



## 2016 APIPP Fall Partner Meeting Notes

**Date:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Location:** Adirondack Park Agency, Raybrook, NY

**Attendees:** Brendan Quirion, Zack Simek, Erin Vennie-Vollrath (APIPP), Anne Greene (Bolton Terrestrial Invasive Plant Program), Leigh Walrath (APA), Megan Phillips, Fred Dunlap (DEC), Mark Malchoff (New York Sea Grant), Kristen Wilde (Lake George Association), Jane Smith (Adirondack Lakes Alliance), Kathleen Wiley (Adirondack Watershed Institute), Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Foundation), Emily Liebelt (Adirondack Council), Warren Rosenthal (Lake George Land Conservancy), Tom Colarusso (USDA APHIS), Jolene Wallace (Clinton County Cornell Cooperative Extension); *On Phone:* Caitlin Stewart (Hamilton County Soil & Water District), Becky Miller (DOT)

### PRISM Report (Brendan Quirion):

- APIPP has updated its logo which can be seen at the top right corner of this page.
- 2016 Education & Outreach (E&O) Initiatives:
  - Mitchell Jones served as APIPP's seasonal educator. He led the aquatic invasive species ID trainings this year during Erin's maternity leave and participated in multiple E&O activities during the summer.
  - Adirondack Forest Pest Summit – APIPP, along with multiple partners, hosted a summit focused on forest pests on July 11, 2016. The summit brought in expert speakers to discuss both the national and local situation on forest pests.
  - DOT Invasive Plant BMP Training – APIPP held two trainings for DOT and local DPW staff on terrestrial invasive plant BMPs for the road right of way. The trainings were held at the DOT residencies in Indian Lake and Cranberry Lake. Brendan and Zack also presented and led a field trip during the 2016 Northeast Transportation & Wildlife Conference in Lake Placid.
  - This year APIPP contracted to have a billboard installed along the I-87 Northway near Glen Falls. The billboard was up from May through October reaching approximately 40k commuters per day. The billboard media and text can be viewed below.
  - Video Production Project – APIPP is creating four short videos on invasive species impacts and prevention/monitoring/management techniques. One will be a short (<5min) overview of the Adirondack situation and a call for collective action to prevent the spread. The other three videos will be more focused on specific prevention and management techniques for Phragmites and Knotweed as well as prevention and monitoring techniques for aquatic invasive species (AIS).



- Audiences Reached by APIPP to Date:
  - 13,250 people reached through APIPP presentations to-date
  - 360 different events presented at by APIPP staff to-date
- APIPP worked with Behan Communications to develop a 5-year Communications and Marketing Strategy which is available for review at the link below. This plan identifies target audiences and how to best promote small behavioral changes to prevent the spread of invasive species in the Adirondacks.  
<https://tnc.box.com/s/pqnbvmlpg4mrttt23pgxe8x6zxhdefkj>
- The ADK AIS Spread Prevention Program continues to expand. This 2-year pilot program initiated by Governor Cuomo advances boat launch steward and boat decontamination infrastructure in the Adirondacks to prevent the spread of AIS. The program is directed by an Advisory Committee which is led by APIPP and is currently pursuing sustained funding for the program under a request for proposals announced by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Advancing Relevant Research – APIPP worked with researchers at Union College to publish a scientific article in the journal Restoration Ecology; “Assessing feasibility in invasive plant management: a retrospective analysis of garlic mustard control”. APIPP is also currently working with researchers at Cornell University to publish APIPP’s results managing Phragmites in the journal Biological Invasions.
- Proactively Addressing New Threats – Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is moving towards the Adirondacks and is as far north as Troy. APIPP is working with partners and the New York State hemlock initiative to identify areas to monitor for HWA and where to engage in management when it is found.
- APIPP is continuing to create a tiered approach for setting invasives species management priorities for both the aquatic and terrestrial projects. This approach includes assessing the invasiveness and manageability of each target species followed by identifying projects that each response team will address.

