



Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)
2017 Spring Partner Meeting Minutes
The Nature Conservancy, Keene Valley, NY
April 27th 2017 9:30-3:00

Attendees: Leigh Walrath (APA); Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Foundation); Kathleen Wiley, Jeff Sann, Eric Holmlund, Sue O'Reilly (Adirondack Watershed Institute); Jackie Bowen (Adirondack Council); Ezra Schwartzberg (Adirondack Research); Sue Smith, Marty Illick (Lewis Creek Association/Charlotte Invasives Collaborative); Paul Hetzler (St. Lawrence County CCE); Willow Ayers, Kathy McGlynn (NYSDEC Invasive Species Coordination Unit); Jane Smith, Ed Griesmer (Adirondack Lakes Alliance); Warren Rosenthal, Alex Novick (Lake George Land Conservancy); Stephanie Larken (Region 6 DEC); Scott Kapeller (NYSDOT); Don Grout (CCE Master Gardener); Carly Summers & Linda Gilliland (Essex County CCE); John Gwortz (NYPA); Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program)

APIPP PRISM Report (Brendan Quirion)

- APIPP's Annual [Work Plan](#) is complete and can be viewed online
- APIPP contracted with Behan Communications Inc. to develop a 5-year communications and marketing strategy for the program. Implementation of the plan will begin in 2017 and continue through 2021.
- APIPP released its first short [video](#) that provides a general overview of the invasive species threat and a call to action. Three additional videos are planned to be released over the course of the field season.
- APIPP's 2017 Seasonal Educator, Emily Pomeroy, will start May 22nd and serve as the lead for APIPP's education and outreach events throughout the summer.
- New York's fourth annual Invasive Species Awareness Week will be held July 9th to 15th. [Contact](#) APIPP to schedule an event in the Adirondack PRISM.
- APIPP is continuing to advance through a [priority setting process](#) that will inform future management efforts. An overview of [target and watched species](#), [management targets](#), and [priority projects](#) can be found on APIPP's website.

Terrestrial Project Overview (Zachary Simek)

- APIPP's terrestrial invasive species distribution database was updated after the 2016 field season to include 2800+ occurrences of target plant species. The location of known infestations can be viewed on APIPP's [interactive invasive species distribution map](#).
- The Terrestrial Project continues to document invasive species management success. In 2016, 51% of historic *Phragmites* sites in the interior Adirondacks had no invasive plants present for at least one year!
- Invasive Plant Control (IPC) will serve as APIPP's Terrestrial Response Team for the sixth year. The team will begin in June and will lead surveying and management efforts

- The Terrestrial Project will be piloting a new mobile monitoring data system that operates on Arc Collector. The new program is expected to increase the efficiency of field data collection.
- For the sixth year, APIPP will partner with NYSDEC and SUNY ESF to coordinate an Adirondack Invasive Species Campground Manger. The Campground Manager will lead invasive plant surveying and management efforts at DEC's Adirondack Campgrounds.
- APIPP is collaborating with researchers from Cornell University to publish results of ongoing Phragmites management work. The article is currently in review for publication in the journal Biological Invasions.
- This field season, the Terrestrial Project will advance an unmanned aerial system (UAS) monitoring program to test the feasibility of the technology for detecting infestations of invasive plants in remote areas.
- In collaboration with partners from SLELO PRISM and Adirondack Research, APIPP recently completed a 10-week collaborative project with NASA's Develop Program that aimed to map the distribution of hemlock resources in Northern New York to better prioritize surveillance efforts for hemlock woolly adelgid. The NASA team produced a [short video describing the project](#).
- APIPP is currently working with partners from NYSDEC and APA to update the *Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices to Control Invasive Species on DEC Administered Lands in the Adirondack Park*. The new iteration will expand the scope of the document to include all taxa, and establish approved BMPs for hemlock woolly adelgid.
- APIPP is working on a new public reporting form that will streamline the process for reporting infestations of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in the Adirondack PRISM.
- Over the coming field season, APIPP will launch a stem injection loaner tool program that will allow landowners to borrow specialized equipment needed to treat knotweed species on their own properties.
- APIPP's Terrestrial Training dates have been set! Visit APIPP's [calendar of events](#) to learn more or register.
- See the Terrestrial Project's entire update [here](#).

