

**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program**  
***the Adirondack Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management***  
**Fall Joint Committee Partner Meeting**

Friday, October 7, 2011, 9:30-3:00  
Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, NY

*Attendance: Hilary Smith, Brendan Quirion, Meghan Johnstone (APIPP); Meg Modley (LCBP); Lance Durfey, Jason Smith(DEC); Allison Buckley (Adirondack Council); Joel Brandt (ASRA); Sue Smith; Dan Spada (APA); Emily DeBolt (LGA); Guy Middleton (USLF); Eric Holmlund (PSC); Mark Malchoff (Lake Champlain Sea Grant); Laura Smith; Marilyn Wyman (NY Invasive Species CCE); Terrestrial Regional Response Team (April Senften, Stacey Parthemore, Paul Rishmiller, Robby Thigpen); Mary Johnson (Chateaugay Lake Foundation)*

**I. Announcements**

Hilary welcomed Meghan Johnstone as the new Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator. She congratulated Brendan Quirion and recognized the Terrestrial Regional Response Team for a great job managing terrestrial invasive plants this summer. Hilary also thanked Carol Treadwell, though unable to attend in person, for her commitment to quality stewardship of the Ausable River and wished her well in her future endeavors in Montana. Hilary welcomed Marilyn Wyman, one of the new invasive species specialists for Cornell Cooperative Extension. She congratulated Eric Holmlund and the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Stewardship Program for a stellar year in stewardship with nearly 30 boat launch stewards and for receiving an EPA's grant to continue the program in 2012. Partners also offered their condolences to Eric on the death of Matthew Potel, one of the boat launch stewards this summer.

**II. PRISM Update and Discussion**

Hilary reported that the Invasive Species Council met three times this summer to hear progress reports and evaluate each of the paid contractors implementing components of the NYS invasive species program (iMap, PRISMs, Clearinghouse/CCE, Research Institute etc.). The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) was largely inactive this year while the Council conducted these contractor assessments. At its most recent meeting, the Council approved the ISAC's new Executive leadership. Hilary Smith will serve as Chair and Charlie Sheer will serve as Vice-Chair. The ISAC will meet in December.

The Office of Invasive Species Coordination has two full-time staff members. The Office is currently preparing a five-year look back regarding invasive species achievements in NY State and is developing a five-year work plan looking ahead.

The NY State Department of Agriculture & Markets has completed its contract with Ecology and Environment to develop an outline for an invasive species management plan.

Four PRISMs are now funded, and four are not, but hopefully the request for proposals for the remaining four will be released in the first quarter of next year.

There is a new and improved Invasive Species Clearinghouse website ([nyis.info](http://nyis.info)). The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) contract has been signed and staff hired. Hilary provided Chuck O'Neill with a summary of education and outreach needs. The Annual CCE Agriculture and Food System In-service will take place from November 15-17 in Ithaca, NY, and invasive species will be a highlight.

The future of NYISRI is still up in the air. Holly Menninger accepted another position that will start in mid-November. We're sorry to see Holly go but appreciate her extensive contributions, energy and expertise while part of the NYS invasive species partner team!

In September, Warren County passed a law making the transport of visible invasive species on watercraft and/or gear illegal. Violators could be fined anywhere from \$500-\$5,000. This hopefully will help advance the statewide law that was transferred to the legislature in fall 2010.

The new and improved iMap website is up and running. It is more user-friendly and staff are willing to help anyone who has difficulty using the site.

**Action items: 1. iMap is looking for a PRISM representative. This would not require much effort but it needs to be someone who uses iMap. 2. Become a registered user today!**

The Adirondack Landowners Association facilitated the distribution of the Watershed Stewardship AIS rack card at local DMV offices in the Adirondack Park and has several additional outreach priorities. Find out more online at <http://www.adklandowners.org/stewardship.html> .

Steve Young, Chief Botanist of the NY Natural Heritage Program and LIISMA Coordinator, is also vice-president of the NYS Flora Association and helped to facilitate the formation of the Adirondack Botanical Society. Check it out online at <http://adkbotsoc.org/> .

### **III. Project Reports**

Terrestrial Invasive Species Project discussion focused on early field season initiatives, species on the move, results from the 1<sup>st</sup> herbicide treatments on Forest Preserve, this season's projects and initiatives and the Response Team. Please refer to the powerpoint available online for project summaries: [http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/2011TerrestrialInvasiveSpeciesProjectReport\\_reducedinsize.pdf](http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/2011TerrestrialInvasiveSpeciesProjectReport_reducedinsize.pdf)

Steward and Aquatic Project discussion featured communications and outreach initiatives and field initiatives including lake surveys, control projects, and Invasive Species Prevention Zone surveying and reporting. Please refer to the powerpoint available online for project summaries: [http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/JohnstoneNaturalResourceProtectionStewardPresentationFallMeeting2011\\_reducedsize.pdf](http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/JohnstoneNaturalResourceProtectionStewardPresentationFallMeeting2011_reducedsize.pdf) .