#### **APIPP Terrestrial Project Update (Zack Simek):**

- Stephen Slonosky returned for a second season as the DEC invasive Species Campground Manager. He visited all 38 Adirondack campgrounds and surveyed for target terrestrial invasive plants. He also surveyed 11 trailheads. He found 8 campgrounds to be free of target invasive plants.
- APIPP partnered with DOT to complete treatments of *Phragmites* and knotweed along Route 29A and I-87 as well as management of lower priority invasives newly introduced to the whiteface memorial highway. Invasive plants had been introduced through contaminated fill used for a comprehensive construction project of the highway in 2015. These new introductions threaten several species of rare and threatened alpine species growing along the highway.
- 2016 Terrestrial Response Team Results:
  - APIPP contracted again with Invasive Plant Control Inc. to provide the 2016 terrestrial response team
  - Overall Summary: 347 new infestations documented, 1205 assessments performed, 480 treatments performed, 340 ‘no plants observed’ sites documented after receiving one or more treatments
  - Yellow Iris: New treatment technique (foliar spray) approved in 2015 has led to better management results. Native plants are already beginning to return to treated sites.

- Swallow-wort species: Very few infestations of swallow-wort are known to be present within the interior Adirondacks. 21 sites were surveyed across the PRISM infesting a cumulative total of 4.5 acres. 16 sites were newly documented including a new infestation near Caroga Lake. 18 sites received treatment.
- Knotweed: Second most treated species within the PRISM. APIPP focuses on infestations outside of hamlets that are or have the potential to impact areas of high conservation value. Fewer new sites are being documented over time, and there has been an increase in the number of 'no plants observed' sites. These sites, when originally discovered, were very small infestations; emphasizing the importance of early detection and rapid response.
- *Phragmites*: The most commonly managed species by APIPP's terrestrial response team. Over time there has been a significant increase in the number of 'no plants observed' sites. 51% of APIPP's historically managed sites have transitioned to 'no plants observed' for one or more years.
- The Terrestrial Response Team's Final Report will be available by the end of November.
- Education and Outreach:
  - Held 3 trainings on terrestrial invasive plant identification and management – reached 48 people
  - Held 1 Backcountry Forest Pest Monitors Training – reached 18 people
  - Held 2 DOT and high department BMP trainings – reached 70 people
- Drone work - FAA Part 107 Regulations became effective Aug 2016. Zack will be getting certified as a commercial UAV pilot over the winter and hopes to implement drone monitoring for invasive plants in 2017.
- Off Season Projects:
  - Working to develop new ArcCollector based mobile data collection system for TNC staff.
  - Identifying opportunities for terrestrial volunteer engagement such as the creation of a secondary road monitoring project.
  - Updating APIPP's interactive invasive species distribution map
  - Finalizing three-tier priority setting process
  - Completing drone certification
  - Revising Interagency Guidelines to include all taxa
  - Finalize publication of *Phragmites* management results in the journal Biological Invasions

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

- Trainings:
  - Three aquatic invasive plant ID trainings were held in Bolton Landing (June 21<sup>st</sup>), Paul Smiths (June 23<sup>rd</sup>), and Old Forge (June 30<sup>th</sup>) – 58 participants
  - Two ADK Backcountry Water Monitors trainings were held with the ADK Mountain Club in Albany (June 4<sup>th</sup>) and Lake Placid (July 30<sup>th</sup>) – 30 participants
  - One aquatic invasive animal ID training was held with New York Sea Grant in Old Forge – 2 participants
- Monitoring:
  - 15<sup>th</sup> season of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. So far we've gotten data back from 91 volunteers for 76 waterways.
  - Asian clam monitoring: 41 lakes monitored for Asian clam by APIPP's AIS Response Team and lake associations. No new lake infestations in 2016.

