


2023-2024

FINGER LAKES PRISM ANNUAL REPORT



 HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

FINGER LAKES
INSTITUTE



FINGER LAKES
PRISM
Partnership for Regional
Invasive Species Management

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INTRODUCTION

Vision

Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) preserves the biodiversity of our natural communities through the prevention, detection, and control of invasive species.

Mission

Our mission is to reduce the introduction, spread, and impact of invasive species by working collaboratively with partners to implement effective education, outreach, and control measures.

2023-2024 Summary

This report highlights prominent accomplishments for PRISM between April 2023 and March 2024. Our staff have worked hard this year to continue our diverse programming addressing invasive species in the Finger Lakes region. Our 17-county region is roughly the size of New Jersey. We cannot feasibly address all populations of abundant invasives. Instead, our approach utilizes existing data and knowledge to address emerging invasive species issues and strategically mitigate the effects of prevalent invasives. Our outreach efforts are broad in geographic and topical range. PRISM continues to build our efforts to address terrestrial invasive species through prevention, monitoring, and control. The PRISM also takes a scientific approach to program evaluation that uses historical datasets to improve existing programs and ask and answer important scientific questions. None of this work could be possible without the dedication of our staff. The diverse set of interests, skills, and experiences they offer allow us to apply our approach successfully in a way that consistently improves and advances the field of invasive species management in the Finger Lakes region.



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES



INTRODUCTION



The Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS) strives to protect and promote the water resources and natural capital of the Finger Lakes region. We connect HWS academic activities to needs and stakeholders locally, statewide, and regionally. The FLI provides 1) relevant, actionable scientific analysis for the region; 2) research and professional development opportunities for students, faculty, and staff; and 3) a place for community education about existing and emerging water quality issues through focused goals:

- **Advance, coordinate, and share scientific data and understanding about the Finger Lakes environment**
- **Provide equitable, meaningful professional experiences for the next generation of environmental researchers, educators, and policymakers at HWS and beyond**
- **Enhance understanding of environmental issues by regional policy makers and the public**
- **Support the economic foundation of the Finger Lakes region through comprehensive land use planning, policy development, and sustainable enterprise**
- **Promote regional equity by creating and increasing access to educational resources for all community partners including Finger Lakes region residents, K-12 teachers and students, HWS, and other regional colleges and universities**

Finger Lakes Institute Invasive Species team includes: Sam Beck-Andersen, Finger Lakes PRISM Coordinator; Matt Gallo, Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Manager; Amy Slentz, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager; Josh Neff, AIS Field Coordinator; Ben Kelley, Data Manager; Bill Brown, Program Analyst; Devin Prine, Watercraft Steward Program Coordinator; Camille Caceci, Project Coordinator; Ian Smith, Seneca Lake Watershed Steward; Isaac Walker, Cayuga Lake Watershed Manager; Nadia Harvieux, Education Program Manager; Trevor Massey, Lab Manager; Evan Helming, Laboratory Technical Director; Lisa Cleckner, Director, Finger Lakes Institute.



GOAL 1: PREVENTION

"Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species (IS) to new areas within the region through targeted prevention efforts for vectors and pathways of transmission."

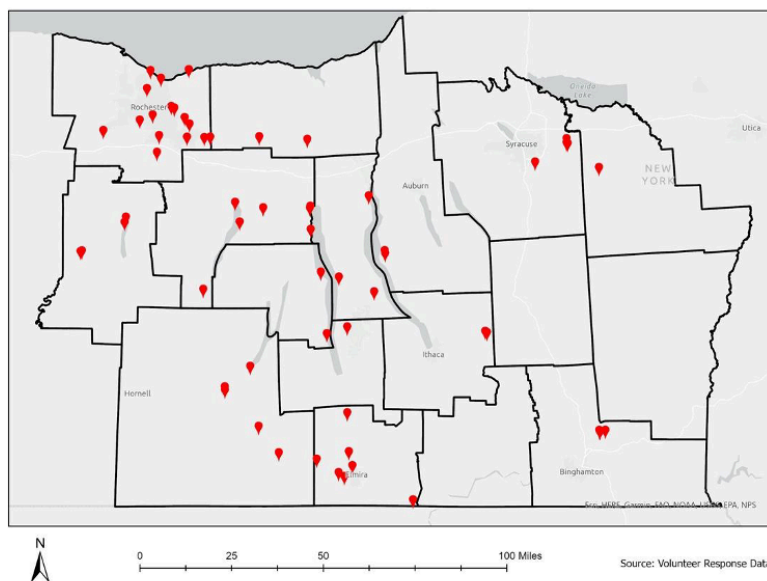
Finger Lakes PRISM recognizes prevention as an efficient and effective method for reducing the cost and ecological and human health impacts of invasive species. It is the cornerstone of our programming. Prevention is built into all projects and is the key to our success in the region.



Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring

As spotted lanternfly (SLF) continues to spread throughout New York State (NYS), the threat of impacts to agriculture in the Finger Lakes remains an area of concern. As of January 2024, SLF populations have been confirmed in five counties (Broome, Monroe, Onondaga, Tioga, Tompkins) with sightings reported in an additional five counties (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Ontario, Yates). Finger Lakes PRISM works closely with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) to identify goals and strategies for monitoring the spread of SLF throughout the state. Utilizing supplies purchased by Finger Lakes PRISM in 2022 and others provided by NYSDAM, over 150 SLF traps were distributed to regional partners. We used current distribution maps and regional travel corridors to distribute traps strategically. Traps were monitored by recipients biweekly from May to October. Recipients did not detect SLF in the provided traps.

Locations of SLF Early-Detection Traps in the Finger Lakes



Map of SLF traps distributed to partners throughout the 17 PRISM counties.

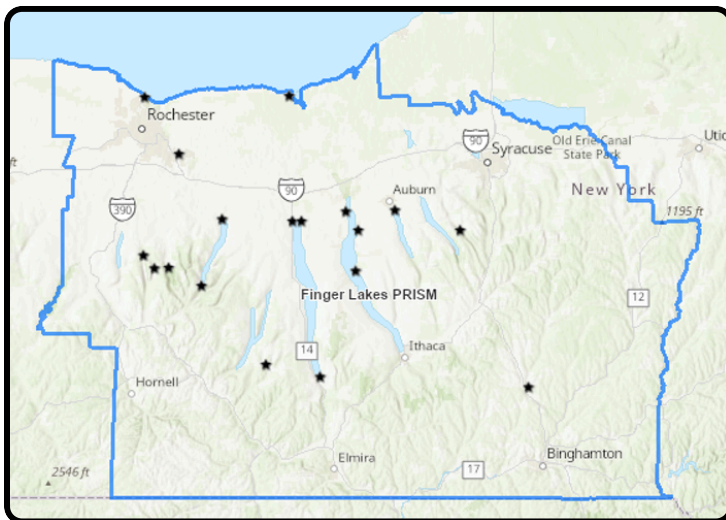
GOAL 1: PREVENTION



Watercraft Steward Program

The Finger Lakes Watercraft Inspection Steward Program (WISP) is a flagship of invasive species programming for the PRISM and FLI. Stewards conduct thousands of inspections at launches around the Finger Lakes. Stewards have three primary roles: 1) conduct physical and visual watercraft inspections to detect invasive hitchhikers, 2) provide education and outreach about preventing invasive species spread through boating, and 3) collect valuable inspection data to support strategic program development. WISP stewards utilize the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application (WISPA), developed and administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP).

In 2023, despite slow recruitment that required near-constant attention the WISP successfully provided valuable prevention efforts to the region from Memorial Day through October at public and private boat launches regionally. Program staff also coordinated the staffing of a decontamination unit at Canandaigua Lake State Marine Park in Canandaigua, NY. Following the 2022 pilot year, the decontamination steward completed 100 decontaminations throughout the season. During this past year, insights were gained to adapt the program for 2024 including improving signage, safety, staffing coverage, and training to support the goal of conducting more boat decontaminations to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species to and from Canandaigua Lake.



Map of FLI WSP coverage in 2023. All noted launches received at least one day of coverage per week.



