

**WNY PRISM Full Partnership Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, April 28 2016; 1:00-3:30 pm**  
**Tifft Nature Preserve – Buffalo, NY**

**In Attendance**

Eric Randall – Conesus Lake Association, Eleonor Randall – Conesus Lake Association, Jonathan Townsend – Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Kristin King – NYS Parks, John Grabowski – Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, Lynn Greer – US Army Corps of Engineers, Chris Pennuto – WNY PRISM, SUNY Buffalo State, Christina Domser – NYS Dept. of Transportation, Mike Jabot – SUNY Fredonia, Paul Fuhrmann – Ecology and Environment, Megan Phillips – NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Willow Eyres – NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Cathy McGlynn – NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Meg Janis – NYS Parks, David Spiering – Tifft Nature Preserve, Jane Conroe – Chautauqua Conservancy, Douglas Conroe – Chautauqua Lake Association, Kathleen McCormick – Western NY Land Conservancy, William Ellsworth – NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Ian Joyce – Ecology and Environment, Helen Domski – NY Sea Grant, Laura Kerrigan – WNY PRISM, Andrea Locke – WNY PRISM

*Presentations and associated handouts are available at [www.wnyprism.org](http://www.wnyprism.org) – see About – News & Reports and Resources Sections*

**Presentations**

**NYS DEC Invasive Species Coordination Section – What is ISCS? – Megan Phillips, Education and Outreach Coordinator; Cathy McGlynn, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator; Willow Eyres, Response and Management Coordinator**

Within the last year, the ISCS has increased their staff from 2 to 5, which demonstrates NYS's dedication to addressing invasive species issues. Our guests spoke about the overall role of ISCS, as well as their individual positions within the statewide program. Megan Phillips spoke about her role in supporting the PRISMs across NYS, as well as her goals for the forthcoming Invasive Species Awareness Week. Cathy McGlynn presented on the new ways that NYS is trying to combat aquatic invasive species, such as using benthic mats to prevent the spread of Hydrilla. Willow Eyres had just published a new DEC policy, “Rapid Response for Invasive Species: Framework for Response,” which is meant to streamline how early detection scenarios are managed. She also presented on new biocontrol methods currently being researched on water chestnut and phragmites.

**Use of Drones with Invasive Species Surveying – Dr. Christopher Pennuto, Director of WNY PRISM and Professor at SUNY Buffalo State**

Recent advances in drone technology are enabling natural resource agencies to investigate the efficacy of drones in monitoring a wide range of habitat conditions. Dr. Christopher Pennuto, Director of WNY PRISM and Professor of Biology at Buffalo State, provided an update on drone use legislation and highlighted some local and national projects incorporating drone surveillance of plant and animal resources.

**Grant Partnerships with WNY PRISM**

More and more, funders are looking at strength of partnerships when deciding among applications for grant programs. This adds a complexity to projects that can make the short turn-around time from

release of an RFP to the due date difficult. In order to better position WNY for these funding opportunities, we discussed some of the current and upcoming grant programs and ways WNY PRISM can assist with project development and submission of grants. If you are looking for Partners, have a project that you are trying to get off the ground, need assistance in submitting a grant application, or simply need a letter of support, please submit your ideas to Andrea Locke, [lockeas@buffalostate.edu](mailto:lockeas@buffalostate.edu).

### **Outreach Materials**

WNY PRISM and our Partners have a wide selection of outreach materials, which were displayed and made available at the Partner Meeting. A number of related items were discussed including the current availability of outreach materials and the need for larger runs for distribution. If there are items or materials and topics that are missing from current available materials, send suggestions for development of possible materials to WNY PRISM. Partners are in need of items in the hundreds, rather than the 25 – 50 more often made available. For those producing materials, this is a situation of funding. If this is the case, it is beneficial to have the item available for download/printing and/or purchase, for those Partners interested in using it.

### **WNY PRISM Updates:**

- 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Work Plan are available on our website
- WNY PRISM welcomed Laura Kerrigan as our 2016 Education and Outreach Assistant
- Hiring for our 2016 Crew has been completed and they will start June 1st
  - Requests for Crew assistance was received from 13 Partners and included 20 projects
  - Requests were reviewed by WNY PRISM's Steering Committee and prioritized based on established priorities and capacity
- WNY PRISM welcomed 2 DEC Giant Hogweed Crew Members, who will be working out of the Great Lakes Center Field Station in order to better service the WNY Region
- Rachel Saloom, AIS Intern and UB Student, has been collecting information from our Partners on status of and regional needs for AIS Spread Prevention Programs
- Boot Brush Station Education and Research Project will include placing stations at 5 locations and growing out seed collected from them, in order to determine their effectiveness as a spread prevention mechanism
- 2015 will see WNY PRISM beginning early detection monitoring of select sites, determined by WNY early detection priority species
- 16 Presentations, Workshops and Events have already taken place this year and included over 1000 attendees
- Website updates continue with a focus on invasive species profiles for all of our priority species
- Upcoming regional events are posted on our events calendar ([www.wnyprism.org](http://www.wnyprism.org)), please submit any invasive species related events to add to our calendar
- ISAW (Invasive Species Awareness Week) is July 10 – 16, 2016 – please let Andrea know if you are planning an event or would like assistance with an event during this week

### **Regional and State Updates:**

- Draft DEC Rapid Response for Invasive Species: Framework for Response is now available for comment through May 27, 2016

- Partners are encouraged to submit comments directly to DEC, or to Andrea Locke who may submit comments on behalf of the WNY PRISM Region
- Framework can be found here: [Rapid Response for Invasive Species: Framework for Response \(PDF, 551 KB\)](#)
- 2016/17 State Budget was passed, including \$12 million in Environmental Protection Funds for Invasive Species
- \$2 million in AIS Spread Prevention Grants were awarded to 24 organizations and municipalities, through DEC and EPF

**Partner Updates:**

- Department of Transportation
  - Work continues on invasive species, with a focus on phragmites and spread prevention BMP, and on a project near the Harlem Road overpass
- Army Corps of Engineers
  - Focusing their 2016 efforts on Hydrilla in the Erie Canal, from education and outreach, pre-monitoring and treatment to post treatment surveys
- Chautauqua Lake Association
  - Was awarded \$100,000 as part of a state-wide grant to increase awareness of aquatic invasive species in fresh water locations and prevent spread - money will go towards the growth of a boat launch steward program on Chautauqua Lake
- Jamestown Audubon Society
  - Received permit to continue water chestnut removal on Spatterdock and Big Ponds
- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
  - Will continue to have boat stewards in the Buffalo/Niagara Region
  - Continuing work on living shorelines/riparian restorations, including invasive species removal
- NYS Parks
  - 2016 Boat Stewardship Program is expanding the number of launches being covered and has brought on a regional coordinator to manage stewards
  - Devoting time to hemlock and ash treatment in the WNY area. Treating and surveying for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Allegany State Park, and continuing ash treatment in Niagara County
- Bergen Swamp Preservation Society
  - Continuing their invasive species management efforts, including removal of invasive shrubs, phragmites, and planning for upcoming slender false brome removal