

WNY PRISM Full Partnership Meeting Summary
Thursday, November 19 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
State University of New York at Fredonia – Fredonia, NY

In Attendance

Jennifer Dunn – NYS DEC, Steve Rees – Master Gardeners Chautauqua Co., Mike Jabot – Fredonia, Jon Titus – Fredonia, Lyn Chimera – Master Gardeners Erie Co., David McQuay – NYS Parks, Lorraine Van Slooten – Master Gardeners Erie Co., Jonathan Townsend, Ruth Lundin – Jamestown Audubon Society, Marty Sanden – Dunkirk, Bill Ellsworth – NYS DAM, David Paradowski – NYS DEC, Helen Domske – NY Sea Grant, Maris Grundy – PUSH Buffalo, David Spiering – Tifft Nature Preserve, Fred Harrington – Fredonia, Diane Clark – Greystone Nature Preserve, Craig Butler – Chautauqua Lake Association, Matt Nusstein – NYS Parks, Charles Miotta – Dunkirk, Cassandra Pinkoski – Chautauqua Co. SWCD, Nate Wright – National Grid, Connie Dutcher – Master Gardener, Elyse Henshaw – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Janine Shepherd – NYS DOT, Vicki Haas – Erie Co. Environment and Planning, Ken Parker – SNI, Karry Kazial – Fredonia, Andrea Locke – WNY PRISM.

Presentations and associated handouts are available at www.wnyprism.org – see About – News & Reports or our Latest News sections

Presentations

Seneca Nation of Indians – New Native Plant Policy – Ken Parker, Project Manager, SNI Planning and Development

In the spring of 2014, the Seneca Nation of Indians approved a new Native Plant Policy, ensuring that new landscape planting in public spaces on Seneca lands will be exclusively comprised of local indigenous species. This is a first of its kind policy, as no other U.S. Native Tribe has established and formally enacted an indigenous plant policy. Ken Parker presented on the how and why this policy was put in place as well as shared some challenges that still need to be overcome such as the limited availability of local native plant materials and seed, and an aesthetic preference for manicured lawns and gardens.

For more information on the Native Plant Policy, 'No-Planting' Lists, Native Plants and landscaping projects, please visit www.foodisourmedicine.org.

Bats of Western New York and the Impacts of White Nose Syndrome – Karry A. Kazial, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Biology, Fredonia

During the summer of 2015, news was made when the US Forest Service and Partners gathered at Mark Twain Cave Complex in Missouri to release bats that had white nose syndrome, and were successfully treated. This cautious optimism led to many questions about the status of bats here in western New York. Karry Kazial, a Bat Researcher and Associate Professor at Fredonia presented on the 9 species of bats found in New York, including the newly listed (Federally Threatened) Northern Long-eared Bat, which was listed due to recent population declines and the continued threat posed by white nose syndrome. Research has been done within WNY on acoustic monitoring and on maternity colonies at

Chautauqua Institution, where wing scarring visible on bats is attributed to white nose syndrome. Dr. Kazial's research on animal behavior, sensory ecology and wildlife conservation focused first on Little Brown Bats, but due to significant population declines, she has continued her work with Large Brown Bats.

WNY PRISM 2015 Highlights

Andrea Locke, WNY PRISM Coordinator, presented on highlights from the considerable work accomplished in 2015. A full review of WNY PRISM's work in 2015 will be presented in our Annual Report, which will be completed early next year. The WNY PRISM 2016 Annual Work Plan is available [HERE](#).

- Partner/Network Coordination
 - 45 Primary and Collaborating Partners, over 200 Partners and other stakeholders
 - Established Working Groups (Terrestrial, Aquatic, Conservation Targets, E&O)
 - Provided assistance and Letters of Support for Partners seeking Grant Funding
 - Applied for funding to establish Strike Team
 - Hired Seasonal Crew
 - Invasive Species Management Assistants (3) – time split between Management (41%), Education & Outreach (25%), IS Surveys (25%) and other (10%)
 - Education and Outreach Assistant (1) – 75% of time spent directly on E&O efforts, additional tasks included volunteer program and management
- Information Management
 - Launched Website
 - Identified Regional Research Needs
 - Working Groups developed Priority Species Lists
 - iMapInvasives
 - 3 iMap Trainings
 - 6 Projects, 347 Observations, 54 Species
 - Identified information gaps and increased observation data for species
- Education and Outreach
 - 2 e-newsletters
 - 40 Presentations/Workshops/Events, 3200 Direct Contacts (>200,000 Attendees)
 - Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - Developed Outreach Materials
 - Amherst State Park Invasive Species Project (amherststatepark.org)
- Prevention
 - Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species
 - Plantwise NY Brochure & Landscape Alternatives
 - Worked with NY Sea Grant and NYS Parks on Watercraft Stewardship Programming
 - AIS Spread Prevention and Priority Species within the NYS Canal System Report
- Early Detection & Rapid Response
 - Chautauqua Lake Survey – Water Chestnut and Hydrilla
 - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid survey trainings

