

LoHud PRISM Meeting
Thursday, 7/17/2014, 11:00am – 3:30pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County, Middletown, NY

[Thank you to Matt Decker for scribing during the meeting. Notes were subsequently edited by Linda Rohleder.]

Objectives:

- Welcome new partners
- Share info about projects awarded PRISM funding
- Communicate progress on Action Plan activities
- Review Invasive SAW activities and capture lessons learned
- Nominating committee

Announcements:

Linda Rohleder, PRISM Coordinator, began the meeting with some announcements.

- Tabling at Ulster Co. fair July 30-Aug 3 in partnership with Catskills PRISM (CRISP) and NYSDEC Region 3 Forest Pest outreach.
- State Parks has issues Aquatic Invasive Species proposed regulations, similar to DEC – for boat launches. Public Comment period is open.
- Hydrilla Hunt, State-wide webinar, August 8 (find the link to the seminar on our web site <http://lhprism.org> on the Events page)
- Lower Hudson PRISM Hydrilla Workshop, learn how to identify and survey, Sept 11 10-2 at Teatown Lake Reservation (register online – go to <http://lhprism.org> Events page)

New Partners and Funding:

Linda continued, welcoming new partners and showing a list of all current partners.

- Partners: 21 total signed agreements. Our contract stipulates that we report the partners supporting the PRISM by mid-August. Prospective partners should try to get signed agreement in by then.
 - Allied Biological, Inc.
 - Andrew P. Thompson
 - Bedford Audubon Society
 - Black Rock Forest Consortium
 - Bronx River Alliance
 - The Pound Ridge Land Conservancy Inc.
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension – Dutchess County
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension – Putnam County
 - Ecological Research Institute
 - The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct

- Housatonic Valley Association
- Hudson Highlands Land Trust
- Hudsonia
- John Mickelson of Geospatial & Ecological Services
- Mianus River Gorge, Inc.
- The New York Botanical Garden
- New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
- New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
- The Invasives Project - Pound Ridge
- Trillium Invasive Species Management, Inc.
- Westchester Land Trust
- 2014 funded projects: 6 projects funded this year. Steering committee members applying for funding recused themselves from the process: Erik Kiviat and Dave Strayer were recused and replaced by alternates Andy Thompson and Dan Sorensen.
 - Hudsonia \$20,040
 - Identification of animals to be considered conservation targets in the LH PRISM region, evaluation of the invasive species threats to them, and template and procedures for analyzing invasive species threats to animal conservation targets
 - Trillium Invasive Species Management \$3,260
 - Treatment of Hardy Kiwi population in Pound Ridge
 - Allied Biological \$12,210
 - Survey of extent of Hydrilla population in Croton River and nearby areas,
 - Training workshop for Hydrilla survey volunteers
 - Allied Biological \$8,435
 - Survey of Greenwood Lake, one of the largest and most heavily used by boaters in the region, for Aquatic Invasive Plants
 - Geospatial and Ecological Services \$13,552
 - Development of a geospatial infrastructure for synthesizing and analyzing conservation targets and invasive species distributions, collection of existing data for these efforts and management of a summer intern in support of Highly Probable Areas identification. Production of draft conservation targets, Highly Probable Areas and data gaps layers.
 - Housatonic Valley Association \$14,000
 - Comprehensive management plan for Japanese knotweed in the Housatonic watershed, demonstration removal site and restoration on upper reaches, building capacity within HVA to treat knotweed

There were several other good projects submitted that we couldn't fund. We tried to look at the 2014 action plan, and match up with projects that would get those actions moving forward. We held back about \$16k for future use because we felt like we were going to need to fund additional work to cover the 2014 action plan.

Progress Reports from Working Groups:

Linda went around the room and asked the leader or a representative from each of the working groups to present progress on our 2014 Action Plan.

Capacity Building:

- We've been seeing more activities and events done in partnership with other organizations. Sharing meeting space, jointly advertising, etc.
- We have 45 new surveying volunteers, and we had 2 spring I-map trainings with a total of 46 attendees.
- We had 28 respondents to partner needs & resources survey. The results of the survey now need to be analyzed and summarized.
- The vision is that together, sharing resources, we can do more work.

