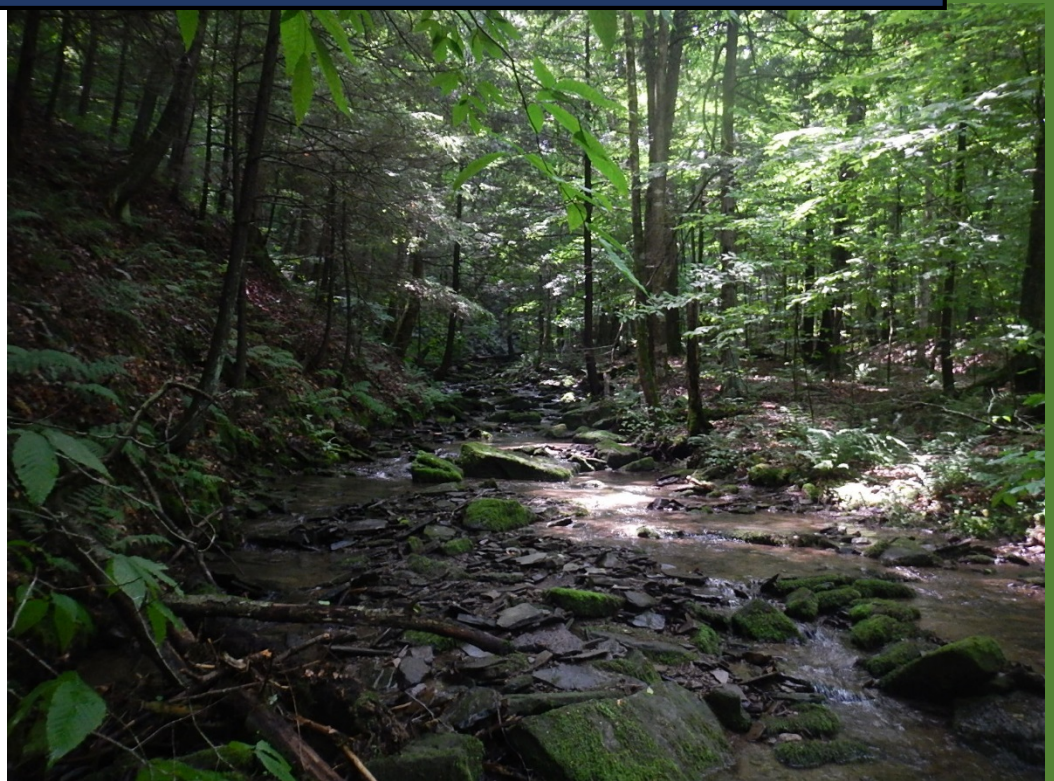


# 2014

## WNY PRISM Annual Report

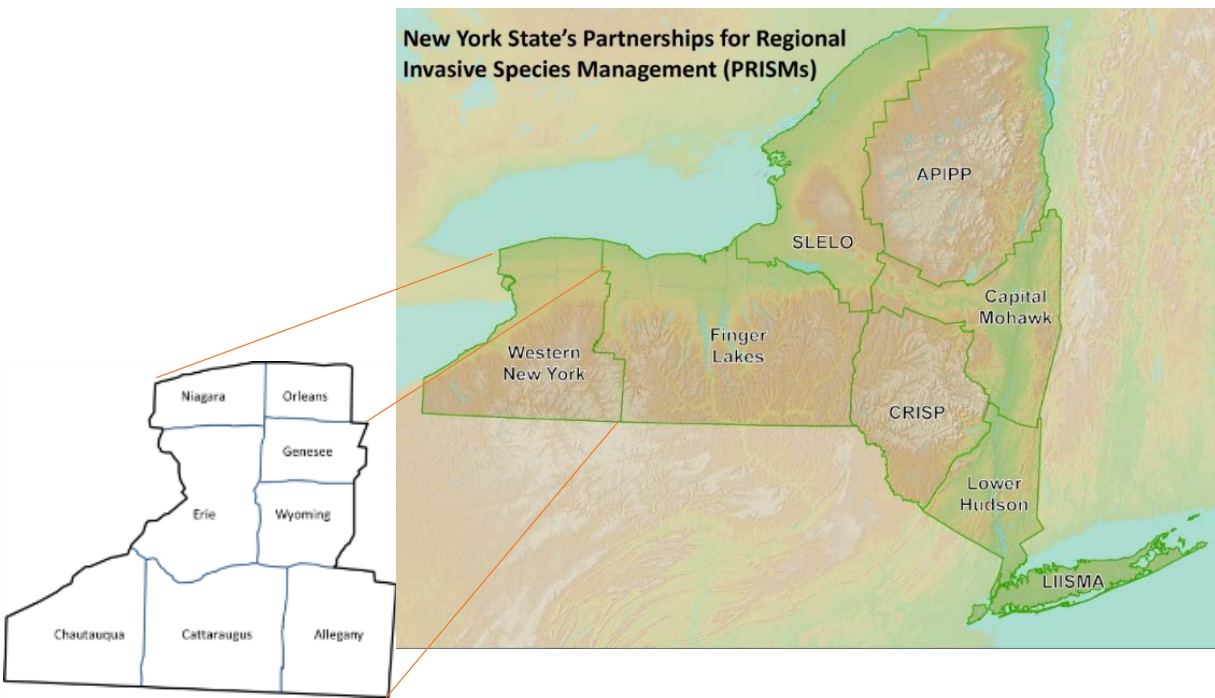


Prepared By

Andrea Locke, WNY PRISM Coordinator

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Cover Photo: Allegany State Park

## Mission

The WNY PRISM mission is to proactively identify, evaluate and address invasive species priorities in western New York using a coordinated partnership of local professionals, organizations and private citizens to improve, restore, and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources.