#### **Additional Aquatic Updates:**

- Hydrilla was detected in Cayuga Lake. A Response Task Force formed and management actions are underway.
- APIPP held 2 aquatic plant trainings held in 2011 (Bolton/Wanakena) w 67 participants.
- ~70 volunteer survey reports have been submitted so far, more are coming in.
- Only new sighting so far in 2011 was a new frogbit sighting in a private pond in Essex County.
- The ILIDS video surveillance project was piloted at Raquette Lake this summer. A summary report will be submitted by the Association.
- The Chateaugay Lake Milfoil Control Progress Report detailing efforts from 2007-2010 is a great publication and available for review at <http://www.chateaugaylakefoundation.org/ProgressReport.pdf> .

#### **IV. Partner Roundtable**

**Lake Champlain** – Laura Smith reported that both *Phragmites* and purple loosestrife were being controlled in the area. She has been trying to educate people about wild parsnip because it is quite rampant in the Champlain Valley. Smith was the one with the eagle eyes who tipped APIPP and partners off on the giant hogweed infestation near the Essex Ferry.

**Paul Smith's College** – Eric Holmlund reported that the boat launch steward program just got more funding. Twenty-four boat launch stewards were distributed among the tri-lakes, Cranberry Lake, Raquette Lake, Long Lake, Seventh Lake, etc. this summer, however, the western area of the Adirondacks was not fully staffed. Lack of housing in certain areas prevented some stewards from taking positions this summer. 17-18,000 boats were inspected and the stewards educated/interacted with about 37,000 people. Stewards inspected roughly 1,100 boats at Cranberry Lake and about 1,200 at Tupper Lake. There were two stewards stationed at Saratoga Lake; about 4,000 boats were inspected and 10,000 people interacted with. Stewards also assisted APIPP and RIIPP in terrestrial plant control.

A full-time position has been filled at Paul Smith's College to help with the workload.

The program also has a Facebook page.

Some students at Paul Smith's are currently researching zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil for capstone projects.

**Lewis Creek Association** – Sue Smith continued European frog-bit removal for the third year in a bay on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain. The site is 45 acres in size. She predicted much less frog-bit this year due to the Spring flooding, and sure enough, old sites did not yield much this year. 67% of the 7.5 tons removed came out of areas never harvested before (last year, 28 tons were harvested). Smith also reported that a survey took place for Lewis Creek and Shelburne. It was mapped and a program is being developed for next year. Sue expressed interest in receiving training in purple loosestrife biocontrol.

**Action items: 1. Work with Marilyn Wyman and CCE to explore offering a purple loosestrife biocontrol workshop in 2012.**

**Lake George Association (LGA)** – Emily DeBolt reported that there were seven boat launch stewards on Lake George this year. Emily is still compiling stats but stewards removed the same four species (ZM, EWM, WC, Crispus) and as of August, about 7,000 boats were inspected.

LGA and partners participated in Invasive Species Awareness Week, staffing info tables at the Visitors Center and hosting plant paddles.

DeBolt also reported that yellow iris has started popping up in many areas around the lake. Mapping of the yellow iris has been completed (approx. 20 sites) and hopefully management can take place next year. Yellow iris is not yet well known as an invasive species and is still actively planted as a desirable ornamental.

A management plan is in the process of being written for Conservation Park for species such as honeysuckle, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, and Oriental bittersweet.

A PBS video about invasive species is in the works; it will highlight Lake George's community efforts dealing with invasive species.

As a response to the Warren County transport law, a marina owner located north of Norowal installed a boat washing station.

Three new Asian clam infestations were discovered this summer, making a total of four infestations in the lake. Divers have been hired to survey the entire lake more thoroughly. The north end of the lake has just been finished and the divers plan to move down to the south end next. No new sites have been discovered throughout the survey process. Permits are underway to treat the new Asian clam sites, proposing such methods as benthic barriers, suction harvesting, or a combination of both. The plan is to have the three new sites actively managed before the calendar year ends. The plan is to complete suction harvesting at one of the smaller sites in order to compare cost and efficacy to that of the benthic barriers.

**Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)** – Meg Modley reported that the availability of local implementation grants for 2012 from LCBP are still up in the air, and, if available, the focus may be on LC shoreline protection.

