

**Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Meeting Summary**  
**August 7, 2018, 1:00-2:00 PM, Conference Call**

**Attendance:** Brittany Hernon (Facilitator, WNY PRISM), Michael Young (LH PRISM), Allison McKenna (LH PRISM), Emily Doores (WNY PRISM), Kathleen McCormick (WNY PRISM), Zachary Simek (APIPP), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Andie Graham (SUNY Brockport), Rachel Bonafilia (DEC/WNY PRISM), Izaac Cooper (SUNY Albany), Melissa Boglioli (WNY PRISM), Willow Eyres (DEC).

**General Updates:**

- LH PRISM is in the process of surveying for *B. sylvaticum*, continuing downstream from the known populations. Last year plants were removed, and those spots were flagged. Did not see new plants grow back in the flagged spots this year.
- Andie and her team are in the second year of removal at Bergen Swamp. The areas that were cut last year produced seed about two weeks later than the untreated areas.
- Backyard Invaders Workshop: August 25, 2018, 9:00 AM at the DeWitt Recreation Area. Presented by the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District. Andie's student will discuss the work at Bergen Swamp. WNY PRISM will also speak at this event.

**Habitat Suitability:**

- Melissa Boglioli, GIS Technician, created habitat suitability maps for *B. sylvaticum* in Genesee and Tompkins counties and the WNY PRISM region, and will create one for NY state.
- The layers used included precipitation, min and max temperature, soil pH, soil percent clay, distance to water, distance to railroads, distance to roads and distance to snowmobile trails.
- Based on the current known sites, the most important factors for determining probability of occurrence appear to be distance to snowmobile trails, precipitation and distance to railroads.

**SUNY Albany Research:**

- Izaac Cooper is working on *B. sylvaticum* cold stratification research at SUNY Albany.
- He is using nine different cold exposure durations from zero to eight weeks.
- Looking at seed from NY and Oregon, to see if differences exist between the regions.

**Surveys:**

- Rachel Bonafilia, Survey Technician in the Syracuse area:
  - Found *B. sylvaticum* at Heath Park and Rand Tract Park. The populations are dense along game trails.
  - Surveying in this area is finished for the 2018 field season
- Emily Doores and Kathleen McCormick, Survey Technicians in the WNY PRISM region:
  - Found 117 different populations of *B. sylvaticum* along the West Shore Trail spanning through Elba, Byron, Bergen and Churchville. Saw heavy ATV use in this area.
  - Found six populations of *B. sylvaticum* along the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail in the stretch from Nunda to Letchworth State Park.
  - A homeowner reached out about this species and two properties were surveyed in Bergen. Six populations were found on the properties.
  - Surveying in the WNY PRISM region will be completed on August 24, 2018.
- Next steps will be to work with the appropriate contacts at the parks and trails to implement management and spread prevention.

- Willow will reach out to the DEC regional office about contacts in Elba and Churchville. Any contact information for these towns will be helpful to move forward with management.
- Andie is working with two graduate students that will focus on research and removal of *B. sylvaticum*. They can help with removal of some populations found this summer.

#### **Boot Brush Stations:**

- Two stations in Letchworth State Park, one in Whirlpool State Park
- Two at Genesee County Park and Forest
- On August 16, 2018 we will install one at Drew's Nature Center and one at Trestle Park.

#### **Management:**

- Implemented manual, mechanical, herbicide, and mechanical/herbicide treatments to the 6-acre *B. sylvaticum* infestation at Genesee County Park and Forest. The infestation is very dense with few other species growing in the understory.
- Implemented manual, mechanical, herbicide and mechanical/herbicide treatments to the 42-acre infestation at Letchworth State Park. This infestation is very patchy, with dense stands of other species throughout it.
- Next steps are to collect seed production data in the research plots and begin data analysis.

#### **Education and Outreach:**

- A Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group website has been created within the WNY PRISM site. <http://www.wnyprism.org/projects/slenderfalsebrome/>
- Submitted articles to the Buffalo State Great Lakes Center Newsletter and Town of Bergen Newsletter. A Bergen homeowner reached out about *B. sylvaticum* on her property because of the newsletter.
- Attended the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society's Meet and Greet event in April.
- Taught a section of the Genesee County Park and Forest Environmental Science Career Exploration Camp. Introduced the campers to *B. sylvaticum* identification, survey protocol, management and spread prevention measures. We will likely use this as our experiential learning activity.

#### **Identification and Survey Workshop:**

- August 29, 2018, 9:00 AM at the Letchworth State Park Humphrey Nature Center.
- This is one of two workshops the Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group will host.
- Indoor portion to provide identification and survey protocol information.
- Outdoor portion to see the species and practice collecting data in the field.
- Tour and discussion of ongoing management in the area.
- Identification Fact Sheet
  - Plan to distribute this at the workshop and post on the webpage.
- Survey Fact Sheet
  - Sheet will provide a visual summary of the survey protocol to assist researchers in the field.
  - Plan to send around a draft before the workshop, and any comments will be helpful.

#### **\*Mark your calendars:**

**In-Person Working Group Meeting Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 1:00 PM at Genesee County Park and Forest**