

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)
Fall Partner Meeting Minutes
The Nature Conservancy, Keene Valley, NY
November 2nd 2017 9:30-3:00

Attendees:

Steve Young (NY Natural Heritage Program); Sue O-Reilly (Adirondack Watershed Institute); Alex Novick (Lake George Land Conservancy); Leigh Walrath (Adirondack Park Agency); Ezra Schwartzberg, Christopher Hart (Adirondack Research); Rocci Aguirre (ADK Council); MJ Honeycutt (Essex County Master Gardeners); Fred Dunlap (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation); Sue Smith (Charlotte Invasives); Ed Griesmer, Jane Smith (Adirondack Lakes Alliance); Bill McGhee (Schroon Lake); Ed Frantz, Scott Kappeller (NYSDOT); Catherine Martini (Warren County CCE); Alice Halloran (Essex County CCE); Mary Mclean Johnson (Chateaugay Lakes Association); Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Foundation); Eric Sage (Green Mountain College graduate student)

APIPP PRISM Report (Brendan Quirion)

- Implementation of APIPP's 5-year Communications and Marketing Strategy is underway.
 - Four promotional videos have been released and are available on APIPP's webpage
 - ["Protect Your Adirondacks, Keep Phragmites Out"](#)
 - ["Protect Your Adirondacks, Keep Knotweed Out"](#)
 - ["How to Protect Adirondack Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species"](#)
 - ["Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species in New York"](#)
 - APIPP has established a [Facebook](#) presence and new content is being posted weekly.
 - The campaign message and logo are in the process of being finalized. Keep an eye out for an announcement of the new campaign logo by the end of the year.
 - A new micro website surrounding the campaign is in development and will be shared with partners by the end of the year.
- APIPP continues to advance relevant research and published two scientific articles this past year:
 - Biological Invasions – ["Management of invasive Phragmites australis in the Adirondacks: a cautionary tale about the prospects of eradication"](#)
 - Ecosphere – ["Predicting aquatic invasion in Adirondack lakes: a spatial analysis of lake and landscape characteristics"](#)
- APIPP collaborated with NYS invasive species program partners to develop a Call to Action policy document that encourages the Invasive Species Council and Advisory Committee to move through a visioning process for how best to advance invasive species work in New York over the coming decade.
- APIPP achieved a record reach this year through its education and outreach efforts. As of November, APIPP has reached over 2,100 people through formal presentations.

Terrestrial Project Overview (Zachary Simek)

- The DEC Invasive Species Campground Manager visited and surveyed all 38 land-based state campgrounds in the Adirondacks
 - Nine locations were free of target invasive plant species
 - Garlic mustard was deemed eradicated from five campgrounds after 3+ years of no invasive plants observed
- APIPP's Terrestrial Rapid Response Team and staff expanded survey efforts into the northern portion of the PRISM and documented over 400 new terrestrial invasive plant infestations. In addition:
 - Over 1,200 site assessments were performed
 - 480+ treatments were performed
 - 470+ historically managed sites were documented as having no invasive plants observed
- APIPP implemented a new Invasive Plant Mobile Monitoring System that operated on iPad tablets via Collector, which greatly increased the Response Teams survey efficiency
- An overview of APIPP's management progress for several species was presented. Detailed results can be found in the [Terrestrial Project Overview Presentation](#).
- Three terrestrial watched species were detected in the PRISM for the first time in 2017. They are:
 - Hemlock woolly adelgid – detected on Prospect Mountain in Lake George
 - Tree-of-heaven – detected along Route 9N in Bolton
 - Emerald ash borer – detected in northern Franklin County
- Upcoming projects for the winter season:
 - [Invasive Plant Management Decision Analysis Tool](#) (IPMDAT) project evaluation
 - Present *Phragmites* management research at the Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference
 - Update APIPP's online invasive species distribution map
 - Finalize distribution and management data for 2018 Annual Report
 - Expand volunteer engagement opportunities

Aquatic Project Overview (Erin Vennie-Vollrath)

- A total of 390 Adirondack lakes have been surveyed to date; 287 remain free of aquatic invasive species (AIS). This was the first season in a decade with no lakes found to be newly invaded
 - To date – 71% of Adirondack lakes surveyed are free of AIS (invaded – 103)(uninvaded – 287)
- Multiple AIS trainings were held throughout the region this summer including:
 - Aquatic Plant ID & Survey Trainings – 3 trainings held
 - Backcountry Water Monitoring Trainings – 2 trainings held
 - Aquatic Animal ID & Survey Trainings – 1 training held
- 2017 marked the sixteenth season of volunteer lake monitoring
 - 44+ volunteers participated; 98 waterways were surveyed
 - New reports were submitted for Kiwassa Lake, Lake Alice, and Caroga Lake
 - Asian clam and spiny water flea (SWF) surveys were performed in 49 lakes – no new reports