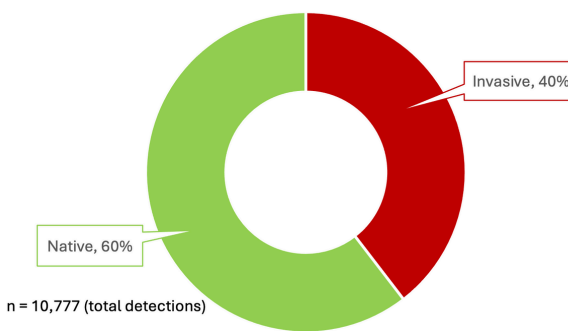
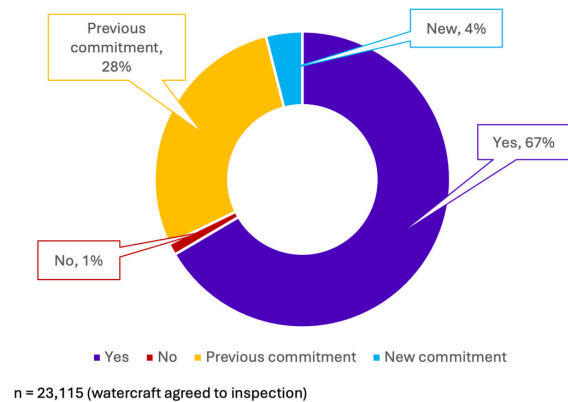
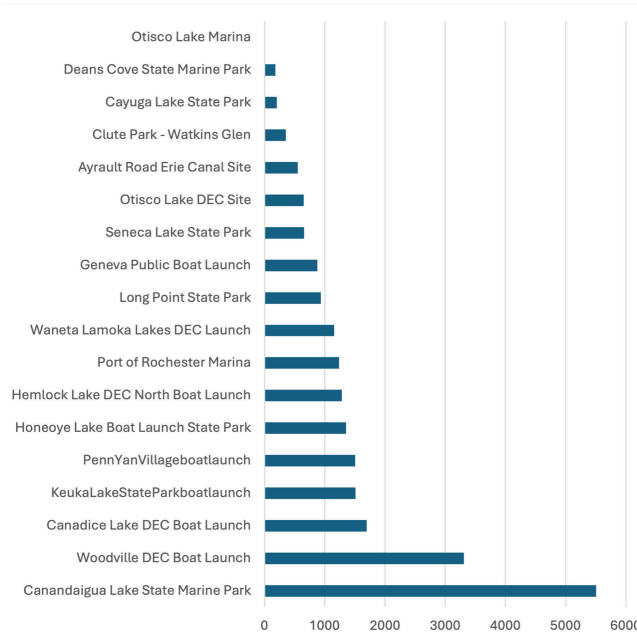
PRISM staff train new stewards at Seneca Lake State Park

GOAL 1: PREVENTION



Watercraft Steward Program Cont'd

During the 2023 season, stewards intercepted thousands of invasive species. This demonstrates the potential for stewards to reduce the number of aquatic hitchhikers traveling between waterbodies. The amount and type of boaters that stewards interact with can also help gauge the sustainable impact of education on mitigating invasive species spread. Stewards interacted with almost 60,000 boaters in 2023 with the vast majority opting to commit to conducting future invasive species spread prevention. Throughout the season, WISP management supports enrichment opportunities like water chestnut pulls, outreach events, ongoing training, guest speakers, and monthly meetings. These activities help to keep stewards engaged and give them a meaningful professional development experience during their seasonal positions.



From top left, clockwise: WSP inspections at each boat launch; proportions of commitments taken by boaters inspected by stewards; percentage of native vs. invasives detected by stewards; steward participating in water chestnut pull on Cross Lake

GOAL 1: PREVENTION



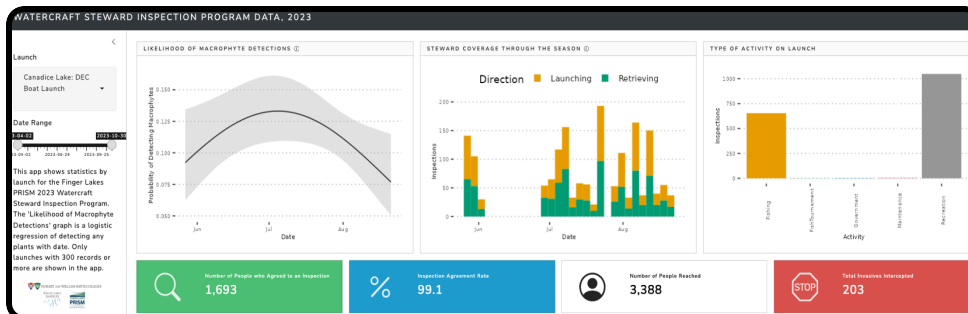
Watercraft Steward Program Cont'd

Contracts

Since the beginning of the WISP in 2012, partnerships have been key to successfully maintaining and growing a strong steward presence in the region. In 2023, partner organizations continued to support the WISP through contracts to secure stewards at key launches in their respective areas. Partners in 2023 included Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Keuka Lake Association.

App

Leveraging the expertise of PRISM and FLI staff, we created a tool to visualize steward outputs in real time. Utilizing the R coding language and Shiny package, users can visualize WISPA data for a given launch in a selected time frame. This allows managers to track the activities of stewards at launches and aids in periodic and annual reporting to partners and stakeholders regionally and statewide.



A custom web-app used to display WSP data using R and Shiny.

