

# Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) 2018 Fall Partner Meeting Minutes

The Nature Conservancy, Keene Valley, NY  
November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018 9:30-3:00

## **Attendees:**

*Sue O-Reilly (Adirondack Watershed Institute); Alex Novick (Lake George Land Conservancy); Ezra Schwartzberg, Janelle Hoh (Adirondack Research); Sue Smith (Charlotte Invasives Collaborative); Jane Smith (Adirondack Lakes Alliance); Bill McGhee, Everet McNeill, Tad Matley (East Shore Schroon Lake Association); Ed Frantz, Scott Kappeller, John Falge (New York State Department of Transportation); Guy Middleton (Upper Saranac Foundation); Katherine Gale (APIPP Alumni); Med Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program); John Marino, Meg Wilkinson (iMapInvasives); Kathy Regan (APA); Nick Dietschler (NY Hemlock Initiative); Amy Calkins (Essex County SWCD); Tom Alguire (NYS DAM); Dave Conlan (TNC-Adirondacks); Rob Williams (SLELO PRISM); Bill Farber (AATV); Jackie Bowen (ADK Council); Emily Tyner (APIPP Volunteer); Erin Vennie-Vollrath, Brendan Quirion, Zack Simek (APIPP)*

## **APIPP PRISM and Communications Report (Brendan Quirion)**

- A flagship boat wash station is under construction at the new I87 Adirondack Welcome Center in Queensbury to address the northward spread of AIS into the Adirondacks. The project was advanced in collaboration with NYSDOT, NYSDEC, and the Fund for Lake George. The station – with a new informational display – will be open for the 2019 boating season and staffed by the Paul Smith’s College Adirondack Watershed Institute.
- APIPP is currently working to expand remote sensing efforts to address forest pests and pathogens in the PRISM. Over the coming years, APIPP aims to:
  - Expand the availability of hyperspectral data for the Adirondack region to establish a baseline inventory of hemlock distribution and health; and
  - Repeat data acquisitions over time to assess changes in forest health and guide the allocation of on-the-ground survey resources
- APIPP developed and delivered a Steering Committee Charter to NYSDEC, which aims to expand hyperspectral data acquisition and processing efforts across the state. The Charter is currently under review.
- APIPP – in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy’s Invasive Species Advisory Committee – drafted a white paper entitled “Effects of Pests and Pathogens on Carbon Sequestration and Storage by North America’s Forests.” The paper is currently in preparation for publication in a peer reviewed journal.
- An overview of APIPP’s 2018 Education and Outreach Initiatives was provided by Seasonal Educator, Katherine Gale. The following highlights were provided:
  - APIPP presented at several summer camp staff trainings, including DEC Pack Forest and Camp Treetops, providing invasive species information and curriculum to over 100 participants
  - During New York’s Invasive Species Awareness Week, APIPP hosted or participated in a variety of events throughout the PRISM including:
    - Tabling at the High Peaks Information Center
    - Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive ID, Survey, and Management Workshops
    - The Wild Center – Adirondack Invaders Day
    - Hamilton County SWCD events

- Throughout the summer, events held in collaboration with partner organizations proved most successful. APIPP thanks the Ausable River Association, NYSDEC, and Adirondack Watershed Institute (among others) for their assistance in administering these events.
- Since APIPP began tracking its outreach efforts in 2009, the program has reached over 17,000 people at 470 different events.
- Brendan provided a summary of the Keep Invasive Species Out (KISO) Campaign, including an overview of current and planned efforts.
  - Current components of the campaign include:
    - Slogan/logo
    - [Micro-website](#)
    - [Facebook](#)
    - [News coverage](#)
    - Paid advertising:
      - Print, Facebook, outdoor, cinema, radio
    - [Swag items](#)
      - Clothing and apparel, giveaway items
    - [Print materials](#)
      - Rack card, brochures, posters
    - [Pledge agreement](#)
  - Other future components include:
    - Audience specific toolkits
    - Business engagement
    - Social media expansion & Content Farm
  - Since kicking off the campaign, APIPP's Facebook page has engaged over 600 followers
  - APIPP was featured in 14 interviews/articles to date in 2018
  - As part of the KISO campaign, a suite of advertisements were deployed in 2018 including:
    - 41 print ads over 8 weeks in 12 papers
    - Four Facebook ads targeting specific demographics/interests across all Adirondack zip codes
    - Four Facebook ads focused on KISO pledge agreement across all Adirondack zip codes
    - Four billboards in Tupper Lake, Watertown, Plattsburgh, and Fort Ann that had a total of 72,778 weekly impressions
    - Three billboard style ads in movie theaters in Indian Lake, Lowville and Old Forge
    - Six underwriting messages per week on North Country Public Radio
  - Traffic to the KISO micro-website and Facebook responded positively to advertisements and outreach efforts.
    - From May – October, the KISO micro-website had:
      - 2,686 unique visits
      - 6,878 page views
      - 49% of visitors typed the URL, while 28% of visitors came via Facebook
    - Facebook paid advertising was delivered 112,251 times to 37,320 different people, resulting in 1,519 click-throughs to the KISO website

