

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

Spring Partner Meeting Minutes

Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, NY

April 28th 2016 9:30-3:00

Attendees: *Brendan Quirion, Erin Vennie-Vollrath, Zachary Simek, Mitchell Jones (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program); Warren Rosenthal (Lake George Land Conservancy); Kathleen Wiley (Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute); Paul Hetzler (St. Lawrence County CCE); Leigh Walrath (Adirondack Park Agency); Ed Greismer (Adirondack Lakes Alliance); Guy Middleton (Saranac Lake Foundation); Kristen Rhone (Lake George Association); Don Grout (Lake Placid Master Gardner's); Fred Dunlap, Leslie Surprenant (NYSDEC); Richard Shaker (Ryerson University); Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program); Caitlin Stewart (Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District); Sue Smith (Charlotte Invasives Collaborative); Dan Rockefeller (SUNY ESF)*

APIPP PRISM Report (Brendan Quirion)

Winter Project Update

- The APIPP team has made major improvements and incorporated new content to the APIPP website adkinvasives.com. Some new features include an [interactive invasive species distribution map](#), a ["Videos & Recordings"](#) page and an ["APIPP in the News"](#) page.
- APIPP has completed phase one of a new priority setting process and has finalized its target and watched species for the PRISM. These species lists can be found under the ["Target"](#) and ["Watched"](#) Species Pages on APIPP's website.
- APIPP and an advisory team of partners have met 3 times over the winter to plan for the continuation of the Adirondack AIS prevention program. Boat wash stations and boat launch stewards will again be positioned across the region as part of this program with new education and outreach elements incorporated.
- NYSDEC AIS spread prevention program grants awarded in the Adirondack region include:
 - Lake George Association
 - Long Lake Association
 - Town of Arietta
 - Town of Horicon
 - Town of Lake Pleasant
 - Town of North Elba
 - Paul Smith's College & the Fund for Lake George
 - Town of Caroga
 - Town of Lake Pleasant
 - Town of North Elba

- APIPP has been working with Behan communications over the winter to advance APIPP's 5-year strategic communications and marketing plan (see report out from Behan later on in meeting notes).
- Brendan and Zack completed training to add demonstration and research to their pesticide certification. APIPP can now advance demonstration and research projects to develop new herbicide best management practices for invasive species.

Overview of 2016 Work Plan

- APIPP's 2016 annual work plan has been finalized and is available under "[Annual Work Plans](#)" on APIPP's website.
- Training opportunities and events are beginning to be posted to the "[Events Calendar](#)" of APIPP's website.
- APIPP will be holding a [Forest Pest Summit](#) on July 11th during ISAW; bringing in experts from across the state and country to discuss the implications of imminent forest pests to the Adirondacks
- Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW) will be held the week of July 10th. APIPP's Seasonal Educator, Mitchell Jones, will be coordinating various ISAW events across the region.
- APIPP will be finalizing its first set of invasive species prevention and management training videos by the end of the summer

APIPP Terrestrial Project Update (Zachary Simek)

- Overview of work accomplished in 2015:
 - APIPP's terrestrial invasive species distribution database was updated to include 2,570 occurrences including:
 - 531 new occurrences
 - 960 assessments
 - 476 treatments
 - 227 sites documented as "No Plants Observed"
- Invasive Plant Control Inc. (IPC) will serve as APIPP's terrestrial rapid response team again in 2016. They will focus on management of APIPP's target species in the interior Adirondacks, while performing surveys and strategic management in outlying areas.
- Stephen Slonosky will once again serve as the Adirondack Invasive Species Campground Manager. He will oversee the management of APIPP's target terrestrial plant species in DEC campgrounds and trailheads throughout the Adirondack Park.
- The Student Conservation Association (SCA) will once again assist APIPP with the management of terrestrial invasive plant species in DEC campgrounds. Two crews will be deployed in the Lake George and Old Forge regions.
- APIPP purchased a DJI Phantom 3 Professional drone to use for invasive plant surveying in wetlands and other difficult to access areas. The team is awaiting authorization and permitting from the Federal Aviation Administration and NYSDEC to fly during the 2016 field season.
- Priority infestation updates:

- Elizabethtown – Black swallow-wort
 - Landowner permission was granted to treat the largest known patch of black swallow-wort in the interior of the Adirondacks
 - Additional permissions are still needed to treat satellite infestations located on adjacent private properties. Education and outreach efforts will continue in order to gain access to these sites
- Grasse River – Japanese knotweed
 - Permission was granted to treat several infestations of Japanese knotweed that were documented spreading down the Grasse River
- Chestertown – Phragmites
 - APIPP is still seeking permission to treat a large infestation of Phragmites located on two private properties in the Town of Chester, adjacent to state route 9
 - Any partners with information about the owners of these parcels are asked to contact APIPP
- Moose River Rd. – Japanese knotweed
 - APIPP is still seeking permission to treat numerous infestations of Japanese knotweed that span multiple private properties along the Moose River Rd. near Forestport
- APIPP purchased a new work pickup truck and would like to thank its partners and donors for their contributions in making this purchase possible.
- In collaboration with Cornell University, APIPP will be submitting a manuscript to the Journal “Biological Invasions” documenting its phragmites management project
- A case study of [APIPP’s Phragmites management project](#) was recently posted to the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative webpage.
- Dates are set for APIPP’s 2016 Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management Trainings to be held in Paul Smiths, Star Lake and Speculator. NYS pesticide applicators are eligible to receive 2.5 credits in category 2, 3a, 6a, 9 and 10.
- In collaboration with partners, APIPP submitted and received approval for 2ee special registrations for Japanese knotweed, Japanese stiltgrass, false & Japanese spirea, and scotch broom.
- See the Terrestrial Project’s entire update [here](#).