## Background

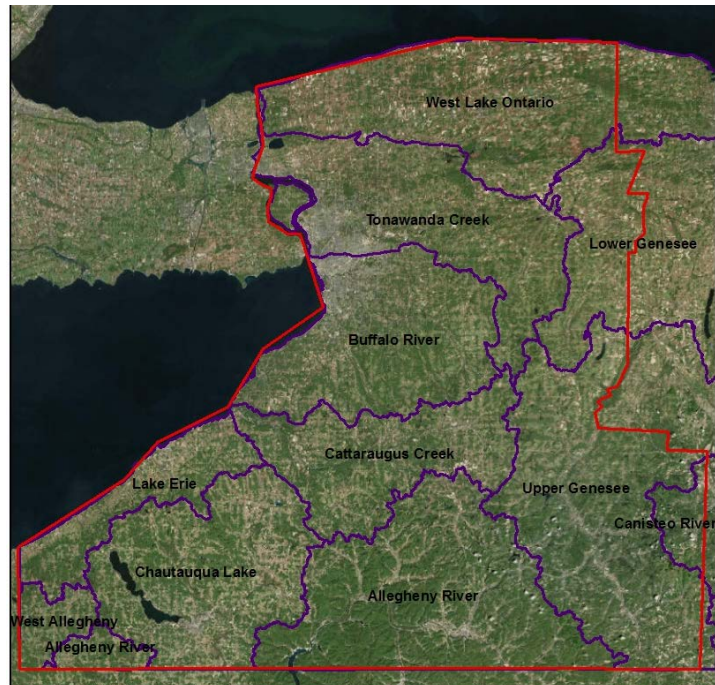
The Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM) is one of eight partnerships in New York State. It encompasses Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties. This area includes some of New York State's most impressive natural features, such as Niagara Falls and the Niagara River Gorge, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario Shorelines, Zoar Valley, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Letchworth State Park, and Chautauqua Lake, holds a population of over 1.55 million residents, includes 5 major watersheds, and contains cultural and urban centers such as Buffalo, Jamestown, and Niagara Falls.

Established in January of 2014, the WNY PRISM Office quickly began work to develop a regional partnership for the effective management of invasive species. Our Partners bring together an incredible amount of knowledge and expertise in diverse fields from conservation, natural resources, and restoration to agriculture, urban planning and education.

We would like to thank our host organization, the Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State and The Research Foundation for SUNY at Buffalo State, as well as our New York State Partners from iMapInvasives, The New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse at Cornell University, The New York State Invasive Species Unit and The New York State Invasive Species Council.

We would also like to thank our Steering Committee Members for the time and effort they have committed to ensuring the success of WNY PRISM.

Funding for WNY PRISM is provided by the Environmental Protection Fund, through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



*Watersheds of Western New York – USGS HUC 8 Watersheds*



## **WNY PRISM Steering Committee and Staff**

### **Steering Committee Members**

<b>Alisia Vilonen</b>	New York State Department of Transportation
<b>Bob Smith</b>	New York State Nursery & Landscape Assoc., Chestnut Ridge Nursery
<b>Gregg Sargis</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>Helen Domske</b>	New York Sea Grant
<b>Jeff Diers</b>	SUNY Fredonia, Conewango Creek Watershed Association
<b>Jennifer Tait</b>	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
<b>Jim Berry</b>	Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Ret.
<b>Kerrie Gallo</b>	Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
<b>Lynn Greer</b>	United States Army Corps of Engineers
<b>Meg Janis</b>	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
<b>Paul Fuhrmann</b>	Ecology & Environment, Inc.
<b>Sandra Keppner</b>	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>Shanna Shaw</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service – United States Department of Agriculture

### **WNY PRISM Staff**

#### **Christopher Pennuto**

WNY PRISM Director

#### **Andrea Locke**

WNY PRISM Coordinator

#### **Patrick Gormley**

Education and Outreach Assistant

#### **Angela Driscoll**

Stewardship Assistant

#### **Jerome Krajna**

Stewardship Assistant

#### **Andrew Stadler**

Stewardship Assistant

## Introduction

Dear Partners,

When I entered the WNY PRISM Office in the Great Lakes Center Field Station for the first time on January 2, 2014, what I found was an empty desk, in a fairly empty room. My first order of business was to find a pen and paper, which I was able to get from the Field Station Manager. I did later return the pen, but the pad of paper is still sitting on my desk getting plenty of use. This is to show that we've come a long way in one year. Now, as I enter our office, I have not only my laptop computer (and pens), but an office desktop and access to two Field Station computers, which come in handy when our Stewardship Crew is in the office doing data entry, writing reports, or creating education and outreach materials. I also see the once empty shelves, desks, floor, and walls covered in posters, folders, brochures, books, and stewardship equipment. This is a warm and well used office.

Within this Annual Report, you will learn about the many accomplishments of WNY PRISM, but we are only part of the story. For that reason, you will also see highlights of the important work done by our Partners throughout the region. WNY PRISM accomplishments are organized under our Strategic Plan Goals, which were recently adopted by our Steering Committee. Our Partner/Network Coordination efforts focused on setting a framework for future efforts and building Partner relationships. Information Management involved developing a means of getting important information out to our Partnership and collecting data on the current distribution of invasive species in the region, through our iMapInvasives Initiative. Education and Outreach efforts focused on increasing the profile of WNY PRISM throughout the region by attending events and providing educational opportunities for residents. We supported our Partner's new and ongoing Prevention efforts by utilizing our ability to get information out, and we were involved in our own effort to determine the potential for aquatic invasive species spread through bait vendors, focusing on crayfish. Our Early Detection and Rapid Response, and Management and Habitat Restoration efforts also relied heavily on our Partner's experience, expertise, and the programs they have been planning and implementing during recent years.

We still have a long way to go. Looking forward, we need to identify priority species and conservation targets; both essential for development of Invasive Species Prevention Zones and understanding our regional needs in regard to management actions. We need to identify where to invest our education and outreach efforts, starting with understanding where we are now, what is working, what is not. And, we need to find ways to increase our regional capacity for on-the ground efforts for detection, rapid response, management, and restoration.

