



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES



2024 Finger Lakes PRISM Fall Partner Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 12:30pm-3:30pm,

Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Sanford Room – Warren Hunting Smith Library
 334 Pulteney Street, Geneva, NY

Agenda	
12:30 - 12:35	Welcome Sam Beck-Andersen, Finger Lakes Institute
12:35– 1:05	Finger Lakes PRISM Updates Finger Lakes PRISM Staff
1:05 – 1:35	Bill Brown – Program Analyst, Finger Lakes PRISM AIS Project Evaluation and Research Updates
1:35– 1:55	Kate Littrell – Senior Environmental Scientist, NY Power Authority Protecting NY’s Canals and Connected Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species
1:55 – 2:30	Finger Lakes PRISM Partners Introductions, partner updates
2:30 – 3:30	Water Chestnut Working Group Meet for a focused discussion led by PRISM Program Managers



PRISM Partner Meeting

11/13/2024

12:30 to 3:30 PM

Warren Hunting Smith Library, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Finger Lakes PRISM Updates (Presentation 1)

Sam Beck-Andersen intro

- Partner meetings are valuable for sharing what we have doing, allowing us to connect with partners to discuss and inform work moving forward
- Thanks everyone for coming
- We will start with Finger Lakes PRISM Staff updates to discuss 2024 field work and progress

Camille Caceci presentation (Slides 2-5)

- TIS EDRR Surveys
- Partner projects
- Boot brush stations
- Volunteer programs

Amy Slentz presentation (Slides 6-7)

- Macrophyte survey program
- Water chestnut and European frogbit management results

Tabitha O'Brien presentation (Slide 8)

- Watercraft steward program results overview
- SBA – we had a good year for recruitment, in no small part due to just hard work on the part of Amy and other PRISM staff

Josh Neff presentation (Slides 9-15)

- AIS field work preliminary results
- Finger Lakes National Forest project preliminary results
- Sam Beck-Andersen presentation (Slides 16-20)

Bill Brown – AIS Project Updates (Presentation 2, slides 21 to 44)

- Evaluation of rake size and style on macrophyte EDRR
- Effects of skimming on macrophyte detections by watercraft stewards
- Analyses of macrophyte survey data on waterbodies with CSLAP activities

Guest Presentation – Kate Littrell, Senior Environmental Scientist, New York Power Authority, Canal Corporation (Slides not provided)

- Informal presentation about the development of IS work across canals
- Looking forward to connecting with personal, creative partners who are working closely
- Elephant in the room – canals connect waterways
- Yes, the canal is manmade, but it also supports rich ecosystems
- Round goby is a good example of how this programming is taking shape
 - Response highlights need for collaboration
 - RG rapid response plan document is a living document to propose adaptive actions to address RG
- Hoping that lessons learned can inform creating a more comprehensive AIS plan
- AIS Management and Response Plans
- Early detection with eDNA
- Also supporting NYS WISP – will work with NYSDEC to purchase boat cleaning stations/equipment that can be distributed to stewards at canal sites, or other strategic sites
- Education and outreach
 - Looking to expand programs for NYSAW, 2025 IS Expo (Sept 14th), 2025 World Canals Conference in Buffalo and NYS Canals Bicentennial, educational website
- Volunteer programs – NYPA pollinator meadows, water trail stewards, canal walkers

Partner Updates and Roundtable (Presentation 3, slides 45 to 52)

- Cayuga Co Planning Dept – Michele Wunderlich
 - FLOWPA funds pay for staff time and IS work
 - IS presentation on June 6 during NYISAW
 - Educational blog posts, newsletters, articles in newspaper
 - CD3 machine
 - Reprinted copies of the Cayuga Clean boating map
 - Assisted OLWMC in request for book brush station at Fillmore Nature Preserve
 - FL PRISM can offer custom AIS signage for waterbody (Sam)
- Seneca Co SWCD
 - Mechanical weed harvesting 1980 FLOWPA plus county funding
 - Primarily in Cayuga Lake and canal, but no harvesting in 2024 due to hydrilla and low abundance of plant material
 - Canal harvesting in July through August 93 tons of plant material removed
 - Water chestnut survey by 3 SWCD staff finding more water chestnut north of State Park

