

2013 APIPP Partner Fall Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 28th, 2013

9:30-3:00

Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, NY

Attendees: Meghan Johnstone, Brendan Quirion, and Hilary Smith (APIPP), Jane Smith and Bill McGhie (East Shore Schroon Lake Association), Ed Griesmer (Loon Lake Park District Association), Kristin Rohne and Emily DeBolt (Lake George Association), Ed Snizek and Leigh Walrath (APA), MJ Huneycutt and Don Grout (Master Gardeners, Essex County Cornell CCE), Kathleen Wiley (Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program), Billy Martin (Adirondack Council), Tom Colarusso (APHIS), John Falge, Ed Frantz and Peter Howard (DOT), Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program), Corrie Miller (Ausable River Association), Lance Durfey (DEC), Marilyn Wyman (call-in) (CCE IS Program), Leslie Kopec (landscape designer and APIPP volunteer), Ezra Schwartzberg (ADK Research Consulting), Sue Smith (VT Lewis Creek Association/ ADK Shatagee Woods/ Chateaugay Lake), Brian Litchfield (VT Lewis Creek Association), Caitlin Stewart (HC Soil and Water Conservation District), Samantha Dunn (Yellow Wood Associates, Inc.), Bob Hyams (Charlotte, VT)

Statewide and PRISM Report (Hilary)

- Hilary congratulated partners on life milestones
 - Brendan was married over the summer; Meg Modley was married in the fall; and, Emily DeBolt had a baby over the summer.
 - Leigh Walrath was promoted to Freshwater Analyst at the APA.
 - Emily Selleck retired from CCE. APIPP thanked Emily and welcomed Mary Jane Huneycutt and Don Grout as Master Gardener liaisons with CCE.
- Invasive Species Council
 - Meets quarterly
 - Development of draft regulations underway for Invasive Species Prevention Act
 - Public comment open on species classifications
- Invasive Species Advisory Committee
 - Meets quarterly
 - Identified education and outreach as top priority and includes four strategies:
 - Baseline questionnaire to evaluate public awareness of invasive species issues across the state
 - Statewide invasive species awareness week (tentatively 2nd week of July, 2014)
 - Slogan & Logo (Brand for NYS)
 - Resource "Book shelf" – amplify existing available resources on NYIS.INFO
- PRISMs and Partner Programs
 - 7 PRISMs now funded, waiting for 1 more to come online, likely at the end of December
 - Coordinators meet quarterly
 - Working toward consistent invasive species messaging across state

- iMap, Invasive Species Clearing house, & Invasive Species Research Institute contracts all underway. Upgrades are happening
- Invasive species in-service at Cornell University November 19th – 21st, 2013
- AIPPP PRISM News
 - Starting contract renewals. Current contract ends December 31st, 2013. Hoping to renew contract for project work for another five years starting January 1st, 2014
 - Funding set-backs anticipated as contract will not be approved and signed by January 1st
 - 2013 was the 3rd and final year of private foundation funding which supports the Terrestrial Response Team and Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program. Will need to be creative next year to maintain seasonal capacity requirements
 - Some highlights of events held during the summer include the 8th annual invasive species awareness week, nursery and garden center outreach led by volunteer Leslie Kopec, AIPPP and the Essex County Adirondack Garden Club, the Japanese Knotweed Management Summit, and a 5th year of writing “Eye on Invasives” columns for Adirondack Daily Enterprise and Adirondack Express, among much more. All activities will be summarized in AIPPP’s 2013 Annual Report.

Terrestrial Project Report (Brendan Quirion)

- (<http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/2013TerrestrialInvasiveSpeciesProjectReport.pdf>)

Aquatic Project Report (Meghan Johnstone)

- (<http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/2013AquaticProjectReport.pdf>)

Summer Educator Report (Billy Martin)

- (http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/2013SummerEducationInternSlideshow_updated.pdf)