We have accomplished a lot during our first year of operation. A quick flip through these pages will tell you that much. But, perhaps the greatest accomplishment is harder to quantify and rests in the relationships that have formed and the growing partnership at the core of WNY PRISM and the NYS PRISM Network. Thank you for all of your hard work in 2014, and here's to an even more successful 2015!

Andrea Locke  
WNY PRISM Coordinator

## Goals and Accomplishments

### Partner/Network Coordination

*Establish a partnership network and communication for those involved in invasive species information and management within the WNY PRISM region. Facilitate opportunities for cooperation including sharing of information, personnel, equipment, and expertise.*

WNY PRISM made important first steps toward the creation of a partnership network in 2014, and these steps will ensure a solid foundation for continued growth through the coming years. The year began with the formalization of our Steering Committee, adoption of Operational Guidelines, and development of our 2014 Annual Work Plan. Throughout the year, we continued to meet and speak with new partners and stakeholders, developing new relationships and strengthening our network. We hired 4 seasonal employees to assist with stewardship activities and outreach efforts. We adopted 5-year strategic goals and objectives, along with associated strategies, outputs, and outcomes. Our year finished-up with the development of an ambitious 2015 Annual Work Plan.



*WNY PRISM Logo developed in partnership with Buffalo State and exit49 Design Studio*

**Partnership Meetings** – Four Steering Committee Meetings (1/30, 3/27, 7/31, 10/2) and two Full Partnership Meetings (6/5, 12/4)

**Letters of Support** - NY Sea Grant, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, NYS Department of Transportation, and the Institute for Research in Science Teaching at SUNY Fredonia.



*Full Partnership Meeting held at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge – 12/4/2014*

**Partner Survey** – A survey sent out to WNY PRISM Partners provided information on partner priorities, top invasive species threats, and ranked the importance of potential PRISM activities. Invasive species of greatest concern among our Partners were emerald ash borer, phragmites, Japanese knotweed, hydrilla, hemlock woolly adelgid, black swallow-wort, garlic mustard, and water chestnut. The total number of invasive species identified as being of top concern was 28. PRISM related activities that were ranked as having the highest importance included providing invasive species information to the region and facilitating communication among Partners.

**Statewide Participation** – WNY PRISM attended PRISM Leaders meetings, 'Boot Camp', monthly invasive species speaker series webinars, Forest Pest Outreach calls, Statewide Hydrilla calls, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species In-Service. We also participated in the first annual New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week.

## Information Management

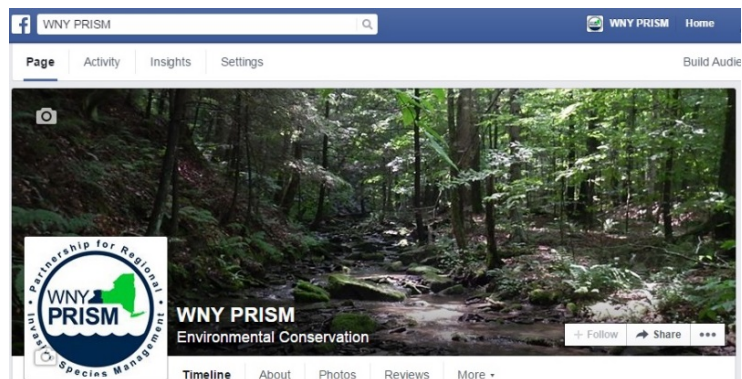
*Collect, utilize, and share information regarding invasive species management including species, pathways of invasion, surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, research, current efforts/projects, and opportunities for partner collaboration.*

Identified as one of the primary needs of the region, WNY PRISM worked to establish a means of disseminating information about invasive species issues for our partners. Utilizing our Listserve, we sent out timely information on topics from funding opportunities to legislation and new research. We utilized the Invasive Species Clearinghouse website ([www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)), along with new Facebook and Twitter accounts, to provide news and updates on the work of WNY PRISM, including posting of meeting minutes and operational documents. WNY PRISM began development of a dedicated website. This website will provide information on invasive species management that is specific to our region as well as serve as a portal to additional information for our Partners and interested citizens.

*Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop* – In partnership with the Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State, WNY PRISM held an Aquatic Invasive Species Management Workshop on June 3, 2014. Keynote Speaker Dr. Frances Lucy, Centre for Environment Research Innovation and Sustainability (CERIS) - Sligo, Ireland, presented on the FINS (Freshwater Invasives Networking for Strategy) Conference session on pathways of invasion, forecasting impacts of invasive species, and challenges for risk assessment. Participants in this workshop came from throughout New York State and included professionals on the front lines of on-the-ground invasive species management. The AIS workshop consisted of breakout sessions on Best Management Practices, Early Detection, and Prevention.

### Online Platforms

- **Listserve** – At the close of 2014, The WNY PRISM Listserve included 185 members and saw the greatest increase in membership since 2007, when the Listserve was established.
- **NYIS.info** – New York State Invasive Species Clearinghouse website became home to WNY PRISM news and information updates
- **WNY PRISM Website** – Development on [www.wnyprism.org](http://www.wnyprism.org) began in December and will continue into Spring 2015
- **Facebook** – The WNY PRISM Facebook Page was established in July. Since establishment, we posted 42 items, reached 1132 people and gained 51 page ‘likes’.
- **Twitter** – 86 tweets, 44 followers, and 18 mentions



 **wnyPRISM** @wnyPRISM · Jul 8  
NY Invasive Species Awareness Week events are happening all across the state. See what's happening in your region: [nyis.info/blog/events/](http://nyis.info/blog/events/)

*Print Media* – WNY PRISM developed a one-sheet informational flier, in connection with a statewide PRISM effort, and an iMapInvasives flier describing 3 simple steps to becoming a citizen scientist. These documents were distributed through our Education and Outreach efforts.

