



WNY PRISM

Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species

Spring/Summer 2015 Newsletter

Vol. I Issue 1

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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.

European Water Chestnut

By Patricia Shulenburg, WNY PRISM

European water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) is an invasive aquatic plant that is slowly spreading across New York State. It escaped cultivation in Massachusetts in the late 1870s and has since caused significant impairments to our aquatic ecosystems. Water chestnut forms dense mats that impact recreational activities, such as boating, fishing, and swimming, leading to decreases in tourism and property values. Dense infestations of water chestnut also decrease sunlight available to our native aquatic species and contribute to loss of biodiversity. Water chestnut may cause increased algal growth and can decrease available oxygen in the water potentially leading to fish kills.

Management for water chestnut includes Prevention, Early Detection/Rapid Response, and Infestation Management. Prevention requires cleaning recreation equipment before moving to a new location. Assisting with this is New York State's Invasive Species Regulations ([6 NYCRR Part 575](#)), which prohibits the sale and transport of water chestnut, along with 153 other species. Scientists are also working to identify an effective biocontrol, but none are available at this time.

- Prevention: Clean, Drain, Dry, stop the spread!
- Early Detection/Rapid Response: survey potential areas of infestation and remove plants early. Small infestations can be easily managed by hand-pulling.
- Infestation Management: large infestations may require a mechanical harvester and/or use of aquatic herbicide to control. Manipulating water levels may also assist with control efforts.



Continuing our 2014 water chestnut efforts, WNY PRISM will assist Jamestown Audubon Society with removal, conduct surveys, and monitor treated areas.



Will Novitske, volunteer with Jamestown Audubon, removes water chestnut from Spatterdock Pond, 2014. WNY PRISM

2015 Spring Full Partnership Meeting

WNY PRISM held our Spring Full Partnership Meeting in May. Guest speakers included Richard Ruby, USACE and Debbie Breth, CCE. Rich presented on the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Control Demonstration Project. He provided an overview of the plant, and summarized the 2014 treatment and sampling. Overall hydrilla frequency decreased from 33% to 4% last year. Debbie presented on Agricultural Fruit Pests including the brown marmorated stink bug, black stem borer, and spotted wing drosophila. Regional updates were provided by WNY PRISM and our Partners. A full summary can be found on our website.

Please join us for our next meeting being held at SUNY Fredonia in November.



Hydrilla sampling.
USACE, Buffalo District

Steering Committee Members

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
Conewango Creek Watershed Association
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Ecology & Environment, Inc.
SUNY Buffalo State
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
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

Partner Spotlight: Great Lakes Center

By Kathleen Hastings, Research Technician



The Great Lakes Center is an institute of researchers and educators at SUNY Buffalo State dedicated to investigating the ecology of the Great Lakes and their tributaries. The center has lab facilities on the main campus, a field station on the waterfront, and a fleet of boats to conduct our field studies. The center offers Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Great Lakes Ecosystem Science.

Classes have wound down on campus and warmer temperatures have returned, so the Great Lakes Center is ready to hit the water! A big portion of our time this summer will be spent on the Niagara River. Researchers will revisit sites in the Lower Niagara River that were sampled in the 70s and 80s to investigate the effect of invasive dreissenid mussels on the benthic invertebrate community, and in conjunction with restoration and remediation work. A few of our researchers will spend August aboard the US EPA's Lake Guardian collecting benthic samples.

For the second year we are monitoring the harbors in Buffalo and Oswego for new invasive species (to our region) using a protocol from scientists in the Baltic Sea. The Baltic region is a source of new invaders to the Great Lakes and they are likely to keep coming into our ports, so early detection is key. For more information on these and other programs, visit our website:

<http://greatlakescenter.buffalostate.edu>



Great Lakes Center Open House May 6, 2015. SUNY Buffalo State

Upcoming Events

7/3-7/5 WNY PRISM Display: Great Blue Heron Music Festival

7/19 - 7/26 WNY PRISM Display: Canal Fest of the Tonawandas

Invasive Species Awareness Week July 12 - July 18, 2015

7/14 Workshop: Community First Detector - Invasive Pest Detection SUNY Fredonia

7/16 Native Plantings and Habitat Restoration Tour - Buffalo Area

7/17 WNY Land Conservancy Kennebec Volunteer Work Day

7/28-7/29 Reinstein Woods Summer Teacher Institute

8/6-8/7 WNY Land Conservancy Niagara Escarpment Preserve Volunteer Work Day

For more information, visit our website: www.wnyprism.org



iMapInvasives Training. WNYPRISM

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From Left to Right: Lucy Nuessle, Lexy Wagner, Patricia Shulenburg, and Mathew Bilz. 2015 WNY PRISM

Crew Update

WNY PRISM welcomed four new seasonal crew members to our team. Patricia Shulenburg joined the staff in May as the Education and Outreach Assistant. Patricia has a M.S. in Natural Sciences and has been a professor of ecology for three years. She holds a certificate in stream restoration. Also joining WNY PRISM are three Invasive Species Management Assistants (Crew), Lucy Nuessle, Lexy Wagner, and Mat Bilz. Lucy graduated from the University at Buffalo with a bachelor's degree in Environmental studies and Chemistry. She spent time working at an organic farm and interned with Reinstein Woods. Lexy graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a B.S. in Biology and has surveyed ash trees for Livingston County's EAB preparedness program. She also volunteers for Hawk Creek Wildlife Center. Mat graduated from Buffalo State and started his career in invasive species management and conservation. He finds self-worth in being a steward of the earth. Please join WNY PRISM in welcoming them to the team!

The Crew has been busy training and surveying using iMapInvasives. Upcoming projects include invasive species removal at Tiff Nature Preserve and Jamestown Audubon Society, and invasive species surveys at Stella Niagara and Bergen Swamp. They will also assist with our Education and Outreach events throughout the summer. Meet the Crew and see our display at Canal Fest of the Tonawandas, Blue Heron Music Festival and others!



iMapInvasives Training. WNY PRISM

From WNY PRISM

Partners,

This is WNY PRISM's first newsletter, and I can't be more excited for all of you to see it! It's hard to believe we've been around for a year and a half already. Looking back I am proud of all the things we've accomplished so far, and this is in large part due to each of you. I know that we'll be able to count on your continued support in the years to come.



Andrea Locke, WNY
PRISM Coordinator

This newsletter will be an extension of our website and information we share about education and outreach on a weekly basis. My hope is that you will share this with your colleagues as well as the people you meet while out doing your great work. Our plan is to start with a spring and fall edition this year, but as in all invasive species management, we will be flexible and adaptive.

I would also like to invite you to contribute to this newsletter. Every edition will put a spotlight on at least one of our Partners, highlighting one or more projects or programs. This is a great opportunity for you to reach a growing network of professionals and interested citizens.

Sincerely,
Andrea

Statewide Updates

New York State is celebrating our 2nd Annual Invasive Species Awareness Week July 12-18, 2015. Building on last year's success we invite you to partner with us for a variety of activities and citizen science events within WNY and across the state. This year's theme is Planting Native Alternatives in place of Invasive Species. You can plan an event, volunteer for a removal project, attend presentations, and much more! Contact us for more information.

NYS DEC recently released a Draft General Permit (GP-0-15-005) Management of Invasive Species, intended to assist with the mechanical removal of AIS. The initial comment period has closed. In addition, draft language for statewide AIS Spread Prevention regulations should be released shortly and are expected to go into effect later this year.



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WNY PRISM



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iMapInvasives tracks invasive species presence and distribution across the region, and helps with development of priorities and management strategies.

There are over 120 species currently listed as either 'Early Detection' or 'Approaching Region' for WNY. However, many of these are simply under reported. In order to establish more accurate lists, WNY PRISM is asking for your help!

Here are a few species to start with that are easy to ID this time of year:

European Frogbit
(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

White Clover
(*Trifolium repens*)

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*)