

Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Meeting Summary
October 23, 2018; 1:00 PM- 2:15/3:30 PM
Genesee County Park and Forest
11095 Bethany Center Road, East Bethany, NY 14054

Attendance: In Person: Brittany Herson (Facilitator, WNY PRISM), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Paul Osborn (Genesee County Parks), Shannon Lyaski (Genesee County Parks), Audrey Bowe (NY Invasive Species Research Institute), Andrew Leonardi (SUNY Brockport), Megan Aubertine (SUNY Brockport), Andie Graham (SUNY Brockport), Katie Amatangelo (SUNY Brockport), Amy McGinnis (NYS Parks), John Kantrowski (Friends of Letchworth State Park), Bill DesJardin (Bergen Swamp Preservation Society).
Conference Call: Becky Sibner (NYS Parks), Meg Janis (NYS Parks), Hilary Mosher (FL-PRISM), Brittany Lagaly (FL-PRISM)

General Updates:

- NYS Parks and Friends of Letchworth are working on control of *B. sylvaticum* at Letchworth State Park near the Dam Overlook area.
- NYS Parks found new *B. sylvaticum* populations at Taughannock Falls State Park. They were able to manually remove plants in some patches, and have seen success with manual removal over the past few years.
- SUNY Brockport has graduate students who will be working on *B. sylvaticum* surveys, removal and decomposition research.
- The Annual Report for the Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group is available on the website and has updates and news on the project from the past year.
<http://www.wnyprism.org/projects/slenderfalsebrome/working-group/>

Surveys:

- Surveyed 33 sites around Syracuse and the Finger Lakes Region, found new populations at Rand Tract Park and Heath Park.
- Surveyed 53 sites in the WNY PRISM region, found new populations along the West Shore Trail and Genesee Valley Greenway Trail.
- In the WNY PRISM region and Syracuse area, *B. sylvaticum* was found along trails and parks that are adjacent or close to previously identified infestations.
- June 25, 2018 was the first date plants were noted to have flowers.
- The dense populations and monocultures were found in areas with high canopy cover.
- Looking to determine a location and host for a potential DEC intern to conduct surveys in 2019.

Habitat Suitability:

- A GIS-based habitat suitability model was created based on current known locations of *B. sylvaticum*. The most important factors for determining probability of occurrence appear to be distance to snowmobile trails, precipitation and distance to railroads.
- The habitat suitability map was used to create a list of survey locations for the 2019 field season.

Management:

- Seed production data were collected in the research plots at Letchworth State Park, Genesee County Park and Forest and Bergen Swamp. The results are promising and a majority of plants in the management plots were not producing flowers or seed. Some untreated control plots had up to 1200 *B. sylvaticum* seeds in them.

- In 2019, the same data will be collected, and same removal methods implemented in the management areas.
- The survey technicians will assist with management in the 2019 field season.

Education and Outreach:

- Held an Identification and Survey Workshop. The participants eagerly identified the species in the field and practiced the survey protocol.
- Will hold another workshop in spring 2019 that will focus on *B. sylvaticum* management. We plan to reach out to snowmobile clubs and highway departments in the areas where this species has been found. **If you have suggestions for other people or organizations that may benefit from a workshop about this species, please let Brittany know.**
- Looking to reach out to residents along the West Shore Trail, since many *B. sylvaticum* populations continue onto private property. Can write articles for local newspapers describing the species and where it has been found. Also, looking into mailing post cards or letters to residents in the area.
- It was suggested that we can hold a *B. sylvaticum* plant removal effort using volunteers, potentially during I Love my Park Day or a similar event.
- Another suggestion was to organize a presentation or workshop for the CCE Master Gardeners or Master Forest Owners. Paul Osborn has sent along contact information for these groups.
- **If you have any input on the education and outreach suggestions, additional ideas or contact information please send them along to Brittany.**

Website:

- KMZ files that can be viewed in Google Earth are available on the website that display the survey efforts and *B. sylvaticum* occurrence data.
- The webpages also contain the Identification Fact Sheet, survey documents, and featured research including a literature review created by NYISRI.
- The webpages can be found within the WNY PRISM site, under the Projects tab.
<http://www.wnyprism.org/projects/slenderfalsebrome/>

iMap:

- All 2017 and 2018 occurrence data have been entered into iMapInvasives.

Audrey Bowe, *B. sylvaticum* Research:

- Research will look at the impact of *B. sylvaticum* on native plants and the role that deer play in this interaction.
- Native species will be planted, and their growth, survival and reproduction will be studied over time.
- Fenced and unfenced plots will be used, and deer/insect/rodent browse will be measured.
- Study sites will be located in Danby State Forest.

2019 Working Group Meeting Schedule:

- Will have conference calls tentatively on January 22, 2019 and August 13, 2019 at 1:00 PM
Please let Brittany know if there are any conflicts with these days or times, they can be adjusted to accommodate more attendees.
- Looking to schedule an in-person meeting in April 2019, location and date TBD.