

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)
Spring Partner Meeting Minutes
Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, NY
April 29th, 2014
9:30-3:00

Attendees: Brendan Quirion and Hilary Smith (APIPP), Jane Smith and Bill McGhie (East Shore Schroon Lake Association), Kristin Rohne and Emily DeBolt (Lake George Association), Ed Snizek and Leigh Walrath (APA), MJ Huneycutt and Don Grout (Master Gardeners, Essex County Cornell CCE), Kathleen Wiley and Eric Holmlund (Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program), Rocci Aguirre (Adirondack Council), John Falge, Ray Oram and Peter Howard (DOT), Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program), Kelly Tucker (Ausable River Association), Lance Durfey (DEC), Ezra Schwartzberg (ADK Research Consulting), Sue Smith (VT Lewis Creek Association/ ADK Shatagee Woods/ Chateaugay Lake), Caitlin Stewart (HC Soil and Water Conservation District), Bob Hyams (Vermont River Conservancy), Bruce (Chateaugay Lake Foundation), Nick Rose (Cap-21), Warren Rosenthal (Lake George Land Conservancy), Pat and Tom Willis (Rainbow Lake Association), Len and JoAnn Folin (Master Gardeners), Eric Seaborn (National Grid), and Jason Denham (NYS DEC, Albany)

Welcome & Introductions (Hilary)

PRISM Report

State Level Updates (Hilary)

- Invasive Species Council and Advisory Committee
 - o Continue to meet quarterly
- Invasive Species Education and Outreach Priorities
 - o Develop statewide invasive species slogan
 - Stop the Invasion – Protect New York from Invasive Species
 - Stickers, buttons and banners will be available; logo available for download at NYIS.info
 - o Statewide invasive species awareness week will be held 2nd week of July
 - o Public opinion survey will be led by Chuck O'Neill, NYIS.info and CCE program
 - o Online "Bookshelf" of invasive species resources on clearinghouse website
- Invasive Species Prevention Act regulations being finalized
- DEC AIS regulations being finalized to control invasives at state boat launches and public fishing access sites (likely to be finalized by end of year, then will take effect 6 months later)
- Aquatic invasive species management plan for DEC is in development
- Statewide transport law for aquatic invasives is being considered by Legislature (New York State federation of lakes association includes draft of aquatic transport bill on latest newsletter)
- Eurasian boar regulation finalized

- Invasive species funding in environmental protection fund increased to 4.7 million; Lake George funding increase of \$550,000 to be used for implementation of mandatory inspection program, milfoil control, & Asian clam control

PRISM Level & State Partner Invasive Species Program Updates (Hilary)

- All PRISMs funded; coordinators hired
- Held 2 day PRISM leader “boot camp” training session in Albany in February
- Inter-PRISM coordination Projects
 - o Rusty crayfish inventory project – Western PRISM
 - o Environmental DNA monitoring – St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario
- Imap database continuing to improve; everyone encouraged to become trained
- Invasive species research institute contract renewed. Currently hiring coordinator

APIPP Level Updates (Hilary)

- APIPP and SLELO PRISMs currently operating without contract. All signs show that next 5 year contract will be approved soon.
- Meghan Johnstone left her position as the aquatic invasive species project coordinator for APIPP and accepted a position as philanthropy coordinator for the Long Island chapter of The Nature Conservancy.
- Currently interviewing to fill aquatic invasive species project coordinator position. Expected to have new coordinator hired by the end of May or early June.
- New APIPP website launched in April.
- Released white paper on boat inspection & decontamination; recommendations for the Adirondack region.
- Yellow Wood Associates on track with economic impact study. Final draft in June/July with expected completion in August/September.
- APIPP coordinated with the Essex County Adirondack Garden Club to implement a new partnership program “PlantWise ADK”
 - o Completed brochure
 - o Plans to hold regional symposium in 2015 on native plant alternatives.
- Adirondack Local Government Day
 - o Invasive species session focused on prevention
 - o Dave Wick and Fred Monroe spoke on mandatory inspections
- Adirondack Day held on Monday, May 5th in Albany.
 - o APIPP invited but Hilary and Brendan unable to attend
 - o Caitlin Stewart from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District attended on behalf of APIPP.
- Forest Pest Summit postponed until a later date due to limited capacity to organize; but planning forest pest citizen scientist training with Adirondack Mountain Club
- Lake George Park Commission implementing mandatory boat inspection program starting May 2014.

