



# WNY PRISM

*Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species*

Fall/Winter 2016 Newsletter

Vol. 2 Issue 2

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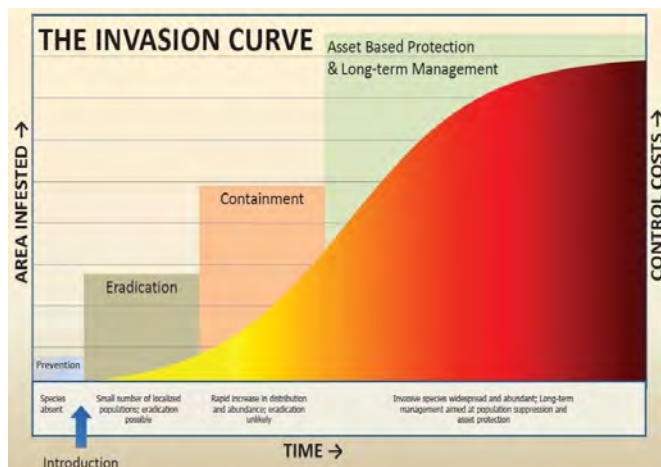
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*The WNY PRISM mission is to proactively identify, evaluate and address invasive species priorities in western New York using a coordinated partnership of local professionals, organizations and private citizens to improve, restore and protect local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

## New Early Detection Reporting Protocol for WNY

Prevention is considered the gold standard with regard to invasive species management, however prevention efforts are unable to stop all invasive species from being introduced and becoming established within our region. Early detection is the all-important next level of defense against the establishment of invasive species, and the harm they cause.

Successful early detection programs allow for potential threats to be identified in time for effective, efficient and environmentally sound decisions to be made (assessment) and appropriate actions to be taken (rapid response). The Invasion Curve (below) shows the



Invasion Curve. Image from USDA Forest Service 2005 Invasive Plant Environmental Impact Statement.



Mile-a-minute vine, WNY PRISM Early Detection Priority Species. Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org.

exponential increase in area infested and control costs for species over time. Early detection programs aim to catch species while still in the beginning parts of the curve.

As part of our ongoing efforts, WNY PRISM is pleased to announce the release of the regional Early Detection Reporting Protocol for invasive species. Developed in cooperation with WNY PRISM's Working Groups, Steering Committee and additional Partners, this protocol provides a step-by-step process to report sightings of new and emerging invasive species as they are introduced to our 8-county WNY region.

WNY PRISM established Early Detection Priority Species last fall ([www.wnyprism.org/priority-invasives](http://www.wnyprism.org/priority-invasives)). This is a great place to start for professionals and citizen scientists alike, but the species on this list don't represent all potential early detection species. Observations of any invasive species known from three or fewer locations within WNY, is an early detection. There are a lot of species out there and a lot of land to cover, so we need your help to ensure a successful program!

The full Early Detection Reporting Protocol may be found on our website: <http://www.wnyprism.org/get-involved/early-detection/>

## Regional and State Updates

Mile-a-minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*), an Early Detection Priority for WNY PRISM, was positively identified in Livingston County near Conesus Lake. This annual vine can grow up to six inches a day! While this population is not in WNY PRISM, Livingston County is right on our doorstep. Please keep a lookout for this invasive species and report any sightings to WNY PRISM, using our new [Early Detection Reporting Protocol](#).

Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI), in partnership with Jamestown Community College and Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, is currently planning a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Training and subsequent surveys throughout the Southern Tier this winter. Join RTPI on Thursday, December 8 @ 6pm for a HWA Citizen Scientist Survey Training. More information on this and planned surveys can be found at [www.rtpi.org](http://www.rtpi.org).

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has announced that their new online pesticide product registration database is available. The new database (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/products>) replaces the PIMS system. *Please note that PIMS is no longer updated with current product registration information, including labels.* Contact the NYSDEC Pesticide Product Registration Section at [ppr@dec.ny.gov](mailto:ppr@dec.ny.gov) or (518) 408-8768 if you have any questions or comments regarding this new database.

