

**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)  
Fall Partner Meeting Minutes  
Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, NY  
October 26<sup>th</sup> 2015  
9:30-300**

**Attendees:** *Brendan Quirion, Erin Vennie-Vollrath, Zachary Simek (APIPP); Jeff Sann, Kathleen Wiley, Jesse Smith (Adirondack Watershed Institute); Ezra Schwartzberg, Owen Hardy (Adirondack Research LLC); Warren Rosenthal (Lake George Land Conservancy); John Falge, Ed Frantz, John Hallock, Becky Miller (DOT); Gretchen Marcell, Jane Smith, Bill McGhie, Elli Muller (East Shore Schroon Lake Association); Guy Middelton (Upper Saranac Foundation); Leigh Walrath (APA); Lance Durfey, Matt Walter (DEC); Anne Green (Bolton Terrestrial Invasive Plant Program); Caitlin Stewart (Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District); Paul Hetzler (St. Lawrence County CCE); MJ Huneycutt (Essex County Master Gardeners); Marin George (ADK Council); Meg Modley (LCBP); Bob Hyams (Habitat Restoration Solutions LLC); Jason Brechko (Glens Falls School District); Sue Smith (Charlotte Invasives Collaborative); Mark Malchoff (Lake Champlain Sea Grant); Kristen Rohne (Lake George Association); Dave Wick (Lake George Park Commission); Ed Greismer (Adirondack Lakes Alliance)*

**New York State Invasive Species Updates (Brendan Quirion)**

- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) finalized a statewide aquatic invasive species (AIS) management plan and DEC's invasive species coordination unit hired a new AIS coordinator, Cathy McGlynn, who will largely oversee the plan's implementation. The full plan can be reviewed at the following link [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/nysaisplan15.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/nysaisplan15.pdf)
- DEC's invasive species coordination unit is currently looking to hire two additional staff on contract with SUNY ESF; One education and outreach coordinator and one response and management coordinator.
- The Cornell invasive species clearinghouse was dissolved although the website is still functional.
- DEC will be seeking to develop a five year education and outreach strategy for invasive species in New York utilizing the new education and outreach coordinator once hired.
- DEC will be announcing a statewide AIS prevention grants program totaling approximately \$2 million contingent upon next year's state budget. Priority will likely be given to lakes:
  - Looking to advance boat launch steward programs
  - Known to be invasion spread hubs
  - That are part of a larger partnership based approach
  - Have existing data on AIS presence, distribution, and abundance
- DEC is looking to continue the Adirondack AIS prevention pilot program at \$1 million annually contingent upon next year's state budget.
- The second statewide invasive species awareness week was held July 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

- iMap is still working to develop a field data collection tool that will run on Android based tablets and is looking to complete a major revamp of their website design and database in coming years
- The New York State Invasive Species Research Institute (NYISRI) has developed a new website [www.nysisri.org](http://www.nysisri.org) and is seeking feedback on content and design.
- The Cornell Invasive Species In-Service will be held November 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>
- The Catskill PRISM will be seeking to hire a new program coordinator as Molly M. has taken a position with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank as their Ash Seed Collection Manager
- RFP is currently open for a program to administer the Long Island PRISM for a five year term
- The US Army Core of Engineers and NY Canal Corp. are very close to fully executing an agreement to conduct a feasibility study surrounding an invasive species barrier on the Champlain Canal.
- The final regulations of the statewide AIS transport law are currently awaiting the governor's signature.

### **APIPP PRISM Updates (Brendan Quirion)**

- APIPP will be moving through a three tiered priority setting process over the coming winter to reevaluate management priorities in collaboration with the NYISRI
- APIPP will also be looking to work with a consulting company to create a 3-5 year strategic communication and marketing plan for the program to guide future education, outreach, communications & marketing efforts
- APIPP completed the first segment of a video production project with West Field Production Company in September. APIPP will be producing four invasive species prevention and management training videos that will be made available next summer. Video Topics are:
  - How to effectively manage a Japanese knotweed infestation
  - How to effectively manage a Phragmites infestation
  - How to survey your lake for AIS
  - How to effectively clean, drain, and dry your watercraft
- APIPP has had preliminary discussions with partners on the future of the Adirondack AIS prevention pilot program and will likely seek to remain in a coordinating role of the program if put out to a request for proposals by the State. If selected, APIPP will look to develop an advisory committee to guide next year's program and hire an additional staff person to help coordinate the program.
- APIPP advanced its long-term monitoring of historically managed Japanese knotweed and Phragmites infestations by contracting with Adirondack Research LLC this past field season. The final monitoring report for this project is currently being reviewed and will be sent out on the APIPP email list-serve once finalized.
- APIPP will potentially help oversee a project utilizing a graduate student to research interactions between invasive species and climate change over the coming winter. The project is still in very preliminary stages of development.