- Developed Early Detection Priorities List
- Management & Habitat Restoration
 - Assisted DEC with *Galerucella* beetle collection
 - Assisted USACE, DEC, UFSWS with Tonawanda Creek Hydrilla Project – surveys
 - Removal Projects
 - Japanese Knotweed – Tifft Nature Preserve, GLC, Seneca Bluffs, Riverbend
 - Woody Shrubs – Tifft Nature Preserve, Niagara Escarpment Preserve
 - Swallow-worts – Riverbend, Niagara Escarpment Preserve
 - Phragmites – Tifft Nature Preserve, Niagara Escarpment Preserve
 - Water Chestnut – Jamestown Audubon, Chautauqua Lake Outlet

Partner Requests

- 2015 Annual Report
 - Partner Reports – 1 – 4 sentences summarizing your invasive species work
 - Photos – include credit and names of those in photo
 - Please send by **Tuesday, December 22nd**
- Working Groups
 - Join our working groups by contacting Andrea Locke, Working Groups meet 3 – 4 times per year
- Internship Opportunities
 - WNY PRISM has 2 projects available for students in need of an internship, please have interested students contact Andrea Locke
- Project Assistance
 - If you are interested in having the WNY PRISM Crew assist with one of your invasive species projects in 2016, please send the following information by **Friday, January 22 2016** to Andrea Locke
 - Project Description including Partners involved, location, target species, intended outcomes and goals
 - Time you are requesting (amount of crew time and seasonal timing of project)
 - Supervision and equipment needs
 - For sites requiring multiple days, indicate housing availability

WNY PRISM Full Partnership Meeting Summary
Thursday, May 19th, 2015; 6:00 – 8:00 pm
CCE of Erie County - East Aurora, NY

In Attendance

Dennis Kirby – Niagara County SWCD, Paul Fuhrmann – Ecology & Environment, Inc., Mike Jabot – SUNY Fredonia, Lorraine VanSlooten – Master Gardener, Sharon Bachman – CCE Erie County, Jennifer Dunn - DEC, Franklin Thompson Jr.- DEC, Douglas Conroe – Chautauqua County , Richard Ruby – USACE, Buffalo District, Debbie Breth – CCE Orleans County, Patricia Shulenburg – WNY PRISM, Andrea Locke – WNY PRISM.

Presentations

Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Control Demonstration Project Overview and Update - Richard Ruby, Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District

- Overview: What is Hydrilla, ecology, invasive species, gender ID
- Demonstration Project
 - Chemically treat with Endothall (Aquathol K) herbicide, low dosage 1.5 ppm
 - Work with Canal Crops to reduce flow through the Erie Canal to increase herbicide contact
- Preliminary Results of 2014 Treatment
 - Tubers decreased by 90%, biomass decreased by 100% at 4 sample sites
 - Western most control area (Service Drive Ramp) hydrilla not successfully controlled
 - Overall reduced hydrilla from 33% to 4% in frequency.
 - Native submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) was significantly impacted.
- Great Lakes Hydrilla Risk Assessment
 - The risk assessment will identify locations that are most vulnerable to invasion based on the likelihood of introduction and environmental suitability. This will include plant biology and ecology studies necessary to support risk assessment, modeling, and reduce uncertainty. A team led by Ecology and Environment, Inc. is conducting the risk assessment.

A Public Information Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 3rd at the North Tonawanda Public Library. Additional community outreach will take place at the Canal Fest of the Tonawandas (July 19th – 25th).

Additional information on this project can be found at www.stophydrillawny.org, www.stophyrilla.org, and <http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/resources/tonawanda-creek-info>

Lake Ontario Fruit Program: Invasive Species Pest Management and Monitoring – Deborah Breth, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program Leader

- WNY Fruit Issues
 - Plum Pox – transmitted in budwood of fruit trees (long-distance) or aphids
 - Apples and Pests – many of our pests came from Asia along with our apple trees, but natural population controls were not
 - Invasive Plant Species – black swallow-wort, Japanese knotweed
 - Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Spotted Wing Drosophila, and Black Stem Borer
- Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
 - Damage to fruit, including apples
 - Trapping efforts are focused on areas where truck traffic arrives from mid-Atlantic States
 - Not economically significant in WNY at this time
- Spotted Wing Drosophila
 - Damage tree fruit, small fruit, and vegetable fruit
 - Trapping efforts are coordinated through CCE-LOF and NYSIPM
 - Currently found throughout WNY (except Niagara County)
- Black Stem Borer
 - Ambrosia beetle, wood boring insect that carries a fungal food source
 - Attacks >200 ornamental/forest species
 - Found on Apple and Sweet Cherries
 - First seen in WNY in 2013
 - Attracted to the ethanol emitted from trees within 1-2 days following stress (attracted to stressed trees)
 - Summary and Recommendations
 - Prevent stress, remove and destroy infested wood, and monitor flight.
 - Ambrosia beetles are difficult to control with insecticides, insecticides must be closely timed with beetle attacks, or applied repeatedly, or have long residual activity, Insecticides appropriately labeled as bark treatments may be used against new attacks. Systemic insecticides are not effective.