The Lake Champlain Basin Rapid Response Task Force (RRTF) recently discovered variable leaf milfoil in the southern lake. The infestation is about 80 acres in size. It is dense in some areas and sparse in others. Because of the size of the infestation, eradication is not an option; instead, spread prevention will be the main focus. Getting a steward and posting additional signage will be important for next year. Variable leaf milfoil is the 50<sup>th</sup> known non-native species in the Lake Champlain basin (49<sup>th</sup> in the Lake itself). Dan Spada serves on the RRTF for APA, and Lance Durfey for DEC.

Spiny water flea and Asian clam monitoring are to continue in Lake Champlain through its long-term monitoring program which helps to serve as an early detection network in the lake.

LCBP has been hand-harvesting water chestnut in Lake Champlain, but funding is in jeopardy. LCBP is expecting funding numbers for a contingency plan soon (eg. about 500K annually in southern part of the Lake but 200K as contingency plan)

4 Lake Champlain stewards were at launches in NY and 2 in VT. This was the first year that LCBP required a quality assurance plan from steward programs funded by LCBP. A debrief meeting of the boat launch steward programs will be held in December.

Post-Hurricane Irene assessments revealed that knotweed has since spread along river corridors. Floods could also be implicated in the spread of didymo though no new sightings have been reported.

There is a NEANS Panel meeting in Providence, Rhode Island from November 29-December 1. Modley will also be attending the North American Lake Management Society conference in Spokane, Washington and the National ANS Task Force in Washington, DC to present on the Asian clam situation in Lake George. Interested partners in the west aim to host a didymo conference on the east coast at the end of next year.

**Upper Saranac Lake Association** – Guy Middleton reported success in the battle against Eurasian watermilfoil (AWI) surveyors now report that EWM is rare in the lake). Less than one ton of EWM was removed this summer for the entire 44 miles of shoreline during the 20 week harvest period.

The Association is grateful for partial funding provided by LCBP.

The Association set up an invasive species display at The Wild Center in Tupper Lake and hosted an invasive plant paddle on the lake during Invasive Species Awareness Week.

With the help of APIPP, the Association has been treating three Japanese knotweed sites in the area.

The Association is currently working on a response plan: the Upper Saranac Lake Preparedness Plan. This plan will cover both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

**River Steward Program** – Joel Brandt reported an overall successful summer for the program. Fly fisherman and spin casting fisherman were key audiences to reach this year.

Surveys were taken asking such questions as what invasive species people were aware of, whether they were familiar with didymo, what kind of gear they used, and whether they used felt-soled waders.

Members of the program spoke to over 750 river users (~250 were spin casters). There was an 8 or 9% increase in fisherman cleaning their gear at the west branch of the Ausable River. Awareness of didymo has increased. 79 or 80% of the fisherman spoken to reported taking some sort of spread prevention measure. However, there was little awareness of didymo among spin fishers.

Informational signs about didymo have been placed along the west branch of the Ausable. Three new wader wash stations have been installed along the west branch. A flip book was also created to educate river users about invasive species.

Other outreach efforts included a facebook page, media coverage by Adirondack Daily Enterprise and Press Republican, and farmers markets.

**Chateaugay Lake Foundation** – Mary McLean Johnson reported that Chateaugay Lake is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest EWM-infested lake in the Adirondacks. Mary suspected that sediment and erosion as a result of logging might have a connection to increases in EWM populations.

EWM has spread throughout the lake and is the worst where there is heavy boat traffic.

Forty-eight acres were treated this year, mostly in the same general area.

The good news is that Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) originally reported 38,000 stems/acre in one of the sites, and now is only reporting about 1,400 stems/acre. This is about a 96% reduction.

EWM treatment techniques in Chateaugay Lake include hand-harvesting with divers and benthic mats, but the Foundation found that matting alone did not seem to be very effective, although in combination with hand-harvesting, it worked fairly well.

There is not a great deal of funding available to continue this project but the Foundation is searching for ways to keep the program going for another three years. Mary also said that she raised the issue of invasive species with the North Country Regional Economic Development Council and said that there can be emerging economic opportunities to strategically involve industry and tourism professionals. She voiced support for reinstating the NYS Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program. Emily DeBolt said that Warren County recently approved using \$100,000 of revenue from bed tax in the county to support invasive species control programs.

Mary expressed interest in learning more about the cost effectiveness about various milfoil control efforts.

