



# Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

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## ***Adirondack Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management*** **Spring Joint Committee Meeting**

Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, 9:30-3:00  
Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, NY

*Attendance:* Hilary Smith, Brendan Quirion, Gus Goodwin (APIPP); Meg Modley (LCBP); Lance Durfey, Dan Levy, Jason Smith, Leslie Surprenant (DEC); Allison Buckley (Adirondack Council); Carol Treadwell, Joel Brandt (ASRA); Julie Martin (BRASS); Sue Smith; Ed Snizek, Dan Spada (APA); Emily DeBolt, Kristen Rohne (LGA); Caitlin Stewart, Elizabeth Mangle (HCSWCD); Guy Middleton (USLF); Eric Holmlund (PSC); Pat Willis, Tom Willis (Rainbow Lake Association); Sarah Hoffman (LGPC); Pete Howard (DOT)

### **I. Announcements**

- APIPP is honored to be receiving the Adirondack Council's Conservationist of the Year award on July 9<sup>th</sup> in Piseco Lake.
- The iMap invasive species symposium held in conjunction with the NE Natural History Conference in April was a success. Expect to see a rollout of multiple iMap training opportunities this field season.
- APIPP organized an invasives session at Adirondack Research Consortium, May 18 in Lake Placid with Mark Whitmore (Cornell) speaking about forest pests, Chris Martine (SUNY Plattsburgh) talking about emerging plant threats, and Scott Kishbaugh (DEC) presenting a methodology to assess lake health using aquatic plants as bioindicators.
- The Raquette Lake Property Owners Association, HC Soil and Water Conservation District and Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension will staff invasives info booths at the Woods and Waters event in Inlet, NY on June 4/5.
- The NYSDEC & NYS Federation of Lakes Association annual meeting is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week is July 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Adirondack Waterfest will be hosted in Lake Placid on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **II. PRISM Update and Discussion**

#### **PERSONNEL / FIELD CAPACITY**

Hilary reported that APIPP is recruiting to fill the AIS coordinator position. Meghan Johnstone will serve as APIPP's Seasonal Steward this summer and assist survey, control and education initiatives. APIPP hired part-time staff March-May (Alissa Rafferty and Gus Goodwin) to assist several outreach projects including the development of several outreach publications and EAB outreach. APIPP submitted several letters of support for the DEC Operations Invasive Species Specialist position and is waiting to hear whether the position will be funded this summer. Tom Martin, DEC R5, allotted 3 weeks of the SCA crew's time to assist IS control and management this field season. Funding from various sources will support a Terrestrial Regional Response Team and amplify the Watershed Stewardship Program.

## STATEWIDE

Leslie Suprenant said that the EPF is \$3.8M for the FY11 budget. SLELO is now under contract and will be coordinated by The Nature Conservancy; CRISP has been under contract since the fall and is coordinated by the Catskills Center and LI is almost under contract via the NY Natural Heritage Program. iMAP now has 5 staff who are working on the statewide IS database. Partners are requested to funnel their data to the statewide database. iMap has focused on terrestrial plants but is now adding forest pests and aquatics. iMAP will provide a variety of training sessions to each of the PRISMS this field season (observation, assessment, treatment, how to conduct a survey, and train the trainer training). iMAP also has a facebook page and is working on a Smartphone Application. **Action item: Attend an iMap training to become a registered user and learn about recent improvements and functionality and start entering data.**

## POLICIES

The Invasive Species Council (ISC) developed, reviewed, endorsed and transferred two key prevention bills to the Legislature: 1) Statewide aquatic transport bill, and 2) Regulatory system for invasive species. Neither one has formally been introduced which is troubling. These two bills are key to the success of IS management in NY state. NYSDEC is only allowed to introduce a select number of bills a year and these two were not among those selected. **Action item: Advocacy groups can help support these bills.**

3) Baitfish regulations. NYSDEC has recommended three transport corridors - Hudson River, Mohawk River, and Lake Ontario corridors - that would enable the harvesting and overland transport of baitfish for use in the same body of water. NY has been praised for the baitfish regs by other states and some view this as a major backslide in protection against AIS and other fish diseases. Anglers are lobbying for these corridors and that is who the NYSDEC and legislators are hearing from. APIPP members discussed the implications of this new proposed change to the regulations.

