

Agenda for April 20, 2017 FL-PRISM Working Group Meetings

TIME: 12-3pm

LOCATION: FLI

BRING: Laptop or tablet if you have access

12:00 Welcome and Introductions

12:15 Nathan Hayes, RMSC, Bioblitz at Cummings Nature Center, talked about the BioBlitz at the Cummings Nature Center, July 15. Information below.

12:30 The Chicken or the Egg- volunteer management and invasive species management. (OR) Citizen science programming, monitoring, and communicating it all!- ideas for cohesive volunteering, monitoring and reporting and getting the WORD out! Discussion about increasing capacity to support each other’s programming, which programs are successful in getting volunteers and projects and where the help is needed. Ganondagan crew has a very successful program and they use FORCES, a strong Friends Group, school groups and other events such as United Way Day of Caring to bring volunteers to the region. There are many programs available to bring volunteers to the table and include Love our Parks Program or Earth Day events. Cummings Nature Center has had success in designing a program around a group of volunteers. Currently there are new educational models that follow the State standards and are multi-disciplinary in approach. Sometimes insurance is an issue when bringing volunteers to the table or there are site-specific issues that present a problem. Volunteers do love t-shirts and food. For the Parks events, the park manager is the one running the program. They also have a list of all the elementary schools that have visited so that they can reach out and let them know about a program. Hilary to look into several ways to make it easier to upload activities for the calendar- forms online or a template program, etc. Hilary to provide these for next meeting.

12:50 PRISM report, project updates and funding, NYISAW, and seasonal priorities/key issues in the region

FL-PRISM received two grants from the USFS CWMA grant. The first is a continuation of the Ganondagan grassland restoration that is managed by Kyle Webster (NYS Parks). This will increase the area of restoration on this property. The second project is with the Finger Lakes National Forest and will control invasive species along the Finger Lakes Trail in the FLNF. It will pay for a summer person to control IS and bring volunteers to help with this project. The cooperative agreement with USDA NRCS for giant hogweed control is underway and we have three people hired to control in Monroe and Wayne Counties. We also have funding for an outreach and volunteer specialist to help with hogweed and terrestrial programming. She also does water chestnut and AIS outreach. FL-PRISM is working with Cayuga County and others on bringing funding in for Hydrilla control in Aurora, NY, Cayuga Lake. FLI submitted two proposals to the EPA GLRI funding request in January for Hydrilla work and a Starry Stonewort collaborative. The status of these grants is TBD. FL-PRISM is working with USACE Hydrilla Collaborative to gain expert advice about the Hydrilla infestation. The full partnership meeting will be held on May 16 from 11:30-3:30 at Baltimore Woods, Marcellus, NY.

1:00 Partner updates and discussion

NYS BASS has is looking for stream and IS grants and is willing to partner with others on these projects. They have a program called ‘Let’s Catch Fish’ which awards 12 scholarships to students across the state to help defer cost of fishing. His group needs information about the difference between elodea and Hydrilla and wants 100 fliers. Fred concerned about Oneida Lake infestation of Hydrilla.

Conesus Lake is having a fishing tournament on May 6 at Conesus Lake Town Park and will emphasize the need to be on the alert for AIS and especially the zero release project that Mike Parker is involved with

NYS Parks WCS program will have WCS on 5 launches in the FL- 1 on Honeoeye, 4 on Cayuga Lake.

KLA is hosting several events for the NYSISAW- including a festival, trail hike, and tabling and is engaging different counties based on the lake area.

NYSDOT engages in prevention practices by washing all the equipment and increase training on invasive species and pathway for spread.

There is a CSLAP training in May and will include AIS identification.

NYSDEC Forest Health will be updating the EAB quarantine map. The giant hogweed crew started this week and are currently being trained. Some high alert organisms are HWA, oak wilt and thousand canker disease. They are looking to trap beetles that serve as vectors for the spread of OW. Maria will send a note to Hilary in June asking homeowners to look for signs of OW in their trees. The red oaks show signs in July and the tree decline is quick. July is the best time to look for signs of OW. Hilary will send out the request to the list and social media once received by Maria.

