

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 15; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In-person: Shanna Shaw (NRCS), Bob Smith (CNLP), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Marcus Rosten (USFWS), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), John Grabowski (BNW), Sharon Bachman (CCE – Erie County). On-phone: Paul Fuhrmann (E&E).

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Jennifer Dunn (DEC): Currently hiring for an invasive species support intern, who can be lent out for those in need of invasive species assistant. Provided update on some knotweed projects along the Buffalo River including a project in the design phase attempting to address adjacent properties by creating barriers to prevent re-infestation.

Jonathan Townsend (CWC): Working on a couple of land conservation projects and gearing up for the summer season, writing management plans.

Marcus Rosten (USFWS): finishing up processing samples of benthic invertebrates and ichthyoplankton, expecting to have final report for Lakes Erie and Ontario completed by the end of next month. Attended the American Fisheries Society meeting and presented on data collected by their AIS team.

Paul Fuhrmann (E&E): The Times Beach restoration project is nearing completion and E&E is currently developing an operations and management (O&M) plan, a technical manual for practitioners and report focused on the importance of having an O&M plan.

Bob Smith (Chestnut Ridge Nursery/CNLP): Shared information and an update on spotted lantern fly, which was found in Pennsylvania and was recently found in New York State, Delaware County. Spotted lantern fly prefers tree of heaven as a host species.

Shanna Shaw (NRCS): Currently writing management plans and working on wetland violations of the Food Security Act. Has had difficulty finding certified pesticide applicators for forestry work, specifically invasive shrub removal.

John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper): Provided a Buffalo River project update – work is nearing completion on many projects, additional work will include some native plantings in the spring as well as continued invasive species treatments through the end of the funding term (~August). Also in the design phase for a couple of projects that include an invasive species component, these projects are expected to see construction begin this summer/fall.

Sharon Bachman (CCE Erie County): Working with plant growers, discussing invasive species such as invasive worms and red lily leaf beetle. The red lily leaf beetle project has a survey out to commercial entities and consumers to determine what they know about the species. Also working on a Master Gardeners Coordinators workshop, which includes WNY PRISM counties with MG programs, as well as Monroe County.

PRISM Updates

- Brittany Hernon has joined WNY PRISM as the new Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Project Manager, starting just after Thanksgiving. A working group meeting was held in January and developed 2018 work plan, currently working on boot brush stations, hiring and website content. Steps have been taken to purchase a truck using funds identified in the GLSFB grant. Truck will be used to fulfill scope of work and deliverables identified in the grant/project.

- WNY PRISM Office has moved to campus, solving the internet issues at the Field Station. Lucy and the Crew will continue to work out of the Field Station during the field season, and the Field Station will continue to house stewardship equipment and supplies.
- WNY PRISM held a meeting last quarter aimed to advance AIS prevention efforts in our region. Regional needs were identified, including increased boat launch coverage, specifically outside the Great Lakes Basin and along Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal. In response, DEC and WNY PRISM sought interns through the DEC/ESF program. Five positions were listed (1 lead steward, 4 launch stewards) and interviews have taken place. Due to the high demand and potential funding gap for the program, we aren't guaranteed five positions, and are waiting to hear from DEC.
- Terrestrial Plant Survey and Monitoring Intern (*B. sylvaticum*) interviews took as well. WNY PRISM is expected to receive two interns, one to be based out of Brockport, and a second intern will be placed in Syracuse. We are currently looking for a host site in the Syracuse area.
- The Management Planning Workshop was held at Reinstein Woods on December 14, 2017. The workshop was very well received and well attended. Due to the nature of the workshop, the total number of participants was capped at 20. We had a waiting list, but due to some last-minute cancelations, we were able to accommodate most interested individuals.
- Finalized the 2018 Annual Work Plan, now available on the website
- The WNY PRISM Lending Library is now up and running – currently the EAB costume and poster kits are available for request. We hope to add a specimen kit this spring.
- Grants/Funding
 - Submitted a grant proposal to GLRI – USFS in partnership with the WNY Land Conservancy to implement invasive species removal at a few of their preserves and establish a volunteer monitoring network. Awards are expected to be announced in the next couple weeks.
 - Waiting to hear from DEC about the expected release of an RFP for funding the next five years of WNY PRISM.
- Andrea is now trained to confirm invasive species observations in EDDMaps, which provides better access to observation data.
- Upcoming presentations include Rural Landowners Workshop, Niagara Frontier Botanical Society, Genesee Valley Landowners, and a couple Master Gardener Trainings.
- Planning for ISAW has begun, the first statewide planning meeting was held on February 16, with a second meeting planned for early April.
- Upcoming Meetings with Town of East Aurora and Bergen Town Board, and statewide priorities meetings include iMap, Priority Setting and WISPA.
- WNY PRISM is now an affiliate member of PLANTWNY.
- Meeting change – the November Steering Committee Meeting was pushed back due to a conflict with the Invasive Species In-Service.