- NYS DEC R7
 - 7156 monitoring points (6230 points on Cayuga)
 - Trying to delineate hydrilla in more detail in Cayuga Lake
 - 3053 acres
 - 8 counties
 - Assisted USACE in multi-agency surveys
 - Hydrilla management included 127 acres (South Aurora), 2.3 acres (Sheldrake), 5000 sq ft (Lansing Harbor, Myers Park), 32.6 acres (Spencer Pond, Tioga County)
 - Assisted with water chestnut removal at Montezuma NWR, Seneca River, and Cayuga Inlet
 - Assisted SLELO at R7 with fanwort removal at Black Creek
- Kevin Killigrew Genesee Valley Conservancy
 - IS programming at 5 nature preserves in Genesee
 - Mapped all IS present at Reserve, created heat maps that include overlap of populations
 - Determining prioritization of management for coming years
 - This year focused on buckthorn removal, created volunteer program centered around removal (cut back to base with loppers, remove roots) restored with native tree plantings
- Elizabeth Bow Martin
 - Onondaga County SWCD reported managing 4 million pounds of water chestnut
 - County leaders are interested in control \$175k (spending quarter million a year on water chestnut!)
 - Still dealing with loss of ash trees
- Ethan Hall Yates Co SWCD
 - Managing water chestnut in Keuka Outlet with FL PRISM via hand pull (and airboat by citizen?)
 - Small infestation of water chestnut in Sugar Creek discovered during starry stonewort survey
- Mary Begley Cross Lake
 - Cross Lake Seneca River Facebook Group 2400 members
 - Onondaga Co helping manage in southern end
 - Discovering “young” populations further north and in tributaries, on the frontier of Cross Lake management
 - Experimenting with early summer removal while plants are young, small, and before nutlets form
 - Communicating with neighbors
 - Outreach at State Fair lacking in clear water chestnut outreach and guiding materials
- Doug Merrill, Lindsay McMillan CLWA
- Mary Underhill Conesus Lake Watershed Manager

- 3 active volunteers with FL PRISM MSP
- 5 active stewards supported by State and SUNY ESF
- 1 year into watershed management plan
- Great response to surveys, invasive species management was one of the top concerns of the public
- Great programming at the Watershed Education Center into 2025
- Brandon Cortland SWCD
 - IS strike team doing removal in State Park, helping educate Cortland staff
 - 3 boat stewards, 2 from FL PRISM, 1 from Cortland SWCD
 - Investigating purchase of weed harvester
 - Interested in learning more about aquatic plant management
- Emily Fell
 - Current research and outreach RFP for Great Lakes Action Agenda
 - GLAA Sub-basin Working Group meetings on-going, southeast is tomorrow, rescheduling southwest
- Frank Moses SLA
 - Eurasian watermilfoil management project on-going, deployed 6 acres of benthic matting and Sonar surveys
 - First year of participation in FL PRISM MSP
 - Prelim QAQC of their steward program data, 6929 surveys, +7k watercrafts inspected, 6% AIS detected (increase associated with mild winters?), saw increased traffic on Juneteenth, highest frequency of boats to Skaneateles coming from Cayuga Lake, increase observations of starry stonewort this year
 - 1 novel new observation of water chestnut on Skaneateles

Water Chestnut Working Group (Presentation 4, slides 53 to 59)

Roughly 20 partners remained for this portion of the meeting. Slides covered in the meetings are included in the attached slide deck. The final slide of the deck includes brainstorming notes from the discussion.

- SBA intro – why are we here?
- AS – what are we going to do with this working group, and how are we going to do it?
 - This working group will report to Finger Lakes PRISM to guide prioritization for WC management
 - This should inform what we
 - We also want actions to come from these meetings
- Roundtable Sharing
 - Kristy LaManche, FLOWPA – FLOWPA has been a part WC management for a long time, has seen WC move out of the public eye; we need to get DEC to recognize WC as a problem; good to see Canals present; FLOWPA partners

use their funds for all kinds of WC control – management, education, outreach; Oneida Lake response has been a positive move;