- Hydrilla rapid response workshop organized by APA and DEC for state agencies to determine hurdles for rapid response and management.
- APIPP will work with APA and DEC to adapt the Lake Champlain Basin Program AIS Rapid Response Plan to the Adirondack region.
- APIPP Work plan sent around on list serve for partners to review and provide feedback on

Aquatic Project Report (Hilary)

- Currently in process of hiring new aquatic coordinator. Goal is to have new coordinator hired by the end of May or beginning of June.
- 2014 Trainings
 - o DEC Operations Training in May
 - o Boat launch steward training at Paul Smith's
 - o Volunteer coordination & plant identification training – Bolton Landing and Paul Smith's
 - o Invasive animal training, to be scheduled
- European frogbit management will continue on the Grasse River

Terrestrial Project Report (Brendan)

- The updated treatment results from last field season were presented
- The following presentations and conferences were attended
 - o Presented on the response team strategy to the Michigan Based Stewardship Network during a monthly webcast. Presentation reached 187 people from 17 states and one Canadian Province
 - o Attended and presented the response team strategy at The Nature Conservancy's Northeast Stewardship Conference in Rhode Island
 - o Attended and presented APIPP's DOT engagement strategy at The Nature Conservancy's Invasive Species Learning Network and Science, Stewardship, & Conservation Conference in Louisiana
- Seasonal Hiring
 - o Chris Sheldon hired as APIPP's 2014 invasive species management steward
 - o Anthony Joseph Kordziel hired as DEC's Adirondack invasive species campground manager
- Database quality control and reorganization completed
- Assisted in website upgrade
- Assisting iMap team in creating field data collection tool for invasive species managers
- Permitting
 - o APA wetlands permit streamlined for controlling invasive species within 100' of jurisdictional wetlands
 - o Purple loosestrife beetle biocontrol release permits acquired. Releases planned for Keene and Elizabhtown.

- Updates to *Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices for the Control of Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park* finalized and submitted to DEC and APA for approval.
- Protected areas GIS modeling for Phragmites completed and presented.
- Herbicide treatment reference guide created for common products used and high priority invasives managed in the Adirondacks.
- Contracting out \$20,000 of control work this summer to supplement work previously done by the response team.
- 2014 Terrestrial Trainings
 - o Minerva Gardening Workshop – April 5th
 - o Stewardship with Style: A Lakescape Event – Lake George, May 10th
 - o Indian Lake Landowner Management Training – Indian Lake Ski Hut, July 1st
- Species of concern: Swallow-wort species and Japanese stiltgrass.

Partner Roundtable

Rainbow Lake Association – Pat Willis

- Received grant from Lake Champlain Basin Program to pay for Paul Smiths Steward at Buckpond Campground
- Increased yearly lake association dues from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per person to help build a \$25,000.00 fund available for rapid response

East Shore Schroon Lake Association – Jane Smith & Bill McGhie

- Warren County created invasive species subcommittee
- Provided funds for 4 boat launch stewards for full 7 days a week coverage
- Assisted Loon Lake with boat inspection and decontamination program
- Floating classroom to be held again in 2014
- Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) on lake doing management at half the cost of last year's management

Watershed Stewardship Program - Jackie

- Hiring 34 stewards this season
- 2 new regional supervisors also hired
- 3 new supervisory regions established
- Stewards will be covering a total of 22 boat launches
- Coverage increased to full-time at many boat launches
- Steward training to be held at Paul Smiths on May 19th – 23rd; Contact Kathleen Wiley for more information
- New AWI website

Charlotte, Vermont Collaborative – Bob Hyams

- Identified 11 phragmites sites to manage; received funding from Town of Charlotte

- Sue Smith will continue as the Frogbit coordinator and management is set to continue this field season.

Chateaugay Lake Association – Bruce

- Looking for donations for milfoil control
- Lake to become designated as an inland water body in order to receive grants
- Will have 2 Paul Smith's Stewards at boat launches

Upper Saranac Lake Foundation – Guy Middleton

- Boat-rinse station will be built at main boat launch on lake
- AIM assisting with management of milfoil again in 2014. Very successful management effort; plants now rare in majority of Lake

AuSable River Association – Kelley Tucker

- Received funding from Lake Champlain Basin Program for river steward in 2014. Will be primarily working along the West branch of the AuSable
- Will be conducting education and outreach to local fishing shops and anglers
- 2 new hires will be starting soon (1 permanent FTE, 1 part-time, temporary)
- Working to model "Better Back Roads" initiative in Vermont in the Adirondacks. Would like to incorporate invasives into project

Adirondack Research LLC – Ezra Schwartzberg

- Completed assessments for non-native animals for DEC to inform legislation for Invasive Species Prevention Act.
- Will be working with the USDA to create pheromone lures for better EAB and ALB trap designs
- Will be working to build a nature trail for the national sports academy in Lake Placid

Adirondack Park Agency – Leigh Walrath

- Finalized new general permit for invasive plant control near wetlands
- Attended hydrilla workshop with DEC to determine ways to remove hurdles and establish an AIS rapid response action plan

Lake George Land Conservancy – Warren Rosenthal

- Updating terrestrial invasive species plan this year
- Ramping up Japanese knotweed control efforts with the town of Bolton this season
- Focusing on terrestrial infestations on easement lands and properties

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District – Caitlin Stewart

- Conducted "beetle buster" education events to various groups
- Worked with Meghan Johnstone to write article for "Local ADK" magazine on spiny water flea monitoring protocol