Discussion Topics

- Database for Invasive Species Projects
 - The need for a central repository of information on invasive species management projects for the region was discussed. Information will be essential for developing effective management plans and projects moving forward, as we learn from past failures and success. WNY PRISM has worked to collect information from Partners, but it's been more difficult than had been expected. Some of the reasons included a lack of

documentation, lack of response to inquiries, and proprietary data. WNY PRISM has been able to piece together some general information about projects (locations, organizations, target species) and will continue to look at ways to better collect and organize this important management project data, while being respectful of information Partners would prefer stays private.

- 2018 Crew Requests
 - WNY PRISM received Crew Requests as part of our 2018 Crew Assistance Program. Andrea provided a summary of the requests, as well as ongoing/committed projects.
 - The WNY PRISM Crew has ~77 total work days in the schedule. Approximately 9 days are held for training and 12 for education/outreach events. Project commitments, including both internal and partner projects, requires approximately 41 days. This leaves approximately 15 days open for accepting new projects. WNY PRISM received 15 requests for a total of 24 days.
 - The Steering Committee reviewed new requests, using established review criteria. Some questions were raised and WNY PRISM will seek answers from Partners requesting assistance. After the final project prioritization takes place, WNY PRISM will look at the summer schedule and other capacity limitations to determine which projects will be selected for implementation this year.
- Early Detection
 - New Mile-a-Minute observation has been reported in Oak Orchard WMA – this is the first report in WNY since the Cattaraugus County report prior to WNY PRISM (which was eradicated). DEC has taken the lead on removal efforts and WNY PRISM has offered support. No updates on the other recent early detections.
 - WNY PRISM is working on a survey plan for Japanese stiltgrass. Surveys are complicated by how the species spreads, and the location it was found. Lucy is working on setting up PRISM surveys for this spring, which we would like to include at least 1 mile upstream, and 2 miles downstream. If more stiltgrass is found, the survey area will expand to accommodate a larger area. Surveys will be a combination of land and water.
 - WNY PRISM is working on an outreach campaign to assist with stiltgrass surveys. Due to the high number of private land in the survey area, it will be difficult to conduct complete surveys on our own. This will likely involve a post card mailing in the spring, asking landowners to survey their own property and report occurrences back to WNY PRISM. We are also looking at pairing the post cards with a timely article in the Advertiser. WNY PRISM is currently working with the Town of Aurora and has reached out to the Village of East Aurora.

Upcoming Meetings

Spring Partner Meeting – Thursday, April 12, 2018; location TBD

**looking for suggestions for location and presentation topics*

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 14, 2018, 1 – 3pm @ GLC Field Station

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 14; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: Sharon Bachman (CCE-Erie County), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Alisia Vilonen (DOT), Chris Pennuto (WNY PRISM), John Grabowski (BNW), Meg Janis (Parks), Lynn Greer (USACE)

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Sharon Bachman (CCE-Erie County) – Master Naturalists training is currently underway – sessions have included the restoration at Stella Niagara and Sharon is looking to include an invasive species focused session. Mark Whitmore and Bruce Lauber are working on bringing an HWA workshop to WNY, to share results on current research. The workshop will be held on September 14 at Chestnut Ridge (tentative).

Jennifer Dunn (DEC) – Canal Fest of the Tonawandas plans for a shared invasive species outreach table are coming together. DEC's Intern, Michael Doucette, will be drafting a schedule and reaching out to partners to ensure the table is fully staffed throughout the week. New *Hydrilla* brochures are in the final stages of development/editing and will be ready for Canal Fest.

