# **FL-PRISM Goals and Accomplishments for 2014/2015**

1. *Coordinator Updates*

**Partnership Meetings.** The FL-PRISM hosted two full partnership meetings (4/29, and 11/21) with ~100 people in attendance for each meeting. The Steering Committee met seven times and held a two-day strategic planning retreat in October. The working groups (Agriculture, Aquatic, Education & Outreach, and Terrestrial) have met four times each and have developed structural documents and goals.

**Communication Strategies.** The FL-PRISM listserve contains 245 emails, a 27% increase over last year. Facebook has 124 followers and Twitter has had 163 tweets, follows 421, and has 131 followers. FL-PRISM was highlighted in media outlets including the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Messenger Post, and WHETM News NBC.The FL-PRISM created a fingerlakesinvasives.org website to disseminate information to the region.

**County Water Quality Coordinating Committee.** The FL-PRISM is an active participant in ten out of 17 county meetings. The remaining seven counties do not have active coordinating committees

**Trainings**. Volunteer trainings included invasive species identification workshops and iMapInvasives training. Over 150 people were trained across ten workshops and a k-12 teacher training. Between 4/1/14 to 3/17/15, there were 3820 total iMapInvasives observations reported for the region.

**Invasive Species Removal.** The FL-PRISM Coordinator facilitated a large-scale water chestnut removal in Braddock Bay. Through coordination with the College at Brockport, NYS DEC Region 8, Genesee Valley Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, NYS Parks, and citizen volunteers, we removed nearly five tons of water chestnut and had over 200 volunteer hours over five working days.

**Education & Outreach** occurred through participation at B.A.S.S. Master Elite Tournament (10,000 attendees), National Hunting and Fishing Days (2,000 attendees), Empire Farm Days (5,000 attendees), and presentations. In all, the FL-PRISM had a presence at over 25 different venues.

**Watercraft Steward Program.** Four stewards were employed by the Finger Lakes Institute and covered Owasco and Cayuga Lake boat ramps to ensure that users were compliant with the Clean, Drain, Dry initiative.

1. *Selected Partner Updates*

**Cayuga County** held three events for invasive species outreach: an EAB training, an HWA training and information at Owasco Lake Day for over 200 people between all three events. An Asian clam survey was also conducted on Owasco Lake to determine recruitment of the mussel over the last year.

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN).** The CLWN co-sponsored two winter Hemlock Wooly Adelgid training/survey sessions in Ithaca's Six Mile Creek watershed, and provided information and materials to leaders of the Cayuga Lake West Shore Residents Association for both HWA and Hydrilla ID. Nearly 200 people were in attendance for all the events.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of** **Broome County** held eight workshops on invasive plants and insects. Ninety-seven people were in attendance for these events. Six Master Forest Owners were active participants in invasive species education programs and contributed approximately 40 hours of invasive species outreach.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County.** Master Gardeners conducted mechanical removal of invasives from Durand Park weekly. This is an ongoing effort for a total of 576 volunteer hours. CCE Monroe County also co-sponsored a Forest Pest Detection training with FL-PRISM with over 55 people in attendance.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program** held five trainings with 50 people in attendance. Outreach occurred at the Yates County Fair, 7/11/14, Keuka Lake Association Annual Meeting, 7/12/14, Friends of Keuka Outlet Trail Meeting, 7/30/14, and Empire Farm Days, 8/5/14-8/7/14.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension, Onondaga County.** CCE Onondaga conducted 38 trainings for invasive species and tabled for 12 days at the New York State Fair for approximately 6036 people reached through all events and had 208 volunteer hours.

**Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC)** participated in six invasive species sessions hosted by other groups with over 250 people in attendance. During the fall of 2014, FLCC had several brief excursions to document presence or absence of hemlock woolly adelgid in tributaries to Canandaigua Lake and Ontario County.

**Finger Lakes National Forest** fought invasive species through spraying for invasives on 750-1000 acres of grassland, used mastication and/or cut-stump applications, followed by foliar spot spray, on invasives in riparian areas, and pulling Japanese stiltgrass along Breakneck Creek, where it crosses the National Forest.

