

**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**  
**Spring Partner Meeting Minutes**  
**The Nature Conservancy, Keene Valley, NY**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
**9:30-300**

*Attendees: Brendan Quirion, Erin Vennie-Vollrath, Zachary Simek (APIPP); Leslie Suprenant, Fred Dunlap (DEC); Meg Modley (LCBP); Bill McGhie (ESSLA); Sue O'Reilly (Adirondack Watershed Institute); Marin George (Adirondack Council); Caitlin Stewart (Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District); Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Lake Foundation); Warren Rosenthal (Lake George Land Conservancy); Kelly Tucker & Brendan Wiltse (Ausable River Association); Dennis Murphy & Anne Greene (Bolton Terrestrial Invasive Plant Program); Leigh Walrath (Adirondack Park Agency); Susan Smith (ADK Shatagee Woods Chapter & VT Lewis Creek Association); JoAnn & Len Folin, Don Grout, MJ Huneycutt (Essex County Master Gardeners); Cathy Pedler (ADK Mtn Club); John Gwozdz (New York Power Authority)*

**State Level Items (Brendan)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> New York Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW) was held last year
  - This year ISAW will be held July 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>
  - Theme for this year is non-invasive plant alternatives for gardening & landscaping
- Invasive species line in the Environmental Protection Fund was increased to \$1 million for Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Pilot Program. Program will increase boat launch stewardship capacity as well as establish new boat wash and decontamination facilities across the region. Memorandum of Understanding established with 53+ signatories in support of program.
- APIPP is working with New York Natural Heritage Program to pilot iMap invasives field data collection tool over 2015 field season.
- The Cornell invasive species in-service will be held Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at Cornell University
- Invasive Species Prevention Act regulations went into effect in March
- AIS Transport Law is currently on hold and being amended

**PRISM Report (Brendan)**

- Hired Zack Simek as Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Coordinator and Jane Raffaldi as the 2015 Education and Outreach Intern
- Finalizing contracts for both terrestrial and aquatic regional response teams
  - Terrestrial – Invasive Plant Control Inc.
  - Aquatic – Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute
- Underwrote NCPR for daily invasive species messaging from May-September
- APIPP will sub-award the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program with \$4000 to assist with control efforts
- Winter Activities
  - Coordinating ADK Park Wide AIS Decontamination pilot program
    - APIPP is the program coordinator
    - Adirondack Watershed Institute is program implementer

- Held first backcountry forest pest monitor training with ADK Mtn Club in Lake Placid
- Formalized plan for Backcountry water volunteer monitoring program
- Currently planning a workshop on gardening with non- invasive plants for July 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Location TBD
- Annual work plan updated for 2015

### **Aquatic Project Report (Erin)**

- Completed 13<sup>th</sup> season of volunteer monitoring
  - Over 150 volunteers, 96 lakes and ponds covered
- Updated APIPP map of invaded waterways
- 6 new discoveries of AIS,
  - 3 SWF in Piseco Lake, Lake Pleasant and Lake Champlain
  - 3 VLM in Upper Saranac Lake, Fish Creek Pond and Thendara Lake
- Plans for 2015
  - Aquatic Invasive Plant Trainings set for June 23<sup>rd</sup> Bolton Landing, June 25<sup>th</sup> Paul Smiths College, June 30<sup>th</sup> Speculator
  - Aquatic Invasive Animal training planned for end of July or early August
  - Upcoming festivals and presentations
    - NYSFOLA, May 1-3
    - Paddlefest, May 15-17
    - Watershed Steward Training, May 19-20
    - Essex County Conservation Day, May 28
    - Adirondack Lakes Alliance Symposium, July 28<sup>th</sup>
    - ADK Waterfest, July 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Completed 9<sup>th</sup> year managing European frog-bit on Grasse River. Hoping to see continued reductions in 2015.
  - Currently prioritizing waterways for 2015 monitoring and survey by APIPP, volunteers, and response team
  - Worked with APA and DEC to formalize ADK AIS rapid response plan
    - Plan helps establish task force of APIPP, APA, and DEC representatives
      - Task force would convene to discuss management options when new infestations are discovered
      - Includes rapid permitting to allow for rapid response
  - Currently coordinating a workgroup for education and outreach surrounding ADK AIS Spread Prevention Pilot Program
    - Designing interactive map with program & station location information to be linked to APIPP and partner websites.
    - Rack card with info about the program QR code to website