- APIPP is currently completing year end reporting and planning for 2016. Keep an eye out for final and annual report announcements on the APIPP email list-serve. All reports will be posted to the APIPP website here <http://adkinvasives.com/resources/apipp-publications/>

### **Aquatic Project Update (Erin Vennie-Vollrath)**

- Updated APIPP map of invaded/uninvaded waterways
  - 98 waterways are known to have at least 1 AIS present
  - 243 waterways surveyed had no AIS present
  - Approximately  $\frac{7}{10}$  of lakes surveyed are free of AIS
- Aquatic Plant Survey Trainings were held in Bolton Landing on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Paul Smiths on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and Speculator on June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Reached 96 people
- An Invasive Aquatic Animal Training was held in Bolton Landing on August 4<sup>th</sup> with presentations by Mark Malchoff
  - Reached 11 people
- Completed the 14<sup>th</sup> season of volunteer AIS monitoring
  - Data is still being processed, but preliminary results show 112 volunteers surveyed 89 waterways in 2015
  - New discoveries of AIS for 2015:
    - Square Pond - Variable leaf milfoil and Eurasian watermilfoil
    - Pecks Lake - Variable leaf milfoil
    - Franklin Falls Flow - Variable leaf milfoil
    - Eagle Lake - Curly-leaf pondweed
  - No new discoveries of Asian clam or spiny waterflea were documented!
- Completed the first season of the Backcountry Waters Monitoring Program in partnership with the Adirondack Mountain Club
  - Trainings were held on June 17<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup> for volunteers
  - 14 backcountry ponds were monitored and only 1 new infestation was discovered is a tributary to Lake Champlain.
- APIPP's first Aquatic Rapid Response Team was contracted through the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute in 2015.
  - 38 lakes surveyed, mostly in the south-eastern portion of the Park
  - 17 lakes surveyed had historically documented infestations of AIS
    - 13 lakes contained historically documented infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil with one new infestation found in Square Pond
  - No spiny waterflea or Asian clam were detected
  - Three rapid response actions were performed:
    - Loon lake - water chestnut removed (approximately 10 plants)
    - Fish creek pond - water chestnut removed
    - Quebec Brook - European frog bit removed
- APIPP completed its 10<sup>th</sup> year of European frog-bit management on the Grasse River
  - Significant reductions in plant abundance were observed
  - 35 five-gallon buckets of plant material were removed during the first year of management in 2007. In 2015 only a single plant was removed.
- Held various education and outreach events including presentations at:

- Lake Placid High School
- Various lake associations (Chateaugay, Cranberry, etc.)
- DEC Operations Training
- APA Meeting
- Adirondack Waterfest
- Fall/Winter Projects
  - APIPP is currently working with two Hamilton College students to develop a predictive model for AIS spread within the Adirondack region
    - The project will fill existing data gaps and take into account numerous AIS stressors such as boat access, campground presence, shoreline development, lake size, distance to existing AIS, etc.
  - Implement a priority setting process to reevaluate APIPP's AIS management projects
  - Continue to help coordinate the Adirondack AIS spread prevention pilot program as needed
- Next steps
  - Processing data from 2015 field season
  - Prioritize waterways for surveying/management in 2016
  - Expand current monitoring program for aquatic invasive animals
  - Continue to formalize and implement AIS rapid response framework for the Adirondacks
  - Review statewide transport AIS regulations once finalized
- See more at <http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-AIS-Update-for-APIPP-Fall-Meeting.pdf>

### **Terrestrial Project Update (Zachary Simek)**

- Stephen Slonosky served as DEC's Invasive Species Campground manager for the 2015 field season. He conducted survey and management activities for terrestrial invasive plants at DEC campgrounds and trailheads within the Adirondack region
  - Surveyed 40 campgrounds; 20 contained invasive plants
  - Surveyed 12 trailheads; 8 had invasive plants present
  - On average, 7% of the campsites within a campground were invaded
  - A total of 352 sites were invaded
- APIPP performed one release of Galarucella beetles to control purple loosestrife along State Route 458.
  - Beetles were collected from a historic release site in Elizabethtown with help from Stephen Slonosky
- APIPP and DEC's Invasive Species Campground Manager worked with three Student Conservation Association Groups
  - Two SCA crews assisted with terrestrial invasive plant management at campgrounds in Old Forge and Lake George
  - One crew performed a survey for purple loosestrife and garlic mustard at the Indian Lake Islands Campground
- Invasive Plant Control Inc. provided APIPP's 4<sup>th</sup> Terrestrial Response Team in 2015