- Jeff Colter, CNY Waterways Association – Community advocacy group; voice of their community; goals to be advocates for members and the resources for members; work closely with M. Burger and other partners; they do a lot of hand pulling among members, but want to be more active/helpful;
- Bruce Gilman, FLCC retired – still maintain herbarium; tracking introduction of invasives across waterbodies; interested in early detection as Honeoye CSLAP volunteer; can be helpful to detect;
- Linda Sampson, SLPWA – introduction;
- Sarah Learned, Oswego SWCD – Lots of WC activities – hand pulling, chemical treatment;
- Alexa Davis, USFWS Lower Great Lakes Office, AIS Program – Hydrilla monitoring on canal system in Buffalo, have also helped at Cayuga; noticed an uptick in WC at fish survey locations;
- Colleen, works with Alexa - Concerned with Genesee River populations;
- Jayla White, AIS Coordinator for R6 – introduction;
- Emily Fell, Great Lakes Program – Work across multiple goals for the Great Lakes Action Agenda; in general concerned with WC; come funding sources available; are there similarities that can be drawn/guidance that can be taken from groups like Phragmites Collaborative; increase working together across PRISM;
- Elizabeth Bough Martin, Onondaga CTY Office for Environment – Understands impact of WC broadly; hopes to enhance advocacy and collaboration to address IS; emphasis on downward communication about WC;
- Frank Moses, Skaneateles Lake Association – here to learn; emphasis on communication/education;
- Brandon XXX, Cortland SWCD – Here to learn, getting the harvester program up and running;
- Emily Timkey-Benzinger, R7 AIS Coordinator – Understands frustration surrounding focus leaving WC at the state level; hoping to find funding sources to address WC management (mgmt. plan?); regional monitoring/reporting metrics;

Welcome!

Finger Lakes PRISM Spring Partner Meeting
May 7th, 2024, 12:30 to 3:00 PM

12:30 - 12:40	Introductions and Welcome
12:40 – 1:10	Finger Lakes PRISM Updates Finger Lakes PRISM Staff
1:10 – 1:40	Bill Brown – Program Analyst, Finger Lakes PRISM AIS Project Evaluation and Research Updates
1:40– 2:10	Kate Littrell – Senior Environmental Scientist, NY Power Authority Protecting NY’s Canals and Connected Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species
2:10 – 2:30	Finger Lakes PRISM Partners Partner Updates
2:30 – 3:30	Water Chestnut Working Group Meet for a focused discussion led by PRISM Program Managers

Terrestrial Strike Team

- Second year of terrestrial EDRR field program, focused on surveying and eliminating populations of 22 species
- 3 technicians from May through August
 - Visited 19 field sites
 - Collected 1,354 species observations
 - Removed 6.8 acres of priority species
- First removal project on residential property
- Deployed swallowwort biocontrol project in Mendon Ponds Park
- Extended field season through September with 1 additional technician
 - Beech leaf disease and elm zigzag sawfly surveys in 11 state forests
 - Conducted .2 acres of priority species removal



Partner Projects

- Call for partner projects sent out in March
- Technicians assisted several partners with surveys and removal
 - Swallowwort and golden raintree removal, Cornell Botanic Gardens
 - Dwyer Park survey, Cortland County SWCD
 - Slender falsebrome removal, Genesee Valley Conservancy
 - Filmore Nature Preserve survey, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
 - Hundred Acre Park survey, Rush Recreation and Parks Association
 - Mile-a-Minute removal, SUNY Brockport
- **Let us know if you would like to partner next year!**



