

**Lower Hudson PRISM
Partners Meeting**

July 27, 2016 – 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Rockland County
10 Patriot Hills Lane
Stony Point, NY 10980

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Get to know each other better
2. Discuss options for disposal of removed invasive plants
3. Understand progress that has been made on 2016 Action Plan
4. Make plans for completing additional work in the second half of the year

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Rohleder took the floor and we began by going around the room with introductions.

Linda also announced some changes in partners and partner representatives.

- The Lower Hudson PRISM would like to welcome our new partner, Lake Guymard Association, represented by Robb Adams and Neil Cuthbert.
- Nicole Wooten replaces Matt Decker for the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.
- Matt Decker moved to the Orange County Land Trust. OCLT is not currently a partner but is considering signing on.
- Budd Veverka, new representative for Mianus River Gorge (originally Sarah Hoskinson)
- Michelle Leubke, new representative for the Bronx River Alliance (originally Robin Kriesberg)
- Christopher Gow new representative for the Village of Tuxedo Park (originally Susan Goodfellow)
- Bill Livingston of BioBoat will be out of the county for a year, and as of now, we do not know who will be replacing Bill as the BioBoat LHP representative.

OUTREACH UPDATES

After introductions, we started the meeting with two outreach updates.

- Samantha Epstein of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater reported that the Boat Stewards Program has inspected 700 boats and talked to over 1,000 people. The Newburgh boat launch is their busiest location. The inspections are free, voluntary and never result in fines or tickets.
- Megan Phillips of NYS DEC gave a presentation about the outreach success of the 2016 New York Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW.) Statewide, 120 events were held over 7 days reaching over 1,500 participants. Most popular events were public displays at events or invasives removals. Megan will be presenting the ISAW results and recommendations on the September state-wide PRISM call.

INVASIVE PLANT DISPOSAL – LAWTON ADAMS MATERIALS

Next, we had a discussion with Jesse Sarnoff of Lawton Adams Materials Supplies and Recycling in Westchester County about invasive plant disposal.

- Lawton Adams is a private company that offers invasives composting as a new option for disposing of removed plants. They have a composting registration, which allows them to take in terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants. When the plants are processed, they are solarized with black tarps and then composted. Lawton Adams offers shipping containers that can be delivered to a location, filled with invasives, and picked up when full or you can take plants to them. Linda proposed the idea that since renting one of these containers can be pricey, a few partners can get together to split the cost and leave the container in a central location for dumping plants after removals. Their invasives composting site is located in Brewster, NY.

Jesse Adams Sarnoff
Sales Manager | Lawton Adams Materials, Supplies & Recycling
260 Route 100 Somers, NY 10589
914-232-3275 ext. 5 | jesse@lawtonadams.com | <http://lawtonadams.com>

SURVEY UPDATES

Then we had invasive species survey updates from multiple partners.

- **Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Monitoring (Heather Darley)**
 - In May and June, 15 LHP volunteers checked 12 SPB traps located throughout the region at Bear Mountain, Hudson Highlands, Schunнемunk Mountain, Huckleberry Ridge State Forest, Roosa Gap State Forest, and Minnewaska State Park. The monitoring effort was a total of 174 volunteer hours that contributed to the detection of SPB at Bear Mountain and Schunнемunk. No infested trees have been found as of yet.
 - If you see a pine with rusty-red pitch tubes (popcorns) or copper tops/no needles, please report any suspect trees with pictures and coordinates to us at invasives@nynjtc.org.
- **Hydrilla Hunt Program (Cathy McGlynn, NYS DEC)**
 - [*Hydrilla verticillata*](#) was discovered in the Croton River in October 2013 and is found in 10 counties in New York. This most wanted species is a federally listed noxious weed and is banned in 17 states.
 - *Hydrilla* Hunters is a volunteer monitoring program that focuses on priority populations along the Hudson River and also at private and public lakes. There is a plan to connect existing *Hydrilla* teams statewide. Two types of surveys are done: visual and rake toss.
 - Survey efforts began in 2015 and will be conducted on a yearly basis in the same locations. They are looking for monitors on the Croton River.
 - If you think you've found *Hydrilla*, please contact and send photos to Cathy McGlynn at isinfo@dec.ny.gov.
- **BlockBuster Survey (Annie Reuter, Linda Rohleder)**
 - Annie and Linda spoke about the BlockBuster Survey program efforts. Throughout July, 9 training sessions were held in each LHP county teaching 117 surveying volunteers to identify 27 focal species. The volunteers signed up to survey in 103 3x3 mile blocks (about a third of the LHP region) are currently being surveyed and surveys are to be completed by the end of September. All of the

data will be uploaded into iMap Invasives and will provide important insights about what top invasives threaten the Lower Hudson.

