**FL-PRISM Aquatic Working Group Meeting**



**September 13, 2016, 12:30-2pm**

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

**In Attendance:**

**Lindsey Gertsenslager**

**Drew Starkey**

**Bruce Gilman**

**Web Pearsall**

**Mike Parker**

**Matt Brinka**

**Emily Staychock**

**Michele Wunderlich (online)**

**Katie Des Jardin**

MEETING OBJECTIVE: status updates on aquatic priorities and edit as appropriate for use in the 2017 RFP, strengthening the information highway on IS survey and control work through partner updates/roundtable

12:30-12:40 Welcome and introductions, introduce Katie Des Jardin, Water Chestnut Project Manager,

12:40- 12:55 Status update on priority IS for the AWG

Macrophytes : a. Hydrilla, b. *Trapa natans* (water chestnut), *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce)

Macroalgae: a. *Nitellopsis obtuse* (starry stonewort),

Invertebrates: a. *Hemimysis* (bloody red shrimp)

Fish and Fish Diseases: a. *Neogobius melanostomus* (round goby) b. Misgurnus anguillicaudatus (Oriental weatherfish)

Connection to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs): a. *Corbicula fluminea* (Asian clam), b. *Dreissenids*(Zebra and Quagga mussels)

Hilary to send around a list of potential additions based on ranking status-

12:55- 1:00 Introducing organisms in trade and call to action (Mike Parker, CLA)

<http://www.iiseagrant.org/ais/releasezero.php>  
<https://www.fws.gov/invasives/what-you-can-do.html>  
<http://www.habitattitude.net/>  
<http://freshaquarium.about.com/od/problemsolving/a/Invasive-Fish-And-Plants.htm>

Mike Parker, CLA discussed the importance of this program to release zero and how to bridge the working groups to help with this messaging. Hilary said she would include this on her other working group agendas and try to build a consistent messaging. More information to come on this program.

1:00-1:50 Roundtable reports and discussion

New Wayne County SWCD: New representative to the Aquatic Working Group. Working on grants, prescribed burns, and education and outreach. Drew is a new WCSWCD program nspecialist who will be full time, permanent- a great addition to this group!

Web Pearsall- Region 8 seems to be ground zero for a lot of invasive species in the Finger Lakes. There are 11 counties in this region and weatherfish is not in any of region 8, but in region 7 currently.

Bruce Gilman: They have done dredges of the bottom of Canandaigua Lake to analyze the percentage of quagga mussels, zebra mussels and Asian clams. They found that quagga are the dominant species. They are also looking at geography and starry stonewort at 28 locations around Canandaigua Lake. He stated that the water level of the lake is about 12-14 inches below normal. He recommended a talk by Robin Sleith at the Cornell In-Service about using an aquatic “robot” to collect data. Bruce Gilman also reported that they continue the bi-weekly sampling of Honeoye Lake and there is a project between FLCC and Cornell that is examining climate change in shallow lakes in Honeoye. He also reported algal blooms on Honeoye which have had showed low toxins and mixed algal community.

Matt Brinka: NYS Parks will continue to oversee a steward program in the Finger Lakes. They have bought a boat washing station for Allen H. Treman State Park.

Katie Des Jadin: Reported that they have finished their survey and handpulling of water chestnut and are working on their post control survey.

There was a discussion on two small patches of lotus on the east side of Cayuga in a marsh area that may be considered native? Katie reported it.

Web stated that they were doing a lamprey assessment in the Cayuga Outlet/ Seneca Canal and will probably treat in 2018.

Hilary Mosher reported that they will continue work on the water chestnut project next year. They are going to work with their partners to strategically plan the treatment next year. She mentioned the annual report and the strategic plan. She reported that they watercraft inspectors inspected over 22,000 boats.

Michele Wunderlich reported on the Asian clam survey of Owasco Lake and the concern that they had found fanwort in the lake. She also reported that there have been numerous blue green algae blooms in the County’s lakes.

A discussion occurred on priority aquatic invasive species for the Aquatic Warking Group and Hilary will send out a list of proposed ones.

Mike Parker discussed organisms in trade and aquarium releases.

The next meeting will be held in December.

1:50-2:00 PRISM updates (updates attached to email)

* 1. Annual Report: <http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/FL-PRISM_2015_2016AnnualReport-N.pdf>

Highlights from the 2015-2016 include: • $967,767 in funding awarded to the FL-PRISM for invasive species work from state and federal sources • 23 workshops with nearly 1100 community members engaged on invasive species • 5 educational institutions engaged • Watercraft steward program inspected ~20,000 boats on 511 days with the highest launch seeing an average 75 boats per day • 15 unique events in honor of NY Invasive Species Awareness Week • Water chestnut removed from Braddock Bay for a total project cost of $4,820 • Hydrilla verticillata control project in Tinker Nature Park at a cost of $19,865 • 28 partners spent $31,468,484\* on invasive species work • Partners reached 11,631\* community members with invasive species outreach • Partners calculated 38,327\* hours of staff time spent on invasive species work • Partners calculated 15,425\* hours of volunteer time for work on invasive species