- Spiny waterflea monitoring: 50 lakes monitored by APIPP's AIS Response team and partners. One new discovery in Indian Lake (Hamilton Co.)
- New AIS reports for 2016:
  - Water chestnut in Lake Alice (Clinton Co.)
  - Variable leaf milfoil in Oswegatchie River Impoundment (St. Lawrence Co.)
  - Variable leaf milfoil in Little Forked Lake (Hamilton Co.)
  - Curly leaf pondweed in Cranberry Lake (St. Lawrence Co.)
  - Spiny waterflea in Indian Lake (Hamilton Co.)
- Totals: 103 lakes with an AIS reported and 249 lakes surveyed with no AIS observed. About 7 out of every 10 lakes surveyed are AIS-free! New AIS distribution map available and to be incorporated into APIPP's interactive map.
- 2016 Aquatic Response Team Results:
  - APIPP contracted with the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) for a second time to provide the 2016 aquatic response team.
  - 39 lakes were surveyed by the team for aquatic invasive plants, Asian clams and spiny waterflea.
  - 15 of the surveyed lakes had a historic infestation of an AIS and one newly reported infested lake, the Oswegatchie River Impoundment. 15 with variable leaf milfoil, four with Eurasian water milfoil, and one with curly leaf pondweed.
  - Five lakes had historically reported AIS that were not found upon follow-up survey in 2016 by the response team:
    - Second and Fourth Lakes (Fulton Chain) had Eurasian watermilfoil reported in 2009. The Adirondack Watershed Institute completed hand harvesting of the small infestations (<1 acre each) in 2009. The response team did not find any Eurasian watermilfoil upon follow-up survey in 2016.
    - Carry Falls Reservoir and Soft Maple Reservoir have both had historic infestations of variable leaf milfoil but the species was not found in 2016. The lack of establishment is likely due to the greatly fluctuating water levels in these two lakes.
    - Nicks Lake (Herkimer Co.) had variable leaf milfoil reported in 2013, but it was not found in 2016. APIPP and AWI are looking into possible explanations.
  - Response Team Management Project:
    - The response team completed a small management project of invasive milfoils in Fish Creek Ponds to supplement the work being done by the Upper Saranac Foundation. Diver-assisted hand harvesting was conducted in a 2.6-acre area just south of the Fish Creek Ponds boat launch. APIPP prioritized management of this infestation in order to reduce the likelihood that boaters accessing or exiting the lake would transport invasive material to uninvaded sections of the lake or surrounding waters.
- Management: APIPP completed its 10<sup>th</sup> year of hand harvesting European frog-bit in a slough of the Grasse River at Lamson Falls. This was the first year that no plants were observed. APIPP will continue surveys and follow-up management work as needed until no new plants are seen for 3 consecutive years and the infestation can be deemed eradicated.
- ALA/APIPP Survey: APIPP partnered with the Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA) to conduct an online survey of lake associations in the PRISM. Survey questions were focused on lake association structure, the top threats and challenges faced by associations, and efforts underway to address AIS. An infographic will be produced over the winter to share the survey results.

- Adirondack AIS Spread Prevention Pilot Program Summary:
  - APIPP partnered with regional partners for the second year to advance the pilot program. The program strategically placed high pressure, hot water boat wash stations and boat launch stewards throughout the region. The majority of the boat wash stations and stewards were managed by AWI, but there were also stewards and boat wash stations managed by the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake George Park Commission, Lake George Association, towns and lake associations.
  - Preliminary data from 2016 program:
    - 49,257 boats inspected
    - 1,701 boats intercepted with an AIS
      - 1,050 Eurasian Watermilfoil
      - 259 Curly Leaf Pondweed
      - 221 Zebra Mussels
      - 143 Variable Leaf Milfoil
      - 25 Water Chestnut
      - 2 Spiny Waterflea
      - 1 Quagga Mussel
- Off Season Projects:
  - Analyze 2016 volunteer and partner data and update databases
  - Prioritize waterways for 2017 volunteer and partner monitoring
  - Expand monitoring for aquatic invasive animals. Explore new spiny waterflea monitoring protocols.
  - Continue to work on formalizing an Adirondack AIS Rapid Response Framework
  - Explore interest and need to update the white paper “Boat Inspection and Decontamination for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention: Recommendations for the Adirondack Region” based on results and new data from Adirondack AIS Prevention Pilot Program. Will collaborate with original authors and partners to write second version if there is interest.