- ***Corydalis incisa* in Westchester (Jessica Schuler)**

- The New York Botanical Garden was contracted to do this survey on the very aggressive invasion of *Corydalis incisa*, an early detection / rapid response species. Spread through horticulture, *Corydalis* has spread in the Bronx River Corridor. A group of 26 people were involved to survey 20 sites along the Bronx River. The biggest infestation was found in Leewood Drive South in Eastchester, NY. The population found at the Metro North Crestwood Train Station was removed by Linda's ISF Trail Crew. NYBG will provide a more detailed report at an upcoming meeting.
- Next year's proposed management is dependent on when *Corydalis* will seed. Typically, it will go to seed in mid-May, but depending on sun exposure, it can seed as early as April.

PROGRESS REPORTS ON EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

After lunch, we continued with progress reports about educational materials.

- **Best Management Practices for Homeowners (Annie Christian-Reuter, Mary Johnson)**

- On behalf of the LHP and as a part of Hudsonia's BMP project, CCE Rockland has developed a presentation entitled "Managing Common Invasive Species in Home Gardens." This presentation is geared toward homeowners and gardeners. The species chosen were selected from the Prohibited and Regulated List and are commonly found in home gardens. Management practices focus on nonchemical recommendations. They are planning to give the presentation at five different locations in the Lower Hudson region this fall. If your organization might be interested in hosting this presentation, please contact Annie Christian-Reuter at alc44@cornell.edu. (Note: Annie is expecting a baby in August).

- **Alternatives to Invasive Ornamentals (Joyce Tomaselli)**

- Joyce (CCE Dutchess) is putting together research-based educational materials on our 27 focal species such as fact sheets on identification, management and control. The main focus is on providing information on native alternatives to Regulated and Prohibited ornamental invasive species. Joyce is also working on creating promotional displays that are waterproof and durable as a portable outreach tool for tabling events, fairs, farmers' markets, etc.

UPDATES ON INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS

Next, we heard updates from our partners conducting invasive species control projects

- **Hardy kiwi – Bedford, Croton (Tom Lewis)**

- There are 3 different populations in Westchester out of the total 6 in New York. The locations are Bedford, Croton and Pound Ridge.
- Pound Ridge was first treated three years ago, and there is no hardy kiwi there now.
- In Croton, they began control in early June and returned the first week of August for treatment. The Croton population is in its second year of management.
- The Bedford Hardy Kiwi project is just about finished with control actions. This is the first year of management for this population. The project has support from Bedford2020 and Audubon and

has worked on park lands and fellowship property. Trillium ISM went in to do control and will return this season for follow-up herbicide application.

- **Mile-a-minute – Esopus (Tom Lewis, Nate Nardi-Cyrus)**

- The mile-a-minute control effort in Esopus is focused on creating a suppression scenario. The strategy is to cut in to the population from the edges. They are in touch with land owners and are treating land parcels. LHP Partners, Scenic Hudson and the Invasives Strike Force Crew, helped with removals, which are pretty much done for the year. There is a significant decline in growth on location compared to last year when the control efforts were started. 1,000 weevils have been purchased for release next year.

- **BootBrush Station Pilot (Nate Nardi-Cyrus)**

- BootBrush Stations are designed to prevent the spread of invasions by having hikers wipe their boots before and after entering a park's trails. There are two locations picked out for stations at trailheads in Esopus. The installation is targeted to happen before October. The materials list can be shared with anyone interested in implementing a BootBrush Station. The estimated cost is \$400 per station.

- **ISF Conservation Crew Projects (Linda Rohleder)**

- The New York – New Jersey Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force (ISF) Conservation Corps Crew started in mid-May and will work through the end of September. The crew is funded by LHP funds, LHP partners and New Jersey funding. They have treated the following populations:
 - Giant hogweed – the ISF crew visited and completed control for 20 sites in LHP (Putnam, Dutchess and Orange County) with help from LHP partners, Tom Lewis (Trillium ISM), Meredith Taylor (NYC DEP) and Jen Stengle (CCE Putnam).
 - *Salvia glutinosa* – The only known site in the US is along the AT in Dutchess County and covers about 100 acres. In collaboration with 4 landowners and the NPS, the ISF crew will be treating with a foliar spray and surfactant and a low concentration of herbicide
 - Small carpetgrass, *Arthraxon hispidus* – There are two records of small carpetgrass in LHP, and the ISF crew completed control at one site in Yorktown Heights and will be going back next year. The other location is in Dutchess County.
 - Scotch broom – The ISF crew visited 33 out of 52 sites and completed treatment at 26 sites. They treated all reachable plants at the other 7 sites and still need to visit 6 more sites this year. 13,290 plants were removed. Treatment was done using a cut stump method, which has shown to be close to 100% effective.
 - Silver Vine, *Actinidia polygama* – ISF crew completed control in Sterling Forest for the 3rd year.
 - *Corydalis incisa* – the ISF crew pulled 1,900 plants from the Metro North station in Crestwood (Westchester Co.) and Muskrat Cove Park in the Bronx.
 - Japanese angelica tree, *Aralia elata* – Over 1,500 trees were treated at Harriman, Ward Pound Ridge, and Schunnemunk with a basal bark treatment. The focus is on perimeter populations in the LHP region. Treatments began in 2014 on 3 Storm King

State Park populations, and now there are no plants. That project has entered the monitoring phase.

