**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

**2020 Fall Partnership Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting**

**November 12, 2020 | 9:30am-12:00pm**

**Attendees**

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program – Tammara Van Ryn, Erin Vennie-Vollrath, Emily-Bell Dinan, Rebecca Bernacki

NYS Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) – Ed Frantz, Peter Dunleavy, Rebecca Miller, Christina Gravelding, Alexandra von Bieberstein, Chris Shiyam, Christine Colley

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) – Josh Thiel, Cathy McGlynn

Adirondack Park Agency (APA) – Kathy Regan

The Nature Conservancy – Dirk Bryant, Bethany Pelkey, Mary Ripka

Adirondack Council – Ryan Nerp

Adirondack Mountain Club – Ben Brosseau

Adirondack Research – Ezra Schwartzberg

Adirondack Watershed Institute – Eric Paul, Zoe Smith, Xue Dong

Boquet River Association – Anita Deming

Capital Region PRISM – Lauren Henderson

Cardno – Patricia Shulenburg

Charlotte Invasive Collaborative – Susan Smith

Chateaugay Lake Foundation – Kathy Welch, Mary McLean Johnson

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Essex County – Linda Gillilland

East Shore Schroon Lake Association – Everett McNeill, Tad Matley

iMap Invasives – Mitchel O’Neil

Lake Champlain Basin Program – Meg Modley

Lake Clear Association – Emily Tyner

Lake George Association – Kristen Wilde

Long Island Invasive Species Management Area PRISM – Steven Pearson

Master Gardner – Essex County – MJ Huneycutt

NY Natural Heritage Program – Steve Young

NYS Hemlock Initiative – Caroline Marschner

Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program – Doug Johnson

Schroon Lake Association - Mark Granger

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario PRISM – Megan Pistolese

The FUND for Lake George – Brea Arvidson

Town of Minerva – Stephen McNally

Upper Saranac Foundation – Guy Middleton

United States Department of Agriculture – Tom Colarusso

Organizational Association Unknown – Steve Case

There were 55 individuals logged on to the Zoom call. Participants who only called in are not included in the list above.

**Meeting Minutes**

Introduction

* Tammara Van Ryn started the meeting with a poll to determine where partners were tuning in from and reviewed the agenda for the meeting
* Tammara Van Ryn announced that Erin Vennie-Vollrath, after six-years of outstanding service to APIPP, will be leaving to become the Lake Champlain coordinator for DEC and that Erin will be missed

Aquatic Invasive Species

* Erin Vennie-Vollrath provided an overview of the 2020 APIPP field season accomplishments
* Eric Paul (Adirondack Watershed Institute) provided an overview of the 2020 boat steward program
* There was a discussion of Eurasian watermilfoil management on Schroon Lake

Terrestrial Invasive Species

* Rebecca Bernacki provided an overview of the 2020 APIPP field season accomplishments with respect to invasive plants
* Tammara Van Ryn provided an overview of the 2020 APIPP field season accomplishments with respect to invasive forest pests (emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid)
* Questions that were asked led to a discussion about the following:
	+ Knotweed volunteers generally, and that the volunteer in Saranac Lake was not very active this year due to COVID19
	+ Firewood transport restrictions
		- East Shore Schroon Lake Association would like the state to limit the transport of firewood to 25 miles
		- Moving pest-infested firewood in the Adirondacks could be devastating
	+ Steve Young noted Bernd Blossey’s (Cornell) opinion that garlic mustard may be self-limiting and pulling it could leave to more problems than leaving it
	+ Caroline Marschner noted that hemlock woolly adelgid wool should not be that hard to see at this time of year

Education and Outreach

* Emily-Bell Dinan provided an overview of APIPP’s 2020 education and outreach program accomplishments
	+ Emily-Bell noted that COVID19 forced a pivot to online education programs, and the 11 webinars were successful and highly attended
* Emily-Bell Dinan discussed education and outreach events coming in early 2021

Update from DEC from Josh Thiel (NYS DEC Invasive Species Coordination Section Chief)

* COVID19 has forced everyone to adapt
	+ Early in the summer there was uncertainty about how the boat steward program would be accomplished this year, but it was successful as partners worked to ensure everyone’s safety and stretch contracts; Josh highlighted the willingness of everyone to work together
	+ The impact of the pandemic on the state’s financial situation is still uncertain; however, all existing commitments will be honored, and DEC is working with APIPP to amend its contract to adjust the annual deliverables and funding in light of COVID19
* DEC is working on a one-hour documentary about the outdoors
* A school curriculum on invasive species has been created and DEC would like partner organizations to use it

Update from APA from Kathy Regan (APA Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis)

* APA Issued a permit for application of pesticides in or within 100 feet of wetlands for the purpose of controlling hemlock woolly adelgid in the Lake George watershed
* A proposed amendment to General Permit 2014G-1A, for the management of terrestrial invasive plant species in or within 100 feet of wetlands is pending
	+ Allows for the management of terrestrial plant and non-plant species in or impacting wetlands
	+ APA is accepting public comments through Nov 20
* APA is finalizing a new permit application for use of aquatic pesticides to control aquatic invasive vegetation

Update from DOT from Ed Frantz (NYS DOT Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve Manager)

* Acknowledged that since roadways are corridors to invasive species spread, DOT is investigating ways to adapt mowing regimes to help prevent the spread of invasive species and developing vegetation management guidelines
* Discussed DOT invasive species treatment and monitoring efforts, noting treatment was limited this year due to COVID19
* Discussed how purple loosestrife was spread in the 1990’s via mulch and how that has changed now that DOT is more conscious of using weed-free mulch
* Discussed how DOT is working to treat invasive species at their facilities so that their facilities do not become a source of spread
* Noted that trainings were limited this year due to COVID19 but all APIPP trainings will be available to staff
* Noted DOT is looking into working with Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District to become a native seed collector
* Discussed the Monarch Butterfly Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for Energy and Transportation Lands
	+ This is an agreement by which transportation and utility agencies, in the event of the Monarch’s listing, maintain a portion of their enrolled ROW to support monarch habitat in return for continuing regular maintenance on the rest of the ROW enrolled (in lieu of following endangered species procedures for all activities impacting the Monarch)

Questions/Actions Items

* Susan Smith and Mark Granger would like more information about Bernd Blossey’s garlic mustard work
	+ Steve Young noted that Blossey believes garlic mustard will go away on its own because of the chemicals that it produces and pulling it creates too much disturbance. There is no scientific paper detailing this impact, however.
* Mark Granger noted that he will no longer be the president of the Schroon Lake Association so we should be hearing from the new president soon
* Doug Johnson inquired about a multiyear pesticide contract for the Knotweed Management Partnership.
	+ Tammara Van Ryn explained an annual lawn care contract is needed because the work is not being done by a state agency; APIPP will check with the DEC about this again before the 2021 management season
* Everett McNeill inquired about printing BioBase maps.
	+ Emily-Bell Dinan will work to get him printable PDFs