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

- For the seventh season, Invasive Plant Control Inc. (IPC) provided the services for APIPP's Terrestrial Early Detection and Rapid Response Team
- [2018 Field Season](#) Overview
  - 4,600+ infestations mapped to date
  - 455 newly mapped
  - 2,300 assessments performed
  - 743 treatments performed
  - 1,029 sites documented as having no invasive plants observed
- For the seventh season, APIPP coordinated an Invasive Species Campground Steward in collaboration with DEC and SUNY ESF. James Longo visited 38 land-based state campgrounds in the Adirondack Park, removing over 8,350+ terrestrial invasive plants and documenting 12 campgrounds as free of APIPP's target terrestrial management species.
- The terrestrial project continues to document management success with 53% of *Phragmites* infestations documented as having no invasive plants observed in 2018.
- Two new terrestrial invasive plants were mapped and/or managed in the PRISM for the first time in 2018:
  - Tree-of-heaven – detected for the first time in the PRISM in 2017 – was managed this season after obtaining the necessary landowner permission.
  - Lesser celandine was confirmed in the PRISM in April 2018. Three high-priority infestations were managed near the Saranac River in Saranac Lake. Additional sites will be treated in 2019
- APIPP collaborated with DEC to perform the second treatment for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) on Prospect Mountain in Lake George. Since the initial detection of HWA in 2017, 429 trees have been mapped, measured and marked over approximately seven-acres. Within this area, 320 trees have been treated with systemic insecticide, providing protection from HWA for up to seven years. No live HWA were detected on the mountain in 2018.
- APIPP's terrestrial project expanded its unmanned aerial systems (UAS) survey project and is working to address two main questions:
  - (1) How does the use of UAS compare to ground-based surveys, in terms of accuracy and efficiency, for invasive species detection and mapping?
  - (2) What are the optimal flight parameters (elevation, seasonal timing, etc.) to detect and map *Phragmites*?
  - Results for the pilot research project are being compiled and will be presented at the Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference in Nashville, TN in December 2018.
- Over the winter, the terrestrial project will focus on:
  - Finalizing priority management projects that will be advanced over the next 5-10 years
  - Updating APIPP's online invasive species distribution map
  - Finalizing field season reports
  - Expanding terrestrial volunteer opportunities for the 2019 field season

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

- A total of 411 lakes have been surveyed by the aquatic project to date. Of these, 306 (74%) remain free of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Most invaded lakes only contain one or two AIS.
- Two newly invaded lakes were documented in 2018;
  - Moody Pond – Eurasian water milfoil
  - Penfield Pond – Eurasian water milfoil
- The aquatic project assisted partners to advance the Adirondack AIS Prevention Program. APIPP developed boat wash station site profiles in GIS for 22 locations across the Adirondack region.
- Multiple AIS trainings were held throughout the region in 2018 that reached 107 participants. Training topics and locations included:
  - Aquatic Invasive Plant ID
    - Bolton Landing, June 19<sup>th</sup>
    - Caroga Lake, June 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Speculator, June 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - Paul Smiths, June 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Lake Placid, July 11<sup>th</sup>
    - Colton, Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>
  - ADK Backcountry Water Monitors - ADK Loj, July 12<sup>th</sup>
- 2018 Field Season Aquatic Monitoring Overview
  - Aquatic Invasive Plant Monitoring
    - 2018 was the 17<sup>th</sup> season of aquatic invasive plant monitoring and the fourth season of APIPP's Aquatic Early Detection Team
      - [APIPP's 2018 early detection team](#) was administered by Adirondack Research LLC. The team visited 31 lakes in the southeastern portion of the park, focusing on waterways with public access that were previously surveyed.
      - Volunteers surveyed 25+ waterways throughout the region. As of November, volunteer data was still in preparation
    - New infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil were detected on Moody Pond and Penfield Pond
  - Asian Clam Monitoring
    - 31 lakes surveyed; no new reports
  - Spiny Waterflea Monitoring
    - 31 lakes surveyed; no new reports
  - Rusty Crayfish Monitoring
    - The aquatic project piloted a monitoring protocol using minnow traps; no rusty crayfish were detected.
  - Invasive Fish Monitoring
    - eDNA samples were submitted to the Cornell Fish Tracker; no invasives were detected
- The aquatic project continued to collect BIOBASE data to inform lake AIS vulnerability models and guide future survey efforts. The aquatic project may expand this innovative project in 2019 with the addition of a submersible remotely operated vehicle.
- The aquatic project advanced three management projects in 2018, including:

