

## FL-PRISM Education and Outreach Working Group Agenda

January 21, 2016, 9:00am-10:30am

Finger Lakes Institute, 601 S. Main Street, Geneva, NY

**Webex** <https://hwscollages.webex.com/hwscollages/j.php?MTID=m94b7d16e50dd761d6d92168cc30f493e>

Meeting number:

641 785 352

Meeting password:

F1ngerLakes

In attendance: Patty Wakefield-Smith (NYS Parks), Betsy Ukeritis (NYS DEC), John Gibbs (NYS DEC), Michele Wunderlich (Cayuga County Planning), Fred Blom (NYS BASS Nation), Carri Marschner (Cornell University), Nathan Hayes (Director, Cummings Nature Center, RMSC),

**MEETING OBJECTIVE:** revisit priorities, partner updates/roundtable; discuss E&O needs for the region and spring/summer priorities,

1. Welcome and meeting objective- Hilary Mosher welcomed the group to the Finger Lakes and outlined the meeting objective (above)
2. Review of minutes from June 15, 2015- Chair asked for any comments regarding the minutes, and as there were none, asked for edits to be submitted via email for the record
3. RFP for 2016 projects for the FL-PRISM (attached to email)
  - a. Revisiting the priority IS for the E&OWG- a robust discussion ensued regarding the priorities for the E&OWG and areas to target. Hilary mentioned that Invasive Species Awareness Week will take place from February 21-27 and New York Invasive Species Awareness Week is July 10-16. Summer and 4-H camps might be a perfect place to engage participants for invasive species. Participants discussed various ways to engage in ISAW and NYISAW and how to incorporate them into programming for the various organizations at the table. Nathan talked about the inaturalist program that might be good to get students interested in mapping on properties and engaging in citizen science programs. The group thought that iMapInvasives communicated with inaturalist and Hilary will inquire with the iMap team to see if this is true. There are also other programs that might be appropriate for outreach, eg., this year marks the celebration of 100 years of the Erie Canal. This may be a great time to incorporate invasive species awareness into this celebration. Patty discussed outreach as part of the watercraft steward program and handed out a water chestnut flier that was given to her by Oswego Co. SWCD. Hilary kept a copy for her records. Betsy discussed ways to sell invasive species programming such as giving merit badges for IS work. Nathan talked about working with curriculum to meet the NYS standards for incorporating IS work into teach toolboxes (i.e., creating a program to fit the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade science module). It was discussed that it would be ideal to have multiple factsheets available on the website so that people who are doing research or teaching can just download the materials for ease in use. Fred mentioned that the BASS Elites will be in Union Springs and Oneida Shores this summer and this is a great opportunity to provide outreach to this target audience. The dates for these events are June 25-26 and Aug 18-19.
4. Spring/Summer priorities for IS work
  - a. Using iMapInvasives for increased AIS outreach- a discussion ensued regarding the availability of an iMap training in the area and who would the appropriate targets be for training. Betsy has knowledge of DEC Excelsior group with five teams of 10 people for 10 months and one team is specifically outreach. This might be a great target audience. John discussed the possibility of contacting Jim Fisher with the Friends of Chemung River as a good starting point to engage the southeast corner of the PRISM. This is quiet region and we are looking for opportunities to engage, if there is desire. Patty mentioned that
  - b. A discussion ensued regarding the bootbrush pilot project. Hilary mentioned that she has not been successful with getting these off the ground. Nathan said he could help pilot the project and John said that DEC would also be willing to have the stations. Hilary to send information to Nathan and John about piloting these stations.

- c. Where to host an iMapInvasives training?
5. Workshop opportunities/ speaker ideas
6. Roundtable reports- partners provide updates- because the meeting flowed organically from one person to another, partners provided updates during the meeting and not specifically during this section.
7. PRISM updates
  - a. Giant hogweed report (see below)
  - b. EAB task forces- attending the CNY and MCEAB TF. There is a lot of concern regarding EAB and how to manage populations of infested trees.
  - c. HWA in the FL- Carri Marschner is part of the HWA Initiative funded from the National Forest Service and working 2/3 time out of Cornell University. Surveys for HWA are being conducted throughout the FL and all mapping will be collated by Carri
  - d. Goat preferences for TIS- work being conducted in connection with The College at Brockport
  - e. Grant funding updates- \$40,000 in funding to do a grassland restoration at Ganondagan State Park in Ontario County. Still working on other forms of funding for the area
  - f. Boot brush update- still in the pilot phase- working with Genesee Land Trust to install station
8. Other items of interest
9. Adjourn

Next MEETING DATE/TIME: May 18, 9-10:30, Finger Lakes Institute

Update regarding hogweed from Naja Kraus,

Hi Hilary,

We did find a new infestation in Wayne County in Huron Township that was a large site. It took 4 of our staff about 3 hours to control what they estimated was about 1/3 of the site. This landowner was receptive to control and we hope that with the GLRI funds we will be able to completely control the site and visit it at least a few times next field season. The other large site in Wayne County has a resistant landowner whom we hope will allow us to at least control his borders in 2016- he did not allow any control in 2015.

I have attached a couple of tables from our annual report (soon to be released) that show the work that was done by DEC staff and partner agencies (PRISMS and OCSWCD), the number of known giant hogweed sites per size class by county, DEC region and also by PRISM.

The Finger Lakes PRISM had 722 sites with giant hogweed plants present in 2015. However we are making progress- 297 other sites that had plants previously had no giant hogweed found in 2015. 125 of these are considered eradicated (no plants found for 3 consecutive years) and 172 are still in the monitoring phase. Of the sites that have plants, 296 sites have 1-19 plants and another 159 have 20-99 plants. So this means that 74% of the sites in the Finger Lakes PRISM have 0 or less than 100 plants! As the sites are getting smaller and becoming eradicated it will free up some time for us to spend more time on the larger sites- there are currently 79 sites with more than 1000+ plants.

People can help by spreading the word about giant hogweed and helping us to find sites we currently are unaware of. We have many brochures and posters that we can provide. Please let me know what people would like, how many and an address to send them to and we will mail them out. Other areas that still need effort are surveying along stream corridors, especially upstream from known sites.

Hope this helps. If there is anything in particular you would like to know, please let me know.

Naja