**Action items: 1. Consider hosting one-day session or integrating in junction with possible Adirondack Invasive Species Form 2012 information about cost effectiveness of various milfoil treatments.**

**Lake Champlain Sea Grant** – Mark Malchoff provided an overview of several initiatives 1) outreach to Lake Champlain fishing tournaments 2) outreach to fishing tournaments through the Great Lakes Network and 3) AIS survey questionnaire summary report. Mark is still in the process of writing a paper on amateur bass tournament anglers and their knowledge of aquatic invasive species. Overall, he noticed that anglers did not seem as concerned about aquatic invasive plants as aquatic invasive animals. Out of those surveyed, 43% always inspected their boats/trailers. Mark also said that there is a preliminary assessment of the potential impacts of bloody red shrimp to Lake Champlain (currently in Great Lakes, St. Lawrence and Finger Lakes).

**Adirondack Council** – Allison Buckley reported that Kevin Chlad (former 2010 ASRA River Steward) is now on staff in Albany with the Adirondack Council. She also said that if there is a need for invasive species lobbying assistance in Albany to let her know.

**Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** – Jason Smith reported that the emerald ash borer has been found in Orange County on the West Point campus. DEC will be girdling trees this winter to serve as EAB sentinel trees. EAB may also be located in Albany County near Bethlehem, but this has yet to be confirmed. DEC is looking into additional biocontrol releases in NY to control EAB, either ectoparasitoid or endoparasitoid.

There have been five or six enforcement actions in the Adirondacks regarding firewood regulations.

A researcher at SUNY ESF has built traps for Asian longhorned beetle; they work! The quarantine area in Worcester, MA needs to be expanded; the traps caught 25 adults outside the quarantine.

Smith said DEC has funds from the US Forest Service to hold trainings for highway departments and for forest pest training in counties adjacent to quarantine counties.

The DEC also prepared best management practices for downed wood resulting from Hurricane Irene.

#### **USDA (submitted in advance by Tom Colarusso)**

Small amount of EAB Community Preparedness activity early in the year with APIPP committee. Let's try to pick it up again later this Fall/ Winter. Outreach and Education is key to getting the messages out about pests. Forest Pests of concern for the North Country continue to be ALB and EAB, in Tom's opinion. Tom answered several ALB and EAB suspect reports this year and all were negative. One is still pending due to access issues. A camper reports seeing beetle damage at a boat access only site. On a related matter USDA, TNC/ APIPP cooperated on an ALB suspect call this year and it ended up ID'ing a rare, but native longhorned beetle that looks kind of like ALB and kind of like the White-Spotted Pine Sawyer.

EAB Survey 2011. Other than Orange county down in the Hudson Valley and 2 new infestations found in western NY, no new EAB finds in the northern part of NY. . . . yet. A majority of traps have been taken down in NYS. USDA contracted with Forecon Inc. and they completed the survey almost a month ago with no EAB finds in the North Country. DEC still has traps hanging in St Lawrence County and DEC traps across NYS at rest areas/ parking areas, etc. These traps could still yield positives, but waiting for them to finish up.

USDA got a permit from DEC to release bio control beetles for Leafy Spurge (an invasive weed mostly affecting grazing lands) and then the beetle for spotted knapweed. Does anyone have interest in this? Not much grazing lands in APIPP area. Maybe northern Franklin or Clinton County. . . . If interested

Tom can put you in touch with Paul Wrege of in Oneida, NY who does biocontrol for USDA in NY. Or if you see sites you want to release at, take GPS points. Paul Wrege, PPQ Officer , 315-361-4281  
Paul.F.Wrege@aphis.usda.gov

Tom noticed a particular firewood supplier that appears to be moving firewood farther than 50 miles in the North Country. If this is the case it would be a violation of NYS's regulations but not USDA's. Tom plans to reach out to NYS counterpart and also gather more facts to see if it is in fact a violation. This is an important reminder that we need to communicate with our cooperators. And also as regulators, Nat' Resource Managers and professionals NEED to keep reaching out to industry and public that we're serving. And outreach and education is a vital key!

## V. Planning

Hilary is reviving APIPP's strategic planning efforts. She provided an overview of the process to-date which included the decision to use the ADK ANS Management Plan as the framework for the PRISM Invasive Species Strategic Plan. CRISP is nearly complete with their plan (LIISMA and SLELO are also in development), which Hilary also shared with partners in attendance. Discussion centered on deciding on a path forward to complete the APIPP plan: to continue to working on the existing draft of the APIPP plan, to use the CRISP framework (modeled after the template that OISC provided), or choose a combination of both.

- Mark Malchoff – prevention education is quite difficult to measure, a huge job
- Meg – make sure objectives are measurable, not a great use of time to go back and redo the whole document
- Leslie said we are okay with current metrics, OISC will work with those higher up to find out what they need in terms of metrics

Hilary, Brendan and Meghan are also working on the APIPP 2012 Annual Workplan.