- Lake Alice Water Chestnut
  - 109 plants removed in 2016; 37 in 2018
- Loon Lake Water Chestnut
  - 10 plants removed in 2015; 0 in 2018
- Grasse River European Frogbit
  - 36 five-gallon buckets removed in 2007; 0.1 in 2018 (20 plants)
- The aquatic project collaborated with the APA to develop and test an AIS Management Tracker app using Survey 123 that will help lake associations better understand outcomes of and progress made in advancing AIS management projects.

## **Partner Roundtable/Updates**

### **Adirondack Watershed Institute - Sue O'Reilly**

- 2018 was the first year of implementation for AWI's \$9.3-million five-year contract for AIS spread prevention awarded by NYSDEC.
- In 2018, over 98,000 inspections and 3,500 decontaminations were performed
- Stewards provided services at 81 locations throughout the region
- Data is currently being finalized and will be available in the coming months on AWI's [webpage](#).

### **Adirondack Lakes Alliance - Jane Smith**

- ALA recently held executive meetings to discuss future initiatives. Invasive species were identified as a priority
- Planning for 2019 ALA Symposium is underway. The focus will be on technology & harmful algal blooms

### **New York State Department of Transportation – Scott Kappeller, Ed Frantz, John Falge**

- In collaboration with APIPP, DOT held invasive species prevention and BMP trainings in Warrensburg and Caroga Lake. Trainings will be continued in 2019 and staff will work to engage more local highway departments
- Herbicide crews conducted ROW treatments along major road corridors throughout the Park
- DOT is working to improve its mowing practices to minimize the spread of invasive species
- Regional staff performed facility screenings this summer to identify residencies that may be acting as a source for invasive species spread
- Funding from DOT was administered via contract to advance research for swallowwort and phragmites biocontrols
- DOT remains committed to assisting with the implementation of ROW boat wash stations
- The department completed a draft of its generic travel corridor unit management plan. Invasive species were identified as a major issue/focus area.

### **Upper Saranac Foundation – Guy Middleton**

- The foundation continues to survey for and manage milfoil in Upper Saranac Lake's approximately 12,000-acre littoral zone

- Harvesting time in 2018 was consistent with previous seasons, with a total of 300lbs removed.
- The Foundation worked to manage milfoil in Fish Creek Ponds, noting a decrease in abundance from previous years.
  - 2016 → 10 tons removed
  - 2017 → 7 tons removed
  - 2018 → 3.5 tons removed
- Volunteer Asian clam surveys were completed throughout Upper Saranac Lake; no Asian clams were detected

### **Adirondack Research LLC – Ezra Schwartzberg, Janelle Hoh**

- Adirondack Research administered APIPP's 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection Team
- Under a farm bill grant, Adirondack Research surveyed hemlock stands and collected model training data to improve future iterations of hemlock remote sensing work conducted in collaboration with NASA Develop
- Green Goat Maps featured the KISO logo and invasive species spread prevention messaging on its Boating and Fishing Maps

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

- A feasibility study to address the spread of aquatic invasive species within the Champlain Canal is currently underway
- Multiple LCBP [grants](#) are currently open, including funding for AIS spread prevention
- LCBP released it's 2018 [State of the Lake Report](#)
- Fishhook waterflea was detected for the first time in Lake Champlain this summer
- Water chestnut management is still ongoing in the southern bay of Lake Champlain
- A multistate effort is currently underway on the Connecticut River to survey for hydrilla; it has been detected in CT and MA

### **Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages - Bill Farber**

- Historically, the AATV has been involved more with AIS, but is looking to expand its involvement with terrestrial invasives
- Additional ongoing work by AATV includes examination of septic issues and HABs

### **Charlotte Invasives Collaborative - Sue Smith**

- The collaborative continues to address a large (50-acre) infestation of European frog-bit, with significant progress achieved to date
- Additional management projects are underway for yellow iris, flowering rush, and wild chervil
- The collaborative is working to address roadside invasives in the Town of Charlotte

### **Essex County SWCD – Amy Calkins**

- The district has been working to promote green infrastructure projects and septic upgrades to address HABs
- Staff created an educational display for the Essex County Fair with information about invasive species
- The District assisted with filing a permit to manage *Phragmites* via excavation at Lake Everest in Wilmington

## **Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) – Tom Alguire**

- This DAM position has been vacant for ~9-years. Support can be provided for invasive species topics, especially related to agriculture

## **iMapInvasives – John Marino, Meg Wilkinson**

- iMap worked this summer to implement the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application (WISPA). It was used by 15 partners at 200 boat launches.
  - Staff are working on QA/QC of the 150,000 data records that were submitted this season
- iMapInvasives 3.0 is currently in development with an anticipated launch in Spring 2019
- The iMap mobile app was updated this summer. Users should verify they are using the most up-to-date version.
- Brittany Rogers, an ESF grad student, lead the iMap certified trainers network in 2018, reaching over 60 participants.