- The aquatic project piloted new SWF monitoring protocols using eDNA, plankton tows, and fishing lines to increase detection efficiency
- Additional monitoring for the 2017 field season included:
 - Rusty Crayfish - piloted a new sampling protocol with minnow traps; no rusty crayfish were detected
 - eDNA sampling for invasive fish; sampled in the Upper Saranac Lake area; no detections
- 2017 was the third season of APIPP's four-member Aquatic Rapid Response Team
 - The team focused on vulnerable lakes located in the northern portion of the PRISM that have public access and have never been monitored or have not been monitored in past 3-years.
 - Three-year summary of data:
 - 123 lakes surveyed
 - 51 lakes with AIS
 - NO NEWLY INVADED LAKES IN 2017
 - The team engaged in management at two locations:
 - Project 1: Goal - Elimination
 - Water chestnut in Lake Alice (109 plants removed in 2016; 30 plants removed in 2017)
 - Project 2: Goal - Reduce Risk of Spread
 - Fish Creek Ponds – milfoil management was conducted near the boat launch to prevent export/spread of fragments to surrounding uninvaded waters
- Upcoming projects for the winter season:
 - Revamp APIPP's aquatic volunteer program materials with a new manual and resources
 - IPMDAT project evaluation
 - Compile and evaluate all current and historic AIS management projects being taken on by partners in the region
 - Continue to evaluate the effectiveness and potential applications of the BioBase lake mapping system

Partner Roundtable/Updates

- **Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) - Sue O'Reilly**
 - The AWI had another strong season of AIS spread prevention:
 - 97,412 boat inspections performed
 - 202,766 visitors interacted with
 - 3,848 AIS intercepted
 - 2,756 decontaminations performed
- **Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA) - Ed Griesmer, Jane Smith**
 - There is still a need for additional funding for lake associations to manage invasives in their lakes

- ALA held its third symposium at Paul Smiths College in 2017 (Topic: Developing lake management plans); another symposium is being planned for 2018
 - ALA will bring on a Director of Communications to help disseminate information to partners and members
- **New York State Department of Transportation – Scott Kappeller**
 - Region 1 DOT is assisting with planning and construction of a boat decontamination station at the I-87 Glens Falls rest area
 - Additional staff capacity was added in Warren County for herbicide treatments
 - DOT released generic travel corridor [UMP](#); currently open for public comment
- **Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) - Alex Novick**
 - LGLC has been focusing heavily on hemlock woolly adelgid monitoring in the Lake George basin by expanding surveillance of their lands
 - Staff are currently assessing the distribution and impacts of elongate hemlock scale on certain properties
 - Stewardship staff performed several treatments for terrestrial invasive plants on LGLC lands during the 2017 season
- **Schroon Lake – Bill McGhie**
 - The management plan for Schroon Lake is currently in the process of being updated
 - A new decontamination station was installed this summer near Paradox
 - The Horicon decon station inspected over 200 boats and found that 10% harbored AIS or required decontamination
- **Adirondack Council – Rocci Acguire**
 - The Council is primarily focused on issues at the national/federal level, such as federal funding to the region (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, LCBP, etc.)
 - Also commenting on UMPs related to invasive species issues
- **Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) – Guy Middleton**
 - USF received a \$100k grant from DEC for AIS management - supported with 50% match from shoreowners association
 - AIS management work was expanded from Upper Saranac Lake to Fish Creek Ponds
 - 2017 was the second year of control in Fish Creek Ponds with 17 tons of milfoil removed over 60 acres (compared to 360 tons removed in 2016)
 - USF purchased a decon unit for the DEC launch on Upper Saranac Lake with a grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation
 - In 2017, 191 decontaminations were performed
 - Stewards intercepted hydrilla on an incoming vessel at the launch
 - Stewards were in place throughout 2017, funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. They interacted with 7000 visitors and inspected 3500 boats.
 - SWF monitoring was conducted in partnership with APIPP; there were no detections