* 1. Strategic Plan now available! <http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/finger-lakes-prism-5-year-strategic-plan/>

Seven goals/objectives and strategies to complete them and include: Prevention, Coordination/Partnership, EDRR, E&O, Information Management & Communication, IS Control Measures & Restoration, and Legislation & Support

* 1. National Invasive Species Council Management Plan: 2016-2018 <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/2016-2018-nisc-management-plan.pdf>

Six high priority actions which include: provide institutional leadership & set priorities, facilitate effective coordination & cost-efficiencies, raise awareness & motivate high-impact actions, remove barriers, asses & strengthen federal capacities, and foster innovation.

* 1. Water Chestnut Update:
     1. Pledge card available here: <http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/PledgeCardChestnut.pdf>
  2. FLRWA
  3. Hydrilla status update
  4. Summer E&O-
     1. Bass Elite program,
     2. Binder of ANS and field guide committee (draft attached to meeting agenda),
     3. Watercraft steward program update

1. Other items of interest
   1. Full PRISM Partnership Meeting, October 4, 12pm-4pm. Ganondagan State Cultural Site
   2. Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, November 2-3, Ann Arbor, MI: <http://glc.org/projects/invasive/panel/glp-meetings/>
   3. Mid Atlantic Panel on ANS, Nov 15-16, Annapolis, MD: <http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/meetings/upcoming-meeting/>
   4. NE ANS Panel 2016 meeting, Nov 30- Dec 1, New Haven, CT: <http://www.northeastans.org/panel-members.html>
2. Adjourn

Next MEETING DATE/TIME:

Updates:

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Hydrilla Project**

**Project Updates for FL-PRISM AWG (9/13/16)**

**Compiled by James Balyszak (Program Manager for the HTF)**

**MANAGEMENT & MONITORING UDPATES**:

* **TREATMENTS**
  + **CAYUGA INLET**: Treatment started on July 22nd. Initial “Charge-up” application of Sonar Genesis and application of Sonar H4C pellets (active ingredient: fluridone). First bump treatment of H4C pellets was conducted on 8/9/16. Second bump treatment of H4C pellets conducted on Friday 8/26/16. Continued weekly water quality monitoring of fluridone levels in Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek. Sonar treatment will continue through end of September/early October. Will monitor levels and make bump treatments accordingly. Overall, no observations of hydrilla growing in Cayuga Inlet so far this season.
  + **FALL CREEK:** Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists observed hydrilla growth among elodea in golf course lagoon (in Fall Creek). Aquathol-K injection (active ingredient: endothall) and Sonar H4C treatment began in Fall Creek on 8/9/16. 24hr injection of Aq-K to main channel of Fall Creek, and Sonar H4C pellet application in backwater areas. 11cfs flows on 8/9. Had rain overnight from 8/9 to 8/10, which brought flow rates up on 8/10. Recalibrated injection rates to match new CFS/flows. First bump treatment of H4C pellets conducted on Friday 8/26/16. Continued weekly water quality monitoring of fluridone levels in Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek. Sonar treatment will continue through end of September/early October. Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists installed floating barriers in Fall Creek (across golf course lagoon mouth and Stewart Park pond mouth) the week of 8/22/16. Barriers will hopefully improve Sonar H4C retention time and target concentrations, and reduce the risk of hydrilla fragment spread (if present).
  + **SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE**: Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists will need to monitor Cornell Sailing Center area over the next few months to determine what is going on growth-wise. A great deal of elodea growth, but no hydrilla observations as of yet. This was an area where a growing patch of hydrilla was discovered in September of 2015. The HTF plans to address any patches in the southern end of the lake with physical removal and benthic barrier installation. Depending on growth observations/hydrilla presence, HTF may or may not need to conduct physical management.
  + University of Georgia (Dr. Susan Wilde) is looking to test hydrilla plants from the northeast for the possible presence of toxic algae on the underside of hydrilla leaves. This toxic algae has been directly correlated with the death of thousands of waterfowl/birds of prey (including bald eagles) in some southern states.

**Cayuga Hydrilla: OUTREACH/EDUCATION and PREVENTION**:

* HTF Outreach Committee has conducted outreach at Ithaca Farmers’ Market. Will have presence at least 4 weekends throughout the season (July, August, and September). Next weekend will be September 25th.
* Next Outreach Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 13th. Additional planning/coordination on outreach events for 2016 season.
* Working with CLWN, Hydrilla Hunters, and other lakeshore groups around Cayuga Lake to stock and distribute hydrilla ID kits at boat launches and municipal officers around Cayuga Lake. 2015 saw over 600 Hydrilla ID kits distributed, which was achieved through the committed work of local “Hydrilla Heroes” Dave & Joyce Heck (of Lansing, NY).