- Worked with Hilary Smith to organize forest pest symposium focusing on hemlock and balsam wooly adelgid to be held at the Indian Lake Ski hut this summer
- Lenny Croote will be conducting herbicide treatments for Japanese knotweed and potentially Phragmites.
- Coordinating with Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program

Lake George Association – Kristin Rohne & Emily DeBolt

- Mandatory boat wash and decontamination program begins May 15th (50-65 employees)
 - o Education and outreach program being conducted. Educational rack cards created and new website designed.
 - o Most local boaters have already received information on new program through mailings
- Asian Clam matting being implemented in one location; focused on findings from research to determine next steps
- Eurasian water milfoil management will continue at various sites
- Terrestrial plant trade-in event to be held to promote use of native plant alternatives
- Will be coordinating invasive species events in Lake George during invasive species awareness week

National Grid – Eric Seaborn

- Working to develop forest pest response plan for National Grid
- Training all internal crew members and tree crew on proper forest pest identification
- Developed awareness cards and training materials
- Responded to new EAB infestation in Massachusetts

Master Gardeners – Don Grout & MJ Huneycutt

- EAB awareness week and Essex Field Days coincide and will be giving EAB presentations
- Hilary presented to master gardeners
- Focus on disseminating invasive species information to the public

New York State Department of Transportation – Pete Howard et al.

- Transportation BMP's are being finalized. Post-project monitoring being incorporated as last piece
- Ed Frantz is working on strategic management plan and corridor management plan which includes extensive invasive species guidelines; screening projects for invasives, mitigation for management sites, and restoration approach for project sites.
- Priority this year is to manage infestations located at DOT facilities followed by any historic treatment sites, and lastly any new infestations
- Finished safety trainings for EAB in collaboration with DEC
- Herbicide crews may be out doing invasive species management during invasive species awareness week, if the timing works out

- Education and outreach presence would be worthwhile at High Peaks Welcome Centers during Invasive Species Awareness Week.

CAP-21 – Nick Rose

- Coordination on invasives education at farmers markets and workshops
- Garden clubs are big in Old Forge area with many opportunities to coordinate

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – Lance Durfey

- Mute Swan management plan received comments during public comment period. Plan is currently being revised and will go back out for comment
- Eurasian boar regulation passed
- State Boat launch and fishing access site invasive species legislation will likely pass. Educational signs already being produced in anticipation.
- Reserve America website used for campground reservations will have a new callout box that displays “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” message
- All PRISMs coordinated and funded
- EAB traps starting to be put up the first week of May
- Ambrosia and bark beetle trapping has already begun. 6 traps are located in the Adirondacks.

Adirondack Council – Rocci Aguirre

- Processing the review of invasive species policy that guides advocacy work
- Pushed for increase in environmental protection fund
- Advocacy for Invasive species issues garner universal support in most instances
- Transport law identified as priority for 2014 invasive species advocacy
- Supportive of all invasive species regulations and laws passed this year
- May adopt black swallowwort infestation in Elizabethtown as project for intern

Animal Plant Health Inspection Service – Hilary read on Tom’s behalf

- Implementing 2014 EAB survey with approximately 14,000 traps
- Contracting with new company called Delta 21 to hang traps
- EAB sentinel tree monitoring will be conducted at northern border with Canada.
- Will be assisting the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District with adelgid training.
- Will be assisting with compliance of agricultural regulations at the border

Seasonal Priorities Discussion

Statewide Invasive Species Awareness Week

- Will hopefully receive official proclamation from Governor.
- Key messages determined for that week will be shared with partners
- NYIS website will be posting events that week to its calendar
- Partners are asked to reach out to local contacts for marquee signage that week

- The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding its forest pest symposium that week as well as attending farmers markets and holding a paddle against invasives event.
- Lake George Association will be coordinating events and staffing an information table.
- Buttons, stickers, tattoos, car decals, magnets all came up as ideas to use new slogan and logo during week. Caitlin Stewart will help make contacts for quotes.
- Potential to use Plant Wise ADK and Garden Clubs that week
- Potential to reach out to Lake Placid Visitor's Bureau
- Other creative ideas: paddle against invasives event; designating days for species surveys/species spotlights; invasive species mascot or gala; photo contest (Hamilton County); social media challenge; invasive species selfie; outreach to businesses that are impacted by invasives (gas stations sell firewood; marinas & motels for AIS)

Priority species

- Hydrilla / spiny water flea
- Swallow wort / wild parsnip
- others

Guest Presentations

“Water Quality, Invasive Species, Ecosystem Health and Property Values in the Adirondacks”
 Martin D. Heintzelman, Associate Professor, Economics and Financial Studies, Clarkson University

“Balsam Woolly Adelgid: What we know, What we don't know, and Next Steps”
 Jason Denham, Forest Health Specialist, NYSDEC

Next Meeting Date tentatively set for October 28th

Notes prepared by B. Quirion and reviewed and edited by H. Smith