- As part of Invasive Species Awareness Week, a plant paddle was held on Fish Creek Pond. The event was well received and featured on Mountain Lake PBS
 - USF orchestrated an Asian clam survey, drawing in 25 volunteers who collected 700 samples at 10 locations. No Asian clam was detected
 - USF received a grant in partnership with the AWI to install an environmental monitoring platform. The station collects real-time data on lake characteristics and weather that will be used to support lake mgmt. decisions
 - The Foundation is looking to give away benthic matting material to interested lake associations
- **Adirondack Research LLC – Ezra Schwartzberg, Christopher Hart**
 - Adirondack Research completed the second round of non-native animal assessments for DEC – 90 species were assessed
 - Recently completed a project with the Lake Placid Land Conservancy that focuses on citizen science engagement. The project includes a section for invasive species monitoring on private properties
 - Adirondack Research is currently building up its GIS capacity and is hoping to hire a full-time associate in the Spring
- **Adirondack Park Agency (APA) - Leigh Walrath**
 - APA worked with APIPP on SWF sampling on Indian Lake and others
 - APA also partnered on implementation of the BioBase lake monitoring project
 - APA staff are currently assisting with an update to the Inter-Agency Guidelines
 - Staff completed AIS surveys as part of various projects
- **Chateauguay Lake Association - Mary McLean Johnson**
 - 2017 is the 10th year of milfoil management in Chateauguay Lake
 - 2-weeks of management focused around the boat launch and channel
 - Density reduced from 36,000 stems/acre to 3,000
 - There is a lack of resources to effectively address the problem
- **Vermont Invasives Group – Sue Smith**
 - Assisted with terrestrial invasive plant surveys along State Route 374
 - The Vermont invasive group is working on an awareness campaign for crazy worm
 - Several management projects are still underway, including:
 - Kindle Wetland – frog bit removal began in 2009. Approximately 47 acres were infested with 28 tons removed during the second year of management. In 2017, less than 1 ton was removed.
 - Charlotte Invasives Collaborative – advocating for increased management of roadside invasives by Vermont DOT. State of VT will not treat roadside invasives unless they pose a danger

- **Essex County Master Gardeners - MJ Honeycutt**
 - Participated in farmers markets in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid to disseminate invasive species literature

- **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Fred Dunlap**
 - The contract for a feasibility study to install an AIS barrier for the Champlain Canal has been finalized, signed and delivered
 - A water chestnut pull was completed during ISAW on Lake Champlain; will be continued and expanded in coming years
 - DEC is seeking an [Invasive Species Coordinator](#) to advance education and outreach projects.

- **Warren County CCE - Katherine Martini**
 - CCE assisted with dissemination of invasive species literature at farmers markets
 - Crazy worm is currently a large focus among master gardeners as it impacts their ability to hold plant swaps

- **New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) - Steve Young**
 - Partnered with APIPP on Whiteface Mountain terrestrial invasive plant surveys and management
 - Surveyed for Himalayan balsam along Chateauguay River; a large, historic infestation is present
 - Assisted APIPP with priority setting project to identify tier species
 - A new ADK Orchid survey is ongoing, focusing on the helleborine orchid (only exotic orchid in NY)

- **Green Mountain College, MS Candidate in Environmental Studies - Eric Sage**
 - Currently working on a MS focusing on the spread of bird dispersed species - specifically, oriental bittersweet
 - Performed 5-year study on milfoil management in Lake Sunnyside

- **Lake Champlain Basin Program – Meg Modley**
 - The International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species was held October 22-26 with local presentations by APIPP on the work of the AIS response teams as well as by AWI and LCBP on the regional spread prevention program
 - Lake Champlain 2017 boat launch steward program data is in final review and should be available soon
 - LCBP supported two stewards in Quebec for first time in 2017
 - LCBP currently has four requests for proposals open. All are available at www.lcbp.org/grants
 - Local Grant applications are due November 15th – this includes the AIS spread prevention grants up to \$15k.

- VT PBS's documentary on Lake Champlain and other VT lakes, *Saving Our Waters*, premiered. LCBP provided supporting funding and video footage, and Eric Howe was interviewed.
- The deadline for abstract submissions for the Lake Champlain Research Conference was extended to November 10th, 2017. Dan Egan, author of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, will be the keynote speaker
- Annual meeting for the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society will be held January 9-11 in New Castle, NH.
- A Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel meeting is planned but pending due to federal review, for January 8-9 in Portsmouth, NH. ANS Task Force meeting was cancelled in November due to federal review delay.

Deep-Dive Discussions

1. Communications and Marketing Plan

- a. John Brodt from BEHAN Communications provided an overview of APIPPs Communications and Marketing Plan, including strategies and progress made to date.
- b. Partners provided feedback on the draft Microsite, including:
 - i. Potential for incorporation of additional target audiences - foresters, ATV users, etc.?
 - ii. Potential for use of QR code on all materials to drive people to microsite

2. BioBase Lake Mapping Project

- a. Leigh Walrath and Erin VV provided an overview of the BioBase lake mapping project. An overview is available [here](#).
- b. Discussion items were related to:
 - i. Who will use the data?
 - ii. What level of contour accuracy is best 1, 3, 5, 10ft?
 - iii. Pre-management mapping to assess progress over time.

3. Injection Tool Loaner Program

- a. Zack provided an overview of APIPP's knotweed stem injection loaner tool program.
 - i. Tools will be available for homeowners free of charge for the 2018 field season
 - ii. APIPP is seeking partners to help spread the word about program
- b. Discussion:
 - i. How to manage excess product to prevent improper disposal?
 - ii. How best to prevent landowners from providing the tool to neighbors or performing treatments on properties other than their own.