Watercraft Steward Program Key Outputs

- 18 stewards and 1 regional coordinator
- 26,417 watercraft inspected over 58,000 interactions with people during inspections
- 18 launches covered on 13 waterbodies
- 99% of participating boaters committed to Clean, Drain, and Dry their watercraft to avoid transporting AIS, with 946 new commitments
- 4,187 invasive organisms detected by watercraft stewards
- 100 watercraft decontaminated at Canandaigua Lake State Marine Park

GOAL 1: PREVENTION



Education and Outreach

Education and outreach is the most important method for preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species. PRISM staff participate in a variety of events across the region to inform and shape the way people think about invasive species, the natural environment and communities in general. We focus on providing general awareness about invasive species and equipping volunteers and participants with tools to address invasive species on a regional scale. We also bring stakeholders together and facilitate conversations and actions in meetings. These conversations help us learn about localized issues and priorities of our partners. They also serve to identify important topics for future trainings, new projects, and recruiting new partners. Trainings and workshops held virtually and in person.



Key Outputs

- 14 trainings (367 people)
- 24 tabling events (3,354 people)
- 44 presentations delivered (12,343 people)
- 12 workshops (274 people)
- 13 meetings hosted (367 people)
- Over 1,400 Facebook followers, 549 Twitter followers, and 721 Instagram followers; over 500,000 impressions on Nextdoor



From top, clockwise: TIS technicians participate in tree-of-heaven and SLF workshop; high school students participate in the 2023 Finger Lakes Youth Climate Summit; WISP staff tabling in Canandaigua, NY

OUTCOME: New invasions to the region are prevented to the greatest extent practicable.

GOAL 2: EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE

"Implement early detection and rapid response measures to identify new IS to the area and respond to mitigate the effects."

Early detection and rapid response (ED/RR) are critical to controlling the spread of invasive species and managing impacts. The Finger Lakes PRISM engages in multiple ED programs regionally. Our technical staff work diligently through the summer and fall growing seasons to identify existing and emerging populations of high-priority invasive species. With 17 counties and 7.3M acres, detecting invasive species across all landscapes is challenging. To supplement structured survey efforts, we train and mobilize volunteers to help fill the gaps in invasive species data across the region.



Macrophyte Surveys

Macrophyte monitoring conducted by our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Field Team falls into two categories: early detection surveys and hydrilla monitoring. Some overlap in outcomes and methodology exists between the two categories. Point intercept surveys are conducted for each program, primarily focused on areas with a high likelihood of AIS introduction such as boat launches, boating clubs, or other hubs of human use on a waterbody. Technicians collected information about the presence or absence of invasive and native macrophyte species and plant density at points along 50 m and 100 m survey grids. Both categories utilize existing datasets from the WISP to inform common boater travel networks throughout the Finger Lakes. Hydrilla monitoring focuses on surveying active hydrilla infestations, sites most likely to experience incoming hydrilla from Cayuga Lake, and sites within Cayuga Lake likely to experience intra-lake spread of hydrilla. Early detection surveys address possible new invasive detections region-wide, using overall boat launch traffic to indicate the likelihood of new infestations. AIS technicians conducted over 10,000 rake tosses throughout the Finger Lakes region in 2023 and detected a new hydrilla population in Lansing, NY. The detection was made adjacent to an active treatment site for another hydrilla infestation. Upon initial detection, several distinct patches were mapped and shared with stakeholders.



Left: Locations of macrophyte surveys completed in 2023

Right: A new population of hydrilla was discovered in Myer's Point Marina on Cayuga Lake



GOAL 2: EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE



Terrestrial Surveys

For the first time, PRISM deployed a field team focused on terrestrial invasive species (TIS). Like the monitoring efforts of the AIS team, we used existing datasets to inform a strategic approach to addressing TIS. The TIS Field Team's work fell into two general categories: 1) early detection and monitoring for emerging invasive species, and 2) supporting partner-driven invasive species survey and control projects. TIS technicians recorded over 600 invasive species observations regionally in 2023.

Priority List

We utilized datasets including iMapInvasives, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), UMass Amherst, Invasive Species Centre, and others from NYS PRISMs to make a list of priority species for the region. Species were selected based on potential for invasion, potential for negative impacts, and regional abundance. Phenology characteristics for priority species were examined collectively to strategize the timing of monitoring efforts. The list in 2023 included 35 species and included more commonly known invasives like Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) and mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*), and lesser-known species like Japanese snowball (*Viburnum plicatum*) and plume poppy (*Macleaya cordata*).



