFL-CIO in 1997 and elected by his fellow delegates to the Council's Union Label and Credentials Committee. On September 20, 2002, Jim was awarded the Instituto's "Santo Patricio Award." James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters traveled from Washington D.C. to make the presentation.

Finally, I want to honor him for being an exemplary role model, community leader, and friend. I take great pride in joining Jim's family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of James Owen "Jimmy" Rush.

HONORING ROSE DERGIN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Dergin, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Mrs. Dergin is a centenarian and at 101 she is a mother to one child, a grandmother to three grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to five great-grandchildren!

Mrs. Dergin was born in New York City but went to School in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. At 17 she worked as a long distance telephone operator and following school, she worked as a bookbinder. She describes her happiest moment as her wedding day. Today