APIPP Aquatic Project Update (Erin Vennie-Vollrath)

- APIPP’s seasonal invasive species educator, Mitchell Jones, will serve as the primary contact for AIS related inquires while Erin is out on maternity leave
- Dates are set for three aquatic invasive plant identification and survey trainings, and one aquatic invasive animal training.
 - Plant trainings will be held in Bolton Landing, Paul Smiths, and Old Forge
 - An animal training will be held in Old Forge

- In collaboration with the ADK Mt. Club, the backcountry water monitors program will continue for its second year.
 - Trainings will be offered in Albany and Lake Placid.
- The Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) will once again serve as APIPP's aquatic rapid response team.
 - In 2015, the AWI team surveyed 38 lakes; no EDRR infestations were identified
 - APIPP is currently prioritizing lakes that will be managed by the response team in 2016
 - Potential management projects include boat matting or hand pulling of invasive plants near popular boat launches (Ex. Fish Creek Pond)
- In collaboration with the Adirondack Lakes Alliance, APIPP created a survey to evaluate the needs of lake and river associations in the region. The survey can be accessed [here](#)

Partner Roundtable

Adirondack Park Agency - Leigh Walrath

- APA is in the process of transferring new aquatic general permits to lake associations who previously held one
- APA recently worked with AquaLogic to determine whether suction harvesting of AIS would be allowed under a general permit and decided that it would be.

Charlotte Invasives Collaborative -Sue Smith

- Sue volunteered to assist with APIPP's Phragmites management efforts on state route 374
- The Charlotte Invasives Collaborative is currently managing 14 phragmites sites
- European frog bit management efforts will enter their 9th season
- The Collaborative will initiate some yellow iris management this field season

NY Power Authority

- The Power Authority is working with Chris Nowak of SUNY-ESF to study invasive species transport along utility ROWs
- The study will evaluate what seeds are being spread and the effectiveness of various cleaning techniques
- The Power Authority installed AIS signage at its boat launch sites in the region

NYSDEC - Fred Dunlap

- Currently preparing for the field season
- Executed an MOU with Plattsburgh to conduct long term monitoring on Lake Champlain
- Spiny waterflea was documented as widespread throughout Lake Champlain last season; monitoring will continue this year
- Spiny waterflea spot checks are planned for inland lakes of the Lake Champlain basin, such as Lake Placid

Don Grout – Lake Placid Master Gardener

- The master gardeners will continue their presence at farmer's markets throughout the region and will provide education and outreach materials to the general public

Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) - Guy Middleton

- The USF received a LCBP grant for 1 boat launch steward to be positioned at Upper Saranac Lake; will contract with AWI for staffing
- Received a grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation for a decontamination station at the Upper Saranac Lake DEC Boat Launch. However, an alternative location for the unit has been requested by NYSDEC.
- Applied for a NYSDEC AIS spread prevention grant, but did not receive it.
- The USF continues to document great success with its milfoil management efforts
 - In the mid-1990s, 18 tons of plant material was removed
 - In 2015, only 300lbs of milfoil was harvested
- The USF is seeking to expand its mgmt. efforts, perhaps into Fish Creek Pond
- In partnership with the AWI, two Water Shield Workshops will be offered in 2016; one during ISAW
- An Asian clam survey with volunteer shore owners is planned for July
 - 10 sites were sampled in 2015

Lake George Association - Kristen Rhone

- The Lake George Mandatory Boat Inspection Program will resume on May 1st
- Asian clam monitoring and management will continue this season
 - An infestation near Rogers Rock was treated during the winter
- A citizen science Asian clam day will be held during invasive species awareness week on July 12th
- The LGA will employ two invasive species education and outreach interns this summer that will provide invasive species programming in the Lake George region and steward at car-top boat launch sites
- The LGA received a NYSDEC AIS spread prevention grant to fund stewards at town launches in Hague and Putnam

Look Lake Park Association -Ed Greismer

- The lake will be open with a boat launch steward from Memorial Day to Columbus Day
- Milfoil and Water Chestnut management efforts will continue this season

Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA) – Ed Greismer

- ALA held its 1st symposium last year at Paul Smith's College with an excellent turnout
- A second symposium will be hosted at Paul Smith's College on July 29th
 - A large focus will be on road run-off and water quality issues, with expert presenters from around the state and country including APIPP's former Director, Hilary Smith

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

- Delivered a presentation at the Indian Lake Central School in March on invasive insects
- Participated in a Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) event and presented on the Asian longhorned beetle to 3rd-8th graders and parents
- Participated in the Wells Central School health day; presented to 3rd-8th graders on invasive species and their public health impacts
- NYSDEC AIS spread prevention grants were awarded to 5 applicants in Hamilton County
- HCSWCD is in the process of hiring a water quality intern who will assist with water quality monitoring and some invasive species surveys
- Two invasive species related presentations are planned during ISAW

St. Lawrence County CCE - Paul Hetzler

- Held an all day workshop for nursery and landscape professionals including topics on invasive species
- Currently performing lots of invasive species programing across the region with a focus on agricultural invasives
- Will assist APIPP with invasive animal review during its priority setting process.

