

APIPP 2013 Spring Meeting Notes

April 30, 2013

9:30-3:00

APA, Ray Brook

Attendees: Meghan Johnstone, Brendan Quirion, Billy Martin and Hilary Smith (APIPP), Jane Smith (East Shore Schroon Lake Association), Kristin Rohne (Lake George Association), Ed Snizek (APA), Pat and Tom Willis (Rainbow Lake Association), Emily Selleck (Essex County Cornell CCE), Eric Holmlund (Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program), Rocci Aguirre (Adirondack Council), Julie Martin (Boquet River Association), Tom Colarusso (APHIS), Warren Rosenthal (Lake George Land Conservancy), John Falge, Ed Frantz and Ray Oram (DOT), Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program), Laurel Gailor (Warren County CCE), Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Lake Foundation), Corrie Miller (Ausable River Association), Nicholas Rose (CAP-21), Jason Smith, Leslie Surprenant, Fred Dunlap, Bill Schoch, Amanda Novko and Amber Merrell (DEC), Marilyn Wyman (CCE IS Program), Leslie Kopec (landscape designer and APIPP volunteer), Joe Thouin (LGPC), Ezra Schwartzberg (ADK Research Consulting)

PRISM Report – Hilary Smith (APIPP)

- Hilary welcomed Billy Martin as APIPP's summer educator and congratulated Ed Snizek on his promotion to Supervisor of the Resource Analysis and Scientific Services Unit.
- Invasives funding in the EPF is \$4.6 million this year, which is an increase from 2012.
- APIPP's contract ended on December 31st, 2012. A no-cost extension will cover work through December 31st 2013. APIPP is beginning to work with the DEC on renewing a 5-year contract, but it is still in the early stages. APIPP will let partners know if there is an opportunity or need for action.
- APIPP's 2012 Annual Report and 2013 Annual Workplan are available online:
<http://adkinvasives.com/publications.html>
- The Strategic Plan is near completion and will be reviewed later in the meeting.
- APIPP is taking a pathway approach to address invasive species. Primary pathways include transportation networks (highway department outreach), recreational boating (stewards and AIS local transport laws), and ornamental plantings. APIPP partnered with the Essex County Adirondack Garden Club to send mailings to nurseries and garden centers in Franklin and Essex County to introduce APIPP and the Garden Club and offer information. This is important timing because of the recently passed Invasive Species Prevention Act.
- APIPP received national recognition during the March National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) for Outstanding Invasive Species Leadership. APIPP's award is shared by all of its partners. The Lake George Association also received national recognition for Leadership in Invasive Species Education and Outreach.
- APIPP received a third year of funding from the Wallace Research Foundation.
 - Funding will primarily be used to support the Terrestrial Regional Response Team. The Team treated approximately 60% of the terrestrial invasive species infestations in the interior 2/3 of the Park. This is the last season for funding.

- APIPP also directed funds to support RIIPP (Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program) to treat Japanese knotweed on private land. This program is expanding to communities throughout the region.
- APIPP also aims to use funding to commission an economic impact study and would like input from the partnership when it is time to get that body of work together.
- APIPP participated in a number of outreach opportunities during the winter and spring. APIPP was invited to present at the Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) training for Region 5. 40-50 people were there. Hilary gave an overview of AIS issues in the region to start the conversation of how ECOs can be a part of the solution for AIS enforcement.
- An invasive species session focused on aquatic invasive species prevention was requested by the Organizing Committee of Local Government Day. There were several leaders from the Lake George region on the panel: a Warren County attorney talked about the new transport law, the Town Supervisor from Chestertown talked about its weed management district, Jane Smith talked about the boat launch steward program in the Town of Horicon, and Joe Stanek from the Lake George Park Commission talked about the mandatory boat decontamination program proposal. Local governments were very engaged on this issue and there were many new attendees in the session.
- Brendan and Hilary represented APIPP at the Capitol on Adirondack Day. This was a day for groups across the region to set up booths and showcase the work being done in the region. APIPP participated within the Stewardship category with several other organizations and even had the opportunity to meet Governor Cuomo.
- APIPP and other partners will be at the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) conference this year. There will be a full day dedicated towards boat launch steward programs with a focus on prevention.
- APIPP will also present at the Adirondack Research Consortium in May.
- iMap training will be held in May in Warrensburg at Warren County CCE.
- APIPP is gearing up for a Japanese Knotweed Management Summit August 5th.
- APIPP will continue its biweekly invasives column in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise and the Adirondack Express.
- Invasive Species Awareness Week is July 7th-13th this year. APIPP's Education and Outreach Intern, Billy Martin, will help organize activities for this week.
- The Adirondack Landowners Association (ALA) launched an outreach strategy for aquatic invasive species. They distributed a press release detailing their plans: AIS rack cards, outreach to County Clerk Offices, and signage at businesses. The DMV is mailing AIS rack cards, adapted from the Adirondack AIS rack card, to boat and trailer owners when they register. The ALA is also working with Stewart's Shops to post a flyer with the same info as the rack card. **Action Item: Hilary will forward the press release to the list serve.**