## **St Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario PRISM – Rob Williams**

- SLELO is currently wrapping up its 2018 field season. A summary of accomplishments is provided below:
  - Completed surveys at one-half of all identified priority conservation areas
  - Treated 92 sites for various terrestrial invasive species
  - Volunteers removed 17 tons of water chestnut
  - Released 825 *Hypena* instars for as part of field trials for swallow-wort biocontrol research
  - Began restoration efforts on Carleton Island – a 36-acre bird grassland area
- Planning for SLELO's 2019 Invasive Species Symposium is underway. The topic will be restoration and site resiliency
- Two short videos are soon to be released on conservation efforts & volunteerism

## **New York State Hemlock Initiative – Nick Dietchler**

- The program released silver flies at several test sites but has not yet documented overwintering.
- Silver flies have successfully been reared in the lab
- Overview of citizen science initiatives:
  - HWA phenology project launched in 2017 in partnership with Natures Notebook
    - Eight trainings held that reached 64 people
    - A total of 33 observations have been submitted
  - *Laricobius* Site Surveys
    - Four surveys already completed with establishment confirmed at 3 of 4 sites. Some releases date back to 2009 and 2014
    - 17 additional surveys are planned for the coming weeks
- The program is currently working to identify *Laricobius* release sites in the CapMo PRISM
- Initial research is underway to evaluate a potential new biocontrol that feeds in the spring
- The program is seeking samples of pine bark adelgid to inform silver fly research. Contact Nick for instruction on how to submit a sample.

### **Lake George Land Conservancy – Alex Novick**

- Most invasive species work in 2018 focused on HWA. Additional surveys are planned near Berry Pond
- The conservancy secured funding for HWA surveying and management equipment.
- Informational workshops on invasives are planned for the coming months

### **East Shore Schroon Lake Association – Ev McNeill, Tad Matley, Bill McGhee**

- An update to the Schroon Lake Watershed Management Plan is underway. It will increase in scope to include focus on terrestrial invasives, among other issues
- Two boat wash stations are currently established on the lake
- There are currently only two known aquatic invasives in Schroon Lake
- Management of Eurasian watermilfoil increased in 2018 with the detection of a previously undocumented bed

### **Adirondack Council – Jackie Bowen**

- The council has been busy working on policy issues in Albany including:
  - Renewal of the Part 576 regulations, which are posed to sunset in June 2019
  - Exploring mandatory boat inspection programming
  - Increasing the invasive species line of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)

## **Deep-Dive Discussions**

### **Priority Setting**

- APIPP staff provided a brief overview of the [four-tier priority setting process](#) and criteria/decision making used to identify priority management projects. See [APIPP's Unified Theory of Invasive Species Management Diagram](#).
- Erin and Zack provided an overview of two management projects that have been evaluated
- A full list of aquatic and terrestrial [priority management projects](#) will be made available on APIPP's webpage this winter

### **Communications to Partners**

- A discussion was held on the type and frequency of APIPP communications delivered to partners
- Attendees agreed that current levels of communication are appropriate

### **Visioning for APIPP's Next 5-year Contract**

- APIPP will soon be pursuing its next five-year contract, beginning in 2019
- Potential expansions or new items identified by APIPP include:
  - Increased staff capacity via a full-time Outreach and Communications Coordinator and an Information Management Coordinator
  - Increased contracting line to extend response team duration
  - Continued advancement of the KISO campaign
  - Remote sensing data acquisition
  - Opportunities to engage in AIS containment/exclusion projects where there is a high risk for spread
- **Needs and wants identified by partners in attendance:**
  - Added capacity for HWA surveying (May-June)?

- Continued AIS ID trainings with incorporation of iMap component
- Collection/propagation of native seed for restoration efforts
- Education and outreach initiatives (187 billboard, etc.)
- Identification of metrics to promote BMP adoption or behavior change
- Incorporation of invasive species messaging into existing literature (boating guides, etc.)
- Additional focus on spotted lanternfly and other approaching pests

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