



# HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

## **Agenda for October 18, 2018**

**Finger Lakes-PRISM Working Group Meetings TIME: 10-2pm,**

**LOCATION: Taughnock Falls, North Shelter (Lakeside)**

### **Meeting Objective**

To bring together members of the Finger Lakes region to discuss regional updates, partner spotlight project, separating IS issues with current political culture of #stoptheinvasion, and other IS issues in region followed by a tour of HWA project in park

In attendance: Hilary Mosher (FLI), Don Fisher (C-OFOKLA), Chenga Drury (NYS Parks), Becky Sibner (NYS Parks), Whitney Carleton (NYS Parks), Marshall Lefebvre (NYS Hemlock Initiative), Maria MoskaLee (Genesee Land Trust), Gene Little (USCG Auxiliary), Carri Marschner (NYSHI), Pat Atkinson (Finger Lakes Museum), Pat Lafler (NYSDEC), Patty Wakefield-Brown (FLI), Kate Des Jardin (FLI), Cindy Smith (NYSHI, CLWA), Jon Harman (NYS DOT), Hilary Lambert (CLWN), Maria MoskaLee (NYSDEC)

### **AGENDA**

10:00 Welcome and introductions

10:15 Partner Spotlight-NYS Parks Hemlock Expansion and Three Gorges Project

Becky: There is a Finger Lakes environmental field team of 7 who work on large scale environmental projects, which begin with invasive species management, then focus on restoration. Projects grant-funded by the EPA GLRI, in Buttermilk, Robert H Treman, and Taughnock SPs. Riparian areas and gorges are high priority. Involved herbicide work, seasonal summer staff, FORCES. Chenga started in May (2 yr position), she engages students, works with the seasonal staff, and manages the project. Inv spp of concern include pale swallowwort, Japanese knotweed, and porcelain berry (looks similar to grapes with upright turquoise, white, or light purple berries). Vegetation monitoring occurs in the spring and fall-involves photo reference points, stratified random plot surveys, and timed meander surveys. David Werier is also conducting surveys. A summer seasonal team of 8 manually removed swallowwort and mapped. Native seeds are also being collected to be grown and planted. This year, treatment included Phragmites and Eastern hemlock. Japanese stiltgrass and slender false-brome are also being controlled.

Hemlock borer is affecting stressed trees. There is limited funding to treat several areas- parks trails grant, sustain our great lakes. High contracting costs, so park staff trained to be certified technicians and work under certified applicator. Latest funding is through 2021 (to include monitoring). Plans to get to other parks? Stressed gorge trees are prioritized, will continue to search for funding for areas whose trees are still relatively healthy. Contact Becky if you're interested in helping monitor.

Regarding manual removal (pulling/digging up root) of swallowwort- anecdotally, it works. Will be monitoring to assess effectivity. Patch density may matter more than patch size. Andrea (Cortland) is looking at the efficacy of treatments (herbicide vs manual removal), deer, earthworms, and sentinel species.

Hilary Lambert: There are great volunteers in CLWN membership. Chenga: is looking to put together a framework for volunteer events. Hilary Mosher: An ongoing PRISM project is a "cookbook" for volunteers and resource managers. It will include species, timelines, what you can or should not do, realistic expectations for volunteers. FLI/PRISM also has fact sheets. We can combine species and

management information and branding. Don: can get back to us about adding logos to the documents. We want the fact sheets to be a dynamic project, want them to be utilized.

Whitney: Brigitte- plant materials growing program grows native, local plants for restoration projects. Responsible seed collecting field document, database are available for anyone to use, not just Parks. Program can keep track of collection. No cost for guidance documents.

Becky: Able to match staff and volunteer time for great lakes grant.

New PRISM focus: Invasive Species Protection Zones. There's state criteria, what should Finger Lakes region criteria be? Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area, Jennings Pond (Buttermilk)

10:45 Partner and regional updates (opportunity for brief updates and discussion of regional topics, new funding sources, and support needs)

Becky, Whitney, Chenga: went over Three Gorges project, also working on grassland and riparian restoration at Ganondogan. Salamander, amphibian, and vernal pool surveys at Harriet Hollister(?).