APIPP Aquatic Update – Meghan Johnstone

- Last year was APIPP's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program's 11th season.
 - 175 volunteer monitors and partner staff surveyed 120 Adirondack waterways (2012 marked the year with the most waterways being surveyed in a field season!).
 - 10 new infestations were detected (European frog-bit in Rogers Pond and Webb Royce Swamp; Eurasian watermilfoil in Little Colby Pond; variable-leaf milfoil in Blake

- Reservoir, Little River Flow, Rainbow Falls Reservoir, Soft Maple Reservoir, Stillwater Reservoir; spiny waterflea in Lake George; brittle naiad in Great Sacandaga Lake).
- At least 88 waterways have aquatic invasive plants and animals in the Adirondack PRISM.
 - In 11 seasons, more than 597 APIPP Invasive Plant Volunteers surveyed 300 distinct waters.
 - 2012 marked the year with the most attendees to the annual aquatic plant trainings – 98 among the three sessions!
- Meghan represented APIPP at the International Didymo Conference in March. A great deal of research is still being done on didymo and its origins, effects, and control efforts. An interesting take-away message was that current research shows that didymo is native to North America (been here for thousands of years) and certain environmental conditions – extremely low Phosphorus levels – are causing these large blooms to take place.
 - If didymo is in fact a native species, technically it is not invasive based on the federal and NY definition of invasive (needs to be a non-native to be considered an invasive), so it may be more appropriate to call it a nuisance species.
 - Spread prevention is still important; didymo is not the only species that can be transported on waders, fishing equipment, and other recreational gear.
 - More information about the International Didymo Conference is available here: http://www.stopans.org/Didymo_Conference_2013.htm
 - The Adirondack AIS Committee has met bimonthly over the past year. The main initiative since January is writing a white paper that provides recommendations on the utility of boat decontamination and inspection as critical components of an integrated AIS prevention strategy. To do this, a workgroup is reviewing the literature on the efficacy of inspection and decontamination and analyzing Adirondack regional AIS distribution and boat launch steward data. This information will inform guiding principles and a list of strategic locations where visual inspection crews and boat decontamination units may be effective in limiting the spread of aquatic invasive plants and small-bodied organisms.
 - This document will eventually be presented to decision-makers such as the NYSDEC, APA, municipalities, Invasive Species Advisory Committee, Invasive Species Council, lake associations, the Legislature, and the VTDEC.
 - The workgroup is still in the writing process but moving along and hoping to have a draft ready this summer.
 - APIPP plans to update its regional car wash map that shows locations of car wash stations that are suitable for pressure-washing boats, trailers, and other equipment to rid them of AIS. The new map will be based off of the LCBP Cooperative Boat Wash Program map. This will likely be a summer project for APIPP's intern in collaboration with Watershed stewards.
 - APIPP is offering Aquatic Invasive Plant Identification and Survey Techniques Trainings for volunteers on the following dates:
 - Thursday, June 20th, Bolton Landing, at the Darrin Fresh Water Institute
 - Tuesday, June 25th, at Paul Smith's College
 - Thursday, June 27th, at the Raquette Lake School