**Hydrilla Task Force of the Cayuga Lake Watershed (HTF)** hosted six IS events with over 120 people in attendance. Also, pre- and post-treatment Hydrilla monitoring was conducted in the Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek. The HTF assisted NYSDEC and TNC with the NY Hydrilla Hunt webinar with 100 people in attendance.

**Mark Whitmore**, Forest Entomologist, Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources held over 14 different trainings on forest pest with over 625 people in attendance.

**Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC) Montezuma Alliance for the Restoration of Species & Habitats Program (MARSH).** The MAC hosted twelve MARSH events at the Wildlife and Audubon Center. The MARSH program removed invasive species and restored habitat on Center and on the Refuge land.

**NYS B.A.S.S. Nation** held four training sessions associated with training the student volunteers for our Ramp Monkey program which provides Clean, Drain and Dry services at all of our on the water events.

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.** Mark Gooding (Forester 3, Region 8) held four invasive species training sessions with nearly 85 people in attendance.

The **NYS Integrated Pest Management Program** held two invasive species workshops on spotted wing drosophila management in tomatoes with 150 people. A Tomato Commodity Survey was conducted and an infestation risk to tomatoes was developed.

**NYS Department of Transportation** actively control invasive species and manage for Japanese knotweed, phragmites, giant Russian hogweed, and purple loosestrife. Region 4 identified and removed invasive Japanese knotweed and black swallow-wort from a project in Monroe County during their project design.

**The Nature Conservancy** held four workshops on aquatic invasive species and initiatives taking place in the region. There were ~130 people in attendance. TNC also completed a GLRI grant focusing on a rapid monitoring assessment of AIS where >400 boat launches were monitored, and mapped in iMapInvasives.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** targeted invasive species for treatment (common reed, reed canary grass, common buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, etc.). The main method of treatment used was chemical (glyphosate, imazapor, triclopyr) application using backpack or ATV spraying equipment.

**Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District.** Five-hundred water chestnut plants were removed from the Keuka Lake outlet during the 2014 summer.

## Subcontract Awards

The FL-PRISM successfully funded seven proposals during the fall of 2014 (Table 1).

Table 1. List of the full-funded subcontracts for proposals (fall 2014) that fulfill the FL-PRISM mission

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| Award Number | Proposal Title | PI | Organization | Award $$ |
| 1 | Biological Survey for IS in Loon Lake and Surrounding Watershed, Steuben Co. | Bruce Gilman and John Foust | FLCC | $6000 |
| 2 | Evaluating the Extent of Non-Native Invasive Vine Infestations in Monroe County | Kathryn Amatangelo | The College at Brockport | $4,123 |
| 3 | Community Preparedness EAB: Ash inventory | Stefan Lutter | CCE Cayuga | $3,142.82 |
| 4 | Ash Inventory for Monroe County | Devan Helfer | Monroe County | $6000 |
| 5 | Onondaga County- Selected Ash Removal | Eva Sztechmiler | Onondaga County | $6000 |
| 6 | Recruiting and Training Volunteers for Invasive ID Mapping, Responding to the Double Threat of Hydrilla and HWA in Cayuga | Cayuga Lake Watershed Network  | Cayuga Lake Watershed Network  | $6000 |
| 7 | Expanding HWA monitoring in the FL region | Kristina Ferrare | CCE Onondaga | $6000 |
|  |  |  | **TOTAL** | **$37265.82** |

The FL-PRISM has had a presence at the WNY PRISM full partnership and co-presented with the WNY Coordinator, Andrea Locke, at the New York State Federation of Lake Association meeting in Cuba, NY in October, 2014. Additionally, FL-PRISM had a presence at the first SLELO Symposium in June, 2014. Finally, the Coordinator for LIISMA and the Director for the WNY PRISM presented at the FL-PRISM fall full partnership meeting and research conference in November, in Geneva, NY.

**Summary of Expenses:**

Coordination: 42.24%

Contractual Services: 27.3%

Indirect Costs: 14.21%

Other: 6.97%

Supplies: 6.97%

Travel: 2.32%

# Conclusion

The 2014-2015 year saw the FL-PRISM grow from infancy to adolescence. While there is much work to be done over the next four years, take pride in the fact that together, we made strides towards increasing our partnership, leveraging our resources, and increasing our capacity. We are poised to make a significant dent in the war against invasives.