*iMapInvasives Initiative* – WNY PRISM promoted the use of iMapInvasives in 2014. This included multiple trainings throughout the region, discussion with Partners, and extensive use by our own Stewardship Crew. These efforts were incredibly successful as western New York saw a significant increase in the use of iMapInvasives. WNY recorded 3,974 new observations in 2014. This number amounts to 57% of all observations recorded for New York State (6,979). Among the most observed species were phragmites (469), multi-flora rose (382), lonicera species (362), and giant hogweed (334).



- 3,974 Observations
- 15 Projects
- 82 Species
- 50 Observers
- 19 Organizations
- 19 Sites mapped by WNY PRISM Stewardship Crew
- 104 Treatments



*WNY PRISM Stewardship Crew taking invasive species observation points at Bergen Swamp during survey for slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)*



*iMapInvasives mapping at Reinstein Woods completed by WNY PRISM Stewardship Crew- June 2014*

As part of our iMapInvasives Initiative, WNY PRISM reached out to managers of natural areas within our region to survey for the presence of invasive species on their properties and to assist with invasive species management planning. The WNY PRISM Stewardship Crew worked on 19 sites and created 7 projects. Written reports and management recommendations were provided to property managers, including Reinstein Woods and WNYLC Preserves.



## Education and Outreach

*Increase the public, partner, and stakeholder awareness, understanding and participation in invasive species issues and management within the WNY PRISM region, through effective educational and outreach efforts.*

WNY PRISM worked closely with Partners to bring a number of Educational Opportunities to the region, including numerous workshops, presentations, and community outreach events. We provided invasive species information to the region through print materials, online postings, and through media outlets. WNY PRISM created an [Invasive Species Events Calendar](#), to assist Partners in getting word out about their events and to give volunteers and other interested parties a single location to find education and volunteer opportunities.



*WNY PRISM Stewardship Assistant, Angela Driscoll at the Great Lakes Experience Festival - Dunkirk, NY, 6/21/2014*

In 2014, WNY PRISM aimed to increase its profile through education and outreach initiatives that took place across the western New York region. Equipped with large displays, informative handouts and specimens of invasive species, seasonal staff attended local fairs, farmer's markets, and other community gatherings to raise invasive species awareness.

In order to maximize our exposure, we identified events in each of our western New York counties for the purpose of speaking with individuals that would likely not be familiar with PRISM or its role within the community. Over the course of the year, PRISM staff directly engaged more than 4,400 people at 46 different events. These events ranged from the large scale like the Erie County Fair and Canal Fest of the Tonawandas, to more grass roots gatherings like local farmer's markets, and invasive species identification workshops and trainings.



*ISAW Event at Bond Lake Park in Niagara County*

### Invasive Species Awareness Week

WNY PRISM helped coordinate local efforts for New York State's inaugural Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW) from July 6<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>. ISAW was the first statewide initiative to educate and engage the public in on-going efforts to prevent and control the spread of non-native invasive species. By focusing on the small steps that every

citizen can take, ISAW is an essential part of ongoing efforts to limit the negative impacts invasives are having on all of our communities. Statewide, there were over 100 official events including 9 in western

New York. Events in western New York resulted in 61 acres of invasive species mapped, 2 cubic yards of water chestnut removed, and reaching nearly 300,000 people through combined outreach efforts.

Invasive Species Awareness Week led to an increase in media exposure of invasive species and management efforts, with featured stories on the threat of invasive species to the western New York Region and PRISM’s role in controlling and preventing their spread. The Buffalo News’ weekly *Nature Watch* column highlighted many regional threats while WGRZ’s *2 the Outdoors* ([New York Launches First Annual Invasive Species Awareness Week](#)) featured initiatives from WNY PRISM, NYIS, and Seneca Nation of Indians.



*WNY PRISM held and/or participated in the following Education and Outreach Events*

### **Trainings and Workshops**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
Rural Landowners Workshop	CCE	3/1/2014	8
EAB 1 <sup>st</sup> Detectors Training Pt. 1	CCE, DEC	3/22/2014	34
iMapInvasives Training – Jamestown, NY	iMap, RTPi	5/14/2014	19
AIS Workshop	Great Lakes Center	6/3/2014	25
iMapInvasives Training – Lockport, NY	iMap	6/7/2014	17
EAB 1 <sup>st</sup> Detectors Training Pt. 2	CCE, DEC	6/28/2014	14
Bond Lake Training and Survey	Niagara Co. Parks	7/8/2014	12
Niagara Escarpment Training and Survey	WNYLC	7/12/2014	5
Master Teacher’s Program	Buffalo State	8/4/2014	8
Ash Seed Collection Workshop	MARSB, NYC Parks	9/17/2014	35
CCE Master Gardeners	CCE, Master Gardeners	11/1/2014	33

### **Outreach and Volunteer Events**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
Amherst Winter Fest	WNY EAB Taskforce	7/10/2014	16
Certified Nursery Landscape Professionals			
Tradeshaw and Education Conference	Chestnut Ridge Nursery	2/7/2014	200
EAB Awareness Week Table	WNY EAB Taskforce	5/21/2014	45
Great Lakes Experience Festival	USFWS	6/21/2014	300
Jamestown Audubon Water Chestnut	Jamestown Audubon	7/10/2014	16
Canal Fest of the Tonawandas	DEC, BN Riverkeeper	7/14/2014	311
Orleans County Fair	CCE	7/21/2014	167
Erie County Fair	Erie County SWCD	8/9/2014	358
Beaver Island State Park Outreach	EAB Early Detectors	8/21/2014	20
Great Lakes Awareness Day	USFWS, NY Sea Grant	8/22/2014	167
Reinstein Woods Fall Festival	DEC	9/20/2014	150
WNY Environmental Summit	University of Buffalo	9/27/2014	100
SUNY Buffalo State Fall Creativity Forum	Buffalo State	10/30/2014	80