- All sessions are from 10:00am-2:00pm and are free and open to the public, but space is limited. Please RSVP by June 13th to Meghan Johnstone at (518)576-2082 x119 or mjohnstone@tnc.org.
 - Meghan will emphasize hydrilla at these trainings.
- APIPP is also offering an Aquatic Invasive Animal Identification Training on August 1st from 1-3pm at Paul Smith's College. Please RSVP by July 25th to Meghan Johnstone (contact above).
- APIPP is going on year 7 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, less than one bucket of plant material was harvested in just a few hours. Hand-harvesting was tag-teamed in 2012 by Meghan, TNC's Adirondack Conservation Intern, and TNC LEAF interns. Great progress has been made at this site and elimination may be near. Additional surveys and harvesting will be conducted by the Aquatic Coordinator until no new plants are seen for three consecutive years.
- APIPP's Invasive Waterflea Monitoring Protocol has been a work in progress. Mark Malchoff (NY Sea Grant) and Larry Eichler (DFWI) reviewed an iteration last year and Meghan has since come back to it and made several changes. Corey Laxson (Paul Smith's), Mark, and Larry have looked over the new protocol again and sent feedback. Next steps are to finalize the protocol and purchase materials.
 - Meghan will solicit volunteers to ask who would be willing to take her out on their water body (in a motor boat) to perform some sampling. Meghan will perform the sampling and decontamination of the nets herself (since this will be the first time the protocol is used) but then will teach the volunteers how to sample so they can do it on their own in the future.
- APIPP's Asian Clam Monitoring Protocol is also a work in progress but is nearly finished. Meghan is referencing Lake George protocols. Emily DeBolt (LGA) and Meg Modley (LCBP) have offered to review the protocol. Meghan will purchase sieves and perform a demo at the Aquatic Invasive Animal Identification Training in August of how to sieve for Asian clams. APIPP will have a set of sieves that they can loan out to interested volunteers.
- Meghan (APIPP), Meg Modley (LCBP), Dave Wick from the Lake George Park Commission, and Kristin Rohne (LGA) represented the Adirondack region at the International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species in Niagara Falls in late April. It was a great opportunity to hear about the latest AIS research from experts around the world. Meghan is still in the process of digesting all of the information but conference abstracts and presentations are available online: <http://www.icaais.org/>
- I-LIDS (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor) will be in use on Raquette Lake again this year. This is a motion-activated surveillance camera that captures photos and video recordings of boats while launching/retrieving at the launch. It also plays a pre-recorded audio message. This device is particularly useful for when boat launch stewards are not present and in areas that have AIS transport laws. The device will be turned on in early May.
- Meghan has formulated a few different priority water body lists based on different parameters (presence of boat launches, campgrounds, ecoregional priorities). Meghan is lining up volunteers to survey these water bodies and will also survey some herself this summer.
- Meghan Johnstone (APIPP), Meg Modley (LCBP), and Eric Holmlund (Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program) presented at DEC Campground Operations Staff Trainings this year. Each

training involved campground staff from different “working circles” in DEC Region 5. Meghan, Meg, and Eric discussed AIS and how the staff can play an active role in preventing their spread. Handouts and rack cards were provided along with a demonstration on how to inspect boats. All of the trainings went very well and Meghan, Meg, and Eric are very grateful to the DEC for providing this great, high-leverage educational opportunity.

APIPP Terrestrial Update – Brendan Quirion

- Brendan submitted many permits for managing infestations on Forest Preserve and in wetlands this past winter. An AANR permit will be used for Forest Preserve. APIPP will need permits from the APA on all sites within 100 feet of a wetland.
- This will be the last year of the Terrestrial Regional Response Team. Brendan has presented about the Response Team to the APA, NEAEB, NY State Wetlands Forum, Invasive Species Council, and will present to other venues down the road. 60% of terrestrial invasive species infestations within the interior Adirondacks have now been managed thanks to the Response Team.
- This year likely will be the first year to document the successful elimination of a *Phrag*. Site (no plants observed for 3 years).
- 37% of Phragmites sites treated in 2011 had no plants observed in 2012 after only one year of treatment.
- The DEC received funding for its campground invasive species manager. Dan Dohman came on board last year and will be back again this summer.
- Brendan will ramp up volunteer opportunities for APIPP’s Terrestrial Project this summer. APIPP currently does not have a good sense of invasive species on priority back roads and is hoping to use volunteers to fill this gap this year.
- Brendan is partnering with Sue Smith to rear some Galerucella beetles for loosestrife control.
- APIPP is hopeful that the feral swine population in Peru has been eliminated. If this is the case, it is an important success that needs to be highlighted.
- Brendan has been working with the DOT over the course of the winter. The DOT drafted a document, “Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants,” (modeled after New Hampshire’s) and it is almost complete.
 - Corrie Miller brought up the Better Back Roads Program in Vermont. **Action Item: Corrie will send Brendan information on this program.**
- APIPP will hold Landowner Invasive Plant Management Trainings in three locations this summer.
- Swallowwort education and early detection is a high priority.
- APIPP’s door hangers are for partner use at private landowner homes. Partners should be judicious in putting these out (and please include names and contact info so that when APIPP receives calls, they know which partner placed the card). The cards are not ideal for public distribution at display tables since there is no guidance available for the public on how to distribute them.