The water chestnut crew will start in June and will hire 6 crew members and 1 lead person.

Cayuga County is dealing with Hydrilla currently and will help with the Sterling Nature Center and their water chestnut pulls

Carri is looking for biocontrol release sites in the FL- if you know of any, please contact Carri directly. She says May is a good time to look for hemlocks based on their coloration- new growth will be lime green whereas infested trees will likely be greying. Carri will send a note to Hilary about HWA information and survey needs so Hilary can send to the group.

NYSDEC will participate in WC pulls on July 22 and August 19 in Braddock Bay

May 6 is I LOVE my Parks day and Ganondagan will have volunteers on site. On June 25 there is sunrise yoga and there is an Ethnobotany course on site on August 5. The area is scheduling a prescribed burn in May and June, times TBD. Taughannock Falls is having a management plan drafted and is hosting an intern to survey for Brachypodium along with WNY PRISM and NYSDEC. There will be a Mother’s Day wildlife walk and IS removal in TF.

CLFC will release trout from their trout in the classroom project

1:30 Break

1:45 Breakout sessions and working groups (see directions below)

2:45 Reconvene and progress reports

3:00 Adjourn

Working Group Breakout sessions (aquatic, terrestrial\*):

Background: New York State has created an invasive species list which attempts to standardize the types of lists that occur for each PRISM region. Placing the IS into tiers will allow for increased ability to determine funding availability or capacity of the region to address specific invasive species. For example, garlic mustard would most likely be placed into a Tier 4 where abundance is high, and eradication from a PRISM is not likely. The focus then, would be on localized management over time with low ability to receive state funding unless with a high priority location was determined. When prioritizing limited time and resources, it would be more effective in most instances, to focus on Tier 1 and 2 species. This list will be valuable for projects in the Finger Lakes.

TASKS:

* Determine group (aquatic or terrestrial) and meet with partners
* Each group will work with their species lists and work to define them into Tiers 1-5 or remove them from ranking (see below description of Tiers)
* Work through each problem set (organisms ranked into tiers or E&O problem solving)
* Group lead will report back to group regarding organisms that were agreed upon and those that need more reflection and data to rank.
* Determine next steps
* Adjourn

\*Education and Outreach folks will be given a special assignment to develop a strategy for effectively engaging volunteers, standardizing fliers, and increased information sharing

**In attendance:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Name/email | County | WG  | In attendance |
| 1 | Sibner, Rebecca (PARKS) | Tompkins | Terrestrial  | x |
| 2 | Michele Wunderlich, mwunderlich@cayugacounty.us | Cayuga | ALL | x |
| 3 | Mike Parker | Monroe | Aquatic | x |
| 4 | Fred Blom | Monroe | Aquatic | x |
| 5 | Gibbs, John (DEC) | Monroe | Terrestrial  | x |
| 6 | Harman, Jon P (DOT) | Monroe | Terrestrial  | x |
| 7 | Kate Des jardin | Monroe | Aquatic | x |
| 8 | Mosher, Hilary | Monroe | ALL | x |
| 9 | Dorothy G. Gronwall | Ontario | Both | x |
| 10 | Emily Staychock | Ontario | EO | x |
| 11 | Jordon Bodway, NYS Parks | Ontario | Aquatic | x |
| 12 | Nathan Hayes | Ontario | Terrest | x |
| 13 | tgronwall@taurusgroupllc.com | Ontario | Both | x |
| 14 | Webster, Kyle J (PARKS) | Ontario | Terrest | x |
| 15 | cam369@cornell.edu | Tompkins | Terrest | x |
| 16 | Marmahaney@gmail.com | Tompkins | Both | x |
| 17 | Whitney.carleton@parks | Ontario | Terrest | x |
| 18 | Hilary Lambert | Cayuga | Both | x |

I'm Nathan Hayes, Director of the Cumming Nature Center for the Rochester Museum & Science Center.  We are currently fortifying our commitment to data collection and analysis by planning a BioBlitz at the nature center on **July 15, 2017**.  This event brings experts from academia and local environmental organizations together to publicly showcase the importance of data collection and the myriad ways it can influence decision making.  We are looking for experts in all fields of environmental science to help catalog the living things on our 950-acre campus.  Participating experts will help us identify species, lead a small hike of participants at some point in the day, perform independent surveys, and give a lecture on current research (if interested).  We also invite the institutions and organizations to table and provide information to the public about the important work they're doing.

