

**Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Meeting Summary**  
**January 22, 2019, 1:00-1:40 PM, Conference Call**

**Attendance:** Brittany Hernon (Facilitator, WNY PRISM), Steve Young (NY Natural Heritage Program), Zachary Simek (APIPP), Audrey Bowe (NY Invasive Species Research Institute), Gabby Nichols (Ontario Invasive Plant Council), Vicki Simkovic (Ontario Invasive Plant Council), Katie Grzesiak (NW Michigan Invasive Species Network), Andie Graham (The College at Brockport), Katie Amatangelo (The College at Brockport), Andrew Leonardi (The College at Brockport), Brittany Lagaly (FL PRISM), Chenga Drury (NYS Parks), Melissa Boglioli (WNY PRISM), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Steven Daniel.

**General Updates:**

- New Working Group members from Michigan and Ontario called into the meeting. Katie Grzesiak (NW Michigan Invasive Species Network), Vicki Simkovic and Gabby Nichols (Ontario Invasive Plant Council) work in regions where *Brachypodium* infestations have been reported. It will be great to share information and resources with other regions, thank you for taking the time to join in!
- In Michigan, 2018 was the first year of treatment for two infestations in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Glyphosate was applied to the infestations and 35 acres total were treated.
- The results of the study by Izaac Cooper at SUNY Albany demonstrated that overall *Brachypodium* seeds have a high germination rate. He did see differences in germination rates between the 2 sites, Danby and Dryden, NY (both located in Tompkins County). Please see the research paper for more information.
- For WNY PRISM and the Working Group, *Brachypodium* is still considered an early detection species with the goal of eradication. The preliminary results of our management studies show that this goal is feasible.
- LH PRISM: Found 2 new sites in 2018 and removed the plants. Will continue monitoring all 5 sites in the region in 2019 to remove new seedlings. Plan to conduct surveys during the field season to locate new populations. May train their detection dog to sniff out *Brachypodium*!
- The College at Brockport: Preparing for the field season by selecting survey sites and getting a summer crew together. Also putting together presentations for upcoming conferences.

**Stewardship Network Conference:**

- Attended the conference in East Lansing, Michigan on January 11-12, 2019.
- Presented on the Working Group project including *Brachypodium* identification, our survey protocol and an overview of the habitat suitability modeling and results.
- Distributed the Working Group's Identification Fact Sheet and Survey Summary Sheet.

**Education and Outreach:**

- Hoping to speak at a FL PRISM Partner meeting to provide information on the Working Group's progress.
- Looking into a post card or letter mailing to property owners adjacent to the West Shore Trail.
- Planning to hold presentations for Master Gardeners to focus on identification, and snowmobile clubs and sportsmen's clubs to discuss spread prevention measures.

**Surveys:**

- A WNY PRISM Survey Technician will visit areas identified as high priority based on the habitat suitability model maps.
- The College at Brockport will also be conducting surveys, so a much greater area will be covered this summer.
- Looking into options to have slender false brome surveys conducted in the Geneva region. This area was identified as a gap in survey efforts and is in the middle of areas where this species has been found.
- Will continue to update the habitat suitability model with seasonal or monthly precipitation data to gain more information on factors affecting slender false brome distribution and further assist with survey site selection.

**Management:**

- Will continue our management studies at Letchworth and Genesee County Park and Forest and hope to continue monitoring at Bergen Swamp.
- Post-treatment monitoring will be conducted in June and then the same removal methods will be used for a second year to continue our management efforts.
- Results of the study will be used to create a Best Management Practices document.
- Plan to revisit areas of Trestle Park and Drew's Nature Center where plants were manually removed in 2018, to continue monitoring and remove new seedlings.
- Will remove populations along the Genesee Valley Greenway, and continue surveying the trail.

**Management Workshop:**

- Will hold a management workshop in the summer to discuss the results of our research and recommend guidelines for treating *Brachypodium*. The workshop will be held near our research areas, so participants can take a field trip to see the work that is in progress.
- Will seek continuing education credits for workshop attendees.
- We discussed different groups to reach out to with information on the workshop to increase attendance. Suggestions included: Local trail groups, highway departments, Botanical Societies, New York Flora Association, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, and Orchid Society.
- Thank you for the great list of groups that may be interested in the workshop! If you have any other suggestions, please send them along!

**In-Person Meeting:**

- The next meeting will be an in-person meeting in early April.
- Looking to hold the meeting at The College at Brockport, more details will be available soon!