

Adirondack Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management **Fall Joint Committee Meeting**

Thursday, November 4th, 2010

9:30-3:00

Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, NY

Participants: Mark Malchoff (LCSG), Caitlin Stewart (HCSWCD), Dan Spada (APA), Emily DeBolt (LGA), John Davis (Adirondack Council), Hilary Smith (APIPP), Sue Smith (Lewis Creek Association), Tom Colarusso (USDA), Lance Durfey (DEC R5 Wildlife), Carol Treadwell (ASRA), Sarah Hoffman (LGLC), Julie Martin (BRASS), Tyler Smith (APIPP), Brendan Quirion (APIPP), Wayne Blanchard (DEC), John Falge (DOT), Ed Frantz (DOT), Laurel Gailor (WCCCE), Evelyn Greene (Protect the Adks), Peter Howard (DOT), Mary O'Dell (APA), Ray Oram (DOT), Scott Perez (Cornell), Ed Snizek (APA), Pat and Tom Willis (Rainbow Lake), Kathleen Wiley (APIPP volunteer, Antioch PhD student)

Notes prepared by: Brendan Quirion

PRISM REPORT

Hilary welcomed partners to the fall meeting. She reflected on the loss of Steven Flint and his contributions to the program. She welcomed Brendan Quirion as the new permanent Terrestrial Coordinator. She also acknowledged the contributions of John Davis, who will be taking on a new role after December. Hilary also showed an important video update about a new invasive species <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0foMKAxCww>.

Hilary provided a number of PRISM updates. She reported on the meetings of the ISC and ISAC since the spring APIPP meeting (ISC met twice, ISAC did not meet). She noted Steve Sanford's retirement as Director of the OISC and Leslie's Surprenant acting role as Director. She reported that the PRISM coordinators continued to hold quarterly calls; the most recent call focused on interest in having a shared PRISM website template. She said that the ISC approved and submitted draft bills to the Legislature including the Regulatory System for Nonnative Species and Aquatic Species Transport. **Note that DEC is opening the baitfish regulation for formal public comment later this fall, winter; partners are encouraged to review the changes and submit feedback.** Six Adirondack towns passed or considered passing local ordinances making it illegal to enter or exit waterways with visible aquatic plants or animals attached to watercraft. The state finalized contracts with the CRISP PRISM and the Cornell Cooperative Extension for education and outreach. Hilary summarized regional funding: As part of the ADK ANS Mgt Plan implementation, Paul Smith's received USFWS funding which was used to continue management on milfoil in Follensby Clear Pond; Paul Smith's also received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds to implement a boat launch program and aquatic response team in the Western Adirondacks in 2011. A foundation approached APIPP regarding priority projects in need of funding. APIPP's top priorities include prevention programs at boat launches and regional response teams. The GLRI funds will help to formalize a regional boat launch program and aquatic response team, but the priority that has gone unfunded the longest is the terrestrial response team, so this was project that was submitted for funding. Many partners submitted grants to the LCBP for AIS local implementation grants for great projects in 2011.

In terms of education and outreach, Hilary reported that APIPP staff reached 1,200 people to-date through presentations alone and continued its biweekly column in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise and Adirondack Express from May-October. APIPP's steward this summer, Gus Goodwin, also led an outreach initiative to private campgrounds in Essex and Franklin counties. He learned that most campgrounds he attended (N=20) were aware of forest pests (N=16), about half had been approached by someone discussing invasives (N=11), but most had not done anything about invasives

(N=12). Gus reported that greeting the attendants in person (rather than presenting the same information over the phone) and wearing the “Burn It Wear You Buy It” tee-shirt and having the insect displays in hand were very helpful.

Hilary spoke with iMap staff prior to the meeting and encouraged all partners to become registered users so that they can see the datasets. Training sessions for data entry are also ongoing.

Report Out on Summer Initiatives

Awareness Week:

- Two “Paddle Against Invasives” trips were held this summer on the Sacandaga River by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District. Headed up by Caitlin Stewart, the event had significant press coverage and very positive feedback from those who participated. Caitlin also recommended having an invasive species booth at the farmers’ market that week; she reached more than 40 citizens.
- Mark Malchoff attended bass tournaments on Lake Champlain this summer to provide information on aquatic invasive species and reached a couple hundred anglers.
- An estimated 1500 people were reached at the visitor’s center in Lake George as the result of an invasive species display put together by Emily DeBolt.
- Pat and Tom Willis with the Rainbow Lake Association continued printing invasive species information on the back of a lakewide map that is provided to all campers at Buck Pond campground.
- Hilary was invited to give three presentations from different groups in Old Forge, Paul Smiths, and Lake Placid which she scheduled to occur during Awareness Week.
- **All agreed that Invasive Species Awareness Week is worth continuing in the future.**