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) has made available the 2016-2018 Management Plan for viewing and download on the new NISC website, [www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov). In conjunction with the release of the NISC Management Plan, the NISC Co-Chairs have issued a Call to Action, [available here](#).



Watercraft Stewards were on duty at Chautauqua Lake in 2016. Photo by Chautauqua Lake Association.

## Partner Spotlight: Chautauqua Lake Association

By Douglas Conroe, CLA Executive Director

### Chautauqua Lake Association Expands Invasive Species Awareness Program

Receipt of a NYSDEC AIS Prevention Grant enabled the Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA) to introduce a Boat Launch Watercraft Steward Program this past summer at six public launch ramp sites along the shoreline of Chautauqua Lake. Under separate funding programs the CLA was additionally able to provide a Watercraft Steward presence on Bear and Cassadaga Lakes in Chautauqua County. This was the Chautauqua Lake Association's first experience in providing a Watercraft Steward Program. Previously AIS prevention programs had concentrated on controlling existing AIS, attending WNY PRISM sessions, hosting PRISM interns, being vigilant for the presence of new AIS and educating the public about AIS awareness and prevention.



With a three-year grant timeframe, the initial intent was to utilize Year One for planning and site exposure on a limited basis, with experiences to be used to implement a much larger program in Year Two. The thought was to start with two stewards rotating among two or three sites, however three sites quickly grew to four, and four grew to six and two stewards grew to five. Stewards then rotated among eight ramps on weekends from late June through Labor Day. Year Two is expected to have eight stewards serving eight ramps every weekend during the summer of 2017. Learning of the program, neighboring lakes inquired if the CLA could staff programs there.

Final summary data is not yet available, however experiential data from the 13-weekend program includes over 3,000 vessel contacts and over 1,400 hours of presence. Program acceptance was phenomenal with just over 98% of persons contacted evidencing support of the program when asked.

Read the full article at: <http://www.wnyprism.org/blog/>

Additional information about CLA's programs can be found on its website, [www.chautauqualakeassociation.org](http://www.chautauqualakeassociation.org).

## Steering Committee Members

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper  
Conewango Creek Watershed  
Association  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Ecology & Environment, Inc.  
SUNY Buffalo State  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
New York Sea Grant  
NYS Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
NYS Department of Transportation  
New York State Certified Nursery and  
Landscape Professionals  
New York State Parks, Recreation, and  
Historic Preservation  
SUNY Fredonia  
The Nature Conservancy  
United States Army Corps of Engineers,  
Buffalo District  
USFWS, Lower Great Lakes Office

## Upcoming Events

CCE Invasive Species In-Service  
NOV 1 - NOV 3; Cornell University

Fall Partner Meeting  
NOV 17; 1-3pm; Woodlawn Beach SP

Invasive Species Speaker Series  
NOV 30; 11am

HWA Survey Training  
DEC 8; 6pm; Roger Tory Peterson Inst.

**For more information on these or  
other events, or to include your events  
on our calendar, visit our website.**

To subscribe to the WNY  
PRISM listserv email:

[cce-westernprism-l-  
request@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-westernprism-l-request@cornell.edu)

Type "join" in the subject line.  
Leave the body of message blank.  
Don't include signature or text.



WNY PRISM's 2016 Invasive Species Management Crew planting native species at Tift Nature Preserve (left - Photo by Dave Spiering, Tift Nature Preserve) and mapping invasives at Franklin Gulf County Park (right - Photo by WNY PRISM).

## Highlights from our 2016 Field Season

By Adam Haines, Education & Outreach Assistant

Please join us in thanking the WNY PRISM Crew for all of their hard work this summer! From June through August 2016, the Crew helped with 21 outreach events, 11 invasive species removal projects and entered over 900 observations into iMapInvasives. In addition, the Crew again assisted with purple loosestrife beetle/biocontrol collection, surveying for the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Demonstration Project and helped with WNY PRISM outreach efforts including materials development and writing blogs for our website. All together, the Crew spent 13 weeks visiting each of our 8 counties, meeting Partners and advancing our invasive species management efforts!