#### **Partner Round Table Updates:**

- **Adirondack Park Agency** - Leigh Walrath:
  - Issued new general permits for AIS management to a number of Lake Associations in the region.
  - Developed a letter of non-jurisdiction for diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH). A new alternative for aquatic invasive plant management. DASH was used by Aqualogic Inc. on Lake Minerva this year and APIPP’s seasonal educator wrote a blog on the process - <http://adkinvasives.com/minerva-lakes-dash-for-urasian-watermilfoil-control/>
  - Leigh assisted with Lake George Asian clam surveys. Three new sites were found, which will not be managed. So far, no water quality impacts have been observed near the infestations.
- **Bolton Terrestrial Invasive Plant Program (BTIPP)** - Anne Greene:
  - Over the spring/early summer assessed how BTIPP would need to evolve its infrastructure in order to continue facilitating the treatment of knotweed on private properties. It was determined that BTIPP would need to become a certified pesticide business which volunteers were not willing to take on. BTIPP has handed the majority of

its treatment responsibilities to the town of Bolton which performed some town right-of-way work over the summer.

- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** - Meg Phillips & Fred Dunlap:
  - NYS Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW) Results: 102 events held across the state with a couple of statewide initiatives (HWA documentary showings). Will be posting a video on ISAW outcomes to DEC's YouTube channel.
  - Meg is currently working on a statewide E&O plan which will implement 6 priority objectives identified including, among others, developing an invasive species educational curriculum for schools and augmenting resources available for ISAW.
  - DEC is also looking to get the NYS invasive species clearinghouse website updated and back up and running.
  - Fred is looking to develop a spiny waterflea monitoring protocol using oblique tows. APIPP and DEC will coordinate to implement the protocol in 2017.
  - Water chestnut mechanical harvesting in Lake Champlain has pushed the species further south than any previous years. DEC is hoping to get to the point where population levels are low enough to employ hand harvesting. The project now has funding through 2019.
  - Asian clam was found in Lake Bomoseen, VT., a tributary to Lake Champlain. Additionally, clams have been found in the canal, but have not yet been detected in Lake Champlain. SUNY Plattsburgh continues to monitor Lake Champlain for the presence of Asian clam and other small-bodied AIS using zooplankton tows.
- **New York Sea Grant** - Mark Malchoff:
  - Conducted outreach to anglers at multiple tournaments (FLW Tour and Bassmaster)
  - Gave a presentation on Lake Champlain AIS issues for the Fisheries Institute at Crown Point.
  - Co-hosted the aquatic invasive animal ID training with APIPP
- **Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)** - Tom Colarusso:
  - Monitoring Work continues for invasive bark beetles.
  - Emerald ash borer (EAB) in NYS is federally quarantined. Other agencies have different quarantine statuses. Contact Tom if you'd like to learn more. APHIS has reduced the amount of resources dedicated to EAB given its continued spread.
  - Tom served as an analyst with customs and boarder protection and worked on imports into the state. Goods posing a risk of introducing invasive species are seized.
  - Looking ahead, Tom will continue working to address invasive bark beetle as well as perform education and outreach on EAB, Asian Long-horned Beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, etc.
- **Lake George Association (LGA)** - Kristen Wilde:
  - LGA had two seasonal E&O staff that attended numerous events including farmers markets, canoe/kayak outings on Lake George (Fridays and Saturdays), ISAW events, etc.
  - Initiated a volunteer project documenting densities of Asian clam over time in specific locations.
  - The Rogers Rock Asian clam infestation was managed with benthic mats which appears to have been successful. Monitoring will continue to track success over time.
  - Developed an invasive species kit for teachers so that they can develop invasive species programs for their classes. Adaptable to other locations, so if you're interested talk to Kristen.