TIS program manager Matt Gallo surveying a stand of chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*) at Cornell University



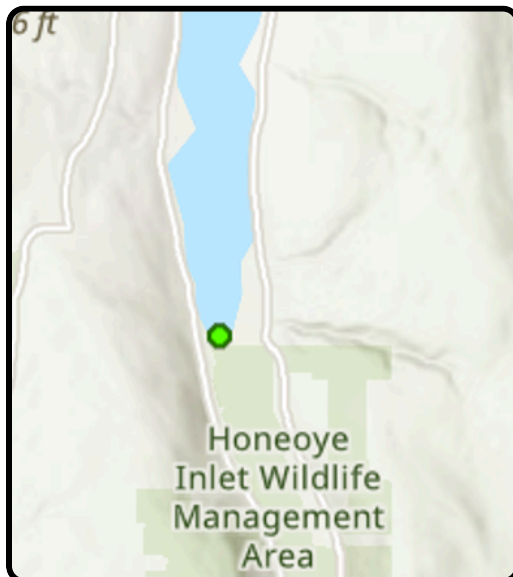
TIS technician Bethany Holland inventorying the only known population of giant butterbur (*Petasites japonicus*) in the PRISM

GOAL 2: EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE



New Populations

Prioritizing the identification and delineation of new high-priority populations helps PRISM to better understand the threats posed by emerging invasive species regionally. The TIS field team detected several new populations of low-abundance, high-priority invasive species. Previously unreported populations of chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*) were identified in Ithaca. In total, 127 observations across 20 new TIS populations were discovered. Further, 484 additional observations were made across dozens of known but poorly understood populations. Most of these known populations were initially detected by citizen scientists using iMapinvasives or iNaturalist.



European frogbit detected for the first time by an MSP volunteer in the Honeoye Lake Inlet



A new population of chocolate vine was discovered in on Cornell University's campus in Ithaca, NY

GOAL 2: EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE

Our volunteers drive much of what we do. By providing the opportunity for motivated volunteers to assist in our efforts, we create valuable relationships that allow us to expand our detection network across the Finger Lakes. Volunteers are trained in ecology, identification, sampling, and reporting methods for AIS and TIS through various citizen science programs. These trainings enrich volunteers by building community and encouraging stewardship of natural resources while providing important distribution data for invasive species managers regionally and statewide.



Macrophyte Survey Program

The Macrophyte Survey Program (MSP) trains community scientists to sample for invasive macrophytes in waterbodies regionally. Participants report findings using a phone or tablet biweekly. While volunteers are encouraged to examine and report everything they find while sampling, we focus on three high-priority invasive species for the region: hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), and water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). In 2023, 52 active participants conducted 253 rake tosses on over 30 waterbodies. Over 180 invasive species detections were recorded through this program, including a new population of European frogbit in Honeoye Lake.



Trail Survey Program

Our Trail Survey Program (TSP) empowers the public to “adopt” a trail or other open space by regularly monitoring for invasive species. Volunteers have two options to participate: Trail Trackers identifying six invasive species or Trail Masters identifying over 20 different species. This year, 24 volunteers submitted 1,302 records (presence or absence). Of those submissions, volunteers recorded 267 individual invasives observations.



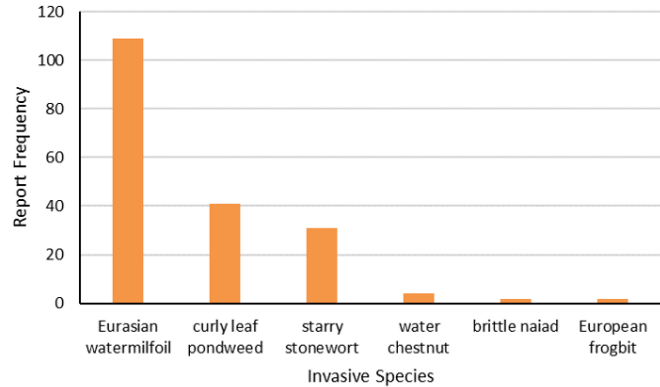
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is a keystone tree species critical to protecting regional water quality and biodiversity by ensuring the ecological integrity of steep slopes and other landscapes in the region. These trees are threatened by hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). In the winter of 2023-2024, the PRISM Hemlock Survey Program recruited 30 active participants, who submitted 116 records, with 59 positive HWA observations. Throughout the year, PRISM worked with partners to hold 12 workshops and trained 186 people in HWA identification and reporting.