Information Exchange:

- The events page is up and running in the web site. Several partners have been working on web site structure for info sharing.

Strategic IS management: (See slides)

- Linda encouraged partners to work with Heidi Krahling at iMapInvasives (hjkrahli@gw.dec.state.ny.us) to bulk upload any IS location information in your database that is not in iMap. This information will help us with identification of highly probable areas and invasive species prevention zones.
- Survey Work on early detection species
 - Aquatic IS survey conducted by Allied Biological at Greenwood Lake
 - Chris Doyle of Allied Biological will be surveying the hydrilla in the Croton River and conducting a workshop (Sept 11 at Teatown) to teach us how to survey other surrounding waters.
 - Over 14 miles of hiking trails surveyed for emerging invasives
 - 3 iMap training sessions, 1 ISF training session covered emerging invasives
- Treatment Work on early detection species: giant hogweed, hardy kiwi, hydrilla, Japanese angelica, scotch broom
 - Tom Lewis reported that he has finished the first phase of treatment of the hardy kiwi population in Pound Ridge. He will be returning later this year for a second phase of treatment. Linda reported that the NY-NJ Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force crew will be working with the NYS Parks Invasives strike team on the hardy kiwi population in Sterling Forest.
 - Invasives Strike Force crew has treated Japanese angelica at Schunemunk Mountain State Park, Bear Mountain, Harriman and worked with partners in Pound Ridge to treat several areas.

- Giant Hogweed – 10 sites visited, 6 monitoring only (no plants found), 4 control measures taken
- Mile-a-minute – weevil monitoring and MAM pull events
- Japanese angelica study at Sterling Forest (NY-NJ Trail Conference’s Americorps team)
 - Sterling Forest has acres of angelica
 - 4 test plots were set up in May and 4 in July to test various treatments. And we’ll set up 4 additional plots in September
 - The studies will tell us if there are differences in treatment effect during different seasons and using different concentrations of herbicide.
- Scotch broom survey and treatment in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks (*presentation by Jennifer Breen, NY-NJ Trail Conference Americorps crew member*). We worked on this with the NY State Parks Invasives Strike Team
 - Surveys found scotch broom along roadsides, in open fields, and in a forested area with a closed canopy.
 - Cut stump treatment on treatment was performed on sites on a variety of terrains
 - On June 10 and 11 – 668 ml of Accord xrt2. And July 11 – 115ml.
 - Noted that scotch broom should be treated in late May early June. During treatments in mid-June when plants were in flower, we already saw seed pods developing and when we treated on July 11, seed pods were popping open already.
 - Spray bottles that foam out the herbicide and use less of it were useful. Foam herbicide dispenser is made by a company called Green Shoots (www.greenshootsonline.com)

- Best Management Practices template drafted

Pathways:

Meredith Taylor has been working with a student from Pace University who has been gathering resources on pathways. If anyone is interested in helping with specifics of pathways get in touch with Meredith (metaylor@dep.nyc.gov). The next step is developing a list of contacts for each pathway (e.g. who would you contact at Stewart to talk about potential introductions of invasive species).

Conservation Targets:

- Presentation and update by John Mickelson. John reviewed data that has been gathered. Discussed the basis of Highly probably areas and what’s in iMapInvasives and listed organizations he has contacted. John introduced Chemin Bushman, an intern, he has been working with.
 - Presentation by Chemin Bushman, student at Montclair State University (NJ).
 - Dr. Patrick Cooney has amassed botanical survey data that spans 20 years

- Chemin has been mining the plain text data and putting into a usable geospatial format.
 - Over 700 locations in our region and neighboring counties
 - John M also filled us in on work by another intern. John Adriance, NY-NJ Trail Conference Americorps team member, is working on locating and georeferencing garden centers and nurseries – found 230 in LH PRISM so far. This will be a useful input for finding highly probable areas, and give us addresses we can use for outreach when the “prohibited list” comes out.
- Presentation by Dr. Erik Kiviat on evaluating animal Conservation Targets and IS threats to them.
 - Dr. Kiviat presented Hudsonia’s work looking at its management from the perspective of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in this region.
 - Hudsonia plans to explore whether there are IS threats to these SGNC (excluding things like rock snot and pathogens).
 - An important part of this project is to rank the quality of various data sets and sources of information.
 - The outcome of this work will advise where we can concentrate our resources on ISs that pose a threat with specific management recommendations.
 - The project will also develop a template to screen existing and future species.