Adirondack Forum:

- Laurel Gailor from Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension provided a summary of evaluation forms received from the Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species this past summer. A total of 59 evaluation forms were received from the 150 individuals who attended the forum. In general attendees came away from the event with more knowledge about the issue and a strong desire to improve the situation.
- **All agreed that the Forum was worth holding again in the future, possibly in 2012.**

2010 Inventory:

- Kathleen Wiley (TNC Volunteer/Antioch Ph.D. Student) gave a brief update on preliminary results from the 2010 invasive species inventory, which replicated the 1998 roadside survey and 1999 backcountry survey. The initial training on May 27th covered plant identification, survey methodology, and data entry. 13 volunteers helped survey during June, July, and August. Species on the list to survey for included black locust, common reed, burning bush, Japanese barberry, Tartarian & fly honeysuckles, purple loosestrife, Russian olive, and wall lettuce. Species reported so far by the surveyors show that wall lettuce is the only species that was not included in the 1998 surveys but added this year that is an emerging threat. Volunteers are currently entering data into the iMap site and assistin in working the bugs out of this new website. Kathleen is continuing to compile geographic data for total area surveyed and absence data.

Native Plant Sales:

- This summer, the Boquet River Association, Lake George Land Conservancy, and Au Sable River Association were involved in promoting native plant sales in collaboration with Fiddlehead Creek Nursery. Stands were set up at local farmers' markets to sell native plants. The events received press coverage and positive public feedback. **Sue Smith from the Adirondack Shatagee Woods Chapter and the Vermont Lewis Creek Association also brought forward an idea that has been utilized in Vermont where nurseries that no longer sell invasive species are given an informative sign to proudly display.**

Beetle Detectives:

- Tom Colarusso (USDA/APHIS) addressed the need for increased interest in the "Beetle Detectives" project which encourages landowners to survey their properties for the signs of Asian long-horned beetle and emerald ash borer. The issue of proper tree identification was raised that may be a reason for low participation, as well as saturation of citizen science initiatives. **Partners are encouraged to participate at <http://beetledetectives.com/>.**

Project Updates

Aquatic Project

- Tyler presented a summary of the Aquatic Project which can be viewed as a pdf http://adkinvasives.com/documents/ANS-Terrestrialmeeting_11-4-10.pdf

Terrestrial Project

- Brendan prepared a summary of the Terrestrial Project which can be viewed as a pdf <http://adkinvasives.com/documents/2010TerrestrialInvasiveSpeciesProjectReported.pdf>

PARTNER ROUNDTABLE

- Carol Treadwell from the Au Sable River Association gave a follow-up on the results of purple loosestrife bio-control efforts along the Au Sable River last season. She stated that this year many of the beetle release sites did not come to flower and showed an overall decrease in plant numbers. She also spoke highly of the work of Kevin Chlad who worked as an intern for the Association this summer. Kevin's main focus was to increase Didymo awareness and promote wader sanitation procedures to anglers looking to fish in the Au Sable River. Over the summer, Kevin had the opportunity to meet with 315 riverside anglers and intercepted 9 anglers coming from infested streams. In the coming years Carol spoke about how the program would like to reach out to anglers fishing in the lakes of the region.
- Scott Perez from Cornell University's American Indian Program and Department of Natural Resources spoke about invasive species management efforts that are underway on lands that are mostly outside of the Park in St. Lawrence County. He spoke of the use of horticultural vinegar as an alternative to the use of herbicide to control Phragmites. He also spoke of Japanese knotweed stem injections that had been conducted in past years with great success and that unfortunately due to the loss of the certified pesticide applicator on their staff that these populations are coming back with a vengeance. Scott mentioned that past purple loosestrife beetle releases have proven extremely effective; there are also no signs of emerald ash borer in the area that they manage. Scott said that purple loosestrife in certain locations seemed to be on the rise this season and that Bernd Blossy indicated that

it could be attributed to the cold snap in weather this summer which may have reduced the number of biocontrol insects but not the plants.