Carrie, Marshall: first stages of house climate control. Outreach materials are on website, including a treatment guide providing options. There are two survey gaps, 1 partially in Finger Lakes Region- Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, and Madison Counties. Does anyone have connections to hold trainings in these areas? There was low mortality (60-80%), moderate year. It will depend on where you are regarding HWA growth this fall. Successfully made it to 1 year of *Laricobius* production. *Leucopis* had 2 generations in the lab- this shows proof of concept, how need to figure out processes, may be able to have a lab colony. *Scymnus*(?) is another spring predator- APHIS approved but not DEC approved. Chemung Co nature center, TNC may be doing surveys.

Maria: preparing for HWA treatment on easement property in the spring.

Gene: Ithaca Sea Scouts Ship 25 program for community and environmental service. They could help with monitoring projects- trainings in winter, active/on water in spring-summer.

Pat: the Finger Lakes Museum partnered with KLA, Keuka College, and CCE in manually removing starry stonewort from Sugar Creek. There seems to be no improvement after pulling last year.

Pat Lafler: One adult SLF found in Penn Yan (dead). Resident recently came from quarantine zone in PA. There was extensive surveying around the find and along the shoreline, but no additional insects were found. Insects have been reported in Rochester, Home Depot. REPORT IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, provide photo evidence. There is a dual incident command structure with DEC and Ag & Markets. There was also a find in Suffolk County at a nursery and in Albany, Manhattan. A quarantine is in SE PA, WV, NJ, DE. State lands- 2 interns performed panicle control on mile-a-minute. There are no new infestations. There may not be an intern for control next year. There have also been Oak Wilt surveys. At Rush Oak Openings- swallowwort control using herbicide, shade, pulling. Also prescribed burns but no negative effect yet. There's Phragmites, Japanese knotweed, and giant hogweed management on state lands. Pat works in Yates, Schuyler, and Chemung counties.

Patty: The macrophyte survey program is wrapping up this month. Participants sampled Waneta, Cayuta, Lamoka, Cayuga, Conesus, Hemlock, Loon, and Honeoye(?). A stewardship program done with the girl scouts at Comstock was piloted. Anticipate having it again next year, opened up to boy scouts, too. For SLF- have outreach specimens, stickers, fact sheets. Attended a working group meeting in July with 200 people in attendance. Participates in the working group monthly calls, ag & markets and IPM are also involved. Looking to host a conference for grape growers in December, with additional trainings and presentations in Yates County. For SLF reports- have photos, specimen, GPS location. Heather Leach from Penn State Ext presented in Rochester recently (Patty also attended a workshop with Heather in July after ISAW). SLF will feed until frost. Patty can give presentations to educate people about SLF and how to report. Maybe hold a train the trainer?

Kate: Had a strike team of 4 and 1 lead, with 2 additional people funded by Wayne Co SWCD for a field team of 7. They pulled over 41,000lb water chestnut from 20 sites and took part in 16 volunteer

pulls. The field guides were recently printed- pdf fact sheets and field guide are on the PRISM website. This is a first printing, so if you see any edits, let Hilary or Kate know for future printings. Distributions were based off of iMapInvasives, so if it looks incorrect, it likely needs to be reported to iMapInvasives (ideally with a photograph).

Maria: New oak wilt is in Ontario County- Bristol. Results are still coming in, pockets of dead oaks in the woods. There is a quarantine around the area. It's 3 miles from the original observation in Canandaigua. Technicians and interns are surveying for HWA, EAB, ALB, and beech leaf disease. Let Maria know if you see beech leaf disease symptoms (dark green striping between leaf veins), she's collecting data for it.

Cindy: HWA phenology project- aestivation break

Jon: DOT has been notifying subcontractors that plant material from PA has to be inspected for SLF. Maintenance folks are educated to keep an eye out for invasive species. New hires are interested in inv spp. and have been reaching out when they notice inv spp.

Hilary Lambert: Has been focused on hydrilla, which appears to be eradicated from the Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek. Monitoring has been conducted since 2011. A patch was found offshore, near Stewart Park. It was treated by the Army Corp. A lake-wide hydrilla hunt is scheduled for the weekend of 10/20. 70 hydrilla info boxes have been put around the lake, will need volunteers to replenish them. Two water chestnut pulls were held at the Ithaca Reservoir. About 4-5 volunteers were at each, also did mapping.

Don: Had their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a watercraft steward program. Since they're near I-81, have stocked trout tournaments, and are an entrance to the Finger Lakes, the boats come from a large region, still compiling data from the summer. They had 3 outreach events during ISAW. There was a watershed forest walk- 60 people attended. Recently, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual art & ecology event was held (artists portray conflict in nature, often invasive species). USFW grant- Upper Susquehanna watershed- develop BMPs, shorescaping, riparian restoration, and demonstration projects.

