

Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group Meeting Summary
April 8, 2020 1:00-2:15 PM, Conference Call

Attendance: Brittany Hernon (Facilitator, WNY PRISM), Lucy Nuessle (WNY PRISM), Bill DesJardin (Bergen Swamp Preservation Society), Andie Graham (SUNY Brockport), Amanda Gabryszak (WNY PRISM), Steve Young (NY Natural Heritage Program), Joshua Beese (NY-NJ Trail Conference), Hilary Mosher (FL-PRISM), Chenga Drury (NYS Parks).

Highlights of GLRI/EPA Project

- Carried out 10 presentations with over 250 attendees.
- Treated over 47 acres of slender false brome using 4 management methods- manual, mechanical, herbicide, and a combination of mechanical and herbicide.
- Surveyed 68 sites in 2017, 90 sites in 2018 and 34 in 2019. In 2019, efforts were also directed at management and we will continue to visit slender false brome sites to control the species.

2020 Survey and Management Plans

- Continue to carry out surveys and update the slender false brome survey map and presence map. They will be available as KMZ files to view in Google Earth.
- Visit sites where slender false brome was found in 2019, carry out manual removal or herbicide treatment when possible. If treatment is not possible this year, we will survey the sites to keep track of spread and population size.
- Continue slender false brome treatment at Genesee County Park and Forest and the Trout Pond area of Letchworth State Park. In the past we tested multiple methods. This year we will use herbicide treatment with manual removal in sensitive areas, and treat the entire infestation including the control section formerly used for research. We will also treat the infestation near Inspiration Point at Letchworth State Park.
- Andie Graham and SUNY Brockport:
 - For the DEC Rapid Response Control grant -saw a significant reduction in slender false brome in all areas of Bergen Swamp and with all treatment methods. They also saw that a combination of cutting and herbicide was the most effective. Andie and her team hope to continue treatment for the third and final year of the project in 2020.
 - DEC MOU- Allows for additional work on private properties around Bergen Swamp, Danby State Forest and Taughannock Falls State Park.
 - Survey efforts will continue through western and central NY. Andrew Leonardi (SUNY Brockport) and Brittany will coordinate survey locations to avoid overlap and share new infestations.
 - Collected matched pair soil samples in 2019 in areas invaded and uninvaded by slender false brome and will continue soil research in 2020. Saw differences in pH and soil composition between areas with and without slender false brome. Hope to continue research and data analysis to see if differences existed before invasion and slender false brome prefers that soil or if slender false brome invasions alter the soil.
- Chenga Drury and NYS Parks in the Finger Lakes region will carry out slender false brome surveys and manual removal in the Ithaca area as part of their Sustain Our Great Lakes grant.

Additional Efforts: Drone and Conservation Dogs

- WNY PRISM purchased a drone that can be used to show before and after footage of management efforts and survey areas that are hard to access on foot.

- Joshua Beese is hoping to bring the detection dogs to western NY to work on slender false brome surveys, potentially in areas near Letchworth State Park. He is also planning to head out to Dutchess County and check on the slender false brome there with the dogs this summer. He is planning to start training the dogs on aquatic invasive species surveys and is looking for suggestions. If you have suggestions on good aquatic species for the dogs to tackle, **please send them along to JBeese@nynjtc.org.**

Completing Project Components While Social Distancing

- Discussed using webinars as a great way to continue education and outreach and complete project components. Keep a lookout for e-mails and updates from the group about upcoming webinars.
- The giant hogweed program is considered essential and returning staff members have permission to begin work in late April, since they do not need in-person training.
- Andie and the group at Brockport have permission to conduct survey work. They are continuing to gain permission from private property owners and working on a protocol to include social distancing measures such as students traveling in separate vehicles to project sites.

Next Meeting

- We will aim for an **in-person meeting in October or November** at Genesee County Park and Forest. Brittany will reach out in the summer about times and dates that work well for this meeting.