Aquatic Project Overview (Erin Vennie-Vollrath)

- In collaboration with Dr. Richard Shaker of Ryerson University, Erin published an article in the journal Ecosphere entitled [Predicting aquatic invasion in Adirondack Lakes: a spatial analysis of lake and landscape characteristics](#)
- APIPP is in the process of re-evaluating its spiny waterflea monitoring protocol to better detect infestations. Several pilot monitoring methods will be advanced this field season.
- This field season, the Aquatic Project will initiate a mapping project using BioBase to collect bathymetry, vegetation density, and bottom hardness data for several Adirondack lakes. The information will be used to better understand lake susceptibility to invasion.

- The Adirondack Watershed Institute will provide APIPP with an aquatic response team for the third season. They will focus on the northeastern portion of the PRISM.
- The regional ADK AIS Spread Prevention Program will continue for the third year. The Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute will administer the program under a grant administered by NYSDEC.
- APIPP will work with partners to revise the white paper "Boat Inspection and Decontamination for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention: Recommendations for the Adirondack Region." The revision will incorporate new data collected by the regional prevention program.
- APIPP's Aquatic Training dates have been set! Visit APIPP's [calendar of events](#) to learn more or register.
- See the Aquatic Project's entire update [here](#).

Partner Roundtable

- **Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA) - Ed Griesmer**
 - ALA is available as a resource for lake and river associations in the Adirondacks.
 - June 9th – workshop to be held in Hamilton County on developing lake management plans. The event is open to public.
 - June 19th – ALA will partner with APIPP and iMap to host an aquatic plant identification and surveillance training for lake associations in Bolton Landing.
 - The ALA Annual Symposium will be held at Paul Smith's on August 11th. This year's focus will be on developing lake management plans.
- **Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) - Eric Holmlund, Jeff Sann, Sue O'Reilly & Kathleen Wiley**
 - Multiple funding sources have been secured and are in place for 2017 including a Lake Champlain Basin Program grant, private lake association funds, NYSDEC grant, an Environmental Protection Agency Great Lake Restoration Initiative (EPA GLRI) grant, and others.
 - A new EPA GLRI grant is currently in review. If awarded, the grant would fund additional stewards and one decontamination station in the St. Lawrence region.
 - The grant from NYSDEC will fund 40-50 stewards and 11 decontamination stations across the Adirondacks.
 - The AWI is expecting stewardship staff to exceed 100 personnel in 2017. Vacancies still exist for Stillwater Reservoir, Ticonderoga, and Port Henry.
 - AWI is re-working its visual presence to maximize cohesion with other watercraft inspection programs in New York. New uniforms will be launched in 2017.
 - The Stewardship Program is currently scheduling Water Shield Workshops and other outreach events. Contact the AWI to schedule an event.
 - The AWI is advancing through the permitting process to deploy this year's decontamination stations. New storage sheds will be implemented this season to improve aesthetics and reduce costs. Seven new decontamination station locations

will be launched in 2017. These stations will be rolled out over the course of the summer.

- **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Region 6) - Stephanie Larken**
 - Region 6 can serve as a resource to help advance invasive species outreach efforts in the western portion of the PRISM.

- **New York State Department of Transportation - Scott Kappeller**
 - DOT will coordinate with APIPP to treat infestations along state roads in Region 1
 - DOT will host its spring herbicide training in Saratoga Springs on May 18th
 - DEC and DOT have partnered to fund phase two research for a *Phragmites* biocontrol; currently focusing on two species

- **Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) - Warren Rosenthal & Alex Novick**
 - This will be the 4th year that LGLC manages invasive plants on its properties. The current focus is on knotweed, *Phragmites*, purple loosestrife, yellow iris, and garlic mustard.
 - A full-time land steward (Alex) recently came on staff. He will assist with invasives management.
 - LGLC is preparing for HWA arrival and is working with APIPP and the NYS Hemlock Initiative to identify priority stands for surveying.
 - LGLC will begin an ash tree inventory on all its preserves to assess which trees will be inoculated in anticipation of emerald ash borer invasion.

- **Adirondack Park Agency - Leigh Walrath**
 - The Agency has been working to update permit applications for pond reclamations, triploid grass stocking, etc.
 - This summer the Agency will be in the field to review ongoing AIS management projects
 - APA will collaborate with APIPP to implement the BioBase mapping project
 - APA is currently assisting APIPP with an update to the Inter-Agency Guidelines

- **New York Power Authority (NYPA) - John Gwartz**
 - The NYPA performs a full vegetation inventory of its right-of-way's every 4 years. As part of regular inventories, the Authority has begun to identify infestations of invasive species.
 - The NYPA is also working to identify and preserve pollinator habitat.