Japanese Knotweed Management Summit – Hilary Smith and partners

- Last year’s Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Summit was a success. Just as many lake associations still struggle with Eurasian watermilfoil, many landowners and groups are struggling

with Japanese knotweed management, which prompted the focus of the upcoming summit on knotweed control.

- Brendan and Hilary are working on the agenda and asked for feedback from partners.
 - Hilary wondered if lunch should be provided and the group agreed that it should be. Jane suggested reaching out to garden clubs. Nick Rose suggested asking local governments or AATV. **If any partners have additional ideas of potential lunch sponsors, let Hilary know. The estimated cost of lunch for 100 attendees is \$500.**
 - Leslie Surprenant suggested discussing biocontrol permits in the permitting section. Brendan said that biocontrol use for knotweed is too preliminary at this time. Hilary said that this should at least be mentioned during the summit. Leslie also suggested discussing proper disposal of knotweed.
 - Describing post-treatment monitoring was also suggested.
 - Fred Dunlap suggested discussing SPEDES permits.
 - Pat Willis suggested discussing the difference between treatments on public and private property. Brendan said he could cover this in his presentation.
 - John (DOT) suggested discussing site restoration.
 - Jason (DEC) mentioned the Trees for Tribes program.

Strategic Plan – Hilary Smith and partners

- The Strategic plan is nearly complete other than general formatting. Throughout its development, the plan was reviewed numerous times by a review team, circulated several times on the listserv and the most recent version was also distributed to volunteers. Hilary requested any last feedback and suggestions from the group:
 - The audience for the documents (full and abbreviated) was discussed. The primary audience of the full plan is partners / practitioners (eg. those who are helping to implement the plan); the primary audience for the abbreviated version is volunteers, local government leaders or other stakeholders. A simpler one-pager can be developed when presenting to legislators, decision makers, funders, or the general public.
 - Emily Selleck suggested including the map from original document in the abbreviated executive summary because it grabs the reader's attention.
 - Corrie suggested eliminating the bullets out of executive summary but Emily said they may be good to keep.
- Hilary asked whether the partners would endorse this document. All were in favor. The group voted and unanimously approved the plan.

Communications & Outreach – Hilary Smith and partners

Top Educational Messages

- Hilary framed this session by stating that the importance of education, communications, and consistency is being discussed at various levels in the state: within a PRISM, among PRISM Leaders, and at the Invasive Species Council and Advisory Committee levels too.
- Over the years, the APIPP meetings have focused on advancing top regional priorities (coordination, stewards at launches, response teams etc.), but Hilary realized that APIPP and

partners have never endorsed a specific set of talking points that would be consistent across the region, which could help strengthen messaging and increase understanding of regional needs.

- Hilary asked the group what the top five invasive species messages should be for the region and presented some preliminary thoughts to the group and asked for feedback.
 - Sue Smith thought the messages were right on.
 - Nick Rose said that the messages need to be much simpler for the public and potential funders. Nick's suggestions:
 - Invasives threaten the character of the Adirondack region.
 - Prevention is preservation.
 - It must be everyone's responsibility to be involved with invasive species work.
 - Rocci said that we need to point to the uniqueness of the bioregion and come back to the economic factors. We need a direct tie-in to the local economies.
 - Eric suggested tying in to global ecological change. Emily said that we needed to be careful because some people get turned off when global climate change/warming is mentioned.
 - Leslie suggested defining invasive species, why they are a problem, and why we are obligated to act.
 - Corrie said that the messages should be able to be scaled up or down so they could be made specific to any local area.
 - Hilary asked the group whether this was worthwhile and if anyone would be interested in working with APIPP to develop these messages.
 - Partners thought that this was worth spending time on.
 - **Educational Messaging Work Group:**
 - **Hilary Smith, Meg Modley, Eric Holmlund, Nick Rose, Rocci Aguirre, Tom Colarusso**

