

# **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

## **Spring Meeting**

Monday, April 30, 2012

9:30 – 3:00

Adirondack Park Agency  
Ray Brook, NY

*Attendance: Caitlin Stewart (Hamilton County Soil and Water), Dan Spada (APA), Kathleen Wiley (AWI), Ed Snizek (APA), Allison Buckley (Adirondack Council), Krista Tuthill (Adirondack Council), Lance Durfey (DEC), Pat and Tom Willis (Rainbow Lake), Mark Malchoff (Lake Champlain Sea Grant), Beth Gilles (Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board), Corrie Miller (Ausable River Association), Kristin Rohne (LGA), Jane Smith (Schroon Lake), Bill McGhee (Schroon Lake), Marilyn Wyman (CCE), Jason Smith (DEC), Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Lake), Emily Selleck (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Sue Smith (VT), Meghan Johnstone (APIPP), Brendan Quirion (APIPP), Tom Colarusso (USDA/APHIS), Rob Bombard (Warren Co SWCD), Charles Rapp (Binghamton University), Julie Martin (BRASS). Note Hilary Smith was not in attendance due to a family emergency.*

### **State/PRISM news:**

EPF dollars were reduced from \$3.8M to \$3.4M for invasives this year. The Assembly and Senate proposed increases which indicates there could be support for increased funding in the coming years.

The 4-tier bill that authorizes DEC, in consultation with Ag & Mkts, to regulate the commercial sale of invasive species passed last week in the Assembly. It still needs to pass the Senate.

The aquatic invasive species transport bill was not introduced this session. Towns and Counties are encouraged to pass local laws in the absence of a Statewide law.

The Invasive Species Council met on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Council discussed the legislative bills and there was a presentation on feral swine management. The Council also discussed the NY State Invasive Species Management Strategy, which is a document that lays out a strategy to develop an invasive species management plan. The Council did not take action on moving forward with the plan.

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) met in December. Hilary Smith is the Chair. The Committee includes industry, NGOs, and academics. The group has been quiet for a long time but has started meeting quarterly. This group is charged with advising the Council on invasive species issues around the State. ISAC identified education as a top priority for the group.

There are still four unfunded PRISMS. Hopefully the request for proposals for the remaining four will be released by DEC soon.

There is a general iMap training for APIPP May 12 at SUNY Plattsburgh, and an aquatic volunteer-specific iMap training May 15.

Holly Menninger's position at Cornell is still vacant. The contract between DEC and Cornell to administer the Institute is being reviewed to include more discrete deliverables.

APIPP received a second year of Foundation funding. It will support a second year of the Terrestrial Response Team. The Team will re-treat all the sites treated last year. APIPP also awarded funding to support the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program (RIIPP) and the Ausable River Steward Program.

APIPP hired an education and outreach intern this year. Sarah Walsh will update the series of door hangers, coordinate Invasive Species Awareness Week, and will be at events throughout the summer. **Action item: Send possible event locations this summer to Hilary.** Mark Malchoff suggested attending bass tournaments at Ticonderoga (contact the Chamber of commerce in Ticonderoga).

APIPP's annual report and workplan are on the website under Resources -> Publications for Download.

Main priorities for this summer include completing our strategic workplan. Brendan and Meghan reviewed a draft last week.

APIPP is hoping to hold Japanese knotweed and Eurasian watermilfoil management summits in August.

APIPP is setting up meetings with each of the DEC regions to discuss priorities and needs. So far, APIPP had a great meeting with Region 5 and there will be a meeting in early June with Region 6.

### **APIPP Aquatic Update**

It was APIPP's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program's 10<sup>th</sup> season last year. 177 volunteer monitors and partner staff surveyed 96 Adirondack waterways. At least 79 waterways have aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Park. In 10 seasons, more than 531 volunteers have surveyed 273 distinct waters.

The ADK Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) committee has met twice this year (February 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>). They discussed signage for local AIS laws; consistency is a priority and Hilary drafted a letter to encourage Towns with local AIS laws to post signage at the launches and/or on roadways. The group also discussed special information summits, such as a Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) summit and a boat launch steward summit. The EWM summit would focus on the status of milfoil management within the Park, showcase lessons to improve planning and management efforts, and provide a resource for groups managing milfoil. A draft agenda is in the works and will be sent out for feedback. Possible locations are still being brainstormed. The summit would likely be in mid-August. The boat launch steward summit would be a resource for those who have already started programs and those who would like to. This summit is still in the conceptual stage. The group also discussed coming up with consistent spread prevention language in the region and state.