- LGA didn't receive the DEC grant funding for stewards until late in the season, so stewards won't be deployed at launches until 2017.
- **Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA)** - Jane Smith:
  - Second ALA Symposium held at Paul Smiths College on July 29<sup>th</sup> was a success!
  - ALA is going to focus on developing Lake Management Plans for Lake Associations over the coming year.
- **Adirondack Watershed Institute** - Kathleen Wiley
  - AWI is developing a final report on the results of the Adirondack AIS Prevention Program.
  - AWI hopes to engage in some additional education and outreach over the winter.
  - Will be working over the winter to increase staff capacity, revamp trainings, and develop new materials for next year's program.
- **Adirondack Council** - Emily Liebelt:
  - Focused on climate change initiatives lead by the Council
  - Looking to increase awareness among staff and members on invasive species
  - Potential opportunity to collaborate on projects addressing the interaction of invasive species and climate change
- **Upper Saranac Foundation** - Guy Middleton:
  - Held 1 watershed workshop.
  - Had another successful year of Milfoil management. Surveyed 1200 acres of littoral zone and removed 300 lbs. of milfoil from Upper Saranac Lake. Expanded management into Fish Creek Ponds and removed 9 tons of milfoil.
  - Completed Asian clam surveys of Upper Saranac Lake's sandy areas and found none.
  - Expanded boat launch stewardship program for this season. Providing close to 7 days of coverage at the back bay launch and 4 days at the fish creek launch.
  - Still looking to get permission from DEC to deploy a boat decontamination station.
- **Lake George Land Conservancy** – Warren Rosenthal
  - Working to manage invasive honeysuckles on conservancy lands.
  - Managing knotweed on all properties and have reduced populations by 90% with only a few plants returning at most locations. There have been instances where garlic mustard is now invading areas cleared of knotweed.
  - Started managing Phragmites this year using stem injections, starting with small infestations. It is challenging to find certified pesticide applicators with category 5-A to contract with.
- **Clinton County Cornell Cooperative Extension** – Jolene Wallace
  - Getting more and more involved with invasive species and educating county residents. Focus is also moving more toward climate change and associated impacts.
  - Many presentations given on invasive species to a variety of audiences.
  - Wild parsnip is becoming more and more of a concern in Clinton County.
  - Looking for additional resources that can be shared with Clinton County audiences.
- **Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District** - Caitlin Stewart
  - Participated in ISAW; hosted EAB game in Wells
  - Caitlin spread the word of spiny waterflea being documented in Indian Lake via a local press release.
  - Submitted multiple Conservation Corner newspaper articles on invasive species
  - Staffed an education and outreach booth on invasive species at numerous events
- **Department of Transportation** - Becky Miller:

- Participated in ISAW; worked with Zack to perform treatments of multiple invasive plant infestations
- Held multiple invasive species trainings for DOT mowers
- Assisted with an invasive species training in Fulton County

**APIPP Achievement Award:**

APIPP's 2016 Volunteer Achievement Award was presented to Anne Green of the Bolton Terrestrial Invasive Plant Program. Anne was recognized for her vital leadership and coordination of the BTIPP program, which was instrumental in advancing the treatment of 10's of acres of knotweed along tributaries to Lake George and along road right-of-ways. Under Anne's leadership, the program has served as a model for other Adirondack communities seeking to advance similar invasive species initiatives.

Thank you Anne!