Top Educational Needs

- Hilary asked partners what kind of educational tools are needed / would be helpful for education and outreach. Hilary offered to share these needs with the other PRISM leaders.
 - Pat Willis requested a handout that could go out to local campgrounds. Campgrounds could have their own map of the campground (eg. lake map) with Clean, Drain, Dry information.
 - Meg Modley said that it is crucial to have templates. Templates allow you to have consistent info and insert your own logo.
 - Warren Rosenthal suggested tailoring messages with QR codes. There could be a generic message with specific information in a QR code.

Invasive Species Coordination Unit Updates – Leslie Surprenant

- Western NY, Capital Mohawk, Finger Lakes, and Lower Hudson PRISM contracts are in process.
- www.nyis.info has new information. The DEC is extending their contract through the end of 2014.
- The Invasive Species Prevention Act passed in 2012. The DEC is working jointly with the Department of Agriculture and Markets to formulate lists of regulated and prohibited non-

native invasive species. These lists need to be finished by September 1st. They are also drafting the regulatory language.

- Since New York State is lacking a statewide AIS transport law, the Bureau of Fisheries is working on regulatory language that deals with AIS transport at DEC boat launches.
- The DEC collaborated with the DMV to develop lightweight rack cards to be mailed out in renewals for motor boat and trailer registrations. 1.5 million rack cards were printed; the DEC has 500,000 and the DMV has 1 million. Campers will also get these rack cards when they check in at DEC campgrounds.
- The DEC is also placing informational AIS signs at access sites and in kiosks, especially in the Lake George area. Invasive species disposal stations are also at many DEC boat launches.
- There is funding for invasive species interns; there will be one intern for campgrounds, one for the Coordination Unit to review final eradication grant reports, two for hydrilla (one monitoring on Cayuga Lake and one on the Erie Canal near Buffalo), two for giant hogweed, and the remainder for forest pests.
- This is the fourth year the federal government has provided Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds. Leslie has reached out to partners like Eric and other PRISM partners for projects to fund. Examples include: boat stewards in the Finger Lakes and the western Adirondacks, AIS monitoring in the Finger Lakes and the Erie Canal, hydrilla response, and water chestnut control in the Oswego River.
- New York State is updating its Aquatic Invasive Species Plan. Phil Hulbert (DEC Albany) is in charge.
- On the topic of ballast water, New York State can provide standards for water quality certification in New York. The Unit has worked with attorneys, the Attorney General's office, and the Governor's office to decide what could be supported from top to bottom. NYSDEC was originally sued by industry for having too strict of regs and now they are being sued by the environmental community because the regs are too loose.
- There was a hydrilla discovery in the Erie Canal at Tonawanda near Buffalo. There has not been a lot of public input. They are working with the Buffalo Niagara River Keeper to have a boat launch steward here. Another intern will monitor for invasives in that vicinity.
- Through the NEANS panel, Leslie led a competitive bid for a hydrilla literature review. A paper has been completed and summarizes the science on monoecious hydrilla. This is available on the NEANS website: [http://www.northeastans.org/resources.html#Hydrilla Initiative Pilot Resources](http://www.northeastans.org/resources.html#Hydrilla%20Initiative%20Pilot%20Resources)
- The DEC website has been updated to include new AIS content.

CCE Forest Pest Outreach – Emily Selleck

- The CCE got a grant from APHIS to do a forest pest outreach and survey project this summer. The project was started last year; surveys were conducted to determine where pests were. Now they are interested in outreach and education. They are planning on holding trainings in multiple counties on species such as hemlock woolly adelgid and EAB. They will target a lot of their efforts in June (EAB awareness month). Emily asked the group for suggestions on target audiences for this type of project.
 - Tom Colarusso suggested having information at farmers markets.