Interested in joining us?  The next step is to let me know your field of expertise, and I will follow up with more information.  **Feel free to share this email with any interested party.**

**About the RMSC's Cumming Nature Center:**

RMSC's Cumming Nature Center is a dynamic environmental education facility that celebrates the unique landscape and culture of the Finger Lakes region through innovative learning opportunities and thoughtful exhibits. Our 950 living laboratory is as beautiful as it is vast. You can meander through more than 15 miles of trails complete with wetlands and climbing forest roads.

Click [here](http://www.rmsc.org/cumming-nature-center) to visit the Cumming Nature Center's webpage.

**About a BioBlitz:**

A BioBlitz is a local data discovery event where visitors actively connect with the scientific process, learn from regional experts, and contribute to a greater understanding of the Cumming Nature Center landscape and the Finger Lakes region.  It's a collaborative race against time to catalog as many living things as possible in a specific amount of time.  Scientists, naturalists, teachers, and the public participate in this immersive citizen science activity by identifying, collecting, and geo-locating found species of plants and animals found on the 900-acre Cumming Nature Center preserve.

Best,

Nathan

**Nathan Hayes**

Director

Cumming Nature Center

Rochester Museum & Science Center

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**Species Tier Descriptions for Standardized Ranking**

**Tier 1 - Threat Invasive Species**

**Tier 1 – Early Detection/Prevention** – Highest level of survey efforts. Should conduct delineation surveys and assign to appropriate Tier if detected. (a) inside buffer but not in PRISM, (b) outside PRISM and buffer, but close (eastern North America), (c) Far outside PRISM and buffer (not in east NA) but introduction pathway exists.

**Tier 2 - Emerging Invasive Species**

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FL-PRISM Emerging = these species are just starting to become established in localized parts of the region.

Management Guideline: Eradication, or Containment and spread prevention along with restricting the area of invasion by focusing on removing outlying and border populations. These species should be a high priority for surveys, prevention, and education and outreach.

**Tier 2 – Eradication** – Highest level of response efforts. High impact species with low enough abundance to make eradication feasible within the PRISM. Need delineation surveys to determine extent.

**Tier 3 - Established Invasive Species of the FL-PRISM**

FL-PRISM Established = these species are common or abundant through most of the region but not in most of the surrounding regions.

Management guideline: Focus on containment and spread prevention with special attention to borders with areas uninvaded by this species and threatened conservation targets. Surveys should detect this species to help prevent spread.

**Tier 3** – Containment – Target strategic management to slow the spread, as likely too widespread for eradication, but many surrounding regions could be at risk if left unattended.

**Tier 4- Widespread Invasive Species of the FL- PRISM**

FL PRISM Widespread = these are species that are abundant throughout the region and also in most or all of the surrounding regions.

Management guideline: lower priority for management *unless* it is to protect conservation targets or to prevent spread into areas where it does not currently exist.

**Tier 4- Local Control** – Eradication from PRISM not feasible; focus on localized management over time to contain, exclude, or suppress to protect high-priority resources like rare species or recreation assets. Be strategic when deciding if/where to control.

**Tier 5 - Watch Invasive Species of the FL- PRISM**

FL-PRISM Watch = these are non-native species that are not known to be invasive in the region, or there is a lack of information available to evaluate their invasiveness, but may be exhibiting the potential to become invasive at locations within the PRISM.

Management guideline: Focus on survey and reporting

**Tier 5 (Monitor)** – Species that need more research, mapping, and monitoring to understand their invasiveness. This includes naturalized species and cultivated-only species that are known to be invasive in other regions but are not yet invasive here.

NOT RANKED

**Excluded Species from the FL- PRISM List**

The focal species working group has chosen to exclude these species from the list at the current time. This may be because the species has a low invasiveness rank, no known local occurrences, and/ or too much uncertainty about possible impacts. Species may be reviewed for inclusion at a later date.