

**Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Meeting Summary**  
**January 11, 2018; 10:00-11:45**  
**SUNY Brockport 220 Seymour College Union**  
**350 New Campus Drive**  
**Brockport NY, 14420**

**Attendance:** In Person: Brittany Herson (Facilitator, WNY PRISM), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Andie Graham (SUNY Brockport, BSPS), Tiffany Clay (SUNY Brockport), Meg Janis (NYS Parks), Steve Locke (BSPS), Becky Sibner (NYS Parks), Chenga Drury (ESF).  
Conference Call: Steven Daniel, Zachary Simek (APIPP), David Werier, Steve Young (NY Natural Heritage Program), Willow Eyres (DEC), Audrey Bowe (NY Invasive Species Research Institute), Michael Young (LH-PRISM).

**General Updates:**

- Obtained GLRI funding, working on finalizing the QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan). Reached out to the Ontario contact about their *Brachypodium* occurrence, also plan to reach out to Northern Michigan.
- LH-PRISM has 3 localized sites they are managing. One site has scattered plants and will require treatment again, the other 2 are clear but will continue to be monitored. Plan to continue surveys along the creek.
- A literature review for *Brachypodium* was suggested, Brittany will follow up with NYISRI.
- While giving a rare plants tour of Taughannock Falls, found *Brachypodium* in a new spot that is isolated from the trails and other known populations.
- David mentioned the genetics study being done at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University and e-mailed the following contact information to the group: David L. Des Marais, PhD. Senior Fellow of The Arnold Arboretum and Research Associate in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. Harvard University [desmarais@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:desmarais@fas.harvard.edu)

**2017 Survey and Data Summary:**

This past summer we had two interns carry out *Brachypodium* surveys. One was Chenga who surveyed areas in Tompkins County and focused on heavily visited trails and roads near previous observations. The other was Melissa who surveyed various natural areas in Genesee, Erie, Wyoming and Monroe Counties. The species was found and reported in Letchworth State Park, and surveys were conducted by Parks following the same protocol.

The data and pictures are organized for a bulk upload to iMap. Saw differences in the timing of flowering and seeding among the survey locations. It may be necessary to define the term flowering with a little more detail, could use different stages of flowering and split this into sub-categories. (In Letchworth flowering, not seeding, was seen earlier in June-typo in slides).

Discussed the possibility of including presence/absence in iMap for *Brachypodium*, Willow will follow up with NYNHP.

**2018 Surveys:**

In WNY we plan to use 2017 presences and take a closer look at roads and trails nearby. Also hope to use habitat suitability modeling and input from the Working Group to identify and prioritize survey locations. The purpose of the surveys is to determine the presence and distribution of *Brachypodium*.

Group discussed different aspects of surveys:

- Habitat Suitability/Studies
  - Habitat preference for the species is higher pH, make acidic sites a lower survey priority.
  - A counter point on pH as an indicator of habitat suitability was brought up – once established, pH may not play as important a role
  - Andie and Tiffany used pH data in Bergen Swamp habitat suitability, they are looking to expand their models. Will be doing soil nutrient analysis, can possibly look at pH.
- Surveys Locations
  - Discussed the CT Hill population in Tompkins County, interested in pH of this patch. Chenga and Audrey went to the property, not given permission to survey. Maybe if we propose a one-time visit to check the soil pH we could try again.
  - Could have a survey intern stationed in the Syracuse area. Becky mentioned it would be easier on the host if there was direction from the Working Group about sites to survey.

### **Management Study:**

Plan to look at 3 locations: Bergen Swamp, Letchworth State Park and Genesee County Park and Forest.

4 potential removal methods:

- Manual removal
- Mechanical removal
- Herbicide application-glyphosate, foliar spraying
- Combination of mechanical and herbicide

Look at percent cover in 1 meter squared plots before and after management, and seed production post-management. Will work with Partners at sites to incorporate removal methods.

We are still determining how to fit control plots into our experiment in a way that prevents further spread of the species but doesn't bias the study.

### **DEC Updates, Willow Eyres:**

- SUNY Brockport MOU- management and research project out of Brockport.
- SUNY Albany MOU- Intern dedicated to *Brachypodium* work, have access to the greenhouse. Proposed project ideas: seed viability, seed transport in water, and seed germination/pH. **Please let Brittany or Willow know if there are any other project ideas.**
- Summer interns through ESF- WNY, CNY and LH. Will need to find a host for CNY/Syracuse area.
- Working on field guides specific to *Brachypodium* with detailed images for interns.

### **Bergen Swamp Updates and future plans, Andie Graham:**

- DEC/Brockport MOU- Focus on habitat suitability, detecting new populations and collecting environmental conditions. Expand removal efforts in the region.
- DEC grant- Plan to hold a workshop. In Bergen Swamp, cut *Brachypodium* mid-June and herbicide application in late summer/early fall.

### **NYS Parks Updates:**

#### **Meg Janis:**

- Will have an intern this summer trained to carry out *Brachypodium* surveys.

- Plan to train the operations staff to look for *Brachypodium*.
- Looking to install boot brush stations.
- Seasonal strike team will work along trail edges for manual removal of *Brachypodium*.

#### **Becky Sibner:**

- Focus on manual removal of the manageable *Brachypodium* populations. Have larger populations where the infestation has spread outside of park limits.
- Could conduct local outreach such as news articles or send a post card to residents describing how to ID the plant and what to do if it is found.

#### **Next Steps:**

##### Meeting Schedule:

- Will hold Quarterly Working Group meetings.
- Conference calls scheduled for **April 10, 2018** and **August 7, 2018** at 1 PM.
- Tentatively, in-person meeting October 23, 2018, more info on time and location to follow.

##### Website Needs:

- Seeking feedback on how to best present information and who will be using the site. It was suggested we can have information on how to report sightings and what to photograph.
- DEC site is general, the WNY one could be more detailed so they complement each other.

##### Education and Outreach Needs:

- The current plan is to have an Experiential Learning Opportunity with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at Bergen Swamp.
- Plan to hold a workshop that focuses on survey and identification of this species.
- Steve Locke holds a meet and greet with a rattlesnake, can include *Brachypodium* at the event. Suggested articles in the Batavian and Batavia Daily News, Brittany will reach out to them.
- Meg mentioned the new Nature Center at Letchworth. Can have a hike program where *Brachypodium* is identified. The Genesee Naturalist is another resource, Brittany will contact.

##### Boot Brush Stations:

- Looking for proposed areas that need some form of spread prevention.
- A good location would be Danby State Forest and the Finger Lakes Trail. Chenga made a few location suggestions. Brittany will contact Cayuga Trails Club to determine interest.
- At Bergen Swamp the plan is to put boot brush stations at the 2 other trail heads.
- It was also suggested the signs could emphasize brushing off gear a little more, not just boots.
- **If there is interest in boot brush stations please let Brittany know and provide locations and contact information by 2/16/18. We are hoping to have some installed this year.**