- Nick Rose suggested including information in Northeast Logger, a trade magazine based in Old Forge.
- Billy Martin suggested reaching out to faculty and students at Paul Smith's College.
- **Action Item: Emily will send Hilary the training info and Hilary will send to list serve.**

Partner Roundtable

Laurel Gailor (Warren County CCE):

- The office is only open Monday-Thursday because of cuts. They are working on conducting forest pest outreach with landowners. They are also helping with efforts for the Capital Mohawk PRISM; an EAB task force was developed. They had displays at Local Government Day and the Association of Mayors Conference in Saratoga.

Ed Frantz (DOT):

- The DOT plans to continue with the BMPs document with APIPP. They will have plans by the middle of June on where to do invasive species control work. They presented on APIPP work in 2001 in Colorado and plan to give an update on APIPP at a conference in Arizona in June. Several other DOTs will be there.

Ray Oram (DOT):

- Region 2 changed how it handled vegetation on roads; they cut back on the frequency of mowing because of the expenses. This spread invasives. They are losing more equipment and mowing capability; however, the plan is to increase herbicide use along guardrails to reduce vegetative growth. This will ultimately hit invasive plants as well as nuisance vegetation.

Eric Holmlund (WSP):

- The Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program will be running for its 13th year. The program is smaller this year because of fluctuations in funding. Stewards will be absent in critical areas like Second Pond and Lake Flower. Volunteers are needed for these locations. Steward training will be on May 21st and 22nd. Training includes background information on AIS ecology, status of AIS pressure on the Adirondack region, spread prevention, interacting with the public, gathering data, and how to position yourself as an educator. There will be a hands-on abridged version to volunteers later in June. Eric will train Paradox Lake volunteers on June 29th. The Adirondack Watershed Institute is working on getting a new website.

Marilyn Wyman (Cornell CCE Invasive Species Program):

- November 19th-21st is the next Cornell Invasive Species In-service. Marilyn frequently collaborates with the local PRISM in the Catskill region. They are working on strategic planning and focusing mostly on aquatics this year. They are also doing EAB work and working with foresters on silviculture practices.

Tom Colarusso (APHIS):

- Statewide, there are about 1,200 EAB traps. This is a dramatic decrease from last year. EAB funding continues to disappear. The Cooperative Extension of Hamilton County, HCSWCD, and the DEC will hold a forest pest workshop in Indian Lake at Byron Park on July 16th from 9:30-noon. This will be a community preparedness workshop including signs and symptoms for detection. There will also be tree ID in the field. A panel session will follow. For EAB Awareness Week, Tom hopes to team up with Billy Martin to do some tree tagging in SL. **Tom has a large supply of Burn It Where You Buy It posters; let Tom know if you need any.**

Nick Rose (CAP 21):

- The Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program (RIIPP) is getting together in the beginning of July to map target areas for Japanese knotweed management. The Governor's Adirondack Challenge is July 21st in Indian Lake. Nick is working with Brendan on Invasive Species Awareness Day in Old Forge.

Rocci Aguirre (Adirondack Council):

- The Council will have an intern this summer who can assist field projects. Rocci looks forward to working with as many partners as possible in the future.

Pat Willis (Rainbow Lake Association):

- The Rainbow Lake Association has been surveying for aquatic invasives for 13 years. The survey area includes Rainbow Lake, the Narrows, and Kushaqua. Paul Smith's College boat launch stewards have been at the campground for several days a week most of those years. They have been able to get grant money to afford up to five days a week; however, they did not get any grant money this year. The Association has been putting money aside year after year via dues for a special reserve to be used only for environmental problems. Some of that money has been used to hire stewards. Southern naiad was found at the boat launch in 2001 and has since spread through the whole water body. Volunteer stewards will cover one day this year.

Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program):

- No AIS grant funds are available for the 2013 field season. The money has not come through yet. They hope to have a robust grant program for the 2014 field season (and also hoping to have money available earlier in the year next year). The Lake Champlain Committee has done AIS survey work in Lake Champlain. They have documented native plant communities and invasives and performed EDRR when invasives were encountered.
- Asian clam management in Lake George: They are currently monitoring and removing mats that were left in all winter (this was the first time mats were left in over the winter). There were isolated small sites on the southeastern side of lake that were treated for rapid response and eradication. Others were treated for containment.
- Spiny waterflea has not yet been detected in Lake Champlain. The LCBP AIS Subcommittee formed a work group to focus on spiny waterflea education and outreach.
- Water chestnut harvesting will continue in Lake Champlain this summer.

