

APIPP Spring Partner Meeting – April 22, 2020 – Updates Provided by Partners

Organization	Update
Adirondack Council	With the passage of the 2020 New York State budget, the Adirondack Council is pleased to share that the AIS transport law did not lapse and that the Legislature is still committed to strengthening the law in 2021. The law has been extended until June 1, 2021.
Adirondack Mountain Club	Adirondack Mountain Club will be doing our backcountry water monitoring again this year in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Our staff and volunteers hope to monitor 15-20 lakes.
Adirondack Park Agency	<p>The Adirondack Park Agency has received a permit application from the Town of Minerva for a 41-acre herbicide treatment to control Eurasian watermilfoil. The Town has been managing the invasive species using hand harvesting and benthic barrier installations since 2007. The invasive species is presently found in 66% of the site surveyed in 2019. The public comment period has just ended and the project will likely go to the Agency Board for consideration in May.</p> <p>The Agency has also been processing two years of APIPP lake survey data for inclusion into the Agency's GIS. The information will be used by staff when questions regarding water depth or the presence of aquatic vegetation arise. This information is particularly useful during the winter months when snow and ice prevent visual inspections. Once complete the data set will consist of approximately 80 waterbodies. Additional waterbodies will be added to the inventory as surveys continue.</p>
Adirondack Research	Adirondack Research has several invasive species survey projects for 2020 to share. We are conducting AIS Early Detection surveys for Capital Region PRISM, APIPP PRISM, and for NYSDEC on the Mohawk River as well as USDA-funded hemlock woolly adelgid surveys in the southern Adirondacks and Hemlock model ground-truth surveys across New York State. The Most exciting news for us is that we hired a full-time GIS and Communications Specialist. Nicole Keating comes to us from The Nature Conservancy to lead our GIS mapping and cartography projects as well as graphic design work for both Green Goat Maps and Adirondack Research. Nicole has worked with us in the past and we are excited to have her back.

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Adirondack Watershed Institute	<p>Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute shares the following 2019 Program Highlights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 158 stewards worked at 61 boat launches and 30 decontamination stations located throughout the Adirondacks</li> <li>• These stewards interacted with 206,685 boaters, inspected 100,864 boats and decontaminated 3,965 boats</li> <li>• 94% of inspected boats were clean and less than 3% of inspected boats carried AIS</li> <li>• Eurasian watermilfoil was the most commonly found AIS (about 50% of AIS interceptions)</li> <li>• Boats launching into Adirondack waters originated from 595 different waterbodies across 29 states and provinces</li> <li>• This program continues in 2020 and we are nearly done recruiting our seasonal staff</li> </ul>
Ausable River Association	<p>The Ausable River Association has hired Jake Hill as their 2020 River Steward. This is the eleventh year of the river steward program. Jake will be patrolling the Ausable River from May through October providing invasive species outreach and education to anglers and boaters, documenting and removing terrestrial invasive species, and maintaining a network of 11 wader wash stations throughout the watershed. Together with our Biodiverse Habitats Program, we will be targeting additional invasive species surveys on East Branch Ausable tributary streams and working with APIPP and landowners to find collaborative ways to address stream bank infestations.</p>
Chateaugay Lake Foundation	<p>Chateaugay Lake Foundation is proceeding with hand-harvesting contracts this season despite unknowns and would love to hear what other associations are doing.</p>
Cornell University	<p>Depending on our partners' ability to conduct fieldwork in June, Cornell and the Hemlock Initiative are still planning to coordinate lake surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the southern Adirondacks this year. If partners are interested in this project, please contact Caroline Marschner at <a href="mailto:cam369@cornell.edu">cam369@cornell.edu</a>.</p>

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Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCWCD)	<p>HCWCD provided the following updates and summer plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISAW: will engage in social media campaign and possible videos</li> <li>• Terrestrial invasive plant management with herbicides (one of our staff members is a certified applicator)</li> <li>• Partnering with the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Team of Piseco Lake to continue to move management efforts and educational outreach forward</li> <li>• Invasive species press releases and Conservation Corner newsletter articles</li> <li>• We hope to purchase a plankton net to survey lakes for spiny waterflea</li> <li>• The District purchased a hot water pressure washer a few years ago and decons our boat and gear daily when stations are not open during our lake monitoring rotation June – September</li> <li>• Our clerk Marj made a spotted lanternfly costume for educational outreach, and Dotty the Spotted Lanternfly will make her debut appearance via video or going live on Facebook</li> <li>• Participated in National Invasive Species Awareness Week with a Facebook campaign using #NISAW</li> </ul>
Lake Champlain Basin Program	<p>Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) has been working with all partners on contract, work plan, and other project adjustments due to COVID 19. The LCBP Steering Committee will meet in April to advance the FY20 budget funding decisions. Most staff are working remotely. Field seasons remain uncertain and there are differences between NY and VT Governor and state stay-home and stay-safe mandates. Please contact your LCBP project officers with any concerns. The Lake Champlain boat launch steward season start date is uncertain. We are planning for virtual steward training and are taking steps to be prepared for the season start whenever that may be. We hope everyone is well.</p>

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Lake Clear Association	<p>Lake Clear Association is working to prevent the introduction of invasive species to Lake Clear and Lake Clear Outlet and surrounding areas. We had planned a door-to-door campaign for May, but are now working on other ways to reach our members and neighbors. We are also working to establish a low salt zone around Lake Clear and Lake Clear Outlet for winter road maintenance by NYS DOT. We have been in contact with DOT, the Town of Harriestown and our representatives. Our annual meeting is currently planned for Monday July 20th at the Santa Clara Town Hall: social hour at 5pm; meeting at 6pm. We will be presenting our new website. We are exploring options for a Webex meeting if need be.</p> <p>The loons and ducks have returned and the shoreline is beautiful for walking!</p>
Lake George Park Commission (LGPC)	<p>LGPC is currently delaying start of its Boat Inspection Program until June 1st as a result of the coronavirus.</p>
NY Natural Heritage Program	<p>The iMap Team at NY Natural Heritage Program has several webinars scheduled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 29 - iMap Certified Trainers Network</li> <li>• May 13 - iMap Mobile app</li> <li>• May 27 - water chestnut pulls</li> <li>• June 24 - 5th annual iMap Mapping challenge</li> </ul> <p>Details and registration:  <a href="http://www.nyimainvasives.org/webinar-trainings">www.nyimainvasives.org/webinar-trainings</a></p>
NYSDEC	<p>The NYSDEC invasives unit is currently working closely with other Great Lakes states to organize the second annual Landing Blitz with boat stewards.</p> <p>We are collaborating with Northeastern states to address the hydrilla infestation in the Connecticut River in Connecticut and Massachusetts.</p> <p>We are incorporating language access into the boat steward program and offering AIS tip strips in five languages (including English).</p>
Schroon Lake Association	<p>The Schroon Lake Association is committed to continuing sonar mapping our lake in partnership with APIPP to help fight milfoil and other plant invasives.</p>