**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

**Spring Partner Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting Notes**

**April 29, 2021 | 9:30am-12:00pm**

**Present for APIPP**

Adellia Baker, Summer Seasonal

Brian Greene, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Emily-Bell Dinan, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Tammara Van Ryn, Program Manager

Zack Simek, Conservation and GIS Analyst

**Speakers**

Carolyn Cyr, APIPP Volunteer

Paul Simonin, Cornell University

Mark Whitmore, NYS Hemlock Initiative

**Attendees**

Alex Novick, Lake George Land Conservancy

Alice Dong, Adirondack Watershed Institute

Bill Widrig, Volunteer

Bregieta Arvidson, The FUND for Lake George

Brittney Rogers, SLELO PRISM

Caroline Marschner, NYS Hemlock Initiative

Carrie Pershyn, Ausable River Association

Cassie Bradshaw, Volunteer

Cathy Erickson-Sayles, Little Long Lake Campers Association

Dena Thompson, Sierra Club member

Dirk Bryant, The Nature Conservancy

Donald Glendon, NYSDOT

Emily Tyner, Lake Clear Association

Erin Vennie-Vollrath, NYSDEC

Everett McNeill, ESSLA

Ezra Swartzberg, Adirondack Research

Guy Middleton, Upper Saranac Foundation

Gwendolyn Craig, Adirondack Explorer

Jackie Bowen, Adirondack Council

Jamie Brown, Lake George Land Conservancy

Jianxin Dai, NYSDOT

Kathy Regan, Adirondack Park Agency

Kathy Welch, Chateaugay Lake Foundation

Lauren Henderson, Capital Region PRISM

Loretta McNamee, NYS Department of Transportation

Maggie Newell, Adirondack Mountain Club

Marcus A Harazin, Canada Lakes Conservation Association/Town of Caroga, Lakes Management Committee

Megan Pistolese, SLELO PRISM

MJ Huneycutt, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Pamela Lester, Landscape Architecture Consultants

Peg Olsen, The Nature Conservancy

Robert Bombard, Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District

Ryan Nerp, Adirondack Council

Steve Young, NY Natural Heritage Program

Susan Smith, Volunteer

Thom Allgaier, NYS AGM

Walt Friebel, New York Tree Farm, NYS Woodsmen's Field Days

William Thayer, Volunteer

**Agenda and Program Notes**

***Please refer to the recordings posted on APIPP’s website for a complete record of the meeting.***

* APIPP presentation: <https://youtu.be/aM-XpG3cf7E>
* EDNA presentation: <https://youtu.be/d5LzPG3kCQM>

Welcome and Introductions

* Tammara Van Ryn welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
* She introduced Brian Greene, APIPP’s new Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator.

Brian shared a brief introduction.

* Tammara provided a brief overview of APIPP’s 2021 workplan. The workplan was refined based on updates shared by partners at the February Partner Roundtables and follow-up discussions with many partners.

APIPP Volunteer Program

* Emily-Bell Dinan gave a brief overview of the winter “ADK Hunt for HWA” volunteer program. In total, 26 volunteers, adopted 102 trails and entered 167 observations into iMap. APIPP looks forward to starting up the program again in the fall. A big thank you to all the volunteers.
* Carolyn Cyr, one of the volunteers, spoke about her experience as a volunteer. Carolyn mentioned her early concerns about using the technology, but commented that she reached out to Emily-Bell who helped her through the challenges. Carolyn enlisted several of her friends to help, and it was a great COVID-safe activity. Carolyn noted that “hope comes from action” and this activity gave her hope. She gave the audience hope too!
* Emily-Bell shared upcoming summer volunteer opportunities with APIPP, highlighting aquatic invasive species monitoring and knotweed outreach volunteer projects.

APIPP Forest Pest Research

* Zack Simek provided an update on hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) projects. He noted that with the fall surveys, the volunteer surveys outlined by Emily-Bell, and recent surveys to ground-truth the new remote sensing model, 974 sites have been surveyed since October. Only three occurrences of HWA were found: two on Lake George in October and one in Hoosick, NY this spring.
* Tammara provided an update on APIPP’s plans to set up emerald ash borer monitoring plots. She asked the group if anyone knew of any black ash stands that could be monitored for “lingering ash;” several sites were suggested.

APIPP Aquatic Invasive Species Surveys

* Brian provided a brief overview of APIPP’s aquatic invasive species (AIS) network, which include an early-detection crew from Adirondack Research, staff and partners, and volunteers.
* Brian outlined the region the early-detection crew will focus on during the summer of 2021 and solicited suggestions for lakes to survey.
* He provided additional detail about volunteer opportunities for summer 2021 and noted the volunteer training will be June 30.

New Outreach Materials Preview

* Emily-Bell thanked everyone for their feedback at the February Roundtables on the design of the new outreach materials and she unveiled the final designs. Materials will be available in June. APIPP needs the help of all partners to distribute the posters and brochures.
* Emily-Bell asked partners to complete a short survey to identify how many venues they could approach to put up/hand out the materials and how many copies they would need.
* A sign-up form will be posted on APIPP’s website in late May or early June.

Next Steps

* Tammara closed out this portion of the meeting, repeating Carolyn’s phrase. “Hope comes from action”, and based on the discussion today, Tammara is very hopeful about the coming field season and efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species in the Adirondacks. She reminded participations to rejoin the call in 15 minutes for the feature presentation.

Break

Feature Presentation: eDNA for Invasive Species Detection

* Paul Simonin, from Cornell University, provided an outstanding overview of eDNA. He covered how the sampling and testing process works, the history of using eDNA for aquatic species management, and emerging uses for aquatic plants.
* Mark Whitmore, from the NYS Hemlock Initiative, gave an overview of HWA and early-detection efforts. He then shared preliminary results from ground-breaking work his team is doing to use eDNA for early HWA detection.
* Paul and Mark fielded a wide range of questions. There was much excitement about the potential for this still-emerging technology.