

FL-PRISM Aquatic Working Group Agenda
May 13, 2016
Finger Lakes Institute, 601 S. Main Street, Geneva, NY
Conference Call-in is available



Meeting Objective: Discuss starry stonewort as a priority AIS for summer monitoring, discuss citizen science AIS monitoring projects, partner updates/roundtable; discuss aquatic needs for the region and spring/summer priorities, Identify the work being done around the region and seek opportunities for collaboration. Set summer priorities and target areas of concern in the region.

Topic
1. Welcome and meeting objective
2. Review of minutes from January 21, 2016.
3. John Gibbs and Tom Haley, NYS DEC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the regulatory status of Benthic Barriers • Clean, Drain, Dry regulation enforcement related to watercraft stewards
4. Starry stonewort: Bruce Gilman
5. Roundtable and PRISM updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emily, CCE Yates and FLI – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing for watercraft steward season: FLI stewards will be placed on Hemlock, Canadice, Honeoye, Canandaigua, Seneca, Cayuga, Owasco, Otisco, two launches on the Erie Canal in Pittsford and Fairport, and the Cayuga-Seneca canal. Conesus, Keuka and Skaneateles will run their own programs. FLI will coordinate with lake associations and NYS Parks steward placement in order to maximize coverage throughout the region ▪ FLI Watercraft steward training on May 24 and May 25 ▪ Planning a citizen science AIS monitoring initiative ▪ CCE Yates: the Keuka Lake Association received a DEC grant award and Emily is helping them with their watercraft steward program again this year. Last year we ran their program with volunteers, and this year they will have 3 paid stewards and a paid coordinator. ○ Coast Guard Auxiliary ○ New York State Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boat stewards at launches on Honeoye Lake, Canandaigua Lake and Cayuga Lake State Parks. ▪ Also boat stewards at Fair Haven Beach and Allen Treman State Parks. ○ New York State DEC Education ○ Hydrilla TF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MANAGEMENT & MONITORING UPDATES: ▪ TREATMENTS: Overall, treatments will be scaled back in 2016 in the Cayuga Inlet, which will result in lowered costs and lower herbicide input, while still maintaining management pressure on remaining hydrilla populations. ▪ CAYUGA INLET: Primary treatment for 2016 will consist of Sonar treatments (low-dose, systemic herbicide). One (1) injection unit (at NYSDEC fish ladder, southern inlet) and Sonar Pellet treatment areas (Cornell Boathouse bay, Cascadilla Creek, Linderman Creek, and East Branch of inlet). Treatment will extend approximately 60 – 90 days. ▪ FALL CREEK: Primary treatment for 2016 will involve Aquathol-K (contact herbicide) injection treatment (to main channel) and spot-treatment in backwater areas (golf course lagoon, cove, Stewart Park pond, and DEC wetland). Follow-up Sonar H4C (low-dose, systemic herbicide pellets) will be applied to Fall Creek backwater areas for duration of season (approx. 60 – 90 days).

- SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE: Isolated hydrilla patch discovered in late 2015 (adjacent to Cornell Sailing Club, in 3 – 3.5 meters of water) will be directly addressed through physical removal/benthic barrier installation. Extensive plant monitoring will determine Early Detection/Rapid Response. Additional physical removal and benthic barrier installation (when/where applicable).
- TCSWCD/Hydrilla Program Manager working to finalize and advertise RFPs for 2016 plant community monitoring AND water quality monitoring. Will advertise this week, and review proposals from bidders. Formal contracting process to follow.
- 2015 Plant Community Monitoring Report: Now available on www.Stophydrilla.org! (LINK: https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/14361/2015_Plant_Monitoring_Report_FINAL.pdf?1459189603)
- TCSWCD (Angel Hinickle) currently working on NYSDEC permit applications for 2016 hydrilla treatments. Will finalize and submit applications to NYSDEC, and will conduct necessary public notification (signage posting and riparian owner notification, per NYSDEC permit requirements). Muller Field Station, FLCC
- Special project to look at macrophytes in Canandaigua Lake. 30 to 40 sites.
- Biomass survey of starry stonewort in Canandaigua Lake.
- Grant between FLCC and Cornell University to research climate change and harmful algal blooms in Honeoye Lake.
- Working with the Nature Conservancy's LEAF Program to see if they can add aquatic invasive species to the program.
- Cayuga County Planning
- New York State DEC, Region 8
- Honeoye Valley Lake Association
- Onondaga County CCE
- Sodus

“Every waterbody is influenced by its watershed, flush frequency and many other attributes associated with all water bodies. Sodus Bay and many other Lake Ontario embayments have yet another variable that is not found in the finger lakes. No our outflow is to the north also. Sodus Bay is separated from Lake Ontario by a "sand bar"; actually stones, gravel and sand. It is all loose; unamalgumated. During a day long NE wind in early April and in combination with abnormally high water, the waves first overtopped the bar and later breached for 30-40'. It has since widened to about 75' as it pushes the aggregate into the bay. Heavily sediment loaded lake water now flushes into the bay every time a wind with an N in it blows. This has very negative impacts on habitat and water quality, generally.”

- PRISM updates

- We received GLRI funds for work on water chestnut in the Finger Lakes and will look to hire a full time project coordinator, a half time educator, a lead strike team member, and five strike team members for two years. This is very exciting and we look to control water chestnut via handpull, mechanical means, and chemical treatment where appropriate. This is a huge win in our region.
- FLI received two of the NYS DEC AIS Prevention grants totaling \$200,000 to bring additional watercraft stewards to the region and a training program to areas without a program. Four of our partners also received grants.
- I attended the Great Lakes Panel of ANS and the ANSTF in Traverse City, MI where I networked and learned a lot about federal priorities, etc.
- This year we need to be on the watch for starry stonewort (I think Bruce wanted time on the agenda for a discussion about this).
- I met with Bob Johnson on Monday to look at Tinker Nature Park. He will be doing the benthic matting and monitoring that population of Hydrilla. He will also run a workshop sometime this summer for participants who are interested in macrophytes

- Bruce is running the aquatic part of the iMapInvasives training in Letchworth State Park in June and we already have a lot of people signed up- We hosted a training in Ithaca run by Jennifer Dean and Carri Marschner on June 12 with 33 people in attendance.
- We need to get some New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week events on the books! If you are doing anything or thinking of doing anything, please let me know ASAP. If you need help planning, let me know.

6. Next Meeting

Adjourn