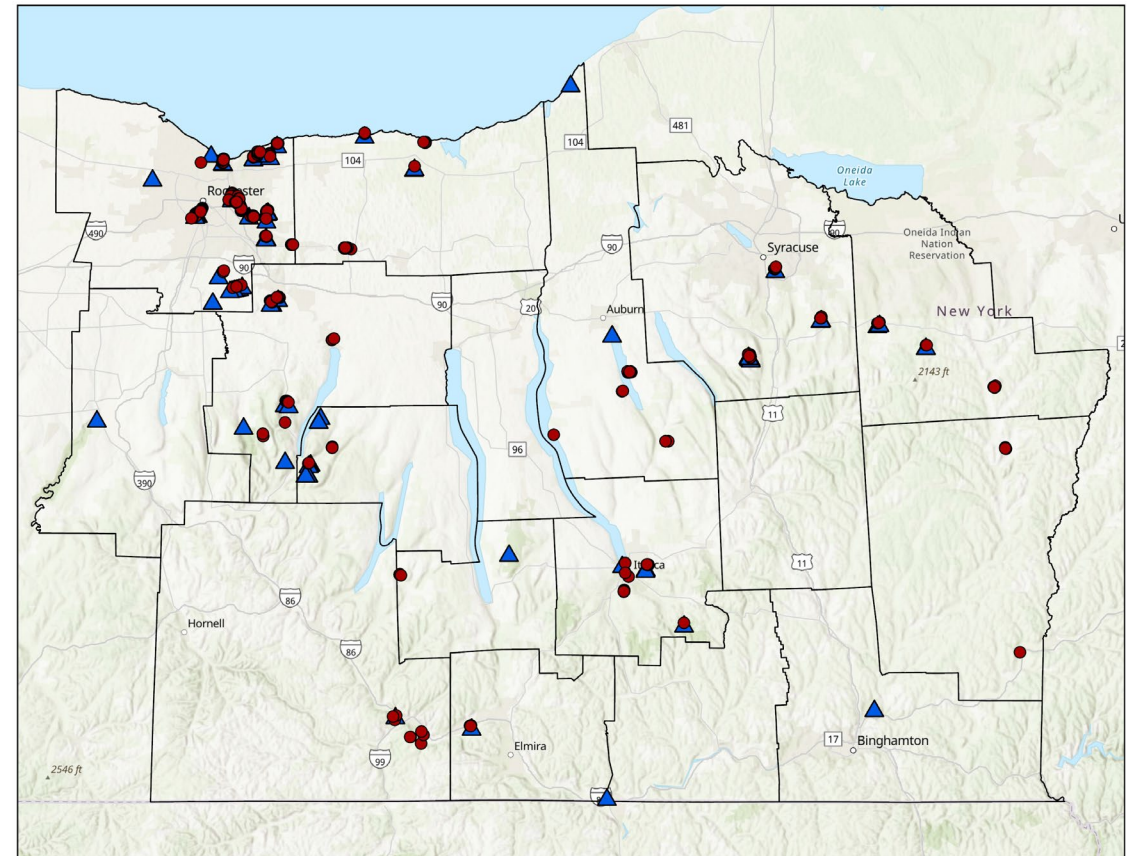
Bootbrush Stations

- Beaver Lake Nature Center
- Bergen Swamp Preservation Society
- Genesee Valley Conservancy
- Marcus Whitman Central School District
- Mossy Bank Park
- Otisco Lake Preservation Association
- Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife



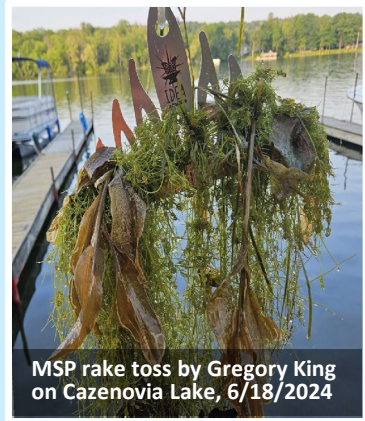
Volunteer Programs

- 41 volunteers
- 719 total surveys (Survey123 and iMap)
- Greatest number of non-detections to date





AQUATIC PROGRAMMING *DEBRIEF*



MSP rake toss by Gregory King on Cazenovia Lake, 6/18/2024

► FL PRISM Macrophyte Survey Program

- Annual citizen science-based program (June – October) helping to engage the community and increase our capacity for early detection-rapid response
- In May and June, we hosted 3 in-person training events with regional lake associations and 2 virtual trainings to help educate volunteer team
- ★ **54** active participants conducted **315** rake tosses, reported **140*** observations of AIS, but **no new high-priority detections** *QAQC is still in progress!

► Water Chestnut Management

- 8 water chestnut pull events from mid-July to August 1
 - ✓ West River / High Tor WMA (CLWA)
 - ✓ Braddock Bay WMA, Lake Ontario (Monroe CCE 4-H and NYS DEC)
 - ✓ Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (USFW)
 - ✓ Teeter Pond, Finger Lakes National Forest (USFS)
 - ✓ Hector Falls Creek (Schuyler County)
 - ✓ Keuka Outlet, Penn Yan (Yates County SWCD)

► European Frogbit Management

- 4 European frogbit pull events from June to early July
 - ✓ Honeoye Lake southern inlet (Muller Field Station, FLCC)
 - ✓ West River / High Tor WMA (CLWA)

We pulled **10,811 lbs.** of plant material!