- In collaboration with APIPP the crew performed 961 assessments, treated 466 sites, and documented 500+ new infestations of APIPP's priority species
- Yellow iris management
  - APIPP and the Response Team completed an extensive control project of yellow iris at Barton Mines Tailing Pond using foliar spray under a recently approved supplemental product label for Roundup Custom
  - 9 historically managed sites were documented as having no yellow iris plants observed in 2015
- Swallow-wort management
  - Treated all infestations of black swallow-wort in Elizabethtown covered under current indemnity agreements
  - Obtaining permissions to treat remaining private property sites in Elizabethtown will be a priority for 2016
  - APIPP's one known pale swallow-wort site was documented as having no plants observed for the first time in 2015
- Giant hogweed management
  - Visited all 16 giant hogweed sites in the ADK PRISM
    - 10 historically managed sites were documented as having no plants observed
    - 6 required follow up treatments of rosettes. No plants were documented as going to flower or producing seed.
- Phragmites management in the "Core Area"
  - Treated 160 sites
  - Identified 55 new infestations
  - Documented 165 historically managed sites as having no plants observed (41% of all managed sites)
- Japanese knotweed management in the "Core Area"
  - Incorporated Clearcast (Imazamox) into glyphosate foliar spray treatments at aquatic sites. Continued using Arsenal (Imazapyr) in glyphosate foliar spray treatments in upland areas.
    - Treated 92 sites
    - Identified 35 new infestations
    - Documented 24 historically managed sites as having no plants observed
- Collaborated with the New York State Department of Transportation to manage priority species on state road corridors including:
  - Route 10 - Arietta
  - Route 374 - Dannemora
  - I-87 - Essex County
- The response team expanded APIPP's survey area and documented many new infestations outside of the core area, focusing on the northern portion of the Adirondack Park and Champlain Valley.
- Education and Outreach
  - Held three trainings on Invasive Plant Management for Landowners in Elizabethtown, Westport and Warrensburg that reached 25 people.

- Presented to Old Forge Garden Club, Friends of the Saranac River Trail, PTECH, PSC AWI Stewards, Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition, and the Local Living Festival
- Fall/Winter Projects
  - Work on upgrading APIPP's data collection system from Trimble GPS Units and Weed Information Management System to iMap Field Tool or Collector App.
  - Research and purchase a drone for invasive species surveying efforts
  - Create an online interactive map of APIPP's historic terrestrial invasive plant management sites.
  - Present the results of the response team at the 2016 Stewardship Network Conference
  - Implement a priority setting process to reevaluate APIPP's terrestrial invasives management projects
- See more at <http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-Fall-Terrestrial-Invasive-Species-Project-Report.pdf>

## **Partner Roundtable**

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 5 - Lance Durfey**

- New DEC region 5 Habitat Manager, Tim Post, will be assuming the role of APIPP's DEC liaison.

### **Adirondack Park Agency - Leigh Walrath**

- Public comment period is currently open for a general permit for hand harvesting/benthic barrier control of AIS. Comment period ends November 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Bolton Terrestrial Invasive Plant Program - Anne Greene**

- Received \$25,000 from the Town of Bolton in 2015 for Japanese knotweed treatments
- Requested \$25,000 for 2016
- Performed 365 hours of treatment via stem injection/spraying
- Treated 49 properties; 12 repeat, 32 new
- Received permission to treat Warren County ROW
- Made arrangements with town board so property owners can take dead knotweed canes to the local transfer station without bagging
- Established a monitoring program at the transfer station to detect re-emergence at disposal site

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

- Submitted letters of support for invasive response teams
- Advocated for an increase in the invasive species line of the EPF
- Performed education and outreach regarding the black swallowwort infestations in Elizabethtown
- Held an invasive species trail walk and garlic mustard pull in Elizabethtown
- Surveyed a lake for AIS under APIPP's volunteer monitoring program

### **St. Lawrence County CCE - Paul Hetzler**

- Scouted for emerald ash borer along the St. Lawrence River with partners
- Currently seeking to form an EAB task force with municipalities in St. Lawrence County