Jonathan Townsend (CWC) – Work along Ball Creek has continued with the herbicide treatment of mugwort using Milestone. Follow-up treatment, as well as *Phragmites* and knotweed treatment, is expected in August. WNY PRISM worked with CWA to obtain a 2(ee) for use of Milestone on Mugwort – the 2(ee) was approved by DEC on April 27.

Alisia Vilonen (DOT) – Invasive species project have been mostly completed and DOT's work in 2018 has shifted to more paving type projects. Crews continue to use iMapInvasives.

Chris Pennuto (WNY PRISM) – The WNY PRISM 2019 – 2023 proposal has been submitted. A new crayfish collaborative is gearing up and a meeting will be held in a few months. The collaborative will look at potential projects including education programs to possibly include bait vendors. WNY PRISM was sent to take part in the Science March Fair earlier this year, but it was postponed due to inclement weather. The new date is July 14, during ISAW.

John Grabowski (BNW) – Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is implementing some final invasive species removal and volunteer efforts within the Buffalo River project sites – funding is set to end August 31. Looking to include an invasive species removal workday as part of ISAW.

Meg Janis (Parks) – New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has two Strike Teams working in central and western New York, a Terrestrial Strike Team and an Aquatic Strike Team, both consisting of 4-person crews. Work this summer will take place at Beaver Island and Letchworth State Parks, involving swallow-wort and oriental bittersweet, and assistance with slender false brome management.

Lynn Greer (USACE) – The current Hydrilla/Erie Canal/Tonawanda Creek Hydrilla Demonstration Project website hosted by CCE (<http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/invasive-species/wny-hydrilla-project>) will be shutting down at the end of the month. Information can now be found at the Hydrilla Collaborative website (<http://hydrillacollaborative.com/>). If there is any information you want to ensure makes its way over to the new site, please let Lynn know.

PRISM Updates

- Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group

- Hire 4 seasonal staff – 3 Survey and Monitoring Technicians and 1 GIS Technician. The GIS Tech and 2 Survey Techs are being funded through GLRI/EPA funds, and the third Survey Tech is through DEC’s ESF Intern Program. Two Survey Techs are up and running, while the final Survey Tech and GIS Tech will begin soon.
- Surveys in the Syracuse area have identified new infestations and surveys of the area surrounding the single previously identified site has shown this infestation to be significantly larger than believed.
- Brittany has completed pre-management surveys and plot establishment. Management efforts will begin the last week of June at Genesee County Park and Forest and Letchworth State Park. Apart from assisting with the management research set-up and planning, both partners are assisting with manual and mechanical management, while WNY PRISM is implementing the chemical treatment.
- Boot Brush Stations have been installed at Letchworth State Park and Genesee County Park and Forest. Stations will be installed at Whirlpool State Park and Trestle Park and Drew’s Nature Preserve near Bergen Swamp.
- The next GLSFB Working Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 1 – 3pm. This is a conference call only.
- WNY PRISM Received the USFS-GLRI CWMA grant to implement invasive species removal at Western New York Land Conservancy and Buffalo Audubon preserves within Erie and Niagara Counties. The Land Conservancy will be developing a volunteer monitoring program as part of this project. This is a 2-year grant totaling \$40,000.
- WNY PRISM Crew
 - The WNY PRISM Crew (Rebecca Mann, Julia Kostin) has completed initial training, as of this week, and is starting work on partner projects. Early season projects include Niagara Escarpment Preserve, Tiff Nature Preserve (Vernal Pool Enhancement Project), Seneca Bluffs and Jamestown Audubon water chestnut removal.
 - Emily Thiel, E&O Assistant, is working on Invasive Species Awareness Week planning.
- The Great Lakes Center has submitted a proposal to fulfill the WNY PRISM RFP 2019 – 2023, a continuation of the current WNY PRISM program. The most significant change from the previous RFP/Contract is the inclusion of a watercraft inspection program to include at least 20 boat stewards/sites.
- Boot Brush Stations -

Discussion Topics

- Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - The 5th Annual NYS ISAW is taking place July 8 – 14, 2018 (www.stoptheinvasionny.com). ISAW promotes knowledge and understanding of invasive species and the harm they can cause by engaging citizens in a wide range of activities across the state. Emily is working with many partners to develop events throughout the region, and we’re looking for additional events. The deadline for events is Monday, June 25, 2018, to ensure we have enough time to get events posted and get materials to those hosting events.
 - Current events include the annual Honeysuckle Harvest at Kenneglenn Scenic and Nature Preserve, Aquatic Invasive Species focused events with Roger Tory Peterson Institute, and several iMap trainings.
 - WNY PRISM is looking for assistance identifying additional event possibilities, and for assistance getting word out about ISAW.
- Early Detection