Water chestnut pull at Knox Marcellus Marsh, 7/24/2024

AIS Program Manager
Amy Slentz
aslentz@hws.edu
1 315 781 4854



WISP Coordinator
Tabitha O'Brien



Field Coordinator
Joshua Neff



Watercraft Inspection Steward Program (WISP)

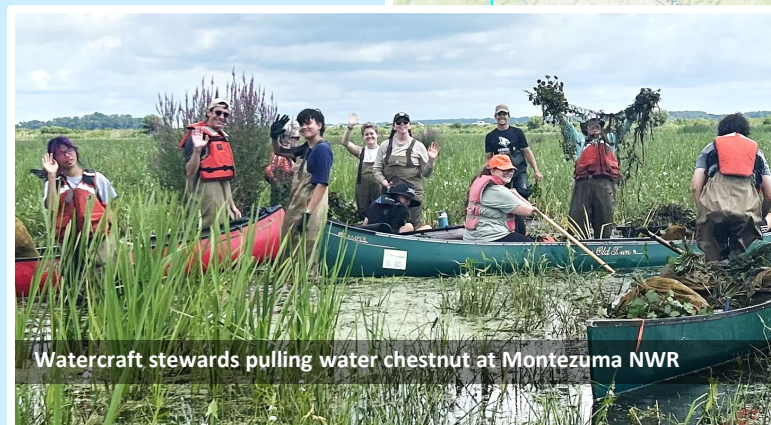
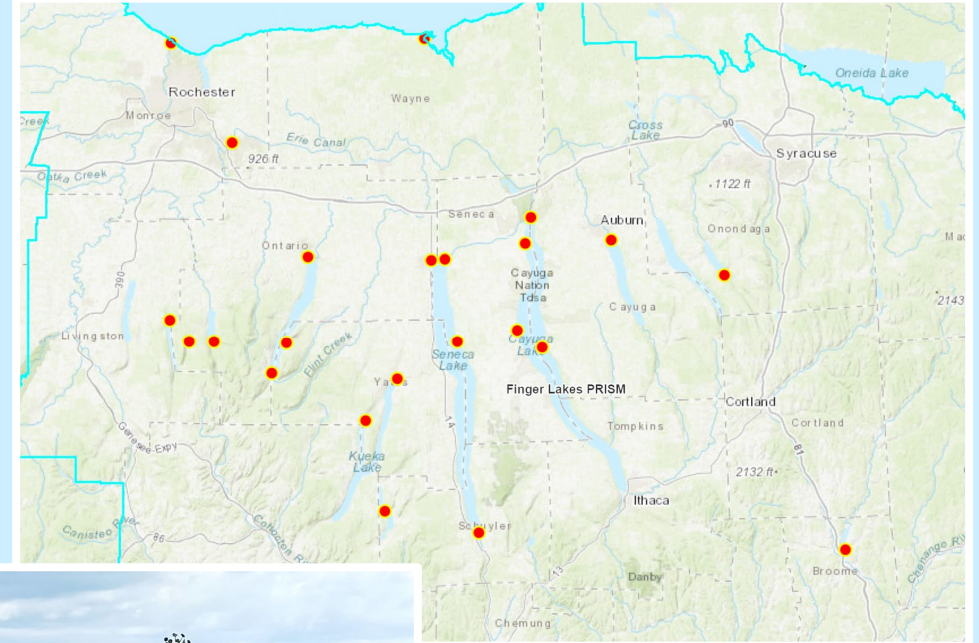
► 2024 Season Overview

- Our team included **22 Stewards**, **1 Decontamination Steward** located at Canandaigua Lake State Marine Park, and **1 Program Coordinator**
- **Steward training began on May 20th**
- First shifts began on May 24th (Memorial Day weekend)
- **Part-time coverage through September 2nd (Labor Day)**
- Our season ended on October 31st
- **We staffed 22 boat launches over 14 bodies of water, including Lake Ontario and the Erie Canal**
 - + Added Vine Valley on Canandaigua Lake to our roster of launches
- Introduced “skimming”
- ★ **3 Hydrilla interceptions!**
 1. 5/30, Cayuga Lake State Park
 2. 6/21, Long Point State Park on Cayuga Lake
 3. 7/10, Cayuga Lake State Park