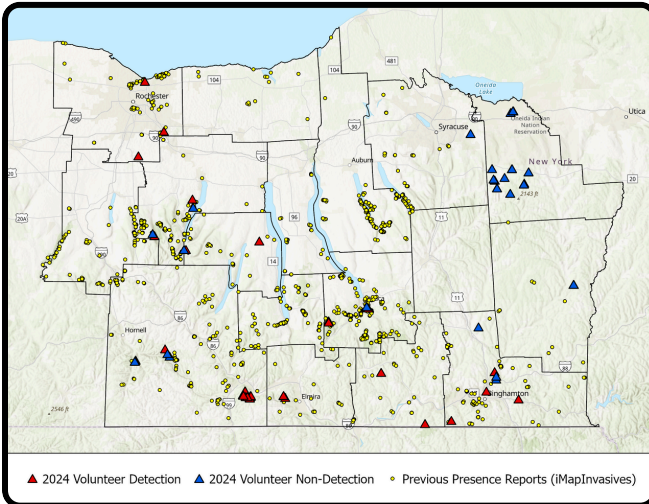
GOAL 2: EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE



Invasive Species Detected During 2023 MSP



From top left, clockwise:
Survey results from an MSP
volunteer; results from MSP;
results from HWA survey
program



Key Outputs

- **Macrophyte Surveys** - 10,341 rake tosses across 11 waterbodies
- **Terrestrial Surveys** - 48 acres surveyed, 7.5 miles surveyed
- **Community Science Programs** - 106 active volunteers submitted 1,671 survey points and detected 512 invasive species
- **Spotted Lanternfly** - Over 150 traps distributed

OUTCOME: Priority conservation targets are protected from new invasive species infestations.

GOAL 3: PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, INFORMATION

"Build partnerships and networks that leverage effective public education efforts and facilitate the sharing of information"

Partnerships are the foundation of Finger Lakes PRISM. Partners and communication networks are vital to effective education, outreach, and advancement in the prevention and management of invasive species.



Federal, State, and Regional Participation

In 2023-2024, the Finger Lakes PRISM participated in federal, state, and regional meetings and work groups. These meetings addressed issues including hydrilla management, HWA containment, and SLF in New York. PRISM staff also contributed to national meetings such as the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and the ANS Task Force. PRISM presented at international conferences held by institutions including the North American Lake Management Society and the International Association of Great Lakes Research. Finger Lakes PRISM staff regularly attend and provide updates during statewide invasive species calls for education and outreach, aquatic- and terrestrial-focused programming, and more.

Lake associations are a valuable partnership for the Finger Lakes PRISM. They bring a diverse crowd of motivated volunteers to various PRISM programs and are helpful in identifying invasive species priorities for an important demographic here in the Finger Lakes region. In addition to participation in individual lake association involvement, PRISM staff regularly attend and provided updates to the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance, an organization representing constituents from all 11 Finger Lakes.

Finger Lakes PRISM staff participated in over 59 regional, state, and federal meetings with over 1500 people in attendance.



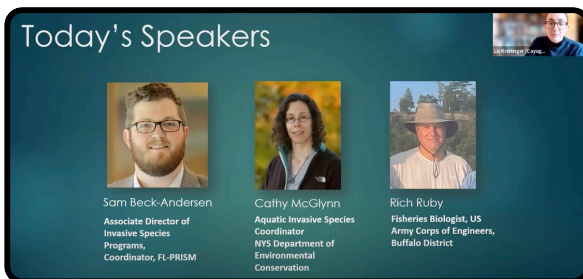
Representatives from PRISMs and state agencies attending a quarterly PRISM leader meeting hosted by Finger Lakes and Western NY PRISMs in Rochester, NY

GOAL 3: PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, INFORMATION

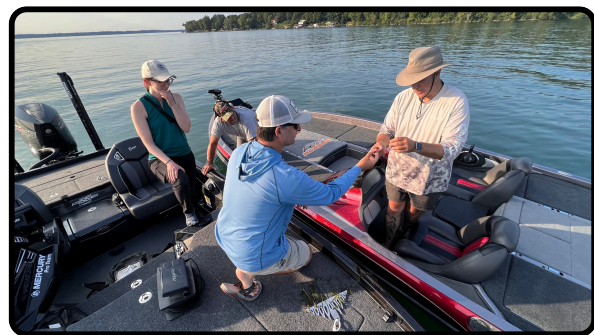


Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake

Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake has been an ongoing issue since it was first detected in 2011. Over time, as the in-lake distribution of hydrilla changed, the collaborative efforts among local and statewide stakeholders has grown and adapted. PRISM staff participate in monthly task force meetings focused on hydrilla in Cayuga Lake where we interact with local, municipal, state, and federal agencies to contribute to addressing hydrilla. PRISM staff also participates in events hosted annually by partner organizations focused on educating the public about hydrilla and how it is being addressed in Cayuga Lake.