Emily DeBolt, Mark Malchoff, and Meghan Johnstone formed a workgroup to discuss this and developed a flyer for Lake George. Further discussions on this in the future.

APIPP's annual aquatic plant ID and survey training for volunteers. Thursday, June 21, Bolton Landing, 10-2; Tuesday, June 26, Paul Smiths, 10-2; and, Thursday, June 28, Inlet, 10-2.

APIPP is starting to gather presence/absence data for aquatic invasive animals in the Park. APIPP's first ever aquatic invasive animal ID training for volunteers this summer will be Thursday, August 2, Indian Lake, 1-3 (species like Asian clam, zebra mussel, spiny waterflea, etc.).

APIPP is going on year 6 of the European frog-bit eradication project on the Grasse River near Lampson Falls. During the first year, 36 five-gallon buckets of plant material were harvested; last year, just over one bucket of plant material was harvested. We are hoping to continue seeing great results again this year. The Nature Conservancy interns from NYC will help pull frog-bit this year.

APIPP is working on developing a spiny waterflea monitoring protocol. Tyler Smith began to create one before he left; Meghan has been reviewing this and has asked Mark Malchoff and Larry Eichler for input. Once it is finalized, Meghan can test it out this summer, and volunteers and partners can begin to use it as well.

Meghan attended a Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council meeting in February this year, in hopes to become more involved with this group and the lake.

Dan Kelting has finished recruiting for the APIPP's Aquatic Response Team and Hilary, Meghan, and Dan will meet to discuss priority waterbodies for the Team to focus on this summer.

Meghan has been working on developing a 90-Miler Canoe Race protocol. The goal is to make 90-Miler invasive species inspections as smooth and effective as possible for all involved. Brian McDonnell (the race organizer) has reviewed it and Meghan will soon send it out to appropriate volunteers to review. A meeting among these groups might be necessary to further discuss. The protocol will be implemented at the race this year.

This is year two of I-LIDS on Raquette Lake. I-LIDS stands for Internet-Landing Installed Device Sensor. This is a video surveillance system at the Raquette Lake boat launch that gives an audio message reminding boaters to check and clean their boats. The goal is to reach those using the launch when stewards are not present. I-LIDS will be installed in early May and used through October. Aim is to have stewards reviewing the videos each day with a laptop provided by the Raquette Lake Property Owners Association for timely reporting.

Meghan presented at the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) trail maintainer jamboree at Paul Smiths on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The NFCT links the waterways of New York, Vermont,

Quebec, New Hampshire and Maine. Meghan taught the NFCT trail maintainers some aquatic and terrestrial invasive species ID techniques so they could be early detection eyes on the trail while they are maintaining or paddling. She also advised them on what to do if they thought they saw an invasive and on spread prevention techniques. The group was very enthusiastic and will be a great addition to early detection/rapid response efforts already happening in the Park.

Meghan also was part of a workgroup to design invasive species spread prevention signage to go up at locations along the NFCT, as aquatic invasive species could easily move between these waterways. These signs will be going up this summer.

Meghan will be attending the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) conference in Hamilton, NY this weekend.

### **APIPP Terrestrial Update**

APIPP aims to eliminate Phragmites from the “core area” of the Park and eliminate Japanese knotweed from state ROWs within the core area and along high priority riparian corridors.

APIPP will manage some small purple loosestrife sites (fewer than 50 plants). Because bio-control involves long-term monitoring, APIPP does not have the capacity to start any bio-control projects; however, APIPP encourages partners and communities to consider conducting bio-control releases on their own.

APIPP will manage high-priority yellow iris sites within the core area that are impacting riparian, wetland or lacustrine ecosystems, but will leave sites on private land alone.

Any new infestations of swallow-wort within the core area will be managed. We need more distribution data on this species.

APIPP will manage garlic mustard at campgrounds.

APIPP will treat all giant hogweed infestations in the Adirondacks.

14 priority forest preserve sites will be treated and managed this year. Brendan submitted and received permits for 24 new forest preserve sites for this year’s workplan.

APIPP’s education intern will take the lead on organizing a terrestrial invasive species training this summer (date to be determined). Sarah will assist with swallow-wort and giant hogweed outreach. She will also help to set up Response team invasive species management trainings to be held in various hamlets over the course of the summer (dates to be determined).