Farmer's Market	Date	Contacts
Niagara Falls	7/7/2014	125
Clinton Bailey	7/11/2014	150
North Tonawanda	7/29/2014	125
Blasdell	7/30/2014	150
Ellicottville	8/1/2014	120
Downtown Buffalo	8/7/2014	350
Springville	8/13/2014	400
Downtown Buffalo	8/14/2014	300
Arcade	8/17/2014	200
Batavia	8/28/2014	16
Ellicottville	9/5/2014	80



*Downtown Buffalo Farmer's Market*

### Presentations

Event	Partners	Date	Contacts
Science and Mathematics Day	Buffalo State	5/19/2014	50
Erie County Fair - Harvest Theater	CCE	8/6/2014	6
Kenneglenn Volunteer Clean-up	WNYLC	8/6/2014	11
Amherst Walk & Talk	DEC	8/24/2014	22
NYSFOLA Western Region Meeting	FL PRISM	10/18/2014	50
DEC Region 9 Natural Resource Staff Mtg.	DEC	10/23/2014	50
Great Lakes Center Open House	Buffalo State	11/7/2014	25
Niagara Frontier Botanical Society	NFBS	11/10/2014	20
Finger Lakes Institute Research Conference	FL PRISM	11/21/2014	108



*Dr. Christopher Pennuto presenting on round goby at the Finger Lakes Institute Research Conference*



*WNY PRISM Table Top Display and Education Materials*

## Prevention

*Facilitate the prevention of new occurrence, spread, and further establishment of invasive species within the WNY PRISM region through understanding of pathways of invasion and targeting of priority conservation areas. Prevention measures must address both the movement of invasive species in and out of the WNY PRISM region.*

In 2014, WNY PRISM focused on lending our support to the prevention efforts of our Partners, including state and nationwide campaigns such as “Don’t Move Fire Wood”, “Clean, Drain, Dry”, and “Plantwise”. We provided support for new state legislation and regulations by utilizing the framework of WNY PRISM Network to get information out to the public and Partners. In addition, due to concern over the potential of bait transport as a pathway of invasion for aquatic species, WNY PRISM coordinated a survey of New York State bait vendors and crayfish species. Although the invasive rusty crayfish was not found in sampling, a number of non-native taxa were observed.



### Aquatic Invasive Species

Legislation signed by Governor Cuomo in September, makes it the responsibility of boaters launching watercraft to use common sense when putting in and taking out their boats. Before transportation or launch, the boater must first clean, drain, and dry the boat, trailer, and any other exposed equipment of visible plant and animal matter, or have taken other reasonable measures to prevent the spread of AIS. This legislation applies to all public water access sites.

In addition, both DEC and OPRHP adopted regulations this year aimed at preventing the spread and establishment of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on properties under their respective jurisdiction. DEC regulations prohibit boats from launching or leaving water access (fishing and boat launch) sites on DEC Conservation Lands without first taking precautions while OPRHP regulations require similar actions to be taken at all water access sites. Stations, as seen in the photo on the right, are present at State Park boat launches, to provide guests a location to dispose of invasive species found during the inspection of boats and trailers.



*Nuisance Invasive Species Disposal Station at Allegany State Park Boat Launch Site*

### 6 NYCRR Part 575: Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species

Under the new regulations, DEC and Department of Agriculture and Markets created lists of prohibited and regulated species, and established measures to prevent their release in the state. The regulations make it unlawful to knowingly possess a prohibited species with the intent to sell, import, purchase, transport, or introduce. The full terms including the list of prohibited and regulated species can be found on DEC’s website, here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/93848.html>

## Early Detection and Rapid Response

*Develop effective early detection, assessment, and rapid response protocol(s) for the WNY PRISM region including mapping procedures, volunteer training/involvement, Best Management Practices, permit regulations and response teams, and provide assistance to partners for implementation of recommended protocols.*



*Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Surveying in Allegany State Park*

### Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The importance of Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) is understood by all those in the conservation community, but is not often realized. In the case of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) within Zoar Valley, the rapid response by WNY PRISM Partners will serve as a great example for future detections and actions.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, HWA was observed and confirmed to have infested a single tree within the Zoar Valley MUA, on The Nature Conservancy's Deer Lick Preserve along the South Branch of Cattaraugus

Creek. Word was quickly spread and Partners assisted in developing a plan to survey the area and began recruiting volunteers. A survey was conducted on October 12<sup>th</sup>, by 12 volunteers under the direction of Mark Whitmore (Cornell University), Steve McCabe, and Dave Paradowski (DEC). No additional trees were found during this survey.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, NYS DEC Region 9 Lands & Forests Staff and Rangers treated 594 trees on both sides of the South Branch of Cattaraugus Creek. At this time, 2 additional trees were found to be infested on the north side of the creek. The chemical treatment involved a basal bark spray with a tank mix of Safari (dinotefuran) and imadacloprid. Safari moves rapidly into a tree and will kill all HWA before they begin to lay eggs in the spring, but it lasts only 1 year. Imidacloprid is slow moving into the crown of a tree and will provide extended and preventative treatment for up to 7 years.

## Water Chestnut Initiative

Water chestnut was identified by WNY PRISM Partners as a priority species early in 2014 and is currently found in only a few locations within the region. A partnership, including the Conewango Creek Watershed Association, Jamestown Audubon, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, SUNY Fredonia, WNY PRISM, and many others is working to develop a regional protocol for the reporting of water chestnut. This program promotes the early detection of and removal of individual plants and small populations, before water chestnut establishes within the greater landscape.