**Action item: Please read the regulations and write a letter by May 23<sup>rd</sup> if you're concerned.**

4) Towns are passing their own local ordinances for aquatic species transport laws. Six have passed their own: Lake Pleasant, Harrietstown, Santa Clara, North Elba, Village of Lake Placid, and Lake George and others are considering passing laws: Brighton and Saranac.

## FUNDING

- Great Lakes Restoration funding – Eric Holmlund said that PSC was the recipient of \$320K from the GLRI through the USFWS to expand the steward program in the western ADKs flowing into Lake Ontario and also to establish a western Adk Aquatic Response Team. Two small Eurasian milfoil infestations in the Fulton Chain (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Lakes) will be resurveyed by the team. 8 additional bodies of water will have steward coverage 7 days a week. PSC will continue to pursue \$ from GLRI and EPA to support this expanded program in future years.
- Paul Smith's requested USFWS \$ from the national ANS Task Force to implement the ADK ANS Management Plan but the federal budget is still pending. (Since the APIPP meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>, we received notification that approximately \$29,861 will be awarded towards implementation of the Watershed Stewardship Program).

- FY10 GLFC \$ secured by Senator Leahy resulted in over \$233K+ to local lake and water associations in the Lake Champlain Basin to support aquatic invasive species spread prevention projects this summer. Congratulations to all recipients!
- APIPP received a grant from a private foundation for \$170K which APIPP directed to support a terrestrial regional response team and several local projects including the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program, benthic mats for the Asian clam rapid response project and two watershed stewards. APIPP circulated a Request for Proposals and selected an invasive species control group out of TN, Invasive Plant Control, Inc. The team will be funded from late May – late September and will be herbicide certified and will assist Brendan in survey and control work at priority sites across the region.
- The Department of State's Request for Proposals for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program may include invasive species language this round. Stay tuned.

## **PLANNING**

- APIPP's 2010 Annual Report and 2011 Annual Workplan are available online at <http://adkinvasives.com/publications.html> .
- APIPP is working on updating the PRISM's strategic plan. The PRISM coordinators have also talked about the need to coordinate efforts.
- APIPP is beginning to develop its PRISM Management Plan. APIPP staff held two strategy meetings in March and April to evaluate plant management goals and approaches. Meeting outcomes are outlined in the terrestrial project report.
- This winter APIPP staff continued selecting priority areas in the region to focus prevention and management, Invasive Species Prevention Zones. Progress is noted in the terrestrial project report.

## **RESEARCH**

- A variety of undergraduate students contacted APIPP for invasive species project ideas. Several projects are now underway including monitoring garlic mustard (Paul Smiths College); inventorying wall-lettuce (SUNY Plattsburgh); and investigating evidence of biocontrol on purple loosestrife (SUNY ESF).

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

- APIPP is working on several education and outreach materials including:
  - IS postcard similar to the invasive forest pests postcard that could be mailed to all year-round residents in the ADKs.
  - IS animal brochure featuring top 20 species. A draft list was circulated on the list serve. Comments including adding round goby, wooly adelgid, vibernum leaf beetle and alfalfa beetle.
  - Scenic Byways Brochure featuring IS – Adirondack North Country Association contracted out production of an informational piece about IS pathways and prevention steps for Byway travelers. Waders are also covered in the spread prevention message.
- APIPP's biweekly IS column will start again in May for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It will run in the Adirondack Express and Adirondack Daily Enterprise. Partners inquired whether the Hamilton County News could run current or past columns.
- Partners discussed the possibility of starting an APIPP Facebook page. Hilary noted that a broader communications strategy is needed, and social media and networking will be a

part of that discussion. Eric Holmlund mentioned that the watershed stewardship groups could pool resources to support a facebook approach for stewardship through partnership efforts.