APIPP would like to focus door hanger efforts in the core of the Adirondacks. We need to be strategic with where we hang these.

Meghan finished writing the Five Ponds Wilderness Area ISPZ Management Plan. The plan needs one final review by the APIPP Team. The plan will serve as a basis for other ISPZs within the Adirondacks and as a resource for any other groups or organizations that want to create an ISPZ. Management activities at priority locations will begin in the Five Ponds area this summer.

APIPP held a strategy/priority meeting with the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program (RIIPP) on March 26<sup>th</sup>. RIIPP will receive another \$10,000 from APIPP this year. RIIPP members also attended an online iMap training on April 17<sup>th</sup> to start tracking their data better.

APIPP had the Response Team go to high priority campgrounds last year. This year, an internship was arranged with SUNY ESF. The DEC selected Dan Dohman (TNC's 2011 Adirondack Conservation Intern) to manage invasives at the campgrounds.

Agriculture crops are showing some resistance to the glyphosate herbicide. We're not treating consistently every year so this probably won't be a problem. However, herbicide particles may reactivate in the soil up to a year after treatment, which can harm native plants. Brendan suspected this last year. Brendan is staying current on herbicide related research in order to ensure APIPP is using the best management practices when treating invasives. There is an eBook called "Ecological Impacts of Toxic Chemicals", which states that "Specifically, assessment of the cases for glyphosate and Btk support their continued judicious use as environmentally acceptable components of integrated vegetation and insect pest management strategies." **Action items: 1) Herbicide studies would be a good topic for Cornell's November Invasive Species In-Service. 2) Send eBook around to partners**

Brendan has been conducting DOT outreach; he presented at the Region 1 training last year and will again this May. Brendan presented a case study that encouraged them to treat some of their larger Phrag sites. **Action item: APIPP is interested in forming a Highway Department Working Group: if anyone is interested in being on this, please contact Brendan. Marilyn Wyman offered that she could get involved with trainings in the winter.**

### **Terrestrial seasonal priorities**

There is wild caraway on top of Whiteface Mtn. Caraway seeds were perhaps dumped by the restaurant, though we are not quite sure how it got there. This invasive is causing large problems in Canada and may cause problems here. It is native to Eurasia. Jimson's weed, crested late-summer mint, and wall lettuce are species that APIPP has been receiving calls about and may be on the move. **Action item: Please take note of and report any early early detection species.**

### **Education and outreach**

APIPP created a new invasive animal brochure that is online and will be printed soon.

APIPP would like to do a postcard mailing to all landowners in the ADKs sometime soon. This would be a simple postcard that would highlight major invasive species issues and get the word out. We are still reviewing a budget on this. The mailing would likely be after July 4.

Invasive Species Awareness Week is July 8-14 this year. Sarah Walsh will be coordinating. Some of Hilary's ideas include putting invasive species information or messages on town marquees, or playing invasive species songs on the radio. The group thought these were great ideas. Jason Smith said that the DEC did a girdling demonstration at an Earth Day event a few weeks ago; could do something like this for invasive species awareness week.  
**Action item: please send us any ideas or your events for ISAW.**

Jason Smith (DEC): The emerald ash borer (EAB) ash-tagging program is modeled after one in Michigan. This year ash trees will be marked with yellow tags and purple ribbon, accompanied with EAB information. Around 7,000 tags were printed this year, doubling the effort. This will happen the last week of May.

APIPP education and outreach priorities this year include swallow-wort, giant hogweed, feral swine, yellow iris, Hydrilla, round goby, and possibly wild parsnip.

Hurricane Irene presented some invasive species problems last year. Brendan went out two weeks after the storm and saw Japanese knotweed popping up in places he had never seen it before. **Action item: If you would like to help in conducting a project on the Ausable, let us know. Action item: Dan Spada said that there has not been a study about knotweed and high water events. This would be a good project for a graduate student or college senior for a senior capstone.**

Emily DeBolt had suggested doing a native plant swap at the last meeting. She did not make it to this meeting so she was not able to provide details, but APIPP's intern, Sarah, might be able to assist with this in the summer.

APIPP's blog could incorporate an "Ask APIPP" Q&A this year. Sarah or Meghan could pursue this. Hilary is starting up APIPP's bi-weekly column in the ADK Daily Enterprise soon. An "Ask APIPP" section will be added to this as well.