PRISM Coordinator Sam Beck-Andersen spoke alongside NYSDEC and US Army Corps of Engineers representatives about hydrilla in Cayuga Lake during a public info session hosted by Cayuga Lake Watershed Network



PRISM staff and representative from US Army Corps of Engineers and Cayuga Lake Watershed Network met with a local bass fishing group to discuss hydrilla treatment and the state of Cayuga Lake



Watershed Management

Based at the FLI, the Seneca Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO) and Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) represent municipalities in the Seneca, Keuka, and Cayuga Lake watersheds. With a focus on water quality improvement projects to limit nutrients in the lakes, SWIO and CWIO maintain valuable relationships with diverse stakeholders including elected officials and county agency professionals throughout the watersheds. Both IOs provide conduits for invasive species outreach and education to their respective stakeholder groups. The connections between IOs and PRISM also offer opportunities for leveraging resources and expertise for specific projects. One example is SWIO's Crooked Canal Wetland Creation Project, where PRISM staff helped to survey future wetlands for invasive species. Another example is our HWA Control program, which will leverage the CWIO watershed manager to support treatments and education about HWA in the Cayuga Lake watershed.

GOAL 3: PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, INFORMATION



Finger Lakes Research Conference

In January 2024, Finger Lakes PRISM staff supported the 2024 Finger Lakes Research Conference at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. With the theme “Science to Action”, the conference featured five speakers from New York State and Vermont and over 30 poster presentations. Presentation topics included climate change, fisheries, microplastics, algal blooms, geospatial modeling, and invasive species. Over 150 people attended the event.



Several PRISM staff members presented posters at the 2024 Finger Lakes Research Conference



2024 Finger Lakes Research Conference, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY

OUTCOME: *Finger Lakes PRISM is the regional leader in invasive species management facilitating active partners, effective public education, and information networks.*

GOAL 4: CONTROL AND RESTORATION

"Control invasions through eradication, containment, suppression, and restoration targeting high priority conservation areas."

While prevention is the most effective and most utilized method of IS control for the Finger Lakes PRISM, active control measures are utilized when practicable. Followed by restoration, active control can mitigate invasive species impacts and spread regionally. Targeting high-priority conservation areas and species is key. Below are details of our control projects in the region.



Water Chestnut Control

Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) infestations remain a priority in the Finger Lakes region, particularly in the NYS Canal System, Seneca River, and lake inlets. Addressing all considerable water chestnut populations in the region is not currently feasible. We rely on our partnerships to guide management projects that can leverage the efforts of volunteers and other institutions. This approach also engages volunteers and professionals in education and outreach about invasive species management to encourage conservation-oriented decisions in the future. PRISM staff supported or hosted six water chestnut pull events across the region in 2023 and contributed to over 7,000 pounds of water chestnut removed from critical waterways including the Seneca River, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Braddock Bay, and the West River near Canandaigua Lake.



A volunteer assisting with a water chestnut pull at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

GOAL 4: CONTROL AND RESTORATION



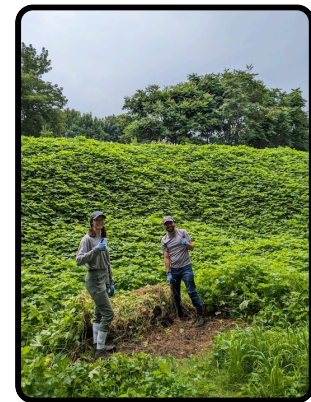
Hydrilla Treatment

Using funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), administered through the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLOWPA), we contracted the final scheduled year of hydrilla treatment in Lansing, NY on Cayuga Lake. Contractors applied fluridone (tradename Sonar H4C) to over five acres within a commercial marina. The treatment zone was monitored by PRISM staff weekly throughout the treatment process in June and through October. Treatment at this site is part of an ongoing lake-wide hydrilla management effort that includes several stakeholders including municipal, county, state, and federal agencies. Unfortunately, hydrilla is still present in this location and will require continued vigilance and additional treatment in upcoming years.



Partner Projects

PRISM TIS staff solicited requests for projects suitable for support from our TIS Field Team. This project is similar to Crew Assistance Programs run by other PRISMs. This program offers us valuable insights into the priorities and strategies of our valued partners and offers the opportunity to leverage our resources to address important invasive species efforts on a more localized scale. Projects were chosen based on the priority, distribution, and phenology of target species, site characteristics, access, and project scope. PRISM staff supported nine projects throughout the region including mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) removal on private land with SUNY Brockport, Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) surveys with US Fish and Wildlife Service and NYSDEC, and pale swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) removal at the Owasco Flats Nature Reserve. Partner projects resulted in 1.56 acres of invasive species controlled by TIS technicians.