Hilary: Finger Lakes PRISM project updates- Giant Hogweed: funds Patty half-time, DPWs trained to ID and report giant hogweed. Three technicians were hired to work alongside the DEC in Wayne and Monroe Counties. Funding was approved for 1 more year, through the end of May 2020, which will include 5 crew members and a ¾ time education and outreach person. Starry Stonewort Collaborative: David Carr (also involved with the Owasco Lake Association) came on to EPA-funded project. He will be attending the Great Lakes panel in November. Looking for a sustainable control method for ssw. Hydrilla: E&O subcontractors to train people to ID hydrilla. Have 2 people surveying Cayuga Lake via kayaks. There is a map on the PRISM website that is updated with their progress daily. They met with someone from a marina, found hydrilla next to a dock in a contained 1.5ft depth of water. The Army Corp is looking into it. More info to come with a press release. NYISAW: There were 37 events this year. It's held the second week of July. A resource toolkit is available to anyone who wants to run a program. US Forest Service: Cumming Nature Center is treating Phragmites and swallowwort. K12- higher ed- determine efficacy of trainings and using iMapInvasives. Put in for another 5-year contract, current funding is through next March. The unknown plant from the contest at the full partner meeting was yellow groove bamboo.

12:00 Break for lunch and stretch (Bring your own lunch)

12:30 De-politicizing IS outreach efforts:

Messaging around invasive species. Need to be careful in how we address inv spp. Messaging isn't always understood by people in the current political climate. Intention is irrelevant- how is the information being perceived? Have examples of our native plants that are invasive elsewhere. "Citizen" science may exclude people- use volunteer, stewardship, community. Origin of spp shouldn't matter, refer to habitat of origin or pathway of invasion, negative effects. Invasive spp are part of evolution of changing ecosystem. There is a book on how inv spp are helpful to humans. Peoples' attitudes toward native vs introduced spp. Ex) Cold War-era tumbleweed vs Russian thistle, takes over, pushes out. "Non-native" and "colonizers" can have negative connotations, too. Can use words with less to do with politics,

rhetoric, and nationalism. For general invasive species talks: can say that 99% (source?) of plants from all over the world are not a problem. “Invasive” vs “naturalized” is a fuzzy line. NYS has looked at introduced species and determined which species are problems and which are not. Use language focused on actions taking, instead of language that may be exclusionary or isolate people from the environment. Maybe use medical vocabulary, though it can also be a sensitive subject. “treatment” vs “kill”. Natural area is the patient, treating the whole to maintain health. This phrasing retains urgency, too. Directive messaging is also good, but not applicable to all invasive species: Play Clean Go, Clean Drain Dry. #Stoptheinvasion is no longer only used for invasive species. Try to not say invasive alone, should be invasive species. “Weedy” has been overused, used incorrectly, is only used for plants, used for both invasive species and native species, can be misleading, lacks the message that the ecosystem is changing. “Invasive species” is also a legislative term. “Invasive species”= “zombie apocalypse”. Other analogies? Use positive spins- explain what we are trying to protect. Ex) Oaks allow for great insect habitat and great bird populations. “Naturalized”: ecosystem evolved with checks and balances. Invaders gone native- there was a study in England for a 200 yr period.

New hashtag! StoptheSpread. Know, flora, fauna, healthy ecosystem...suggest a role- be positive, be aware, join the process, be a steward. Steward- synonyms are warden, agent. People don’t really know the word steward, works in context, but is not mainstream. Keeper, guardian, friend. Are there any existing positive hashtags that we may use? **For January**, find a website and agency and see what they’re using.

Alternate to citizen science? Civic engagement is used in institutions of higher education. Volunteer, steward, community, civil, crowd-sourced. Community implies some training. Viewed as encompassing as opposed to limiting. Personal connection- people who volunteer for monitoring programs are most likely doing it in their neighborhood/community. Even though environmentalism is becoming more mainstream, people don’t always understand why invasive species are bad. Forest pests are good examples/poster children. It’s more noticeable when trees go away compared to a grass. Zika and West Nile are also good examples. Iconic movies, etc. for context, not your typical garden flower.

1:00 Tour of the HWA Projects at Taughannock Falls SP

2:00 Adjourn



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