### **Partner roundtable**

Marilyn Wyman (CCE): Lost a lot of partners and engagement this year but trying to revitalize. Shifted to a new website ([www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)); most material moved over. Talked to Hilary about a training on purple loosestrife management and opportunities. Would like to put on a 2-hour program to get communities to look for purple loosestrife bio-control opportunities. There is an Invasive Species In-Service event at Cornell University in November.

Corrie Miller (Ausable River Association): The Ausable River Steward Program will be active again this year, for the third year in a row thanks to APIPP. This program focuses on

aquatic invasive species spread prevention on the rivers. They hired an intern who will be starting soon. Will still have Didymo wash stations along the Ausable.

Caitlin Stewart (Hamilton County Soil and Water): Mark Malchoff (Sea Grant) will be giving a presentation on spiny waterflea for Hamilton County. Almost finished with a bio-control permit from DEC; hopefully will receive 500 beetles for purple loosestrife (released 200 last year). Noticed damage to flowering heads and leaves on bio-control purple loosestrife plants last year. Planning on partnering with RIIPP to coordinate Japanese knotweed treatment efforts this year.

Dan Spada (APA): Making some major headway on interagency guidelines on invasive species management and will be getting a final draft out soon.

Kathleen Wiley (AWI): 24 stewards for the watershed stewardship program have been hired. Will be working from White Lake (south of Old Forge) all the way up north. A few stewards will be at Saratoga Lake again this year.

Emily Selleck (Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension): Master gardener volunteers come from Lake Clear all the way down to Newcomb. They are eyes all around the park and Emily occasionally trains them on invasive species. They are also out at farmers markets and other venues. The Essex County Master Gardener Volunteers will be having their first (and hopefully) annual Plant and Garden Sale Plus (gently-used gardening items). They will have a resource booth that will feature invasive terrestrial plants of our area. They will be selling perennials, vegetable and herb seedlings, some annuals, some houseplants, and some small woody plants.

Julie Martin (Boquet River Association): Received funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program for a wetland monitoring program, and also got some funds to analyze the data. Trying to identify any trends, but have seen a reduction in purple loosestrife where beetles have been released in the past. It has been almost 10 years.

**A good place to find Didymo resources is through the NYSDEC.**

Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Lake): Upper Saranac Lake continues to manage EWM using AIM for hand harvesting. Education is continuing around the lake and monitoring also continues. Eradication might not be possible at this point. Investigating use of hydropower at the dam for direct use for milfoil management on the lake.

Ed Snizek (APA): Ed has been working with lake associations on getting general permits out for this year. Loon Lake (Warren County) came in for a general permit for the first time. Working with Schroon Lake for general permits. Working with Fund for Lake George to continue Asian clam control project. Boon Bay is the newest Asian clam site and a permit went out late last week. AIM divers will be installing benthic mats at Boon Bay.

Allison Buckley (Adirondack Council): Albany staff has been doing some advocacy for the invasive species laws. The major problems with invasive species are education and outreach; there is simply not enough. We all need to go back to this.

Jason Smith (DEC): EAB trap locations will be based on a grid like last summer. Outreach traps will be placed in high-risk locations like campgrounds. It is likely that traps will end up in the same locations as last year. Two SUNY ESF interns will add to outreach efforts this summer. There are up to 12 EAB-infested counties in NY State. Our ability to detect the insect is going up. The DEC will keep hammering on education and outreach by continuing county trainings. Asian longhorned beetle traps will be set again this year (done 2 years ago); the DEC is trying for several hundred this year. SUNY ESF will provide these. Using zip code-based data to determine locations.

Lance Durfey (DEC): The Department formed a feral swine task force. The Office of Invasive Species Coordination freed up some EPF funds for trapping and other equipment. Feral swine legislation is in the works, but needs better wording because it is currently not specific to feral swine at the moment (all swine instead). Hoping to do some Phragmites control.

Bill McGhie (Schroon Lake): Always looking for presenters for lake associations. Plans to provide milfoil information at a boater safety course. Currently spending about \$50,000/year for EWM control. AIM and AE will be harvesting EWM this year. Training on milfoil ID at several local events this year.

Jane Smith (Schroon Lake): Schroon Lake is very fortunate to have two lake stewards this year on the southern end of Schroon Lake. The Scout Program will continue again this year; volunteers will scout the entire lake for aquatic invasives.