- Alewife are consistently outcompeting smelt in Lake Champlain. The Basin Program will continue to track alewife and these studies.
- The boat launch steward program has been ramped up in the southern end of lake where there is a large variable-leaf milfoil infestation. 10 boat launch stewards will be on Lake Champlain this summer.
- The partnership with the Canal Corp. continues and the Basin Program is developing a public service announcement with them. A feasibility study on redirecting flow is in the works. They will likely have stewards present along the canal this summer.
- The Basin Program has revamped its website.
- Funding has been approved for a hydrilla workshop in late 2013 or early 2014. The workshop will include background, phenology, and ID for monitors and the lay public.
- The NEANS Panel hosted an International Didymo Conference in March.
- Meg presented at the International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species in Niagara Falls.
- **If there are events in the Lake Champlain Basin that boat launch stewards can help support, let Meg know.**

Fred Dunlap (DEC):

- The portions of the DEC website that address AIS have undergone a lot of work, especially on the Fisheries pages. There is a lot of new information on invasive species. Ed Woltmann has taken the lead on this. There is also new signage for boat launch sites. Kiosks will be placed at all campgrounds in the Adirondacks. The DEC is working with the Reserve America System so that campers see an AIS message when they reserve their campsites online.

Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Lake Foundation):

- The Foundation developed a map for navigation and included info about invasive species. The Foundation continues to harvest milfoil and feels that they are winning the war. They are spending less money and removing less milfoil. Milfoil is less than 2% of the plant growth of the lake (down from 100% in the beginning). It is now considered a rare plant on the lake. However, funding is limited for milfoil removal. Most funding comes from shoreowner donations.

Kristin Rohne (Lake George Association):

- There will be 9 lake stewards on Lake George. Some launches will have 13-hour coverage. The Protect Lake George campaign contracted with adworkshop; new rack cards are at the printer; posters have been created for marinas to go with the rack cards; and Facebook and Twitter are being used to get the message out for travelers before they arrive on Lake George. Check out the website: www.protectlakegeorge.com

Julie Martin (BRASS):

- Roadside invasive species surveys were conducted on the Town roads in Willsboro, Westport, Essex, Elizabethtown, and Lewis. Julie hopes to work with Brendan to ensure the right information is being collected.

Sue Smith (ADK; Chateaugay; Lewis Creek Association):

- There is a 47-acre frog-bit site in Town Farm Bay in Charlotte, VT. This is the 5th year of managing it. Last year, four tons of frog-bit were harvested. 2013 is the first year that the project will be entirely volunteer.

Jane Smith (East Shore Schroon Lake Association):

- The Association got a CFA grant but the paperwork is not finished yet. They will build storm water retrofits to keep water from going into the lake. Schroon Lake is bordered by three townships and two counties. This past year, the three townships came together to fund milfoil harvesting. Waterfest will be on July 12th in the Town of Chester.

Ezra Schwartzberg (ADK Research Consulting):

- Ezra has an Adirondack research and consulting firm based in Saranac Lake. He is coordinating with those involved in the ALB survey in Worcester, MA. He is also working with a private landowner in Lake Placid who is transforming his property into a nature preserve. Ezra is coordinating the baseline biological inventory on the property. He is using iMap to report any invasives.

Amber Meryl (DEC):

- Amber is part of the DEC Forest Health Outreach team and is the Adirondack liaison. Emily Martin was hired as an intern to conduct EAB outreach for campgrounds. They hope to start educating/training counties that will be along quarantines on the Thruway.

Jason Smith (DEC Lands and Forests and Trees for Tributaries Program Coordinator):

- Tree planting projects are coming up. Jason wrote a grant to restore riparian buffers in the Lake Champlain region. There will be planting projects with the Ausable River Association and Bouquet River this fall. He would like to keep the Champlain region plantings going. SLELO is interested in planting after knotweed removal on the Salmon River.

Lake George Park Commission Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan – Joe Thouin, Environmental Analyst, LGPC

The LGPC presented an overview of the Lake George Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan and Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement which detailed options for inspection and decontamination of watercraft. Two public meetings are slated. Comments are due June 25th.

The meeting was adjourned by 3:00.

Notes drafted by Meghan Johnstone and reviewed by Hilary Smith.