**Communications and Marketing Strategy (Brendan Quirion):**

- APIPP contracted with Behan Communications, Inc. to develop plan.
- It identifies target Audiences:
  - Adirondack Residents
  - Highway Dept. Personnel
  - Foodies at Farmers Markets
  - Outdoor Enthusiasts 1: Hikers, Hunters and Mountain Bikers
  - Outdoor Enthusiasts 2: Anglers (and Bait Dealers)
  - Nurseries and Landscapers
  - Adirondack Visitors
- First priority is message development that unifies all invasive species messages (i.e. Clean. Drain. Dry., Don't move firewood, etc.).
- Communications tools will be developed including:
  - New fliers, brochures and other print materials. These will be targeted to the new audiences and packaged in APIPP "Tool Kits"
  - A Social media presence will be developed: APIPP Facebook page and possibly Twitter
  - The APIPP website will be improved and a micro-site will be created to provide easily accessible information to each audience group.
  - Traditional media and traditional advertising will not be ignored. Will continue press releases, interviews, op-eds, etc.
- Implementation and Timeline: First year will be dedicated to message development, micro-site creation and tool kits. Following years will target specific audiences.
- Comments from partners:
  - Opportunities may exist to educate aquatic audiences for terrestrial species. For example, anglers would be valuable for HWA monitoring
  - ATV users should be considered since they may be transporting seeds on muddy tires.
  - When reaching out to new audiences it's important to lay out why they should care about and what actions they can take.

**Hemlock Initiative Potential Adirondack Pilot Project (Zack Simek):**



- HWA is only about 50 miles from the southern border of the PRISM. We are looking for a proactive approach to monitor and respond to this pest.
- Areas of the PRISM such as the Lake George and Champlain basins have some of the highest densities of hemlock anywhere in the State so there is great concern about the arrival of HWA and the potential loss of the hemlock resource.
- APIPP and partners would like to facilitate hemlock conservation by advancing a pilot project focused on early detection and rapid response.
- APIPP is pursuing different opportunities for remote sensing to identify stands of hemlocks and prioritize them for survey.
- The “Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing BMPs to Control Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species on DEC Administered Lands of the Adirondack Park” needs to also address organisms beyond plants. Over the winter, Zack will work with DEC and APA to get this document updated so that rapid response can take place for HWA when it arrives.
- The Lake George Land Conservancy is taking the lead on an E&O project surrounding HWA in the Lake George basin. The LGLC has applied for a grant from the LCBP to advance this education and outreach strategy.

Comments from partners:

- Check out the lamprey treatment program for the Great Lakes as an example of how to prioritize treatment.
- Skidmore College has a lot of hemlock on the property and would be a good place to develop an early detection team.

#### **Adirondack AIS Prevention Program RFP & Proposal (Erin Vennie-Vollrath):**

- The Request for Proposals:
  - Advances program under a three-year contract with DEC
  - Program designed to deliver education and outreach through voluntary boat inspection at boat access sites
  - Focus is on containing small-bodied AIS to invaded lakes (i.e. spiny waterflea and zebra mussels)
  - Advances 9-11 Decontamination Stations at pre-selected locations
  - Advances 15-17 Outreach Steward locations at required and optional locations listed in attachment 11.
- Timeline & Process:
  - RFP Released: Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and Due to DEC: Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Anticipated Contract Term: 1/1/17 through 12/31/19 with two possible one-year extensions
  - AWI was the lead applicant. AWI and APIPP worked with an advisory committee of partners to complete the proposal.
- Proposal:
  - 28 locations were included. 11 decontamination stations and 17 outreach steward only locations.
  - For each decontamination station location, a site profile was created which outlined the traffic flow, site preparations, water, resources and equipment needed.
  - An education & outreach plan was included in the proposal, building off experiences of the pilot program. The E&O plan would include the I-87 billboard, signage, rack cards, radio spots, advertising, website, interviews, articles, press releases, etc.

*Notes prepared by E. Vennie-Vollrath and reviewed by B. Quirion and Z. Simek.*