Paul Smiths College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) - Kathleen Wiley

- The AWI employed 6 staff through the winter who performed education and outreach at various events
- The team is currently making preparations for the field season
- Staff hiring is underway, with stewards still needed for:
 - Ticonderoga
 - Long Lake
 - Black Lake
 - Lake Bonaparte
 - South Colton Town of Day
 - Raquette Lake
 - Stillwater Reservoir
- Approximately 70 stewards will be employed across the region in 2016

Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) - Warren Rosenthal

- Purple loosestrife bio-control beetle releases were performed in 2015 at a preserve in the Town of Putnam; additional beetles will be released in 2016
- Japanese knotweed eradication efforts will continue this season on all LGLC lands
- Garlic mustard treatment is planned for one site
- The LGLC will continue the 3rd year of bush honeysuckle management at Pilot Knob
- A series of public workdays are planned on June 7th-9th at the Cook Mountain preserve in Ticonderoga to mechanically manage bush honeysuckle
- Efforts are underway to prepare for the arrival of hemlock woolly adelgid

Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) – Meg Modley

- LCBP grants funded numerous projects in the region including:
 - The ADK backcountry water monitoring program
 - One Ausable River steward
 - Lake Colby milfoil harvesting
 - Multiple boat launch stewards in Vermont
 - Two LGA education and outreach interns
 - An assessment of aquatic vegetation in the Town of Crown Point around Monitor Bay
 - One Upper Saranac Lake steward position
- The ECHO Science Center established a permanent display focusing on AIS
- LCBP purchased boat decontamination units to be deployed in NY and VT
- In collaboration with the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the LCBP is currently working with the American Boating and Yachting Club to address how boat design may be modified to limit the spread of AIS
- LCBP is currently in the final stages of executing a contract with the US Army Corp of Engineers and Canal Corporation to perform a feasibility study for a hydrologic barrier on the Champlain Canal
- A RFP for local implementation grants will be released this summer
- Boat launch stewards on Lake Champlain will continue in 2016. The committee approved increased funds for 2017, including two potential positions in Quebec.

NYSDEC – Invasive Species Coordination Unit (ISCU) - Leslie Surprenant

- Staff at the ISCU unit increased from 2-5 with the addition of Cathy McGyInn (AIS Coordinator), Willow Eyres (Rapid Response & Management Coordinator), and Megan Phillips (Education and Outreach Coordinator)
- The ISCU developed and released the AIS spread prevention grant program
 - \$2,092,000 was awarded across the state
- New York's AIS Management Plan was updated and approved
 - Received 130 public comments and 85 from the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- \$12 million was included in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund for invasive species, including \$6 million for control and eradication
- ISCU staff will assist with the state wide boat launch steward training. The program will be recorded and made available for distribution on DVD.
- The “reasonable precaution” regulations are in a final round of executive review and should be published for comment May 25th
- A draft Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species was released for public comment on April 28th
- A new round of invasive plant threat ranking assessments are currently underway. An RFP to perform additional animal assessments may be released soon.
- Management of a hydrilla infestation in the Croton River is underway

- Research questions were consolidated at the last Invasive Species Council meeting. The following projects were selected to be advanced:
 - Hemlock woolly adelgid biocontrol testing
 - Phragmites biocontrol development
 - Water chestnut biocontrol development
 - Swallow-wort biocontrol development
 - An invasive species management priority setting process
- Leslie will retire from her position with the NYSDEC in May. Thank you Leslie!

Guest Presentations:

- AIPPP Communications and Marketing Plan Development Presentation and Discussion with Philip Schwartz of Behan Communications
 - The project was initiated in January
 - Behan is currently researching potential communication and outreach avenues in the region
 - A 25 question interview about invasives, media habits, awareness of past outreach work was developed and administered
 - Found that, in general, knowledge of invasive species is stronger for aquatics
 - AIPPP's communication and marketing plan will likely include a multifaceted approach:
 - Earned media – newspaper
 - Public event outreach – farmers markets
 - Social media
 - Digital media – webpage
 - There may be a need to develop a single symbol to represent invasive species that would be widely recognized; a Smokey Bear of invasive species.
- [“Invasive Species Exposure Modeling for Adirondack Park Trailheads”](#) Dan Rockefeller, Graduate Student and Researcher, SUNY ESF
- [“Examining Patterns of Aquatic Invasion with the Adirondacks”](#) Dr. Richard Shaker, Assistant Professor of Geography & Environmental Studies, Ryerson University

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