- Japanese Stiltgrass – WNY PRISM worked with the Town of Aurora and the Village of East Aurora to implement an outreach campaign for Japanese stiltgrass involving the mailing of >3200 postcards to area residents. The infestation was found within the Village, along Cazenovia Creek. The Town of Aurora and the Village of East Aurora provided the printed postcards, while WNY PRISM provided the addressing and mailing/postage.
- Mile-a-Minute – Mile-a-minute vine has been confirmed at Oak Orchard WMA, east of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. DEC has brought on two interns to conduct additional surveys and begin manual removal of the plant. (Update – 6/22: approximately 200 acres were surveyed at Oak Orchard and additional infestations were not found, however a significant infestation was found on private property adjacent to the area of Oak Orchard with the previously identified infestation. WNY PRISM is working with DEC to conduct outreach to area residents, possibly to include a postcard mailing like the Japanese stiltgrass, but smaller in scale.)
- New York State Invasive Species Documentary
 - A working outline for the upcoming New York State Invasive Species Documentary was drafted and provided to working group members for comments. The document, which identifies topics to cover such as pathways of invasion, prevention, early detection, etc., and what can be done, was shared with the Steering Committee. Consensus was that the outline as provided was good and only a few suggestions for additions were made. Suggestions were to include additional invasive species as focus species, as well as including more habitat restoration information and footage. Suggestions, along with potential sites for capturing video, will be provided to DEC and filmmakers.

Upcoming Meetings

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 16, 2018; 1 – 3 pm, GLC Field Station

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 16; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Jonathan Grabowski (BNW)

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Jennifer Dunn (DEC) – Found water hyacinth in Erie Canal/Tonawanda Creek during *Hydrilla* surveys for follow-up treatment. Reported to iMap.

Jonathan Townsend (CWC) – Work along Ball Creek has continued with follow-up mugwort treatment and treatment of *Phragmites* and knotweed, expected soon.

John Grabowski (BNW) – Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is implementing some final invasive species removal and volunteer efforts within the Buffalo River project sites – funding is set to end August 31. Work on Spicer Creek project is gearing up.

PRISM Updates

- The Research Foundation and Great Lakes Center has been selected to administer WNY PRISM. This will continue WNY PRISM funding through 2023.
- Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group
 - Working Group Quarterly Meeting was held on August 7, 2018.
 - Melissa Boglioli, GIS Technician, created habitat suitability maps. 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.
 - Survey Technicians (Rachel Bonafilia, Emily Doores, Kathleen McCormick) found 131 different populations. Only 2 additional sites were identified in the Syracuse area, while the majority (117) were found along the West Shore Trail spanning from Elba – Churchville (trail goes through Bergen/Byron).
 - Implemented manual, mechanical, herbicide and mechanical/herbicide treatments within Best Management Practices research plots at Genesee County Park and Forest and Letchworth State Park.
 - The Working Group will be holding a workshop on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 that will focus on species identification, survey protocols and Best Management Practices research (ongoing).
- WNY PRISM Crew
 - Worked on 14 invasive species removal projects with 10 different partners so far this year.
 - Attended 11 outreach events, not including Invasive Species Awareness Week events and Canal Fest.
 - Conducted 3 invasive species mapping projects and completed assessments for more than 24 early detection monitoring sites.

- Crew finishes with Crew Assistance Program and other general PRISM tasks (mapping, outreach) on September 14. Work will continue into late fall for work on special projects including USFS CWMA grant and knotweed removal with Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- **Boot Brush Stations**
 - WNY PRISM received requests for Boot Brush Stations from Zaepfel Nature Center and Erie County (Red Jacket and Bailey Peninsula). In addition, 4 Boot Brush Stations will be installed as part of the CWMA grant.
 - Cattaraugus County requested the Boot Brush Station sign, to produce in house as needed.