TIS staff removing and mapping Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*) in East Rochester, NY

Key Outputs

- *Water Chestnut Control - over 7,000 pounds removed*
- *Hydrilla Treatment - 5 acres treated*
- *Partner Projects - 1.56 acres treated*

OUTCOME: The occurrence and impact of highly invasive species are reduced in priority conservation areas.

GOAL 5: FUNDING AND SUPPORT

"Secure funding and legislative support from federal, state, and local governments."

Management of invasive species is complex and expensive. A major challenge for Finger Lakes PRISM is to secure the funding and support necessary to accomplish our mission. Strategies to garner funding and support must be targeted, dynamic, and consistent. The Finger Lakes PRISM continually seeks ways to increase external funding and provide support to partner projects. Below are summaries of projects procured from federal and other state funding sources.



Surveying Ponds in the Finger Lakes National Forest for Invasive Species

United States Forest Service – Cooperative Weed Management Area Program

Finger Lakes PRISM staff began a project to survey over 80 manmade ponds within the Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF). These ponds provide grazing cattle with drinking water, recreational resources for FLNF visitors, and important water storage for the Seneca and Cayuga Lake watersheds. The program seeks to better understand water chestnut infestations in FLNF ponds and to control four existing populations. Work also focuses on inventorying ponds within the Forest for invasive species and collect water quality data at a subset of ponds. The program also includes the development of a community science program to continue pond monitoring into the future. This year, PRISM and FLI staff surveyed 11 ponds for AIS and TIS and analyzed water quality data using field and lab-based methods. This work will inform future management decisions for FNLf and PRISM and establish a long-term strategy for monitoring this important federal resource for invasive species.



Data manager Ben Kelley collecting water samples and facing off with grazing cattle in the Finger Lakes National Forest.

GOAL 5: FUNDING AND SUPPORT



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment in Finger Lakes State Parks

United States Forest Service – Forest Restoration Program

Partnering with NYS Office of Parks, Restoration, and Historic Preservation, this project will preserve critical riparian habitat in four Finger Lakes-region state parks. Education about HWA and the importance of preserving hemlock stands will be communicated through site visits and an HWA survey program. This project launches in early 2024 and will be further developed over the next two years. HWA treatments are anticipated for the fall of 2024.



Giant Hogweed Control in the Great Lakes

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The United States Department of Agriculture granted the FLI funding to continue control of giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) in the Great Lakes Basin. PRISM field technicians will work alongside NYSDEC Giant Hogweed program staff out of regional offices in Avon and Syracuse. This program also supports educational efforts to the public throughout the region.



Tolerance of Aquatic Macrophytes to Water Quality Indicators in the Finger Lakes Watershed

New York State Water Resources Institute

This project supports efforts to analyze existing datasets to determine relationships among water quality parameters and invasive species in the Finger Lakes. This project further demonstrates the opportunities afforded by the interdisciplinary nature of FLI programming and the comprehensive approach PRISM uses aim to address invasive species. This effort will leverage data from the Citizen Science Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), FLI WISP, historical PRISM macrophyte survey results, and other published invasive species data from the Finger Lakes for this analysis. The project also supports a research effort examining the effect of removing floating plants on the detection rate for watercraft stewards at boat launches. This one-year project will conclude in 2025.

OUTCOME: Adequate funding and consistent support ensures effective invasive species management across the region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (Finger Lakes PRISM) is a collaborative program designed to address the threat of invasive species. Housed within Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Finger Lakes Institute (FLI), the program is one of eight across New York that focuses on managing invasive species, developing detection programs, employing response efforts, providing education programs and outreach, and working with communities. PRISM programs are administered through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Hobart and William Smith Colleges is a nationally recognized liberal arts institution defined by a longstanding focus on educating across academic disciplines and an intellectual environment that cultivates faculty and student connections. With a strong commitment to inclusive excellence, the Colleges have a distinguished history of interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship, curricular innovation and exceptional outcomes. Hobart and William Smith provide robust programs in career development, study abroad, service, leadership and athletics. Located in the heart of the Finger Lakes region, Hobart and William Smith enjoy a lakeside campus on the shore of Seneca Lake. Originally founded as two separate colleges (Hobart for men in 1822 and William Smith for women in 1908), Hobart and William Smith students share the same campus, faculty, administration and curriculum.

Contact

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