### **Habitat Restoration Solutions - Bob Hyams**

- Working on frog-bit control in a 50 acre wetland near Lake Champlain
- Managed yellow iris in a forested floodplains and near tributaries to Lake Champlain
- Managing Phragmites in several locations

### **East Shore Schroon Lake Association - Jane Smith, Elli Muller, Bill McGhie, Gretchen Marcell**

- Conducted education and outreach for terrestrial invasive species surrounding the lake
- Plan to seek pesticide certification training to start treating knotweed around the lake
- Will conduct biocontrol releases for purple loosestrife in the spring
- Completed 10<sup>th</sup> season of milfoil harvesting
  - Downward trend observed at 6 sites, 4 sites with cyclical trend
- Held two floating classrooms

### **Glens Falls School District - Jason Brechko**

- Looking to further engage students with invasive species work

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

- Finalized prevention and preparedness plan for Upper Saranac Lake to outline best strategies to prevent introduction of AIS to the watershed
  - Outlines education and outreach activities and a rapid response plan
- Held two Water Shield Workshops with AWI
- Implemented Asian clam volunteer monitoring and spiny waterflea testing
- Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) removed 300lbs of milfoil (down from 18 tons removed during the first year of treatment)

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6 - Matt Walter**

- Assisted in defining sites for boat decontamination stations in the southern portion of the Park

### **New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) - Ed Frantz**

- In process of writing travel corridor management plan that will include provisions for invasives
- Plan will go to public comment early next year

### **NYSDOT Region 2 - Becky Miller**

- Assisted APIPP with spraying of Phragmites on route 10

- Will work over winter with APIPP to get permissions to treat large phragmites site in Indian Lake
- Will work to coordinate obtaining permissions for treatments on route 29A
- A request for proposals for the development of a bio-control for Phragmites will be released this winter
- Treated purple loosestrife along route 30 near long lake

#### **NYSDOT - John Falge**

- Included invasive control work on I87 bridge replacement projects
  - Treated ~2 acre of Phragmites
  - Treated reed canary grass in a mitigation wetland

#### **NYSDOT Region 1 - John Hallock**

- Surveyed and documented terrestrial invasives on I87 in Essex County
- Warren County DOT staff treated the northbound lane of travel
- Will continue I87 work next season, focusing on southbound side

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

- HCSWCD assumed the coordinating role of the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program
- Treated many Japanese knotweed sites with Ryan Burkham
  - Big focus on historic sites and re-treatments
- Held various education and outreach events including Adirondack Waterfest and Conservation Field Days
- Provided 15 presentations to stakeholders about invasive species
- Had press releases in local newspapers, Adirondack Almanac, and Adirondack Life Magazine
- Surveyed limekiln lake for AIS
- Surveyed purple loosestrife bio-control release sites, observed a significant reduction in number of stems present

#### **Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) - Warren Rosenthal**

- Completed 2<sup>nd</sup> year of terrestrial invasive plant management on LGLC properties
- Focused on Japanese knotweed and bush honeysuckle
- Will likely expand management efforts to include Phragmites next year
- Released Galarucella beetles at a preserve in Putnam
- Coordinating hemlock woolly adelgid monitoring efforts for Lake George Area

#### **Adirondack Research LLC - Ezra Schwartzberg & Owen Hardy**

- Completed long term monitoring project of phragmites and Japanese knotweed for APIPP
  - Recorded density and species composition of native vegetation adjacent to and within treatment sites
- Drafted a comprehensive invasive species mgmt. plan for the interval lowlands



- Received environmental excellence award from DEC for work on invasive species

### **Adirondack Watershed Institute - Kathleen Wiley, Jeff Sann, Jesse Smith**

- Approximately 50% of the 2015 program was funded through the Adirondack AIS spread prevention pilot program and 50% from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, lake associations, and other sources
- Summer staff totaled around 70 stewards
- The program made 42,000 contacts at boat launches
- Performed education and outreach related to AIS at farmers markets, Adirondack Waterfest, Water Shield Workshops, etc.