Partner Roundtable

- NYSDOT (Peter Howard, Ed Frantz, John Falge)
 - Working to finalize right of way Best Management Practices document
 - Spray crews treated sections of the Northway in Warren County, State Route 22 in Washington County, as well as sections of state routes 8, 9N, 9L, 9, 28, 149 and 22. Essex County does not have a spray crew.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners (Mary Jane Huneycutt & Don Grout)
 - Presence at local farmer’s markets; Receive questions regarding invasive species
 - Funding is uncertain for next year
 - Emily Selleck is retiring at the end of this year so currently no director for next year’s programming
- Lake George Association (Kristen Rohne & Emily Debolt)
 - Lake Steward program continued. 7,000 boats inspected at 6 launches. 200 plant samples collected off of boats – 75 were invasive, including 1 quagga mussel.
 - Participated in Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - Festival for the Lake held last weekend in September to generate funds for invasive species work
 - Asian clam management continues
 - 5 new infestations found through 2013 survey (13 sites total)

- More research being conducted into juvenile spread potential
 - Invasive species marketing materials being developed for Lake George: rack cards, website, stickers, posters, etc.
 - All 3 counties around Lake George have approved a local transport law
 - Warren County looking into county-wide mandatory inspection program. Request for proposals currently out to consult with an environmental consulting firm to determine SEQRA and recommendations for the county
 - Not much terrestrial work this field season
- Volunteer Nursery Outreach Project (Leslie Kopec)
 - Visited 20 nursery and garden centers in Essex, Franklin and Clinton Counties raising awareness about APIPP and invasive plants
 - Gave each materials to display (brochures)
 - Gave them lists of invasives that are currently being sold
 - Created and distributed poster that displays common invasives along with good native alternatives. 18 of 20 nurseries took all materials for display.
 - Many nurseries are not pleased with the invasives on the list as they are popular landscape plants.
 - 2 nurseries will be engaging with APIPP in programs promoting non-invasive plants in 2014.
- Loon Lake Association (Ed Griesmer)
 - Herbicide treatment conducted on 15 acres of Eurasian milfoil this year; Darrin Fresh Water Institute is conducting post-treatment monitoring.
 - Introduced mandatory inspection program for the lake since the Town owns the launch
 - Hired own boat launch stewards
 - Purchased decontamination unit
- East Shore Schroon Lake Association (Jane Smith & Bill McGhie)
 - Implemented inspection program on approximately 2,400 boats
 - Currently looking into decontamination program
 - Held floating classroom for invasives with Kristen Rohne which was a great success
 - Aquatic Invasives Management (AIM) conducted manual harvesting of milfoil for first time and had great success.
 - Checked for Asian clams along entire lake shore (haven't found any)
 - Waterfest event held in Chestertown
 - Super scout program continued (entire lake shore scouting program)
- AuSable River Association (Corrie Miller)
 - No river steward for the first time in several years
 - Indian cup plant creating issue for residents living along the East Branch
 - Keene & Jay community reconstruction program. Highlighted opportunity to get some invasives language into planning. Inquired whether didymo is still considered a nuisance. Meg and Meghan responded that even though it may be native to Northern climates, it is still a nuisance and can be spread easily on gear so prevention efforts should still be undertaken.

- NYSDEC (Lance Durfey)
 - Feral swine population found in Clinton County. First population documented within the park
 - US Department of Agriculture given lead on control efforts
 - Efforts suspended during deer season
 - Successfully killed 1 boar this summer (had hole in ear from tagging, indicative of intentional release)
 - Governor Cuomo signed Eurasian boar legislation in October
 - Regulation changes being proposed for state boat launch sites
 - Prohibition of visible invasive species material on boats
 - Should be ready for next summer

- Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District (Caitlin Stewart)
 - Held invasive insect symposium in Indian Lake
 - Forming Invasive species task force in Hamilton County
 - Received press coverage in Adirondack Almanac & local paper about aquatic invasive species
 - Giant hogweed infestation found in Lake Pleasant. Filmed management video that will hopefully be ready by December. Video will eventually be on District's YouTube channel
 - Conducted a lot of presentations to lakes associations and fish and game clubs and documented increased interactions with the general public about invasives (emails, notes, Facebook & phone calls)
 - Increased collaboration with the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program; Lenny is a certified applicator.