Outreach events this summer included tabling, presentations, workshops and volunteer workdays. These events were attended by over 6000 individuals and PRISM staff spoke directly with 2593 of them! One of the most well attended events this summer was the Clarence Hollow Farmers' Market which included the annual Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm monarch release. Approximately 600 people came out to see the release of over 250 monarch butterflies.

Removal projects included those targeting invasive shrubs at Conewango Valley and Stella Niagara Preserves, knotweed removal at the Great Lakes Center and Seneca Bluffs, and water chestnut removal at Jamestown Audubon. Additional target species included phragmites, reed canarygrass, Canada thistle and swallow-worts.

The Crew traveled throughout the region doing invasive species surveys and entered the data into iMapInvasives online database.

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Crew staffing PRISM Outreach Display (left to right: Tyler Christensen, Emily Dyett, and Ian Sansone). Photo by Flora Leamer.



## From WNY PRISM

Dear Partners,

There are so many great things happening with WNY PRISM and I'm excited to be sharing them with you! First is the cover story within this newsletter, the release of our Early Detection Reporting Protocol. All of our efforts build upon that which came before it, as this builds upon the priority species lists developed last year. The next step for our early detection program is to develop assessment and response protocols for priority species that don't already have mechanisms in place.



Andrea Locke, WNY  
PRISM Coordinator.

I am very proud of our 2016 Invasive Species Management Crew that worked so very hard this summer helping our Partners with outreach efforts, invasive species mapping and surveys, and invasive species removal projects. A few of these projects are ones that we worked on for the first time last year and it was especially encouraging to see the success of our initial treatments. These sites will serve as wonderful demonstration sites for the successful removal and management of invasive species.

We have also made some great improvements to the information available on our website and I encourage those of you who haven't visited in a while to check it out. We've updated profiles, added resources and have our news/blog section up and running!

Lastly, I would like to invite all of you to our Fall Partner Meeting where you can hear from guest speakers, more about our achievements over the past year, and how you can become more involved. The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, from 1-3 pm at Woodlawn Beach State Park.

I hope to see you there!

-Andrea

## Species Profile: Slender False Brome

Slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) is a perennial bunchgrass that came to North America from its native North Africa and Eurasia. This species is currently found in only one location within WNY and a couple additional locations within the Finger Lakes. It was recently reported in the Lower Hudson PRISM as well. Outside of New York State, it is known from California, Oregon and Washington.

An early detection priority for WNY, slender false brome can establish quickly and spread rapidly to form mats outcompeting native plants. Although often found in moist, shaded areas, this species can be found in a wide variety of



Slender false brome with mature seeds, found in Genesee County. Photo by Andrea Locke, WNY PRISM.

habitats making it difficult to predict where it may next emerge. Slender false brome can easily be spread on hiking boots and clothing. Be sure to clean boots and clothing before leaving a site and going to another location so we do not accidentally spread this, or any other invasive species.

Visit our [Slender False Brome Profile](#) for more information on how to ID this species. Please report any sightings to WNY PRISM using our [Early Detection Reporting Protocol](#).

## Contact Us

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WNY PRISM



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## Crew, Cont'd

Seven projects were completed, including a survey of Silver Lake which was conducted with the help of the Silver Lake Association. This, and other surveys, will serve as a baseline for the species composition and distribution, which in turn helps form a management strategy for the lake!

At Tifft Nature Preserve, the Crew helped to plant over 2250 native plant plugs, bringing the total number planted at Tifft to 30,000 individuals of 20 different native species. Plants were placed in areas where invasive species had been previously removed and will help sustain the diverse bird and migrant waterfowl that pass through the park.

Check out the [WNY PRISM blog](#) for more information on Crew projects this summer!



Mugwort removal at Kenneglenn. Photo by Land Conservancy.