**Partners**

Cattaraugus Co. and Chautauqua Co. Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
 Chautauqua County  
 Chautauqua Lake Association  
 Conewango Creek Watershed Assoc.  
 Foundation for Pennsylvania Woodlands  
 Friends of the Allegheny Woodlands  
 Jamestown Audubon Society  
 Northern Allegheny Conservation Assoc.  
 NY Department of Environmental Conservation  
 PA Game Commission  
 SUNY Fredonia  
 US Forest Service  
 Volunteers  
 Warren County Conservation District  
 Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)  
 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy - Alleghenies

*Never underestimate the power of teamwork...*

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

Cover - Berkhire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)  
 What does it look like? - www.managing  
 Why is water chestnut harmful? - Jamestown Audubon Society  
 How does water chestnut spread to other areas? - Paul Robinson, NYDEC  
 Never underestimate the power of teamwork... - Jamestown Audubon Society

**Report a Sighting Contact**

Multi-venue  
 Phone Number: 516-402-8983  
[www.conewangocreek.org](http://www.conewangocreek.org)

Conewango Creek Watershed Association  
 210 North Drive, Suite E  
 Warren, PA 16280  
 Phone Number: 814-726-1442  
[www.conewangocreek.org](http://www.conewangocreek.org)

Jamestown Audubon Center & Sanctuary  
 1602 Riverside Road  
 Jamestown, NY 14701  
 Phone Number: 716-569-2140  
[www.jamestownaudubon.org](http://www.jamestownaudubon.org)

**Trapa natans**  
**Invasive Water Chestnut**

- Does this plant look familiar?
- Do ducks or geese land on your property?
- Do you have a farm pond?
- Do you hunt or trap in swamps or wetlands?
- Do you enjoy water-based recreation?
- Does your business depend on water-based recreation?

*If you answered YES to any of the above, read the brochure!*

*Brochure created and updated by the Water Chestnut Initiative Partnership*

## Management and Habitat Restoration

*Assist partners with control of invasive species (eradication, containment, suppression) on high priority conservation areas based on identified regional conservation targets. Assist with the establishment of long-term management and monitoring, and the restoration of impacted sites to healthy native vegetation, to provide increased resilience against future invasions.*

WNY PRISM worked closely with our partners to implement on-the-grounds invasive species management projects, and by doing so, we were able to provide needed assistance and learn about both the many projects currently being implemented and get a better picture of the needs present within the region. By increasing our own capacity through purchase of equipment and staff training, we were able to further assist with the habitat management and restoration necessary to protect our high quality natural areas. WNY PRISM also assisted partners with development of habitat management plans, held discussions with DEC about the permitting process and procedures, and worked with partners to submit a funding proposal to expand our capacity for removal projects.



*Japanese knotweed removal from Tiff Nature Preserve*



*WNY PRISM Steward, Jerry Krajna, removing black swallow-wort from Tiff Nature Preserve*

### Tiff Nature Preserve and Cazenovia Community Resource and Boat Center

WNY PRISM Stewards worked with Dave Spiering, Ecologist, and volunteers on a number of invasive species removal projects this summer. Japanese knotweed was removed from sites within Tiff Nature Preserve as well as the Cazenovia Community Resource and Boat Center along the Buffalo River. This intensive effort included cutting, digging, bagging, and hauling away the Japanese knotweed. At the site within Tiff Nature Preserve, a black plastic covering was placed over the area where Japanese knotweed was removed.

Additional targets included black swallow-wort, which was surveyed and removed, and invasive shrubs (common buckthorn, bush honeysuckle) which were removed from priority areas.



*Japanese knotweed removed from Cazenovia Community Resource and Boat Center*

## Jamestown Audubon

WNY PRISM staff traveled down to Jamestown Audubon to assist with hand removal of water chestnut from Spatterdock Pond. Along with help from a large group of enthusiastic volunteers, we were able to make great headway in clearing the pond of water chestnut.



*Jamestown Audubon Water Chestnut Removal – 7/10/2014*

## Western New York Land Conservancy (WNYLC)

In partnership with Niagara County SWCD and WNYLC, WNY PRISM was able to map invasive species and do follow-up removal work on two nature preserves owned and managed by WNYLC. At the Niagara Escarpment Preserve, we held a volunteer mapping workday, where we were able to identify patches of pale swallow-wort and common buckthorn, among other species. Soon after we completed mapping the preserve, our crew spent a day removing the pale swallow-wort and began removal of common buckthorn. At Kenneglenn Scenic and Nature Preserve, we again mapped invasive species including bush honeysuckle and mugwort, and began a management protocol for the removal of mugwort.

## Evangola State Park

Reed canarygrass was the target species for removal efforts within a wetland mitigation site at Evangola State Park. The WNY PRISM Crew worked with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Strike Team to remove reed canary grass through cutting and covering with black plastic.



*Wetland mitigation site at Evangola State Park - reed canary grass management*

## Hydrilla Demonstration Project

Hydrilla was first detected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the Tonawanda Creek section of the Erie Canal in September 2012 and the infestation was found to extend from the outlet of the canal near the Niagara River, to the Lockport area 15 miles east. Work quickly began to develop selective control methods to manage hydrilla in a flowing water system, while minimizing the impacts on native vegetation. The Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Control Demonstration Project was developed through an interagency partnership including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and USFWS.

On July 22, 2014, a large scale application of herbicide (endothall) was applied to the western 7 miles of the hydrilla infestation. During this time, NYSCC reduced the flow of the Erie Canal to allow for effective treatment and limit movement of the herbicide. A survey on August 26, 2014 indicated that hydrilla frequency and biomass was significantly reduced, however a few areas of hydrilla remained. It was decided that a follow-up treatment, conducted on September 16, 2014, would be necessary to treat these sites. Field observations regarding the spot treatments show that the effort was very successful. Follow-up surveys and data collection will continue into next year.

## Partners

**Buffalo Audubon Society** – Invasive species priorities for Buffalo Audubon Society included monitoring previous restoration efforts at Joseph Davis State Park (SP), preparation for Eurasian black alder removal at Buckhorn Island SP (and possible Beaver Island SP), and honeysuckle removal at Beaver Meadow.

**Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER** – Events and trainings included, Native Seed Collection and Assessment at Seneca Bluffs and Hunter’s Creek, Summer River Academy Service Lesson and water chestnut removal, and informational lectures on aquatic nuisance species. Approximately 160 volunteers attended these events, contributing over 600 hours. Invasive species removal efforts included Japanese knotweed removal at numerous sites and water chestnut removal within Tonawanda Creek.

**Chautauqua County** – Held conversations with stakeholders from Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Erie Counties concerning a regionalized effort to manage invasive species and worked with coalition to submit a funding proposal to GLRI-EPA. Currently working on a Macrophyte Management Strategy for Chautauqua Lake.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County and NYIS (CCE)** – Events and trainings held during 2014 included a Small Fruit Workshop/Spotted Wing Drosophila Talk, Invasive Plants in Field Crops, Integrated Pest Management, and the initial EAB/Forest Pest Taskforce Meeting in Chautauqua County. Additional volunteer and outreach events were held throughout the year and were attended by 957 individuals. Displays and factsheets were also created for EAB Awareness Week, wild parsnip, and feral swine.

**Jamestown Audubon Society** – Held trainings on garlic mustard, water chestnut, and HWA. Volunteer events (18) were held to remove water chestnut from Big Pond (40 acres with 21 acres infested) and Spatterdock Pond (12 acres with 4 acres infested). This work was accomplished by staff and 40 volunteers donating 600 hours of their time. Jamestown Audubon is also involved with the Conewango Creek Watershed Association and Chautauqua County as they address regional impacts and response to water chestnut.



*Volunteers loading water chestnut for disposal during workday at Jamestown Audubon*

**The Nature Conservancy** – Completed second and final year of regional rapid AIS surveillance program, monitoring over 400 boat launches within the Great Lakes Basin. Data are being analyzed and is expected to be available on iMapInvasives by spring 2015.



*Goutweed removal at the Nature Sanctuary Society's Alexander Preserve*

**Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York** – Work at Alexander Preserve included a garlic mustard pull, daylily management, and goutweed control efforts. Daylilies have been managed through use of tarps and areas being replanted with ferns. This method has been utilized for 5 years and is showing success. Methods for controlling goutweed are currently being tested, including use of black plastic, herbicide, and a flame torch. Sites and methods will continue to be monitored.



**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** – Education and outreach for DEC focused on EAB and additional Forest Pests. They conducted two early detector trainings, spoke with 100 boy scouts and the Niagara County Supervisors Association, presented as part of a “Walk-and-Talk” in Amherst, and attended Reinstein Woods Fall Festival. Invasive species removal projects included HWA treatments (see page 12), hand removal of phragmites and purple loosestrife at Carlton Hill WMA, and 2 acres of black swallow-wort chemical removal at Tillman WMA. DEC was also a key partner in the hydrilla treatment (see page 15) being involved in the pre and post treatment monitoring and data collection and participating in the Hydrilla Hunt webinar.

**New York State Department of Transportation (DOT)**– DOT invasive species efforts include adherence to best management practices to prevent further spread of the plants (disturbance avoidance, equipment washing, proper disposal), treatment of select invasive species populations, and monitoring of wetland mitigation projects including treatments. Projects in 2014 included site specific chemical treatment of Japanese knotweed and phragmites, mechanical removal of Japanese knotweed, phragmites, and purple loosestrife, and treatment of invasive species at multiple wetland mitigation sites.

**New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)** – Held 2 HWA trainings aimed at recruiting volunteers for surveys to be conducted at Letchworth and Allegany State Parks. Two insecticide treatments were completed at Letchworth SP and one at Allegany SP, to address HWA and a follow-up survey of the first 9 acres treated was conducted. Volunteers (165 total) participated in an Invasive Hike and Strike at Allegany SP and events at Niagara Falls SP (garlic mustard pull, native sedge planting), and events at Beaver Island (Japanese knotweed, phragmites, ash tree surveys). Great Lakes Alliance and HSBC assisted with events at Niagara Falls SP and Beaver Island.



*WNY PRISM Stewardship Crew along with OPRHP Strike Team, removing reed canarygrass from*

The Allegany Strike Team worked within a 7 county area mapping and removing invasive species throughout the summer, targeting species such as Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, reed canarygrass, swallow-worts, and phragmites. Follow-up invasive species removals and restoration plantings were done at Red House trails and bike paths. Restoration plantings were also done at Evangola SP. Additional projects included Hamlin Beach SP with OPRHP boat stewards, water chestnut removal at Braddock Bay, and mapping of European black alder with Buffalo Audubon at Buckthorn Marsh.

**Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** – During the spring tree and shrub seedling sale, Niagara County SWCD distributed information on EAB, provided by CCE Erie County. Invasive species removal projects occurred on 3 grassland/restoration sites and focused on phragmites and black locust removal using an herbicide spray treatment.

**Reinstein Woods** – In partnership with DEC, Buffalo Audubon Society, and the Western New York Land Conservancy, Reinstein Woods coordinated the 2014 WNY Garlic Mustard Challenge. Through this challenge, more than 300 volunteers removed 5100 pounds of garlic mustard from 3 Nature Preserves; Buffalo Audubon’s Beaver Meadow, DEC’s Reinstein Woods, and WNYLC Kenneglenn Preserve.

Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History (RTPI) - Partnered with Jamestown Community College to survey for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid within South Valley State Forest, in Cattaraugus County, and Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area, in Warren County. No HWA was found on either site and plans to re-evaluate in 2015 are in place. RTPI also partnered with CCE of Chautauqua County to implement education and outreach concerning forest pests, specifically HWA and EAB. Efforts are underway to develop an audio tour using smart phone QR codes on signs along trails.