Partner Updates

Jennifer Dunn, DEC: Frank Thompson has come onboard as DEC's summer intern – he will be working on aquatic invasive species mapping and helping with hydrilla education and outreach.

Doug Conroe, Chautauqua County: Chautauqua County will be working on invasive species mapping within the Chautauqua Lake Outlet and work is continuing with water chestnut removal with the watershed.

Sharon Bachman, CCE Erie County: Working on a highways phone app for road crews to enter invasive species data which will be demonstrated during a training in Ithaca next week, and she is continuing the Spotted Wing Drosophila Trapping this season.

Paul Furhmann, E&E: E&E is working on a Great Lakes Risk Assessment for Hydrilla – a informational flyer is available for those who are interested

WNY PRISM Updates

- WNY PRISM Seasonal Crew
 - Patricia Shulenberg, Education and Outreach Assistant, started on May 3, 2015 and will work through the end of September

- Invasive Species Management Assistants (Crew) will start June 1, 2015 and continue for 12 weeks
- Crew will be assisting with outreach, IS removal, and mapping
- Working Groups
 - Terrestrial, Aquatic, Education and Outreach, and Conservation Targets Working Groups are meeting and making progress on our regional priorities and other initiatives
 - Please contact Andrea Locke, if you are interested in being part of any of our Working Groups
- Education and Outreach
 - Working on development of a quarterly E-Newsletter, the first of which will be available (June) through our website, listserv, and NYIS.info
 - Work on our website continues – expected launch date is late-June
- Ash Seed Collection
 - Molly Marquand, MARSB (and former CRISP Program Coordinator) is leading the effort to collect seed from our native ash varieties in order to preserve the species into the future
 - Molly will be scouting for collection sites in June – if you have suggestions for sites, please contact Andrea Locke and she will put you in contact with Molly
- Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW)
 - July 12th – 18th, 2015
 - ISAW focus is Native Alternatives to Invasive Species, as an extension of the new Prohibited and Regulated Species List/Regulations
 - If you have any events (related to the ‘theme’ or any other aspect of IS awareness/management), please contact Andrea Locke so we can get them up on the Statewide and PRISM calendar of events
 - Current events include a Forest Pest Program at SUNY Fredonia and an Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Workday at WNYLC’s Kenneglenn Preserve

State & Regional Updates

- General Permit GP-0-15-005, Management of Invasive Species
 - Open Comment period closed May 29th, 2015
 - WNY PRISM submitted comments and suggestions based on Partner input, focusing on the need to better allow for and accommodate early detection and rapid response. Comments included:
 - Need for expansion of species eligible for general permit beyond those listed in the Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species Lists
 - Clearer requirements for project size and mapping requirement for individual permits
- Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Statewide Public Launch Regulations
 - Draft language expect within the next few weeks – open for public comment
 - Expected to go into effect this fall (September)
 - NY Sea Grant Boat Steward Program
 - Shift from running Boat Stewards to a Train-the-Trainer Program
 - Contact Brittney Rogers, NY Sea Grant for more information on resources and trainings

Other

- Good news on White-nose Syndrome (WNS) – US Forest Service Research Team released bats treated for WNS at the Mark Twain Cave Complex in Hannibal, MO. More research is needed, but there is cautious optimism that this may lead to a possible long-term solution.

Upcoming Events

- Great Lakes Action Agenda Mtg (6/2)
- Hydrilla Public Information Mtg (6/3)
- EAB Public Information Mtg (6/3)
- Insect and Disease Field ID Workshop (6/4)
- Great Lakes Experience Festival (6/13)
- EAB Information Workshop (6/18)
- HWA Forest Connect Webinar (6/17)
- IS Speaker Series – Native Phragmites (6/24)
- WNY PRISM Display @ Blue Heron Music Festival (7/3 – 7/5)
- ISAW (7/12 – 7/18)
- See our Events Calendar for more information:
https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=rusu09fkn4q0l73p0cgovm2sk0%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York

Save the Date!

**Our next Full Partnership Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19th 2015,
from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at SUNY Fredonia.**