Pat Willis (Rainbow Lake): Rainbow Lake got a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program for the boat launch stewards on Rainbow Lake. They will be at the launch at least four days a week. Rainbow Lake doesn't have and doesn't want EWM, but it does have southern naiad, which is proving to be a nuisance. The stewards will be there to keep anything from getting in or out. Volunteers will cover another day at the launch when the stewards are not present. There are about 20 volunteers who go out and cover a section of the waterway to check for EWM or any other invasive.

Mark Malchoff (Sea Grant): Meghan Johnstone, Mark Malchoff, and Emily DeBolt worked on a Lake George invasive species Clean, Drain, Dry flyer, which went out in a Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) mailing recently. Mark plans to evaluate the impact of the mailing to see how effective it was. Mark is also doing surveys on bass tournament anglers in Plattsburgh and will try to work more closely with tournament organizers this year. Ideas include building something into the tournament scoring to reward anglers who go the extra mile, or penalize those who don't.

Kristin Rohne (LGA): The LGA put together a piece in the Legislative Gazette to help get the 4-tier bill passed. Lake George and Lake Tahoe were used for case studies in the gazette. Lake George is continuing its lake steward program this year; they are hiring nine lake stewards to cover five boat launches. Asian clam work is going on; four locations will be matted this spring. Kristin will present at the New York State Federation of Lake

Associations (NYSFOLA) annual conference this year (May 4-6) on the Warren County transport law. Emily DeBolt has been working on signage for the law. The Lake George Park Commission is going forward with a pilot boat washing station this year; they will be getting the unit on the 14<sup>th</sup> and training staff on how to operate it on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Emily and others have been working on creating a button which will link to a website that includes information about invasive species and spread prevention practices. Organizations around the lake will put the button on their website so there is a consistent Lake George message about invasive species.

Beth Gilles (Lake George): Emily DeBolt and Beth put together an invasive species transport law sign for Warren County which is getting ok'd by the DEC now. They are focusing on motorized boat access sites first; road signs will be dealt with later this summer.

Tom Colarusso (USDA/APHIS): 4,900 (perhaps more) EAB traps will be hung this summer and they are trying to get involved with outreach. They are supporting the ash-tagging project. They will perform quality control of traps this summer and will answer any phone calls about EAB. If you get any calls, feel free to forward along to the DEC or to them.

Charles Rapp (Binghamton University student): Conducting a pathway analysis on private and public boat launches on Schroon Lake. Is the private sector undermining the efforts? Exploring for Master's degree.

Rob Bombard (Warren County Soil and Water): Will be working with the East Shore Schroon Lake Association with hand harvesting of milfoil. Also working to get a boat washing station. Rob is brand new to the operation; he was Jim's replacement.

### **Strategic plan**

Marilyn Wyman: Emergency restoration and its relationship to invasive species is difficult for us to wrap our heads around; should this be included in the plan somewhere?

Research: If you see any interesting scientific papers, please send these along to APIPP, and we will, too.

Climate change adaptation: What are our new natives going to look like? Will those natives become invasive here? What will we do when invasives down south make it up here? It is important to start thinking about these things and come up with solutions. Mostly, we deal with species that are invasive to North America, rather than invasive in just the northeast. Corrie Miller asked if the ClimAid report address invasives. It does.

Resource development and funding: We need enough funding from the State to keep our boots on the ground. We need to keep programs like RIIPP going.

Mark Malchoff: Need to include performance measures such as surveys. How will you measure those outcomes in the plan?

Pat Willis asked about looking into private sources for funding.

Partners willing to be on a review committee for the strategic plan: Caitlin Stewart, Mark Malchoff, Dan Spada (didn't volunteer himself; someone else did), Marilyn Wyman (suggestion - always be willing to do surveys to have numbers)

**Action item: Hilary will send next draft of plan to the review committee, followed by partners.**

### **Other comments/questions/announcements**

Bill McGhie (Schroon Lake): Working on creating a map of the lake, which will include information about invasives/spread prevention on the back to give to the stewards to hand out at the launches.

Beth Gilles: International Paper Grants - if you need a couple thousand dollars to print something or for another relatively inexpensive project, let Beth Gilles know and she will provide you with the appropriate contact information.

### **Afternoon presentations**

Ed Reed, DEC, presented on the status of detection and management of feral swine in the Adirondacks and NY.

Lee Ann Sporn, Paul Smith's College, presented research on using eDNA to determine the presence of zebra mussels and Asian clam in Adirondack waters.

*Notes drafted by Meghan Johnstone, reviewed by Brendan Quirion, and edited by Hilary Smith*