## **Terrestrial Project (Zack)**

- Zack joined APIPP team on March 26<sup>th</sup> ([zachary.simek@TNC.org](mailto:zachary.simek@TNC.org))
- Completed commercial pesticide applicator certification requirements
- APIPP purchased (4) Cedar CT7 Tablets for field data collection
  - Assisting iMap team in creating and beta testing field data collection tool
- Had 2(ee)'s approved for yellow iris, burning bush, Japanese barberry, and porcelain berry
- Permitting
  - Collaborating with DOT for 2015 highway work permit for invasive plant control
  - Reviewing current AANR permits and completing new locations
- Summer Staff
  - Stephen Slonosky hired as ADK Invasive Species Campground Manager
  - Invasive Plant Control Inc. selected for terrestrial regional response team
- Provided and update on management statistics from last season.
- Currently planning three Invasive Plant Management Trainings
  - Dates TBD

## **Partner Roundtable**

### **Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District - Caitlin Stewart**

- HCSWCD will be the new headquarters for the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program
- Hosting ADK Waterfest on July 30<sup>th</sup> at village of Speculator park, 10am-4pm
  - Celebration of water resources
  - Organizations are welcome to table
- Gearing up education and outreach for 2015
  - Getting the word out about invasive species in newspapers
  - Working with schools, garden clubs, lake associations

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – Leslie Suprenant**

- Implementing Part 575 Regulations
  - Currently coordinating with agriculture and markets to bring industry up to speed
  - Distributed information to dealers and growers about prohibited and regulated species
- Currently amending the AIS Reasonable Precaution Regulations
  - Could be in place in September
- Received approval to hire new employee
  - Research scientist for aquatic invasive species
- AIS Management Plan was released last fall
  - Made changes from public comment
  - Will announce in the Environmental Notice Bulletin when finalized
- Education and Outreach
  - New brochures have been produced on Part 575 Regulations and terrestrial invasive species
- Interns
  - Hired ADK Invasive Species Campground Manager
  - About 20 other positions through SUNY ESF statewide

**Adirondack Mountain Club - Cathy Pedler**

- 2 trainings will be held for the backcountry water monitoring program
  - July 16<sup>th</sup> & Aug 30<sup>th</sup> at the ADK Loj on Heart Lake
  - Currently evaluating where fishing guides are encouraging people to fish in order to identify AIS spread vectors and priority water bodies to survey
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> forest pest monitoring training will be held in the future. Date TBD

**Essex County Master Gardener – Don Grout, MJ Huneycutt, JoAnn & Len Folin**

- Planning to conduct more education and outreach this summer
- Responded to many false giant hogweed reports last summer

**Charlotte Invasive Collaboration – Sue Smith**

- Invasive collaborative gearing up for *Phragmites* control this season
- Worked with town to develop plan to mow wild parsnip and garlic mustard along ROW's
- Will continue to manage European frog-bit, efforts were successful last season
- Continuing education and outreach efforts focusing on wetlands, how to manage invasive species, etc.
- Received grant to fund yellow iris control, purchased equipment

**Adirondack Watershed Institute – Sue O'Reilly**

- AWI is assisting with ADK AIS Spread Prevention Program, currently planning equipment purchases
- In process of wrapping up summer staff hiring

**Adirondack Park Agency – Leigh Walrath**

- Public comment period is open for a general permit to conduct rapid response for containment or eradication of AIS
- Public comment period is open for a general permit for qualified individuals to treat terrestrial invasive species.

**Bolton Terrestrial Invasive Plant Program – Anne Green & Dennis Murphy**

- Program was implemented in 2014
- Received \$10,000 from the Town of Bolton in 2014
- Received \$25,000 in funding this year
- Purchased 3 injection guns to loan to landowners
- Coordinating with Bolton Central School to treat a stand of knotweed on their property
- Working with iMap to train high school juniors and seniors to map invasive species around the Town of Bolton
- Reached out to Lake George Mirror, Adirondack Journal and the Chronicle for media coverage
- Will hold a public meeting May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Bolton Town Hall at 7:30pm
- Coordinating with the county to treat county roads and working with the state to treat ROW's

**New York Power Authority – John Gwozdz**

- BMP's are in the works to prevent transplant of species for work sites

**Ausable River Association – Kelly Tucker and Brendan Wiltse**

- Revived the river steward program last year with LCBP grant money
- Hired a steward for this season to continue projects

- Working to rebuild wader-wash stations
- Trying to increase invasive species signage for river entry points for areas currently lacking signage
- Expanding work on terrestrial invasive species along the river
- Ausable River Management Plan will be published this year
- Reaching out to lake associations in watershed to see if the Ausable River Association can serve as a staffing source
- Undertaking riparian restoration work, planting roughly 200 trees

#### **Adirondack Council - Marin George**

- Currently in the process of hiring an intern who will be starting next month
- Will be coordinating with APIPP to treat swallowwort infestation in Elizabethtown

