

Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Meeting Summary
April 10, 2018; 1:00-2:00 PM
Conference Call

Attendance: Brittany Hernon (Facilitator, WNY PRISM), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Audrey Bowe (NY Invasive Species Research Institute), Zachary Simek (APIPP), David Werier, Steve Locke (BSPS), Steve Young (NY Natural Heritage Program), Willow Eyres (DEC), Steven Daniel.

General Updates:

- Andrea visited the occurrence site in Virginia, the site is under construction and the observation location was not accessible. Walked around the adjacent neighborhood and did not see the species. David sent an e-mail to the Working Group with additional information on the site. Brittany will try and track down the observer for more details on the exact location.
- A Box folder has been created by NYISRI to organize *Brachypodium* publications in a central location, let Audrey Bowe know if you would like access to this.
- Three boot brush stations are being constructed by the BSPS at Bergen Swamp. There is a Meet and Greet event to learn about species native to Bergen Swamp and introduce *Brachypodium* to help landowners recognize it. Brittany and Andrea will attend the Meet and Greet along with other Working Group members.
- A DEC field guide has been created specifically for *Brachypodium* with detailed phenology. The MOU with Albany has been approved and **input from the Working Group is needed** for specific research questions, protocols and a seed source to begin viability studies. There will be a research student dedicated to *Brachypodium* work who will have access to the greenhouse to focus on topics such as seed viability, seed transport in water, and effects of pH on seed germination. **Please send your input to Willow or Brittany.**

Boot Brush Stations:

- Grant funding will be used to purchase supplies for 7 boot brush stations. They will be near *Brachypodium* infestations or areas where it would be helpful to provide info on this species.
- Locations: Letchworth State Park, Whirlpool State Park, Genesee County Park and Forest, Drew's Nature Center and Trestle Park.

Seasonal Project Staff:

- 2 DEC survey interns: Courtney Scoles hosted by Andie Graham at SUNY Brockport and Rachel Bonafilia hosted by Amy Samuels at Onondaga Environmental Institute.
- 2 WNY PRISM Interns: Emily Doores, survey intern focusing on the southern tier and Niagara County. Linda Brack, GIS/Outreach intern working to update habitat suitability maps and create outreach materials.

Management Studies:

- Will implement manual, mechanical, herbicide and mechanical/herbicide treatment on infestations at Genesee County Park and Forest and Letchworth State Park. Working to see how our studies can fit in with current Bergen Swamp research.
- Projected time frame:
 - Pre-management vegetation surveys: June 4-22
 - Manual removal: June 25-29
 - Mowing by park staff: June 25-29, July 23-26

- Herbicide-only plot application: June 26-28
- Mowing/Herbicide plot application: August 23-27
- Post-management seed production surveys: September 10-14
- Post-management vegetation surveys: approximately June 3-21, 2019

Surveys:

- This summer the interns will use a Kelway soil pH and moisture meter to collect data on soil pH and quantify soil moisture at the sites.
- 2018 intern survey locations: in the process of creating a list of locations to survey, Brittany will send the list around for feedback.

Education and Outreach:

- Bergen Swamp Meet and Greet
- Bergen Town Newsletter
- Genesee County Park and Forest environmental summer camp

Discussion:

- Identification Fact Sheet input:
 - Add GLRI logo and Working Group funding statement.
 - Define plant identification terms or point out in the pictures.
 - Add information on phenology for the native species, a graph was suggested to visually show different flowering times.
 - Consider other native species that have greater phenology overlap. Can also focus on additional look-alike species on the website.
- Identification and Survey Workshop:
 - Focus on a specific audience so they will get the most out of the workshop.
 - Can target site managers and provide more detailed information.
 - There may be a need to work with highway supervisors and employees, so they can be on the lookout as well.

Future Working Group Meetings:

- **August 7, 2018 at 1:00 PM:** Conference Call
- **October 23, 2018 at 1:00 PM:** In person meeting at Genesee County Park and Forest