- Dwarf bamboo, *Pleioblastus sp.* – The only known population in NY is at Bear Mountain. The ISF crew completed treatment on four populations along the Palisades Parkway. Ed McGowan’s crew (NYS Parks) weed wacked the sites over the winter, and the ISF crew came in and foliar sprayed in the spring
 - Chinese silver grass, *Miscanthus* – The ISF crew completed treatment on populations in Harriman with the NYS Parks Invasives Crew.
 - So far this season, the ISF crew has removed over 35,500 plants at 45 different properties. This count does not include mile-a-minute, garlic mustard or stilt grass patches that were removed.
- **2016 Croton River Hydrilla Control Project (Willow Eyres and Cathy McGlynn)**
 - The proposed 2016 treatment on the Croton River *Hydrilla* will be done by injection method using no more than 100 gallons of the herbicide, Endothall Aquathol K. The target area is from Black Rock Dam south to Deer Island, covering 1.2 miles of river and 15.5 acres of effective treatment area.
 - Endothall Aquathol K is a contact herbicide that interferes with plant respiration and protein synthesis. It degrades quickly in the environment in less than 10 days. It does not concentrate in animal tissue and is rapidly excreted.
 - The anticipated results of treatment are expected to knock down *Hydrilla* vegetation biomass in the target area with no negative impact on emergent plants, fish or wildlife. No long-term negative impact on native aquatic plants is expected.
 - During treatment, people will be kept out of the water. Multilingual signs will be posted, and articles will be published in local newspapers informing residents of the target area being closed.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Lastly, everyone broke into discussion groups to identify Working Groups to form at or before our September meeting based on what still needs to be addressed from the 2016 Action Plan.

- The first group identified a need to focus on meeting our conservation targets and forming a working group for our next meeting. The BlockBuster Survey is the only effort working to collect data contributing to our conservation target goals. We should also work to develop an action plan to control the highly probable areas of invasion reported by the BlockBuster Survey. They also wanted to highlight the importance of the phenological calendar project. Nicole Wooten (Hudson Highlands Land Trust) gave us an update on the project saying that it is ongoing; they are working to collect information from partners and from out in the field. This information is being standardized with the help of volunteers. And the calendar will have a layer about when invasive plants are blooming and going to seed. The first group also wanted to identify a working group for compliance of invasive species regulations. Meredith Taylor gave us an update that the Invasive Species Advisory Council is developing an educational campaign and will send out a full report about 2017 compliance with Part 575 regulations.

- The second group focused on education and outreach goals. Our resources should be organized to target specific groups such as hikers, kayakers, gardeners, etc. We also have a lot of good identification information, but we should go through the management and control information we provide and be sure that it is in compliance with NYS policy (E.g. we are not recommending herbicides that can't be used in NY). For next year's ISAW we should promote outreach to more audiences/demographics and find more films with an invasive focus for film screenings which seem to be popular.
- The third group also focused on outreach and wanted to see a defined list of stakeholders and would like to see a system set up to inform stakeholders and municipalities of action alerts. There was also the idea to hold a summit for managing invasive species in which we would invite municipalities to learn better management practices. And lastly, the third group would like to see working models of successful restorations to serve as a resource for restoring ecosystems after invasive removals.

CONCLUSION

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 22 at Scenic Hudson's River Center in Beacon, NY.

Notes written by: Heather Darley

ATTENDEES:

Annie C. Reuter	CCE Rockland County
Budd Veverka	Mianus River Gorge
Cathy McGlynn	NYS DEC
Chris Doyle	SOLitude Lake Management
Christopher Gow	Village of Tuxedo Park
Dan Schniedewind	
Debbie Lester	CCE Orange County
Diane Alden	Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct
Eric Roberts	Orange County Land Trust
Glenn Sungela	
Heather Darley	New York – New Jersey Trail Conference
Jake Greenberg	CCE Rockland County
Jeff Speich	NYS DEC
Jennifer Z. Smith	CCE Rockland County
Jesse Sarnoff	Lawton Adams Materials
Jessica Schuler	New York Botanical Garden
John Mickelson	Geospatial + Ecological Services
Joyce Tomaselli	CCE Rockland County
Karalyn Lamb	Saw Mill River Audubon
Linda Rohleder	Lower Hudson PRISM Coordinator
Mary Johnson	CCE Rockland County
Matt Aiello-Lammens	Pace University
Megan Johnson	Scenic Hudson
Megan Phillips	NYS DEC

Meredith Taylor	NYC DEP
Nate Nardi-Cyrus	Scenic Hudson
Neil Cuthbert	Lake Guymard Association
Nicole Wooten	Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Robb Adams	Lake Guymard Association
Samanatha Epstein	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Suzanne Clary	Jay Heritage Center
Suzanne Nolan	Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy
Tait Johansson	Bedford Audubon Society
Tim Wenskus	NYC Parks/Natural Areas Conservancy
Tom Lewis	Trillium Invasive Species Management
Walt Daniels	New York – New Jersey Trail Conference
Willow Eyres	NYS DEC