



# WNY PRISM

*Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species*

Spring/Summer 2016 Newsletter

Vol. 2 Issue 1

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*The WNY PRISM mission is to proactively identify, evaluate and address invasive species priorities in western New York using a coordinated partnership of local professionals, organizations and private citizens to improve, restore and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources.*

## Giant Hogweed Initiative

Partnering with DEC

WNY PRISM is partnering with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to help track and remove giant hogweed within our region. As part of DEC's Giant Hogweed Control Program, we are hosting two DEC staffers. They will be stationed at our Great Lakes Center Field Station for the full 2016 season.

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantagazzianum*) causes considerable damage to our natural areas. Because of its size and rapid growth, it threatens biodiversity by shading and out-competing native plants and trees, especially along streambanks where conditions are ideal. It also can lead to increased soil erosion in these areas. However, the most significant threat is posed to human



Left: The best time to identify giant hogweed is when it's in bloom, typically in June. Photo by Laura Smith, APIPP; Right: giant hogweed seedling (Spring/early Summer). Photo by Brenden Quirion, APIPP

health. The sap from giant hogweed may cause severe skin and eye irritation, and may also cause painful blisters and burns. If you come across this large plant, steer clear!

Giant hogweed is widespread in the WNY region, second only to FL-PRISM for the total number of sites within NYS. Of the 381 sites currently known in WNY, 183 have fewer than 20 plants, and 52 sites have more than 500 plants. With this immediate need for management, WNY PRISM couldn't be more excited to be hosting Giant Hogweed Crew this year.

For more information on DEC's Giant Hogweed Control Program and additional resources, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html>.

If you see giant hogweed in your area, contact the DEC through their hotline at 1-845-256-3111, or email at [ghogweed@dec.ny.gov](mailto:ghogweed@dec.ny.gov).



From left to right: Crew Leader, Jeff Friedman (based out of Avon, NY), Kevin Preischel and Daniel Vladu, DEC Field Technicians based out of the Great Lakes Center. Photo by WNY PRISM

## Regional Updates

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is continuing to implement invasive species spread prevention efforts as well as removal projects, with a focus on phragmites management. Work on the 1911 - built Harlem Road Bridge over the Buffalo River is set to begin this summer, which includes consideration of invasive species along the bank of the Buffalo River.

The Army Corps of Engineers is continuing to focus on Hydrilla as part of the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Control Demonstration Project, now in its third year. In partnership with Canal Corps, DEC and USFWS, they will complete a pre-monitoring survey, full treatment, and post-treatment survey.

The Chautauqua Lake Association was awarded \$100,000 as part of the NYS effort to prevent the spread of invasive freshwater species. This project will involve education and outreach, and an increase in the number of Boat Launch Stewards on Chautauqua Lake.

The NYISRI at Cornell and DEC, in collaboration with Chinese scientists, recently had funding approved to import and quarantine a biocontrol research project on water chestnut. The 1000L quarantined water tanks at Cornell University will test host specificity of the leaf beetle, *Galerucella birmanica*.



Water chestnut rosette.  
Photo by WNY PRISM

## Steering Committee Members

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper  
Conewango Creek Watershed Association  
Cornell Cooperative Extension Ecology & Environment, Inc.  
SUNY Buffalo State  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
New York Sea Grant  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
NYS Department of Transportation  
New York State Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals  
New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation  
SUNY Fredonia  
The Nature Conservancy  
United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District  
USFWS, Lower Great Lakes Office

## Partner Spotlight: Invasive Species Research Institute

By Audrey Bowe, Research Assistant

***The Invasive Species Research Institute has the mission of coordinating invasive species research to help prevent and manage the impact of invasive species in New York State.***

NYISRI works with the scientific community, land managers, and state and other partner organizations to improve the scientific basis of invasive species management by encouraging two-way communication and information-sharing. With the extensive invasive species research and management conducted across the state, there are many opportunities to bridge the gap that often exists between research and practice.

One of NYISRI's main platforms for sharing information is their website ([nyisri.org](http://nyisri.org)), which is updated regularly. The site features a searchable invasive species expert database, up-to-date information on biological control projects, invasive species research news and monthly listings of invasive species research publications. NYISRI also hosts monthly invasive species webinars and coordinates a yearly invasive species conference at Cornell University.

Based on conversations with PRISM leaders and other partners across the state about research needs, NYISRI has initiated a number of projects. To address the state-wide need for more consistency in priority setting, NYISRI is working with partners to develop a priority setting tool for invasive species management in New York. In order to better reach and meet the needs of land managers in NYS, NYISRI is in the process of developing a survey to identify where these managers get their invasive species information as well as perceived gaps in research. NYISRI is also launching a pilot program this year which establishes partnerships between researchers and land managers to measure the effectiveness of invasive species management techniques in natural areas.

Visit [nyisri.org](http://nyisri.org), or follow [@NY\\_ISRI](https://twitter.com/NY_ISRI) on twitter to find out more and connect with the Institute.



## Knotweed Removal Project at the Great Lakes Center Field Station

Last August, the PRISM Crew took on a knotweed removal project at the Great Lakes Center Field Station. The Crew used two methods of removal: stem injection and foliar spraying.

This project was developed in order to compare the cost, effectiveness and time required for each method. The information collected will allow us to make better management decisions in the future.

The area the crew managed (312 m<sup>2</sup>) had roughly 5,500 knotweed stems. They used the stem injection method on about 500 stems, and foliar sprayed the remaining area.