Discussion Topics

- **Watch List Species**
 - Committee reviewed watchlist candidate species (14 – see below). Additional species were not identified, and it was agreed upon that the list should be restricted to 10-12, requiring further prioritization of the candidate species. Andrea will seek additional input on species and develop a list for committee approval.
 - Paul Fuhrmann recalled porcelain berry being found as part of a DOT survey of the Niagara Falls State Park bridges – Andrea checked with Alisia Vilonen, who looked at the project documentation and asked a person involved with the project, but a plant survey was not found.
- **Tiers and Invasive Species Profiles**
 - Committee reviewed Invasive Species Tier Rankings for ~70 species previously identified through prioritization discussions. Rankings were determined using the NYS Invasive Species Program tier chart. No questions or issues with rankings were identified.
 - Discussion continued on definitions and language. The NYS ISP Tier terminology conflicts with WNY PRISM terminology, specifically the use of Tier 1: Early Detection to describe species that are not yet present within the region in conflict with WNY PRISM's use of Early Detection to describe species that are present in low numbers. The decision was that it was unnecessary to change WNY PRISM's categories because they refer to different characteristics of the species. The NYS ISP categories refer to recommended management while WNY PRISM's categories refer to presence and distribution.
 - An additional presence and distribution category was proposed and accepted – Scattered. Scattered will fill the gap between Early Detection and Locally Common.
- **Best Management Practices Sheet**
 - Development of new Best Management Practices fliers has begun, focusing on Knotweed and Japanese Stiltgrass. Committee reviewed the basic layout and information format and looked forward to seeing drafts.
- **Early Detection**
 - Japanese Stiltgrass – WNY PRISM worked with the Town of Aurora and the Village of East Aurora to implement an outreach campaign for Japanese stiltgrass involving the mailing of >3200 postcards to area residents. The infestation was found within the Village, along Cazenovia Creek. The Town of Aurora and the Village of East Aurora provided the printed postcards, while WNY PRISM provided the addressing and mailing/postage.
 - Mile-a-Minute – Mile-a-minute vine has been confirmed at Oak Orchard WMA, east of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. DEC has brought on two interns to conduct additional

surveys and begin manual removal of the plant. (Update – 6/22: approximately 200 acres were surveyed at Oak Orchard and additional infestations were not found, however a significant infestation was found on private property adjacent to the area of Oak Orchard with the previously identified infestation. WNY PRISM is working with DEC to conduct outreach to area residents, possibly to include a postcard mailing like the Japanese stiltgrass, but smaller in scale.)

Upcoming Meetings

Fall Partner Meeting – Thursday, October 11, 2018; 1 – 3 pm, Location needed (*please send suggestions for location and speakers!*)

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 29, 2018; 1 – 3 pm, GLC Field Station

Watchlist Candidate Species

Common Name	Genus	Species	Known Locations
Asian Longhorned Beetle	<i>Anoplophora</i>	<i>glabripennis</i>	LIISMA
Bighead Carp	<i>Hypophthalmichthys</i>	<i>nobilis</i>	outside NYS
Brazilian Elodea	<i>Egeria</i>	<i>densa</i>	CAP-MO, LH, LIISMA
Carolina Fanwort	<i>Cabomba</i>	<i>caroliniana</i>	SLELO, APIPP, LH
Hardy Kiwi	<i>Actinidia</i>	<i>arguta</i>	LH, CRISP
Himalyan Balsam	<i>Impatiens</i>	<i>glandulifera</i>	NYS - FL-PRISM
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria</i>	<i>montana var. lobata</i>	LH, CAP-MO, PA, OH
Northern Snakehead	<i>Channa</i>	<i>argus</i>	SLELO, LH
Porcelain Berry	<i>Ampelopsis</i>	<i>brevipedunculata</i>	CRISP, LH, CAP-MO, FL-PRISM
Silver Carp	<i>Hypophthalmichthys</i>	<i>molitrix</i>	outside NYS
Spotted Lantern Fly	<i>Lycorma</i>	<i>delicatula</i>	CRISP, PA
Waterwheel	<i>Aldrovanda</i>	<i>vesiculosa</i>	LH
Wavyleaf Basket Grass	<i>Oplismenus</i>	<i>undulatifolius</i>	PA - South Central/East
Yellow Floating Heart	<i>Nymphoides</i>	<i>peltata</i>	CAP-MO, LH, PA

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 29; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Great Lakes Center Field Station