- **CCE Master Gardeners - Don Grout**
 - The Master Gardeners will continue to have a presence at Adirondack farmers markets and will disseminate information on invasive species.

- **CCE St. Lawrence County - Paul Hetzler**
 - CCE continues to have a big focus on invasives, but most work occurs outside the PRISM.
 - St. Lawrence county is continuing to brace for the imminent invasion of EAB and has established a task force.
 - CCE is willing to help promote APIPP's Terrestrial Training in Malone

- **Dept. of Environmental Cons. - Invasive Species Unit - Kathy McGlynn & Willow Ayers**
 - DEC currently has several new invasive species fact sheets in production.
 - The Department is reviewing approximately 40 rapid response grant proposals; awards will be announced in the coming months.
 - The April issue of Conservationist magazine featured an article on invasive species.
 - DEC is creating AIS signage for non-motorized watercraft launches and is seeking locations where signs can be deployed.
 - 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the first purple loosestrife biocontrol release. The DEC plans to create a summary of project sites and share results

- **Adirondack Council – Jackie Bowen**
 - The council is willing to use its social media platforms to share information on invasive species and events in the region.

- **New York Sea Grant - Mark Malchoff**
 - Sea grant is working with marinas on Lake Champlain to distribute educational materials on clean, drain, dry.

- **Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) - Guy Middleton**
 - Following 4-week pilot in 2016, the USF is seeking to expand its invasive milfoil management into Fish Creek Pond.
 - The Foundation received a permit to construct a boat decontamination station at the DEC back bay boat launch on Upper Saranac Lake
 - USF received a grant from LCBP for 1 lake steward on Upper Saranac Lake. In collaboration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute, Fish Creek Pond and Upper Saranac Lake will have 7-day coverage.

- **CCE Essex County - Linda Gilliland and Carly Summers**
 - CCE is continuing its education and outreach programs for consumer horticulturists, master forest owners, master gardeners, etc.
 - CCE is seeking clear and consistent messaging on invasives to be shared with priority audiences.
 - Carly Summers recently joined the team and will be working on commercial agriculture projects
 - CCE will host a 1-day science camp in early June and would like to partner with APIPP

- **Ezra Schwartzberg – Adirondack Research LLC**
 - Adirondack Research currently has several ongoing projects including:
 - A citizen science monitoring project with the Lake Placid Land Conservancy that seeks to engage private landowners with conservation issues; one focus is invasive species.
 - New invasive animal assessments are being processed for the DEC

- **Lewis Creek Association/Charlotte Invasives Collaborative – Sue Smith & Marty Illick**
 - The Charlotte Invasives Collaborative is entering its 9th or 10th year of frog-bit control
 - Populations have been reduced by 90%+
 - The Collaborative is advancing several yellow iris control projects and seeking to manage *Phragmites* along state roads
 - The Lewis Creek Association is currently evaluating water quality impacts associated with poor land use and working to share best management practices with landowners

- **Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) - Med Modley**
 - LCBP is fully-staffed after 8 months of operating below capacity
 - The Program is hiring boat launch stewards for Lake Champlain to mesh with the NY program, including two positions in Quebec
 - LCBP is currently managing over 100 grants, including many invasives related projects such as:
 - Numerous boat launch stewards in Adirondack Region
 - An Ausable River Steward
 - LCBP is partnering with a consulting firm to pilot the use of drones for water chestnut mapping on bays of Lake Champlain
 - A water chestnut pull event is planned during ISAW near St. Albans and in South Bay
 - The Rapid Response Task Force met recently to plan for Asian clam work in Lake Bombazine. The focus will be on preventing spread to new locations.
 - A feasibility study for a hydrological barrier in the Champlain Canal is still in the works
 - A revised long term management plan for Lake Champlain was recently completed; signing by political leaders is expected soon
 - The LCBP is advancing targeted outreach efforts for pond owners whose invasive plant and animal species are being inadvertently spread by spring floodwaters.

Guest Presentations

“[Assessing Feasibility in Invasive Plant Management using Pre-Project Planning Tools](#)” Dr. Jeff Corbin, Associate Professor, Union College

“Best Practices for Trailered Watercraft Decontamination to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species” Dr. David Wong, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Contact Dr. Wong at david.w.wong@state.ma.us for information on presentation)