- Julie Martin from the Boquet River Association noted that the Association had received a donation dedicated to the memory of Steven Flint and his great work on the river over the past years. She also spoke of a wetland monitoring project that is underway and that she was able to monitor 10 wetlands this field season. She is currently working on building up this project and looking for funding to continue this work. BRASS will have a public meeting about its work on January 10th.
- Sue Smith from the Adirondack Shatagee Woods Chapter and the Vermont Lewis Creek Association spoke of how she and another volunteer have continued managing purple loosestrife around Chazy and Upper Chateaugay Lakes. She also mentioned that a purple loosestrife beetle release site in the area is not showing great results this season. She then discussed an effort that she is heading up to control European Frog-bit on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain. She reported that last year seven tons of plant material had been removed but that that number had increased to 28 tons this field season. Finally, she mentioned that there is paid staff available for next season but that there won't be as many employed this year.
- Mark Malchoff from Lake Champlain Sea Grant spoke of the work that he is heading up educating tournament bass anglers about prevention practices they can employ for aquatic invasive species. Some of his other plans include developing an aquatic invasive species identification booklet to help anglers become part of a broader aquatic invasive species monitoring network, and coordinating with tournament organizers to identify where and how aquatic invasive species prevention steps may be applied.
- Tom Colarusso from USDA/APHIS spoke of his work with the emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle. He mentioned that the monitoring traps for EAB may not be that effective even though some insects were caught in the Hudson Valley. He stressed the need for education and outreach on ALB and that training sessions on how to spot the signs of each species are crucial.
- Caitlin Stewart from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District noted that their conservation technician, Lenny Croote, had completed his training to become a certified category 3a pesticide technician and had begun to treat a few high priority Japanese knotweed infestations. She also mentioned that over the course of the field season they had removed a total of 960 lbs. of purple loosestrife. Lastly, she mentioned education/outreach events that had taken place over the summer such as the paddle against invasives trips and presentations to schools.
- Emily DeBolt from the Lake George Association gave an update on the Asian Clam eradication effort underway and distributed several newsletters. She also distributed a boat launch steward summary and highlighted a success story where a boat encrusted with zebra mussels was stopped from entering the lake by the Park Commission thanks to the watchful eyes of a boat launch steward. An island inventory was also conducted this year and out of the six islands inventoried, four had invasive species. She also mentioned that wall lettuce was running rampant in the area and was in some of the campgrounds. She noted that the Lake George Park Commission formed an AIS subcommittee of their commissioners that is evaluating

next steps to recommend to the LGPC. Finally, she noted that there was an experimental ALB trap set in the Lake George area.

- Wayne Blanchard from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation gave an update on his invasive species control efforts within the campgrounds. He began by saying how he was discouraged this field season by the amount of animosity he received from campground staff that do not see the value of his work. He then informed us that due to budget cuts he had been laid off early this year, was not able to complete his guidance manuals for the campgrounds, and wasn't sure whether he would be able to continue his work next field season. On a more positive note, Wayne presented his results to the group, and, the number of bags of garlic mustard removed from the campgrounds has decreased from 150 to 30 since he first began, though he noted that soil spoils areas are prime areas for invasion. He described the Prospect Mountain spoils area which has garlic mustard and many other invasives. Over the winter he plans to be sponsored by the Town of Indian Lake to get his certification as an herbicide applicator to begin treating invasives next field season.
- Laurel Gailor from Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension announced that all staff time had been cut by 20% and were forced to work Monday through Thursday. Luckily, Laurel was able to secure two grants for work with EAB and ALB so that she could continue to work on Fridays. She presented EAB/ALB at logger training. She also serves as the Capital-Mohawk PRISM rep when Peg Sauer is not available. Laurel mentioned that a presentation during one of the monthly PRISM calls by Bernd Blossy may show that garlic mustard demonstrates some self-limiting qualities over time. She encouraged PRISM partners to view the presentation online at <https://nethope.webex.com/nethope/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=60704302&rKey=cc0e1dd261fad493> . Finally, Laurel was able to conduct EAB and ALB surveys of the Hearthstone Point, Roger's Rock, and Lake George Battleground campgrounds this summer and found no definite signs of these invasive pests, though a few suspicious trees were noted.
- Ray Oram from the NYS Department of Transportation spoke of three "seek and destroy" missions that the department conducted this field season on Routes 28, 30 and 8. Purple loosestrife was the species of their primary focus, but the Department also discovered and treated a fairly large stand of giant hogweed on the Hamilton County line just outside the Park. This particular stand will receive follow-up treatment by the Department in the coming years.
- Mary O'Dell from the Adirondack Park Agency noted that Dan Spada led a half day training seminar on terrestrial invasive species this summer. She then informed the group of two new general permits that the agency will be offering in the coming season. The first permit will allow for the management of aquatic invasive species on forest preserve, and the second will allow for rapid response of both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species infestations.

