

Help fight invasives by taking survey

SHARON — It's clear to see that Sharon resident and Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) junior Lauren Murtagh cares intensely about the environment.

She is the chapter secretary of the school's FFA, and she recently represented Connecticut as part of a team competing in Nursery & Landscape at the FFA National Convention. She is a member of Envirothon, HVRHS's environmental-education program. And she is currently studying at the University of Connecticut's National Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA), a conservation and land-use program for high school students.

Lauren recently spent a week on the Storrs campus working with university faculty to learn field techniques that improve

land management and natural-resource conservation.

For the next step in the NRCA program, she is working with a community partner, the Sharon Land Trust, on a project that focuses on invasive species.

As part of that project, Lauren has developed a survey to gauge the public's knowledge of invasive species. The survey is posted on the Sharon Land Trust's website. Community members are encouraged to participate by completing the survey.

Lauren will share the results and conduct a short workshop on Friday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. at Talbot Field on West Woods Road No. 1, and again on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Sharon Audubon Center.

To complete the survey, go to www.sharonlandtrust.org/invasive-species-survey.

— *Bruce T. Paddock*