### **Charlotte Invasive Collaborative - Sue Smith**

- Completed second year of phragmites treatments in Charlotte with good success
- Management is underway at a park/wildlife refuge in Charlotte for honeysuckle, buckthorn, multiflora rose, and other species
- The United States Fish & Wildlife Service provided 12 beetle reared purple loosestrife plants that were dispersed through the region

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

- Currently wrapping up local implementation grants
  - Lake Colby milfoil harvesting
  - Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District beetle rearing
  - Watershed stewards on Second Pond, Saranac Lakes, Lake Placid and Ausable River
  - Backcountry waters monitoring program
- Will be reviewing a new round of grant applications
- North American Lake Management Society will meet in Saratoga Springs November 17-20<sup>th</sup> 2015
- National Aquatic Nuisance Species task force will meet in November to discuss rapid response plan model
- Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel will meet in December 2015
- Northeast Aquatic Plant Mgmt. Society conference will be held January 12-14, 2016 in Saratoga Springs
- The rapid response task force had no confirmed AIS response actions in 2015

### **Lake Champlain Sea Grant - Mark Malchoff**

- Assisted with APIPP's aquatic animal training
- Working with bass tournament anglers in Plattsburgh to spread AIS messaging

### **Lake George Association - Kristen Rohne**

- Hired two summer interns for invasive species education and outreach
- Will have two interns again next year

- Two new Asian clam sites were detected in Lake George, treatments have started at the Rogers Rock infestation
- The Darrin Freshwater Institute has identified a native parasitic worm that seems to feed on Asian clam veligers

### **Lake George Park Commission - Dave Wick**

- There are 225 known Eurasian watermilfoil sites in Lake George
  - Spent \$400,000 from multiple sources for management in 2015
  - 100,000lbs of plant material was removed
- Completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of mandatory boat inspections and decontaminations
  - Boaters have not been deterred; response is positive
- Commissioners have voted to move the program towards permanent status

### **Adirondack Lakes Alliance/Loon Lake Park - Ed Greisner**

- ALA has a new website ([www.adirondacklakesalliance.org](http://www.adirondacklakesalliance.org) )
- Loon Lake had its 4<sup>th</sup> season of boat inspections and observed 100% compliance
- ALA held a summer conference with over 150 participants
- Assisted with the Adirondack AIS Spread Prevention Pilot Program

### **Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension - Linda Gilliland**

- Held Environmental Field Day event

### **Essex County Master Gardeners - MJ Huneycutt**

- Disseminated invasive species information at farmers markets in Lake Placid and Saranac Lake

### **APIPP Achievement Award for Agency Leadership**

- Presented to Leigh Walrath with the Adirondack Park Agency. Some of Leighs accomplishments include:
  - Leading the development of an AIS rapid response framework for the Adirondacks alongside Erin Vennie-Vollrath
  - Assisting in the site analysis and visits to proposed boat wash and decontamination stations under the Adirondack AIS Prevention Pilot Program
  - Advancing vital permitting for rapid response management of AIS infestations
  - Monitoring lakes under APIPP's volunteer monitoring program
  - Being a longtime supporter of APIPP

### **Adirondack AIS Prevention Pilot Program (Brendan Quirion)**

See presentation at (<http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Boat-Wash-Decon-Warrensburg-9.25-ERH-2.pdf>)

### **PRISM Initiatives**

1. Priority Setting Process (Brendan Quirion)

- Three tier approach being developed in collaboration with the New York State Invasive Species Research Institute
    - Tier 1 - Identifying priority species to continue to engage on in management
    - Tier 2 - Identifying priority management areas to focus management efforts for those species within the Adirondack PRISM
    - Tier 3 - Identify priority management projects for those species and areas with a high likelihood of success and conservation returns
2. APIPP Strategic Communication & Marketing Plan (Brendan Quirion)
    - APIPP will seek bids from a communication and marketing firm to develop a 5-year communications and marketing plan for APIPP in order to advance outreach efforts and reach new audiences
    - APIPP is seeking members for an advisory group to guide the process and provide input on plan development
  3. Drone use for Invasive Species Surveying (Zachary Simek)
    - APIPP plans to purchase a quadcopter drone equipped with a high resolution camera to perform aerial surveys for invasive plants
    - See more at (<http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Drone-Introduction.pdf>)
  4. Long Term Invasive Plant Infestation Monitoring (Ezra Schwartzberg)
    - Project Goal: Cost effective approach to monitor native plant recovery at treatment sites
      - Entire survey can be completed in 1 hour
      - Compares treatment plots to nearby plots in native vegetation
      - Process includes listing species present and assigning density and percent cover classes
    - Study included plots of Japanese knotweed and Phragmites that have been treated by APIPP
    - Similar numbers of native plants were observed in treatment plots compared to surrounding native vegetation plots
    - There was a slightly lower density of native plants observed in treatment plots
    - Keep an eye out for the final project report which will be sent out on the APIPP email list-serve once finalized.

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