**Action items: 1. Hilary will review the CRISP plan and consider opportunities to scale back the APIPP strategic plan yet incorporate some of the new components preferred by OISC. 2. Hilary will circulate a draft of the strategic plan and annual workplan when complete.**

## VI. Strategic Management

Hilary presented a brief summary slideshow of The Nature Conservancy's Invasive Plant Management Decision Analysis Tool (IPMDAT) developed by Chris Zimmerman, Marilyn Jordan, Gregg Sargis, Kathy Schwager and Hilary Smith. The IPMDAT provides guidance on whether or not an invasive plant management project should proceed based on management goals, species distribution and biology, control methods, resources available and likelihood of long-term project success. APIPP will use the decision trees for new projects that they are involved in the region and encourages partners to consider doing the same. Chris Zimmerman, TNC Eastern NY Chapter, will present more detailed information about the IPMDAT and case studies at various events eg. November In-service and PRISM monthly call in 2012.

## VII. Education and Outreach

Hilary announced that the designs of 'Protect Adirondack Woods and Waters,' the spread prevention postcard for mailing to every Adirondack year-round resident, [http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/Invasivespeciespostcard\\_hires.pdf](http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/Invasivespeciespostcard_hires.pdf) , and 'Invasive Species Animals of the Adirondacks,' [http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/APIPPInvasiveAnimalBrochure\\_reduced.pdf](http://www.adkinvasives.com/documents/APIPPInvasiveAnimalBrochure_reduced.pdf) , are complete and

available as PDFs. Hopefully funding for printing will be made available soon. She submitted an amendment to their EPF budget to DEC and is awaiting final approval.

Partners discussed the utility of and feedback from distributing the invasive plant doorhanger notifications this summer.

- Is it appropriate to put door hangers on docks?
  - Need a way to secure it, but otherwise probably fine though take note of sensitivities to private property issues
- Track how many distributed, how many phone calls received
- Suggestions for future modifications to content
  - Suggest native alternatives, where to buy these (support local nurseries!)
  - Instead of “If you have questions...” “Please call to...” – provides some measure to gauge impact
  - Mention herbicide as a last resort on card?
  - Include hotline (need to set one up first)
  - Develop resource list of private companies who could be contacted to help with removal
  - Include links to more information
- New species cards to add in 2012: *Phragmites*, bittersweet, wild parsnip?
  - Consider detectability from a roadway.

Other educational initiatives for 2012 include developing a communications plan, addressing priority invasive species pathways and reaching out to new audiences. Target species to raise awareness about in 2012 include pale and black swallow-wort, and giant hogweed, among others. Emily DeBolt suggested thinking about offering a plant swap so that gardeners with invasive plants (either integrated into their landscape designs or newly planted) could exchange their plant for a native plant of equal interest.

**Action items: 1. Time was short to fully discuss education and outreach and will be a centerpiece of a future meeting or conference call.**

## VIII. Issues/New Initiatives

- CRISP is hosting a call for partners interested in assessing invasive plant spread, management, and restoration needs following Hurricane Irene. Brendan plans on calling-in and strategies will be formed for appropriate next steps.
- Laura suggested starting an APIPP blog where partners/citizens could post issues/questions to discuss throughout the year
  - APIPP’s new blog should be able to function in this way.
- Laura also asked if APIPP could track invasive species trends based on climatic conditions (eg. flooding etc.). For instance, if partners/citizens are seeing A. Invasives that were there prior to this year, gone due to the extended period of high water and B. Invasives that had not been there previously that are there now.
- Hilary asked whether there was interested in organizing another Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species since in 2010 feedback suggested hosting one every other year.
  - There was interest among partners. Helps with morale.
  - Planning committee: Mark Malchoff, Emily DeBolt, Allison Buckley, Hilary Smith, Dan Kelting, Mary McLean Johnson

- Hilary reminded partners to mark their calendars for the next invasive species awareness week: July 8-14, 2012. This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> annual ISAW.
- Other species news: species range expansions: Quagga mussels in Lake Huron and bloody red shrimp in Oswego and Lake Ontario.
- Hilary suggested that the partnership schedule their biannual meeting dates (April/October) at the beginning of the year so as many partners as possible can plan well in advance and attend.
  - Partners agreed.

#### **IX. Next Meeting**

ADK ANS Committee Meeting, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-12:30, DEC Ray Brook

APIPP Full Partner Meeting: Spring meeting, April TBD; Fall meeting, October TBD

**END**

*Notes drafted by Meghan Johnstone and edited by Hilary Smith.*