Education and Outreach:

Jen Stengle gave an update on the activities of the E&O working group. This group plans to work more on the google website to share educational resources.

Introductions and Welcoming New Partners attending for the first time. (see attendee list at the end of these notes.)

--BREAK FOR LUNCH--

Invasive Species Awareness Week Recap

- LoHud PRISM had about a quarter of the statewide events. Leaders of various ISAW events gave a report and recapped the day.
- If you had an event, a web post, a newsletter inclusion, a static display, a Facebook post, or a tweet, please fill out a metrics spreadsheet so we can feed numbers to the statewide organizers. Forms can be submitted to Matt Decker (matt.decker@hhlt.org), who will compile our overall numbers.
- Media and press coverage was good. We had several articles in local print newspapers and several more online publications. Press coverage will be compiled and sent around via the listserv.

What worked well and should be repeated next year?

- Linda applauded the group for putting the week's events together quickly and getting the word out
- Partnering with other organizations to share resources worked well for several events (e.g., Westchester Parks provided the venue for a NYC DEP event)
- General publicity was good – links were sent around on social media

What can we do better next year?

- Build more of a social media presence (e.g., create a Facebook page)
- Start the hype earlier about events and the week in general
- Put together a press kit to better push info into the press (e.g., Philipstown.info had a link to the national site, not the state or local site)
- Timing of event. Lots of people in our region are on vacation during this week, is there a better season for ISAW? Maybe at the end of April? Reach folks BEFORE they travel and before they plant their gardens.

To do list for ISAW wrap up:

- Education and Outreach working group will make recommendations about whether to do outreach activities in April next year (perhaps in addition to supporting ISAW in July with more action-oriented events)
- Kali Bird will create a Facebook page for the PRISM and
- Walt Daniels will put photos on the web site
- Matt Decker will compile statistics and press/media coverage

Nominating Committee

The PRISM needs a committee to select candidates for the Steering Committee, as 2 members' terms will end this year – Dave Strayer and Jen Stengle. Linda asked for volunteers, and finding none, will send out personal requests for people to join the nominating committee. If anyone would like to volunteer to be on the Nominating Committee, please contact her.

Working Group Meetings

At this point in the meeting, the group split up into their working groups to continue their work on the 2014 Action Plan and determine what activities needed to take place by the October meeting and who would be working on these activities. Afterwards, each group gave a brief report to the partners about their plans. Then, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is Thursday October 1, 9:30 – 4:00 at Black Rock Forest in Cornwall.

Attendees at Today's Meeting:

Linda Rohleder, NY-NJ Trail Conference, PRISM Coordinator
Nate Cyrus, Scenic Hudson
Leah Gorman, NYC DEP
Tom Lewis, Trillium ISM
Meredith Taylor, NYC DEP
Chris Standley, Mohonk Preserve
Brett Walker, U.S. Army West Point
Tate Bushell, Westchester Land Trust
Annie Christian, CCE Rockland County
Tim Wenskus, NYC Parks
Susan Goodfellow, Village of Tuxedo Park Environmental Committee
Ashley Shepard, NY-NJ Trail Conference
Jennifer Breen, NY-NJ Trail Conference
Cristien Balmer
Jess Schuler, NY Botanical Garden
Walt Daniels, Yorktown Conservation Board
Robin Kriesberg, Bronx River Alliance
Renee Stover, CCE Orange County Master Gardener
Chemin Bushman, NY-NJ Trail Conference
Jen Stengle, CCE Putnam County
Andy Thompson
John Mickelson, Geospatial and Ecological Services
Carolynn Sears, The Invasives Project – Pound Ridge
Debbie Lester, CCE Orange County
Kali Bird, Cary Institute
Marnie Miller-Keas, West Point USMA
Brenda Bates, Westchester County Parks
Sarah Hoskinson, Mianus River Gorge
Matt Decker, Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Rose Baglia, CCE Orange County