In Attendance: Alisia Vilonen (DOT), Chris Pennuto (GLC, WNY PRISM), Colleen Kolb (USFWS), Jennifer Dunn (NYS DEC), John Grabowski (BNW), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Meg Janis (Parks), Paul Fuhrmann (ENE), Sharon Bachman (CCE Erie County), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Lynn Greer, phone (USACE)

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Alisia Vilonen (DOT): DOT is mostly doing preservation and paving projects (road maintenance) and not involved in invasive species projects at this time

Colleen Kolb (USFWS): Finished field/data collection season last week, no new invasives, but caught some known invasive fish as part of 33,000+ collected, will use them to assist with further development of eDNA markers, no ruffe were found, collected less than 50 water chestnuts

Jennifer Dunn (NYS DEC): DEC is looking into permitting requirements for side-casting of spoils due to concern over invasive species either being spread within the soil, or creating habitat for invasive species as disturbed ground

John Grabowski (BNW): Finishing up a few projects, planting in the spring and a little winter construction. Cayuga Creek stream restoration project is moving forward - received proposals from contractors for design which will include flood issue mitigation and allow public access

Jonathan Townsend (CWC): Ball Creek Preserve mugwort, phragmites and knotweed removal has shown very good results, concerned about invasives adjacent to the preserve, scheduling HWA surveys for January/February, attended the Chautauqua County Forest Pest Task Force meeting, discussed spotted lantern fly and planning to talk with County Executive, looking for additional support.

Meg Janis (Parks): Field crews are just wrapping up and reports are coming in, HWA treatment at Letchworth has been postponed due to the rapid temperature drops, hiring an invasive species SCA intern to help write management plans, intern will be on January – November, Crews took a look at the stiltgrass site in the Niagara Gorge – had stiltgrass a few years ago and a few were found again this year by the Land Conservancy, treating tree-of-heaven within the gorge and saw significant resprouting, now looking at alternative removal methods

Paul Fuhrmann (ENE): Projects continue to move into maintenance phase, new restoration projects are dealing with restoration of areas with loss of ash, seeing positive results from honeysuckle removal efforts, participated in Erie County forum with Mark Poloncarz during which PRISM was mentioned and discussion on long-term management of Erie County Habitat Parks

Sharon Bachman (CCE Erie County): Upcoming forest pest taskforce meeting on December 13 – will be discussing spotted lanternfly, working with Carrie Brown-Lima (NYISRI) on swallow-wort biocontrol project, looking for potential release sites, looking at some HWA trainings in Letchworth, early February

Lynn Greer (USACE): Finishing up end-of-year reports for Hydrilla Demonstration Project

PRISM Updates

- Best Management Practices (BMP)
 - BMP fact sheets have been finalized for Japanese stiltgrass, Japanese knotweed and invasive shrubs.

- Fact sheets are posted on the website within appropriate species profiles and under the resources – best management practices page (www.wnprism.org/resources/bmps).
- Future plans included BMPs for remaining priority species and potentially technical guides for select species, which will provide very detailed instructions.
- BMPs are receiving increased attention on a statewide level and efforts to develop improved resources are in the beginning stages of development.
- Hiring & Interns
 - The AIS and Education Program Manager positions closed on Monday (11/26) and we received 60 applications between to the two.
 - Chris Pennuto and Andrea Locke are reviewing applications and expect to make decisions on interviews early next week. Interviews will be conducted between 12/10 – 12/21.
 - WNY PRISM is looking for (unpaid) spring semester student interns. Fliers have been placed around campus, but they are open to any regional college students. Many project ideas and needs have been collected over the years and it would be great to access this type of assistance/program more consistently.
- Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group (Working Group)
 - The Working Group web pages are all up on www.wnyprism.org, and are grouped under the ‘projects’ menu. Pages include working group, resources, distribution, management and research.
 - The annual report and meeting minutes are found on the working group page while fact sheets and survey protocols are on the resources page. A wonderful interactive map is available on the distribution page (through Google Earth) that shows areas surveyed and current known infestations.
 - Brittany will be presenting at the Stewardship Network Conference
 - Current funding is expected to end on August 31, 2019 – we will likely pursue a no-cost extension. Management will continue through the end of August and therefore extending the project through the end of the year will be necessary to complete data analysis, development of Best Management Practices and reporting.
- Website
 - In the process of changing host/management companies for the website, which is expected to take place within the next week. There should not be any interruption with the website, but it is possible it may be down for a short period of time.
- Annual Work Plan
 - Working on the 2019 Annual Work Plan and expect to have it ready for review by the Steering Committee in a couple weeks
- Statewide
 - iMap 3.0 efforts have continued and are nearing completion and feedback groups are testing different aspects of the new version as things progress. Currently, the iMap team is requesting any data that may exist somewhere outside of the iMap database. Interns are on-hand to help organize and upload the data.
 - Spotted Lanternfly efforts are being led by DEC and DAM across the state. Efforts include a significant outreach campaign, quarantines, and extensive surveys around confirmed sites. So far, all occurrences have been of single adults and no population establishment has been detected. The most recent occurrence is in Monroe County
 - DAM has filled the statewide Invasive Species Coordinator position and we welcomed Thom Allgaier to the NYS Invasive Species Program this fall.

