

Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Meeting Summary
April 12, 2019; 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
The College at Brockport, Seymour Union room 219
350 New Campus Dr. Brockport, NY 14420

Attendance: In Person: Brittany Hernon (Facilitator, WNY PRISM), Andrew Leonardi (The College at Brockport), Megan Aubertine (The College at Brockport), Andie Graham (The College at Brockport), Katie Amatangelo (The College at Brockport), Bill DesJardin (Bergen Swamp Preservation Society), Mike Merritt (Bergen Swamp Preservation Society).

Conference Call: John Kantrowski (Friends of Letchworth State Park), Kathleen McCormick (WNY PRISM), Tiffany Clay (The College at Brockport), Zachary Simek (APIPP).

General Updates:

- Submitted an abstract to present at NAISMA, this would be a nice opportunity to discuss the Working Group project and management research.
- The College at Brockport research team: Presented at the NYS Wetlands Forum Conference and will be sharing their work at the Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting. Saw a significant reduction in *B. sylvaticum* in the areas that have been cut in Bergen Swamp. Gearing up for the field season by selecting research and removal sites in Danby State Forest, Taughannock Falls State Park and areas adjacent to Bergen Swamp.

GIS Projects:

- Melissa Boglioli will join us again this summer as the GIS Technician.
- Update habitat suitability model and investigate the role of precipitation.
- Tiffany Clay saw similar results as Melissa: *B. sylvaticum* is present in the lowest precipitation class but still prefers saturated soils. Can compare the models Melissa and Tiffany are working on: if they agree this validates the research and methods, and if they disagree this demonstrates areas where new research is needed.
- Create a map of all North American *B. sylvaticum* occurrence locations so we have the information combined in one place.
- Create a map of boot brush station locations, including trail head information to encourage use.
- Continue to update the survey maps so we have information on all areas surveyed during this project and the year sites were visited.

2019 Survey Efforts:

- Kathleen McCormick will join us again this summer to continue the survey work. Amanda Gabryszak, a recent graduate of ESF, will join our team as a survey technician as well.
- Used the habitat suitability model to create a list of 39 high priority sites within the WNY PRISM region.
- Will continue to survey the Genesee Valley Greenway from the south end of Letchworth State Park up towards Mt. Morris. Also plan to remove populations along the Greenway.
- Technicians will use tablets and the Survey 123 program to collect data. Will also take GPS tracks of all areas surveyed to have a more accurate record of trails and roads visited for this project.
- Have completed survey data sheets with detailed definitions of the data collection categories along with Survey 123 programs. **Please contact Brittany if you want copies of data collection materials.**

Management Research:

- Data collection in research plots will take place from May 28- June 14. First year of data collection after treatment.
- Manual removal will start as soon as surveys are complete, herbicide only application will occur in mid-June, cutting will be carried out twice throughout the season at the end of June and end of July and mechanical/herbicide Accord XRT II application will occur mid-August.
- Have completed management research data sheets and Survey 123 programs which can be shared with anyone who is interested.

Boot Brush Stations:

- Will revisit the stations that were installed in 2018 to check for *B. sylvaticum* seedlings around the structure and also ensure the stations are in good, working condition.
- Looking to have Friends Groups install boot brush stations near *B. sylvaticum* infestations.
- Andie and the crew at Brockport offered to install boot brush stations along the West Shore Trail. We will work together to determine locations, timing of installation and will provide the materials.

Education and Outreach:

- Plan to have a table at the Orleans and Genesee County Fairs to provide information on *B. sylvaticum* and other early detection species.
- Genesee County Park and Forest Environmental Camp: will teach a half-day session on invasive species, using field guides and conducting field work.
- Will look into snowmobile and ATV clubs to see if they are interested in an invasive species program or a volunteer work day.
- Friends Groups may also be interested in an invasive species program and assisting with removal efforts.
- Management Workshop: **August 8, 2019 at 10:30 AM** at Genesee County Park and Forest- mark your calendars! Will discuss management options for *B. sylvaticum*, take a field trip to the research area on site and review species ID in the field. Hoping to offer continuing education credits.

Brainstorming Session- Outreach and Removal along the West Shore Trail:

- A letter/flyer mailing to residents along the West Shore Trail would be more effective if there was a connection to the local government or support from someone who is regionally important.
- A mailing would be less intrusive and potentially more accepted than a door to door distribution or phone call.
- In order to get people to attend a community meeting on this species we would need some broader event or topic to draw people in. For example, the Bergen Meet and Greet used species from the Seneca Park Zoo to draw a large crowd, and then added in some invasive species information as well.
- A board meeting may be a good starting place to engage partners and encourage attendance at an event.
- Time, money and resources should be focusing on cutting back the infestation along the West Shore Trail to prevent further spread. Work along the trail may bring awareness to the issue as well. Also, can use additional boot brush stations to promote spread prevention and provide invasive species information in the area.