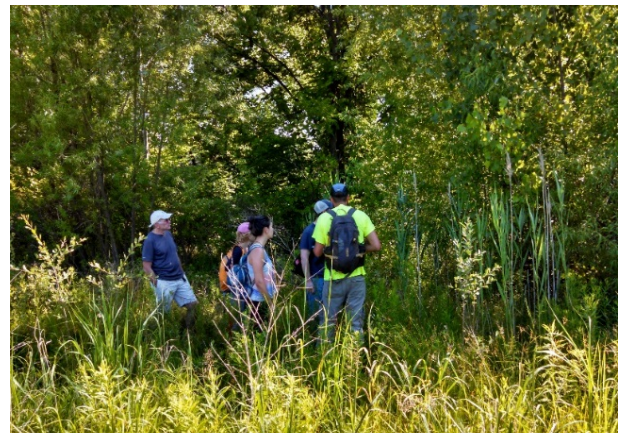
SUNY Fredonia – Activities at College Lodge included pulling of garlic mustard and periwinkle during an Earth Day event and honeysuckle and periwinkle pulling at an event coordinated as part of an Eagle Scout project. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was found on the Campus Woodlot in December and treatment options are currently being explored. SUNY Fredonia worked as a primary partner in the Water Chestnut Initiative (see page 13).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – 2014 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 5 year treatment plan for Times Beach, located in Buffalo, NY. Target invasive species are phragmites, common buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, mugwort, and tree of heaven. Vegetation and avian communities were monitored. Vegetation was surveyed in June while bird surveys were conducted during spring and fall migrations and during the breeding season (10 total surveys). USACE also held a public information meeting on June 25, 2014 for the Springville Dam Great Lakes Fisheries and Ecosystem Restoration project. This project will restore ecological connectivity of the upper Cattaraugus Creek watershed to the downstream areas of the creek and Lake Erie.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office – The Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, as part of an on-going early detection and monitoring program for aquatic invasive species, sampled 229 sites along the U.S. shoreline of Lake Ontario, Niagara River, and Lake Erie; from Rochester to Hamburg, NY. Crews monitor for invasive fish and benthic macroinvertebrate species. The office also removed 210 water chestnut plants from Tonawanda Creek.

Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo Museum of Science – Implemented 6 invasive species removal projects with participation from 25 volunteers. Projects included Japanese knotweed, common buckthorn, and black swallow-wort removal. Treatment for red ants (*Myrmica rubra*) was conducted along 7000 feet of trail, using a broadcast application of a granular pesticide. Five bait boxes were installed in areas that were unable to be treated by broadcast application.

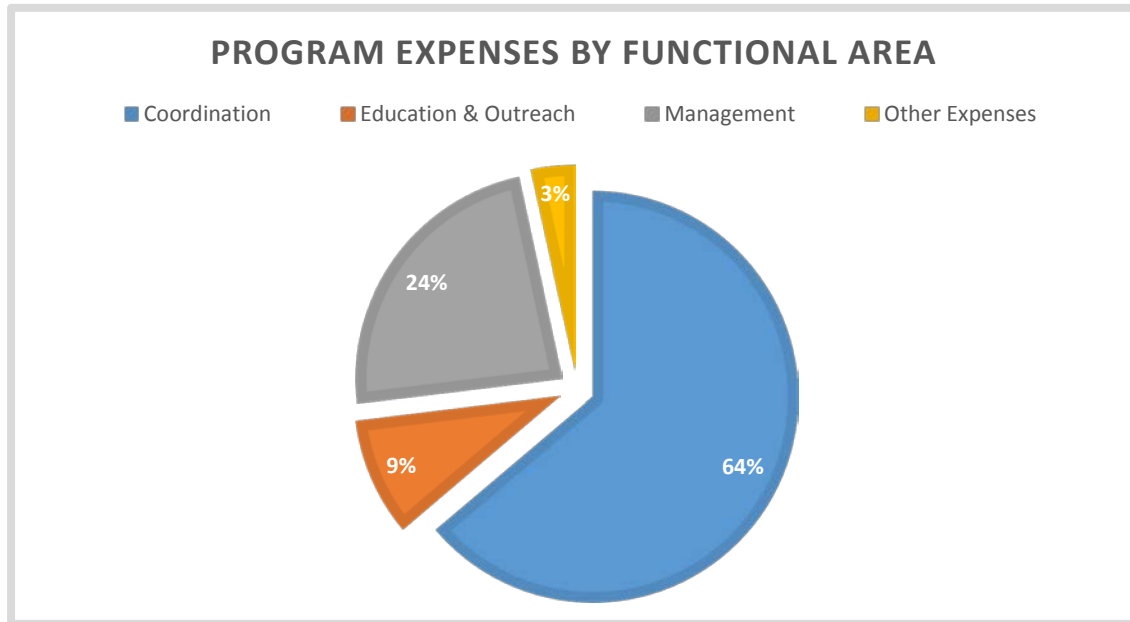
Western New York Land Conservancy (WNYLC) – WNYLC held 3 invasive species trainings, as part of the Garlic Mustard Challenge which saw over 1300 pounds of garlic mustard removed from Kenneglenn Preserve. Also part of the Garlic Mustard Challenge, an Eagle Scout candidate created an informational poster on common invasive species found in western New York. In partnership with WNY PRISM and Niagara County SWCD, invasive species were mapped and removed from Niagara Escarpment Preserve and Kenneglenn Preserve.



*Invasive species mapping at WNYLC's Niagara Escarpment Preserve*

## Summary of Project Expenses

Program expenses were grouped together by functional areas. This summary is intended to provide a general understanding of how WNY PRISM divided our time and resources in 2014, but is not intended to serve as a financial report.



Coordination	64%
Education and Outreach	9%
Management	24%
<u>Other Expenses</u>	<u>3%</u>
	100%

### Coordination:

Activities and expenses related to our Partner/Network Coordination, Information Management Goals, including costs of administering the program, general office supplies, and the WNY PRISM Coordinator and Director.

### Education and Outreach:

Activities and expenses related to our Education and Outreach Goals, including the Education and Outreach Assistant, supplies and materials.

### Management:

Activities and expenses related to our Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response, and Habitat Management and Restoration Goals, including the Stewardship Assistants (3), supplies and materials.

### Other Expenses:

Includes travel, communications, etc.