- The Garden Club of America reached out to APIPP and DOT to hold a workshop for their membership at the APA in Ray Brook in August. Garden Club members expressed interest in reaching out to nurseries as their outreach focus.
- Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week is July 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> . **Action item: Please send events for ISAW to Hilary by July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### **III. Partner Roundtable**

**LCBP** – Meg Modley reported that the NEANS Panel will be held in QC City April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> and will feature the USFWS HACCP-ISRAP training and also a presentation on Asian clam in the St. Lawrence River. This will be the first NEANS Panel meeting in Quebec ever! Meg will serve as the freshwater co-chair of NEANS Panel for one more year and then will step down. The national ANS Task Force meeting will be held in Little Rock, AK May 4-6<sup>th</sup> and the Lake Champlain Basin is represented on this task force as well. The Lake Champlain Basin AIS Rapid Response Task Force appointed members and met for the first time in February. A second meeting focused on training in Incident Command System in March with the EPA Incident Commander of Asian carp Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal project. The status of the Lake Champlain boat launch steward program is unknown and dependent on federal EPA funding. Meg also reported that Lake Champlain is now host to 49 AIS species; there was a significant alewife dieoff again this winter; and, water chestnut funding in 2012 is not secure.

**APIPP / Forest pest outreach project** – Gus Goodwin is working with APIPP on the EAB awareness tagging project. He hoped to distribute ash tags with purple ribbons on Arbor Day (April 29<sup>th</sup>) to bring attention to ash trees in local communities to generate community preparedness thinking. NYSDEC (Jason Smith) and Cornell Cooperative Extension will extend the tagging project into May to coincide with EAB Awareness Week, May 22-28.

**Rainbow Lake Association** – Pat Willis reported that RLA received a \$16,500 grant from LCBP to hire one steward for 4 days a week. This is up from two days / week in past years. With volunteer stewards and the grant, coverage will now be 5 days a week this year.

**Hamilton County SWCD** – Elizabeth Mangle said that the SWCD finally received FY08-09 knotweed eradication support which will hopefully ramp up management efforts this fall. Staff are also working with Peter Tobiessen to determine where spiny waterflea is in Sacandaga Lake. They will be using Tyler's sampling protocol for sampling for waterflea in other lakes. Their Conservation Corner publication has been targeting waterflea and new forest pests and pathogens. Presentations are being scheduled now about invasives for Arbor Day and into the summer. They are also working on a combined IS brochure for plants, animals and pathogens.

**NYSDEC / Forest Pest Outreach** – Jason Smith said that DEC is conducting forest pest trainings with DOT in Essex, Warren, Washington, and Saratoga counties. They also trained the train company on how to id invasive pests and pathogens. Updates to the firewood regulations – some revisions are underway to make the regulation more enforceable. Issuing tickets happened but they were often thrown out. ECL 190 asks that campers coming to NYSDEC campgrounds do not bring untreated wood into the campground. Reserve America has the firewood

regulations on the web-site and it asks users not to bring in any untreated wood. DEC is also working on amnesty drop receptacles along roadways at border crossings.

**Lewis Creek Association** – Sue Smith continues the fight against European frogbit. A study is looking at gas exchange. There are dense populations along the Ausable Marsh, Thorp Brook and Town Farm Bay. The frogbit harvesting project that Sue oversees will continue for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year; there will be paid stewards. 28 tons of frogbit were previously removed. They have since divided the area into work zones for paid worker and volunteers. Hilary added that this will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year of frogbit eradication efforts in the Grasse River in NY. It is a small site, and contained, and with annual monitoring and removal, eradication is possible.