- Adirondack Park Agency (Leigh Walrath)
 - Draft guidance on aquatic herbicide "Renovate" will be presented to the board in November. Public comment open through November 7th
 - Once approved, will serve as guidance for future aquatic invasive plant treatments within the park

- Too many hats to remember :) ADK / Lewis Creek / Chateaugay (Sue Smith)
 - Working to try and control large problem with terrestrial invasives at Charlotte Wildlife Refuge in Vermont. 200 acres invaded out of 300.
 - Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area established – multi-town effort to address invasive species threats in Vermont
 - Removed all planted invasives around Town Hall to demonstrate that it can be done and beautified with alternatives
 - Looking to establish a Phragmites control effort based on Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program's model and engaging with towns
 - Continued volunteer management days for European frogbit infestation on Lake Champlain

- Paul Smiths College Boat Launch Stewardship Program (Kathleen Wiley)
 - 22 stewards working at 15 launches across Adirondack Park in 2013
 - 1 Steward doing terrestrial management
 - 1 working with the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant program
 - Helping with lake surveys too
 - First year of digital data entry with IPADs

- Grant proposals being submitted for 2014 & 2015 programming
- Adirondack Council (Billy Martin)
 - New staff (Rocky Aguirre and Willy Janeway) engaged on invasive species issues
 - Currently going over strategic plan incorporating invasive species language
 - Organized meeting with Assemblyman Bob Sweeney about invasive species
- Cornell Cooperative Extension (Marilyn Wymann)
 - Invasive species in-service being held 19th-21st of November at Cornell University
 - Growing local interest in Hudson Valley on invasive Asian earthworm
 - Working a lot with emerald ash borer spread through Hudson Valley
- Lake Champlain Basin Program (Meg Modley)
 - 10 boat launch stewards on Lake Champlain this summer
 - Spread prevention efforts for spiny waterflea increased in Champlain Canal
 - Grant for feasibility study for barrier on canal received
 - Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel met in Queensbury last week
 - The National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force meets in Washington the week of November 4th.
 - Discussing lionfish and snakehead management plans
 - Local implementation grants available through LCBP up to \$15,000. Due Nov. 14
- Lewis Creek Association (Bob Hyams)
 - Working to manage a valuable 50 acre wetland complex with a European frogbit infestation
 - 80+ volunteer effort conducting manual pulling of plants
 - Sustained management needed as infestation is not able to be eradicated
 - Want to bring more science into project in the future
 - Partnered with Lake Champlain Committee on project

APIPP Achievement Awards

- The APIPP team instituted an APIPP Achievement Awards program to recognize individuals or groups who display dedication and innovation in invasive species prevention and management. The first awards were presented to two recipients. The Agency Achievement Award went to Peter Howard, DOT Region 1 Maintenance Environmental Coordinator, in appreciation of his exceptional agency leadership to protect Adirondack lands from terrestrial invasive species. The Volunteer Achievement Award went to Pat and Tom Willis of Rainbow Lake in appreciation of their exceptional volunteer leadership to protect Adirondack waterways from aquatic invasive species. Congratulations, and Thank you!

Economic Impact Report Overview (Hilary Smith & Samantha Dunn)

- Using private funding, APIPP contracted with Yellow Wood Associates to establish an initial baseline on the actual and potential impacts of invasives on the Adirondack economy.
 - Report we can all use to tell story of why we are doing what we are doing
 - Report should be finalized mid-July
 - Guiding research questions
 - What are the present day & future economic costs of invasive species in the Adirondack Park?
 - What are the present-day and future benefits of strategies that prevent the introduction of invasive species or that control their spread in the Adirondack Park?
 - What is the cost benefit balance of invasive species prevention and management in the Adirondack Park?
 - Excludes Lake Champlain so as not to skew the information
 - Advisory group established to guide project

- Yellowwood Associates - Contractor (Samantha Dunn)
 - Will Compile relevant primary and secondary economic and invasives data
 - Will look into where economics, sectors and invasives overlap
 - Where pathways and sectors overlap, identify and interview 1 or 2 key stakeholders for each sector
 - Will focus on 8 priority species that have yet to be determined. Survey of informants to determine 8 priority species will be completed in December and January. Survey to establish costs expended will be distributed in February
 - Will conduct cost comparisons of prevention/management and no action
 - Report should be ready in the summer of 2014
 - Corrie Miller (ASRA) suggested that there could be value in assessing species with a range of impacts. She also recommended that this work be presented to the regional economic councils when complete.

