

WNY PRISM Fall Partner Meeting Summary
Thursday, November 17, 2016; 1:00-3:00 pm
Woodlawn Beach State Park – Blasdell, NY

In Attendance

Audubon Community Nature Center, Chautauqua Lake Association, WNY Land Conservancy, Cornell University, NYS Parks, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Ecology & Environment, NYS DOT, NYS DEC, Eden Conservation Board, Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, USACE, NYS DAM, PUSH Buffalo, University at Buffalo, Watts Architecture & Engineering, Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA-NRCS, Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Alliance, WNY PRISM Volunteer (35 attendees)

Presentations are available at www.wnyprism.org – see About – News & Reports

WNY PRISM 2016 Highlights

Andrea Locke, WNY PRISM Coordinator, presented on highlights from this past year. A comprehensive look at WNY PRISM accomplishments will be presented in our 2016 Annual Report, which will be completed early next year. Our 2017 Annual Work Plan is currently being developed and is expected to be finalized before the end of December.

- Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration Projects
 - Assisted Partners with manual and chemical removal of invasive species on sites throughout the WNY PRISM Region including single and multi-day projects
 - Assisted Tifft Nature Preserve with native plantings in areas with previous invasive species removal
 - Assisted with Hydrilla Demonstration Project pre-treatment surveys
 - Collected *Galerucella pusilla* and *G. californiensis* – purple loosestrife Biocontrol beetles
 - Hosted NYS DEC 2016 Giant Hogweed Crew
- Invasive Species Mapping
 - 7 Projects including 6 Project Report Summaries and Management Suggestions provided to Project Partners
 - 6 counties, 52 species, 900 observations
- Education and Outreach
 - WNY PRISM hosted and/or attended 44 events in 2016 (as 11/17) – events included presentations, workshops, outreach events, farmers’ markets, and volunteer days
 - Recorded 3500 direct contacts and events were attended by over 250,000 guests
 - Outreach materials were provided to Partners for use including >7000 individual pieces
 - Released 2 Newsletters (Spring/Summer & Fall/Winter)
- Boot Brush Stations
 - Installed 5 Boot Brush Stations at sites within Erie County – sites were identified as high-traffic trailheads
 - Seed is being collected from beneath boot brushes by Dr. Christopher Pennuto (WNY PRISM Director and Professor of Biology at SUNY Buffalo State), to grow-out and determine species being intercepted
- *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (slender false brome)
 - Early Detection Priority Species for WNY

- Species is of high concern due to quick establishment and spread, and due to the wide range of terrestrial habitats under threat
- First Working Group Meeting to be held on Monday, December 5, 2016
- Early Detection
 - Conducted first Early Detection Priority Species Site Monitoring
 - 13 sites identified and monitored
 - With exception of *Brachypodium sylvaticum* sites, target species not detected
 - Released Early Detection Reporting Protocol for WNY (<http://www.wnyprism.org/get-involved/early-detection/>)
- Annual Report
 - Requests for Partner submissions to the WNY PRISM Annual Report will be sent through the WNY PRISM Listserve in December
- 2017 Crew Requests
 - Requests for 2017 Crew projects will be sent through the WNY PRISM Listserve early next year
- Other News
 - GLRI-EPA RFP released – multiple invasive species management projects identified
 - NYS DEC RFP released for development of an Invasive Species Comprehensive Plan for New York State
 - NFWF creates Bats for the Future Fund
 - Oak Wilt and Mile-a-Minute Vine have been found in FL-PRISM
 - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Water Chestnut have ‘not-detected’ options in iMapInvasives
- Biocontrol Updates
 - Swallow-wort
 - Defoliating moth, *Hypena opulenta*, was released in Canada in 2013, successful recovery in 2015 & 2016
 - Awaiting final approvals for release in NYS, possible test site release in 2017
 - Water Chestnut
 - *Galerucella birmanica* currently undergoing host specificity testing at Cornell
 - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
 - *Laricobius nigrinus* has been released in NYS at 15 locations since 2008, numbers remain small and require lab and/or field rearing
 - *Leucopis piniperda* and *L. argenticollis*, 2 species of silverfly, released near Skaneateles Lake in 2016
 - NYS Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative - <http://blogs.cornell.edu/foresthealth/nys-hemlock-initiative>

Presentations

European Black Alder Removal at Buckhorn Island State Park – Meg Janis, Natural Resource Stewardship Biologist, New York State Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation

Buckhorn Island State Park has been designated an Important Bird Area and contains significant ecological communities, rare plants and rare animals. Invasive species management for the marsh has included phragmites and Japanese knotweed removal, but more recently was extended to include the

removal of European black alder. Meg Janis presented on the multi-year, multi-partner project to remove European black alder from nearly 2 acres within the East River Marsh. Integrated Pest Management included winter work to minimize soil disturbance, work to minimize potential seed dispersal, cut-stump herbicide treatment, stockpiles of cut material for chipping, follow-up herbicide treatment for seedlings and resprouts, and native wetland seed planting.

Using eDNA to Detect and Monitor Invasive Species in New York State – Dr. Rodam Getchell, Assistant Research Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Cornell University

Dr. Getchell presented on the development eDNA as a tool, which is currently being used to assist with the early detection and distribution assessment of invasive species in aquatic systems throughout New York State. Dr. Getchell discussed the science behind eDNA including use of the Barcode of Life, allelic discrimination and SNP analysis, and qPCR to determine the species presence. He also discussed the many applications and possible drawback to using eDNA. Dr. Getchell finished up by discussing a pilot project designed to engage middle and high school students in collection of eDNA from New York State waterways. Students engaged in this project collect samples for eDNA analysis and are able to see the real life impact of science.