**NYSDEC R5** – Dan Levy said that he is continuing the phrag control project in Split Rock Wild Forest and will be looking for volunteers at the end of August and beginning of September. Julie Martin with BRASS mentioned that she may be able to lend volunteers. **Action item: Hilary suggested that Dan send APIPP a project description and volunteer request to post on the APIPP listserv.**

**Paul Smith's College** – Eric Holmlund updated partners about the boat ramp steward program. In addition to the GLRI funds, PSC also received funds from LCBP to support boat launch stewards in the ADKs in the Lake Champlain basin. They also have a small Education and Outreach grant from LCBP to post a uniformed steward at the Visitor Interpretive Center and at other campgrounds to get the message out away from the boat ramps for one day a week. St. Regis Foundation, Lake Placid Shoreowners Association, Rainbow Lake, Saratoga Lake, TNC and others continue to support the steward program. A high priority is to get out a big press release about this regional program. Volunteer lake steward training is June 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Blue Mountain Lake; the second will be July 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm at PSC.

**Upper Saranac Lake Foundation** – Guy Middleton reported that the Foundation is looking into steward coverage at USL. The previous thinking was that the lake already had milfoil so why fund a steward. LCBP funding will support EWM control and education and outreach. May 16<sup>th</sup> hand harvesting will begin and the public education and outreach will grow. Management efforts this summer will improve the technology for divers including underwater dive communication systems and using GPS to target more effective management. The Town of Santa Clara passed the aquatic transport law and Guy has posted signage for almost all boat launch sites in the Town. Most are on state and public lunches and in Fish Creek Campground. The Town paid for the signage and Guy posted the signage. He is also working on a preparedness plan to id possible invasives that will come into the lake area, listing them, and then thinking about a plan for each invasive if they show up. The end result will be a rapid response plan; Guy referenced the Lake Champlain Rapid Response Plan as a model. Leslie noted that the NYSDEC OISC also has a rapid response framework that is available as a resource.

**DOT R1** – Peter Howard noted that subject to the state budget, the DOT is short staffed and its increasingly hard to find people to work on IS. All DOT contracts go out with notes and specs about IS to prevent the spread, clean equipment, etc. Awareness has increased and DOT staff are striving to spread the word, not the species. Peter participated in the APIPP plant surveys along highways in 2010. All 8 DOT maintenance crews will receive EAB training this spring. DOT also issued permits for EAB or ALB traps in 3-4 counties. ADK High Peaks Rest Areas do have display cases which have had IS displays over the past few years. Next available display case is

Oct 1 which are rotated every 6 months. DOT will also work with the rapid response team forming this season. DOT is offering a spring herbicide training in May w/ Brendan. **Action items: Peter requested that DOT priorities be sent to the Regions. If interested in hosting something during ISAW at high peaks rest area, let Peter know. If interested in installing a display at the rest area, let Peter know.**

**ASRA** – Carol Treadwell announced that ASRA received LCBP funding for a River Steward. She introduced Joel who starts starts May 1. He has a Masters in education and a perfect personality to work with anglers and visitors bureaus. ASRA will host a native plant sale on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Keene Valley Farmers’ Market. She is also working with Master Gardeners to do public campaign on Indian Cup Plant and helping the Town of Wilmington at Lake Everest to develop trails and will include IS messages.

**NYSDEC OISC** – Leslie said that the OISC is working on the MOU for IS management on forest preserve lands and developing IS project review guidance for public right of ways as well as a bigger program wide policy on IS spread prevention. Hydrofracking is a central issue for DEC right now and an EIS is under development and the OISC was asked to develop BMPs for this practice. Rapid response guidelines are being revised to see where the Incident Command System can be inserted. The NYS AIS Plan that is accepted by the USFWS was written in 1993 and updates were written in 2004 but were not reviewed. The OISC was also helping to pull together scoping guidance for rapid response actions for an EIS.