## Upcoming Events

Invasive Species Speaker Series  
May 25 & June 22; 11:00 am

Newest Research on the Value of  
Habitat for Pest Management  
May 25; 2:00 pm

Aquatic & Terrestrial Invasive Species  
Management Workshop @ UB  
June 3

iMapInvasives Training  
Letchworth State Park  
June 16

Invasive Species Awareness Week  
July 10-16

**For more information or to include  
your events, visit our website:  
[www.wnyprism.org](http://www.wnyprism.org)**

To subscribe to the WNY  
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Type "join" in the subject line.  
Leave the body of message blank.  
Don't include signature or text.



WNY PRISM foliar sprayed and stem injected knotweed (*Reynoutria spp.*) last August and is looking forward to seeing the results this Summer. Photos by WNY PRISM.

## Internet Sales of Invasive Species

By Rachel Saloom, WNY PRISM Intern

Managing the spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes region and around the world has recently become more difficult. While people still accidentally transport and release plants, animals and other organisms into unwanted areas, an increase in unregulated online trade presents a new threat.

A recent study conducted by European researchers at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich used an online tracking platform to find out what plant species were being sold across the internet. What these researchers found was astonishing. Over the course of 50 days, it was found that ten different websites were selling 2,625 plants over the web in 55 countries. Of these species, 510 are invasive species, 35 of which are on the International Union for Conservation Nature's 100 worst invasive species list. Two of WNY PRISM's priority species that are easily purchasable online include bush honeysuckle and reed canary grass.

The continued spread of invasive species comes with a great financial cost. It is predicted that the cost of future removal and prevention programs will cost between \$120 billion to \$300 billion annually. These numbers will only continue to climb as more damage is caused by flooding, habitat destruction, agricultural losses, and human health costs.

New York State recently established Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species, which makes illegal the sale and transport of select invasive species within the state. But this doesn't stretch as far as internet sales from across the globe. So how do we fix this problem? Education is key to the prevention and management of invasives. When the public understands the cost of inaction, and when the species become more easily identifiable, change occurs. WNY PRISM works to raise awareness of invasive species and the threats they pose, and by doing so help people make more informed decisions on the plants they choose to purchase.



Yellow flag iris (NYS prohibited species) Photo by Joseph DiTomaso

## From WNY PRISM

Partners,

It is amazing how quickly time goes by! WNY PRISM is already gearing up for another very busy summer field season and we'll again be working with many Partners from across our region. Earlier this year, Partners submitted projects for our Crew to our Steering Committee for consideration. We were able to accommodate many of these request and a few of the highlights include invasive species removal projects with Erie County on their Habitat Parks along the Buffalo River, WNY Land Conservancy's Stella Niagara Preserve, and work at Bergen Swamp. The Crew will also continue doing invasive species surveys, monitoring projects, and helping with outreach efforts throughout the region.



Andrea Locke, WNY  
PRISM Coordinator

We welcomed aboard our new Education and Outreach Assistant, Laura Kerrigan, in April. Laura will be with PRISM throughout the summer, helping with all things educational including taking the lead on Invasive Species Awareness Week and improving our website content. I'm sure many of you will see her out and about this summer at various events, increasing awareness of important invasive species issues.

A new project for us this year involves our Director, Dr. Chris Pennuto and one of his students, who will be using our pilot Boot Brush Station project as an opportunity to test its effectiveness for intercepting seed. Seed collected from the stations will be grown out in the greenhouse at Buffalo State. Stations will be placed at area parks and trailheads, to encourage visitors to help stop the spread of invasive species by cleaning off their boots.

Thank you for your continued support of WNY PRISM!

Sincerely,  
Andrea

## Statewide Updates

The DEC Invasive Species Coordination Section (ISCS), finished hiring several new staff members. Catherine McGlynn, PhD, will implement the state aquatic invasive species (AIS) management plan as their Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator. Megan Phillips and Willow Eyres were hired as the Education and Outreach Coordinator and Response and Management Coordinator, respectively.

The State Budget was recently passed. In this, \$12 million was allotted to implement the twelve recommendations developed by the NYS Invasive Species Task Force. This includes funding for the PRISMs, ISCS, Invasive Species Research Institute (ISRI), and includes \$5.5 million for eradication projects.

Governor Cuomo announced that \$2 million in grants from the Environmental Protection Fund have been awarded to prevent the spread of invasive freshwater species. The 24 projects will focus on educating boaters on the dangers of aquatic invasive species through the placement of boat stewards, the installation of decontamination stations, and the uniform training of boat stewards across the state. This funding includes \$100,000 allotted for education and outreach in the Chautauqua Lake region.



## Contact Us

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WNY PRISM



@wnyPRISM

## Species Profile: Mile-a-Minute Vine

Mile-a-minute is an herbaceous, annual, trailing vine that can reach lengths of six meters or more. Its stems are covered with barbs which are also present on the underside of the leaf blades. The light green-colored leaves are triangle-shaped and alternate along the stem.



Mile-A-Minute photo by: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org

Mile-a-minute has gained a reputation as "the kudzu of the North" for its ability to quickly grow over and outcompete native plant species. In ideal growing conditions, a single vine can grow as much as 6" per day. Because it can smother tree seedlings, mile-a-minute weed can have a negative effect on tree farms, forestry operations, and reforestation of natural areas.

Mile-a-minute is an early detection priority for WNY. If you have this vine on your property or if you see this plant, please report it to iMapInvasives: [www.nyimainvasives.org](http://www.nyimainvasives.org).