#### **Lake Champlain Basin Program - Meg Modley**

- Local grants distributed with funding from EPA and GLFC for invasive species spread prevention, education and outreach
  - Supported Ausable River Association Steward, AWI Watershed Stewards, Warren County SWCD beetle rearing for purple loosestrife, Lake Colby EWM management, backcountry water monitoring program with APIPP and ADK Mtn Club, and various education and outreach projects
- Grant funds will be used to manage water chestnut and European frog-bit in northern Lake Champlain
- Assisting in the development of a program for early detection and rapid response to invasive species by federal agencies
- Currently evaluating the stop aquatic hitchhikers campaign
- Discontinuing the ANS hotline at national level
- Working with the “West of 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Campaign” to standardize boat inspection and decontamination laws and regulations to promote reciprocity between states
- Establishing eDNA website to provide info about the process
- Champlain canal barrier contract is in litigation between NYS Canal Corporation and Army Corps of Engineers
- International Association of Great Lakes Research Conference will be held May 26-29
- North America Lake Management Society Meeting will be held in Saratoga, NY November 17-20
- LCBP will staff 10 boat launch stewards on Lake Champlain this summer
- A new State of the Lake report was issued in 2015
  - There are currently 50 non-native and invasive species in Lake Champlain
- Coordinating installation of a boat wash station at the Ticonderoga Launch for next summer

#### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Fred Dunlap**

- DEC will continue training campground operations staff about AIS

#### **East Shore Schroon Lake Association - Bill McGhie**

- ESSLA will continue milfoil harvesting this summer
- Asian clam monitoring project will continue this season, currently no detections
- PSC AWI will conduct Water Shield Workshop this summer
- Board members will begin addressing terrestrial invasive species this season
- Purchased a boat wash station to place on Schroon lake at the Horicon launch

### **Lake George Land Conservancy – Warren Rosenthal**

- Began canvassing conservancy lands for invasive species last year
- Updated the conservancy's invasive species management plan
- Began control of Japanese knotweed
- Initiated multi-year project to remove honeysuckle from conservancy lands
- Will release beetles for purple loosestrife control in the Town of Putnam
- Identified small infestations of yellow iris and common reed

### **Upper Saranac Foundation - Guy Middleton**

- Completed 10 years of milfoil management on Upper Saranac Lake
  - In 2004 18 tons were removed, only 400lbs were removed in 2014.
  - Average cost for management in the littoral zone was \$450/acre in 2004, only \$90/acre in 2014
  - Management started with 30+ divers working 20 weeks, and now only requires 3 divers for 15 weeks
- Implementing volunteer Asian Clam survey in August
- Coordinated with DEC to have a boat wash station constructed at the re-designed launch on Upper Saranac Lake
- Will continue steward coverage at the Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch with funds from a LCBP grant, AWI will provide staff
- Will hold two educational Water Shield Workshops this summer with the AWI

### **Guest Presentations**

“What Can be Done to Mitigate the Threat to Adirondack Hemlocks Posed by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid” Dr. Mark Whitmore, Forest Entomologist, Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University

“Long-term Patterns and Impacts of Invasive Species on the Lake Champlain Ecosystem” Dr. Tim Mihuc, Coordinator, Lake Champlain Research Institute at Plattsburgh State University

(Links to presentations can be found under “Publications & Resources”, “APIPP Publications”, “Meeting Minutes” on APIPP’s website [www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com))

### **ADK Park Wide AIS Spread Prevention Program (Brendan)**

- \$1 million increase in invasive species line of Environmental Protection Fund to support the program
- Tentative site locations for decontamination units out of the \$1 million include:
  - Speculator – Route 30 pull off
  - Northville – NYSDEC Boat Launch on the Great Sacandaga Lake
  - Okara Lakes - Route 28 pull off
  - Cadyville – Route 3
  - Chateaugay – NYSDEC Boat Launch on Chateaugay Lake
  - Paul Smiths – Intersection of Routes 30 & 86
  - Tupper Lake – Across from NYSDEC boat launch on state route 30
  - South Colton – State Route 56
  - Saranac Lake – Adjacent to Lake Flower NYSDEC boat launch
- Additional decontamination sites from various funding sources:
  - Clinton/Fine – Route 3

- Schroon Lake – Horicon Launch
- Saratoga Lake – OPRHP Launch Site
- Piseco Lake – Route 8
- Decontamination units were strategically positioned near boat launches and high traffic road corridors
- APIPP is conducting site visits to establish site schematics and work out operational logistics
- PSC AWI will providing staff to operate the units
- The program will be operated on a voluntary basis

**Next meeting tentatively set for Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Notes prepared by Z. Simek and reviewed by B. Quirion.*