**Lake George Land Conservancy** – Sarah Hoffman noted that LGLC interns will be tasked with keeping an eye out for IS on Conservancy lands. She also has garlic mustard pulling planned as well as wall lettuce at campgrounds too if/when Wayne returns. The LGLC requested a forest pest presentation from Jason this summer and will take the IMAP train the trainer session as well. Sarah said that 297.1 radio station along the VT border is interested in promoting public volunteer work and to consider sending them announcements.

**LGA** – Emily DeBolt said that the Lake George steward program will likely be expanded with LG Park Commission funding. They will also sample for spiny waterflea on Lake George and are looking into increased citizen shoreline monitoring for invasive species. The LGA will again be involved in IS Awareness Species Week. They are also working with master gardeners and nurseries to stop selling invasive ornamentals at their big garden sales as well as to be mindful during plant swaps. Emily shared copies of the LGA’s Raingarden poster which features native plants.

**APA** – Ed Snizek said that the general permit for aquatic invasive plant control first written in 2008 is now finalized. The initial permit excluded control on Forest Preserve. The permit amendment now includes all land uses. Partners shared their congratulations with Ed on this milestone.

**Boquet River Association** – Julie Martin said there is a class at Paul Smith’s College that focused on the Boquet and a student project focused on the spread potential of black swallowwort. BRASS was awarded a LCBP grant to continue the long term wetland monitoring program which will enable monitoring of the remaining 10 wetlands in 2011. Data will be analyzed for trends in IS introduction and spread over time. The outcome will be an understanding of where rare, threatened and endangered species are and which IS to target for management. ASRA will do a native plant sale with Emily as well on June 24 in Elizabethtown.

Purple loostripe beetles were released a while ago (5 years) in wetlands and they will be revisited to see if it was effective control.

**Adirondack Council** – Allison Buckley said that she started with the Council in January and has been coming up to speed on a number of park issues, including invasives which she will be discussing with her Board. APIPP partners welcomed Allison.

#### **IV. Aquatic Project**

- Spiny waterflea went from 1-4 infested lakes. APIPP is looking to work with partners to address spread prevention for this species. Signage at boat launches is the very least we can do. the group discussed using the sign approved at Great Sacandaga for other lakes. Talk to Bill Schoch or Rob Fiorentino. APIPP partners need more discussion about what the measures and messages should be for SWF at the 4 water bodies where they exist.
- Volunteer aquatic plant monitoring will continue this summer on various ADK water bodies. Trainings are June 28 and 30. A 3<sup>rd</sup> session may be scheduled for late July.
- Training on ID and survey techniques for other AIS such as spiny waterflea, Asian clam among others is also needed and of interest to LGA, APIPP.
- The Raquette Lake Property Owners will install ILIDS this summer which is a video surveillance system to evaluate spread prevention measures taken at boat launches.
- Kathleen Wiley will be a full time, year round assistant to Eric to run the western ADKs steward program hosted by Paul Smith's College.
- Meg and Emily provided an Asian clam update saying that the benthic barrier mat treatment will begin on Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This will be the largest benthic barrier mat treatment in the ADK park and NY state. Please check [www.stoptheasianclam.info](http://www.stoptheasianclam.info) for a more thorough project description to-date and current updates.

#### **V. Terrestrial Project**

Please refer to the powerpoint available online at

[http://adkinvasives.com/documents/APIPP\\_2011\\_Spring\\_Meeting\\_TerrestrialProjectReport.pdf](http://adkinvasives.com/documents/APIPP_2011_Spring_Meeting_TerrestrialProjectReport.pdf).

Discussion about the plant distribution maps centered on also identifying % opportunity and % niches filled to more accurately represent survey effort and potential invisibility over time.

#### **VI. Other**

Special project meetings this summer include spiny waterflea spread prevention, developing a communications strategy and continuing work on the strategic and management plans.

#### **VII. Committee Meetings**

Forest Pest Outreach and Watershed Committee meetings followed the close of the full partnership meeting.

**END**

*Notes drafted by Meg Modley and edited by Hilary Smith.*