APIPP Website Upgrade

- Meghan Johnstone is point for the APIPP team to work with My Digital Nature – Contractor – to redesign the APIPP Website.
- Partner reactions/suggestions to draft website
 - Should move signature to footer so that it is on every page (Meg M.)
 - Provide ability to stop slide on rotating section (Peter H.)
 - Contact information provided on each page at bottom of site (Caitlin S.)
 - Compatible with mobile devices (Caitlin S.)
 - Should use “Maps” instead of “Distribution” (Emily D.)
 - More linked resources/page (Ed F.)
 - Watch list species included under each of the other 4 species categories (Leigh W.)

- Partners also revisited APIPP's name and whether it should be changed to reflect our all species approach and expanded geographic region. This will need to be revisited in 2014.

Education and Outreach (Various Items)

- Reprinting APIPP invasive plant brochure. Discussed species additions.
 - Aquatic - Adding variable leaf milfoil and water soldier
 - Terrestrial – Removing wild chervil, adding wild parsnip and Japanese barberry. Sought partner feedback on the fourth species to feature. Vote was for bush honeysuckles
- Working with Leslie Kopec and Essex County Adirondack Garden Club to scope steps to establish Plant Wise program in the Adirondacks
 - Modeled after Vermont program
 - Encourages native alternatives to common invasive ornamental plants
- Ideas for raising profile of swallowwort in the region in 2014
 - Media blitz over summer
 - Front page of website under featured species of concern
 - Piggyback on “invader of the month” media blitz (EAB, Hydrilla, etc)
 - Jump on board with state initiatives and media surrounding NYS invasive species prevention act and other invasive species legislation
- Sought feedback about Adirondack Council invasive species flyers
 - Add “What can people do” to posters (Meg M.)
 - Majority liked the movie poster/bumper sticker look
 - Hilary will reach back out to the Adirondack Council to discuss next steps.
- Fishing Tournament Outreach
 - Partners inquired about invasive species outreach at fishing tournaments. Meg said that it is required for all Lake Champlain tournaments and the LCBP has primarily done this.
 - Currently no other notification process for other tournaments in the park.
 - Could potentially be a process through DEC if the tournament requires a temporary revocable permit (Lance D.)

2014 APIPP Work Plan

- Hilary discussed need for an APIPP fundraising appeal
 - This is new territory. Looking for advice on messaging and approach
 - Would be more of a 1 time appeal to help build a reserve fund for APIPP and priority initiatives in case of a lapse in state funding
 - Exploring mechanism for donations. Checks likely would need to be made out to TNC as APIPP's host organization with an earmark for APIPP, since APIPP is only a program, not its own 501c3.

- Make tax deductibility clear in appeal letter (Emily D.)
- Should potentially consider an endowment fund (Ed F.)

- Response protocol
 - Other PRISMS are inquiring as to how species are added to the PRISMS target list; whether there is an established identification process for potential invasives that people find; and, who or what organization reviews and confirms these inquiries. APIPP has practices in place and is looking to more formally document these procedures over the winter.

- Future Forum/Summit Topics
 - Hilary asked whether a forest pest theme would be a good focus for the next summit, since Eurasian watermilfoil, Japanese knotweed and watershed stewards (at NYSFOLA) have been addressed. People liked the idea. Might not be able to hold in 2014 due to capacity but will explore options. Ezra and Caitlin are interested. Hilary will ask Laurel Gailor as well.

Future Meeting Dates

2014 partner meetings were tentatively scheduled for the weeks of April 28th (specifically April 29th) and October 27th (specifically October 28th). Please mark your calendars. Hilary will circulate a Doodle poll closer to the date to ensure that the date selected still works for most partners.

End

Notes prepared by Brendan Quirion and reviewed by Hilary Smith.