- Crew/Crew Assistance Program
 - Crew finished up earlier this month with work on the CWMA/USFS grant (Priority Lands Invasive Species Project).
 - Crew Assistance Program management and survey reports have gone out to partners and results of 2018 efforts will be reported on in the annual report.
 - Positions for the 2019 Crew will be posted in January.
 - The project request announcement for the 2019 Crew Assistance Program is expected to be released next week and will be due late-January.
 - Review of projects will take place at the February Steering Committee Meeting.
- Early Detection
 - No new early detection reports have come in since the last meeting, however staff are still going over the survey data from the summer and fall.
 - WNY PRISM would like to hold a public meeting in Aurora this winter to update the town, village and residents about the stiltgrass effort, and to thank them for their support for the project without which we would not have been able to do the residential mailing.
 - The updated priority lists have been posted on the website.

Discussion Topics

- Significant changes to the WNY PRISM Annual Report format were not identified, but suggestions for use of improved graphics and use of more photos were provided
- Welcome or reintroduction packets were discussed with the purpose of showcasing WNY PRISM to potential partners that may have been less involved with the partnership up until this point. Considering the increased power of sending physical packets rather than electronic messages, cost and time involved will limit the number of packets developed initially.
 - What should be included?
 - Individualized form letter identifying WNY PRISM and basics of invasive species management, why/how they can get involved, invasive species iMap summary for organization's region, WNY PRISM resources and technical assistance offerings, and direct to partner meetings and website
 - Who should be included?
 - Municipalities, County offices, State Representatives, Business Owners, Soil and Water Conservation Districts,
- WNY PRISM Contract 2019 – 2023
 - The new 5-year contract is set to begin on January 1, 2019 – the contract has not yet been executed, however we do not expect any disruption in activities.
 - The new contract is very similar to the previous contract with regard to scope and capacity. The primary difference is the inclusion of a significant watercraft inspection program to include at least 20 launches. In addition, we are able to hire an additional two full-time staff members, an Aquatics Program Manager to coordinate the watercraft inspection program and an Education and Outreach Program Manager. Interviews for these positions are expected to take place in mid-December with desired start dates in early January.
- Strategic Plan/Planning
 - WNY PRISM will develop a new 5-year strategic plan (2019 – 2023)

- Strategic planning will be scheduled for this winter, prior to field season and preferably in Feb or early March – Andrea will send a doodle poll to determine availability
- Single day with a facilitator is desired
- Operational Guidelines
 - A review and update of the current WNY PRISM Operational Guidelines will occur and be presented to the Steering Committee for approval.
- Working Groups
 - Considerations for use of working groups moving forward was discussed
 - Provide support for WNY PRISM efforts and for staff
 - Terrestrial, Aquatic, Conservation Targets and Agriculture working groups could be considered standing committees with specific needs and goals identified ahead of time – meetings would not be held on a regular basis, rather as needed
 - Education and Outreach working group may be used to better coordinate joint and regional efforts with a focus on ISAW – could potentially meet on a regular basis such as quarterly

Upcoming Meetings

2019 WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meetings:

Thursday, February 14, 2019; 1-3pm, GLC FS

Thursday, June 13, 2019; 1-3pm, GLC FS

Thursday, August 15, 2019; 8-9am, Conference call

Thursday, November 28, 2019; 1-3pm, GLC FS

Full Partnership Meetings:

Thursday, April 18, 2019; 1-3pm, TBD

Thursday, October 24, 2019; 1-3pm, TBD