DISCUSSION

Issues: Agency retirements and layoffs

- With staff cuts across the state partners discussed needing to reevaluate priorities, take the time to strategize and plan, and think outside of the box about ways to meet programmatic priorities with fewer resources.

- Partners also discussed the need to address the slow and at times opposing permitting processes that are not akin to rapid response (inter-agency permitting requirements, fees).
- Caitlin described a situation in Hamilton County near Piseco where a landowner became very upset that a knotweed patch had been mowed by a highway department which could contribute to the infestation's further spread. She asked if there were any plans for outreach to local highway departments. Hilary agreed that outreach to state and local highway departments is increasing in important and mentioned that it was something that APIPP had considered focusing on this winter.

Needs in 2011: sustained funding and capacity

- Partners discussed the importance of staying current on the status of state funding (EPF) and staffing decisions in Albany. John Davis commented that it is important to inform newly elected officials about the need to restore staffing and sensible environmental programs. Hilary also noted the importance of sustaining Wayne Blanchard's position as Operations Invasive Species Specialist in 2011.
- Emily suggested that partners consider asking Towns to help cost-share important programs noting that now is the time when Boards are developing their budgets.
- Pat inquired about what public campgrounds fees are used for and whether that couldn't be a revenue source for some invasive species prevention or management programs.

Ongoing Initiatives Updates:

- Hilary summarized the main PRISM priorities: develop the 5-year Strategic Plan (still in development), formalize a regional Adirondack Watershed Stewardship Program at boat launches/river access points (collaboration ongoing among PSC, LCBP, LGA), formalize two Regional Response Teams (collaboration ongoing with PSC for aquatics, possible Foundation funding for terrestrial), and continued development of Invasive Species Prevention Zones where prevention and management activities can be focused (planning will begin again in the coming months). John Davis is still interested in tracking/participating in the process for ISPZ development over email. Planning for the development/ funding/ implementation of all of these initiatives will continue this winter.

New Initiatives:

- Hilary described some of the new initiatives that APIPP's is considering undertaking this winter. One includes formalizing an outreach plan for Community Preparedness Planning, an initiative inspired by Mark Whitmore about the need for municipalities to prepare for impacts of the EAB invasion in their communities. Laurel mentioned that PSC (Randall Swanson) may have already inventoried many communities' tree populations and to reach out to him. John Davis suggested contacting Charlie Canham and Larry Master to help formulate messaging as well. **Laurel Gailor, Mary O'Dell and Tom Colarusso are interested in working with APIPP to formalize a Community Preparedness Program for municipalities.**
- Hilary requested feedback from partners about specific education and outreach needs, since the PRISM has some funds for design and printing. She also noted that with the CCE contract in place for statewide education and outreach, partners should begin thinking about needs and ways to increase education and outreach across the state. Emily suggested establishing an APIPP Facebook page to post more day-to-day news. The group also discussed producing a video clip.

- Hilary mentioned a possible opportunity to work with the Adirondack North Country Association and Lake Placid Shoreowners' Association to put together an RFP for an invasive species economic impact analysis in the Adirondack region.
- Hilary discussed the need to better focus programming on pathway management, noting that the primary vectors of invasive plants to the region seem to be recreational watercraft for AIS, and highway departments and nurseries/gardeners for terrestrial plants. **Many were interested in a collaborative effort to offer invasive species training sessions to highway departments and DOT residencies. Sue Smith said that Sharon Plumb in VT has some materials that may be of use, and Laurel Gailor has a powerpoint as well. Caitlin Stewart will work with APIPP and DOT on this training initiative.**
- Hilary talked with partners about revisiting APIPP's name to change it to better reflect geographic coverage and taxonomic content. Send feedback to Hilary.

DVD "Lurking in the Trees"

- Hilary thanked everyone for attending the meeting, given tight schedules and tight budgets. She encouraged partners to stay for the rest of the allotted time to view the DVD "Lurking in the Trees" which describes community response to the ALB detection in Worcester, MA. Copies of the DVD are available for distribution for viewing at other meetings or community events.

**Fast facts: Ash comprise 7% of NYS forests. NY has > 50% but < 60% ALB susceptible species in our forests. Looking at age class, habitat and location variables it is easily about 40% of our forests could harbor ALB.*