Hydrilla verticillata collected by Cayuga steward

2024 FLI Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Coverage



Watercraft stewards pulling water chestnut at Montezuma NWR

► 2024 WISP Season Statistics

- Stewards conducted 29,970 surveys and reached 67,869 people
- 10,099 of those surveys detected invasive species
- ★ **1,689 new commitments to the *Clean, Drain, Dry* pledge!**
- The FLI ranked 3rd in the state for inspections and had an inspection agreement of 92.5%
 - The State average inspection agreement is 79.7%

TOP 3 SPECIES INTERCEPTED:

1. Native Pondweed (2,839 records)
2. Eel grass (2,477 records)
3. Eurasian watermilfoil (1,630 records)

TOP 3 INVASIVE SPECIES:

1. Eurasian watermilfoil (1,630 records)
2. Curly Leaf Pondweed (1,122 records)
3. Zebra Mussel (567 records)

TOP 3 BUSIEST BOAT LAUNCHES:

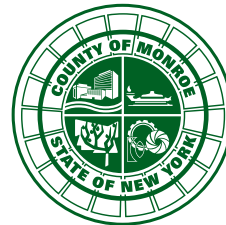
1. Canandaigua Lake State Marine Park (5,270 records)
2. Woodville DEC Boat Launch (3,363 records)
3. Hemlock Lake DEC North Boat Launch (2,583 records)



Photography by
Olivia Morrison
Seneca Lake
Watercraft Steward,
2024, team photo contest



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation



AIS FIELD TEAM

Aquatic Invasive Species Field Team

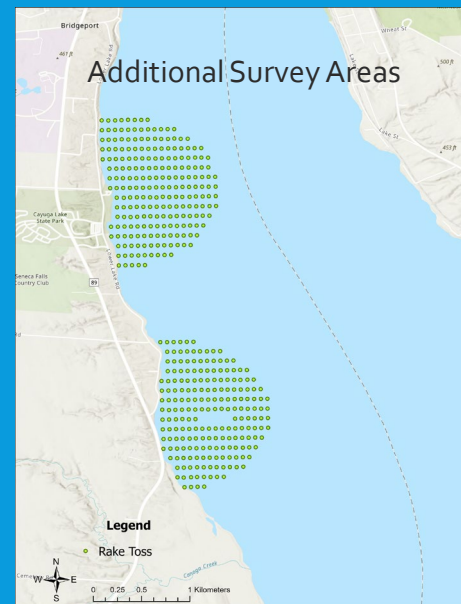
- 4 person field crew 1 coordinator and 3 techs
- Surveyed June through November
- Time split between 2 projects:
 - Point-Intercept surveys
 - Finger Lakes National Forest pond surveys



AIS FIELD TEAM

Point-Intercept Surveys

- Surveyed 3 random sites on Cayuga and Owasco monthly
- Surveyed 3 hydrilla sites on Cayuga Lake monthly
- Additional surveys near Cayuga Lake State Park after steward detections in June



AIS FIELD TEAM

Additions to Point-Intercept Survey

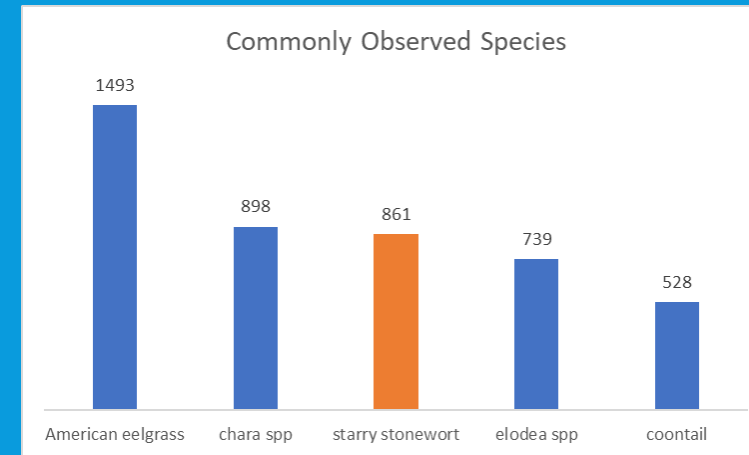
- Total plant volume (mL)
- % abundance of individual species on rake
- Rake head sizes



AIS FIELD TEAM

Point-Intercept Overview

- 5,773 total point-intercept rake tosses
- 64% of rake tosses had at least one plant present
- Average of 523 mL of plant material on rake tosses that had at least 1 plant present
- American eelgrass was the most commonly observed species



AIS FIELD TEAM

Point-Intercept Surveys

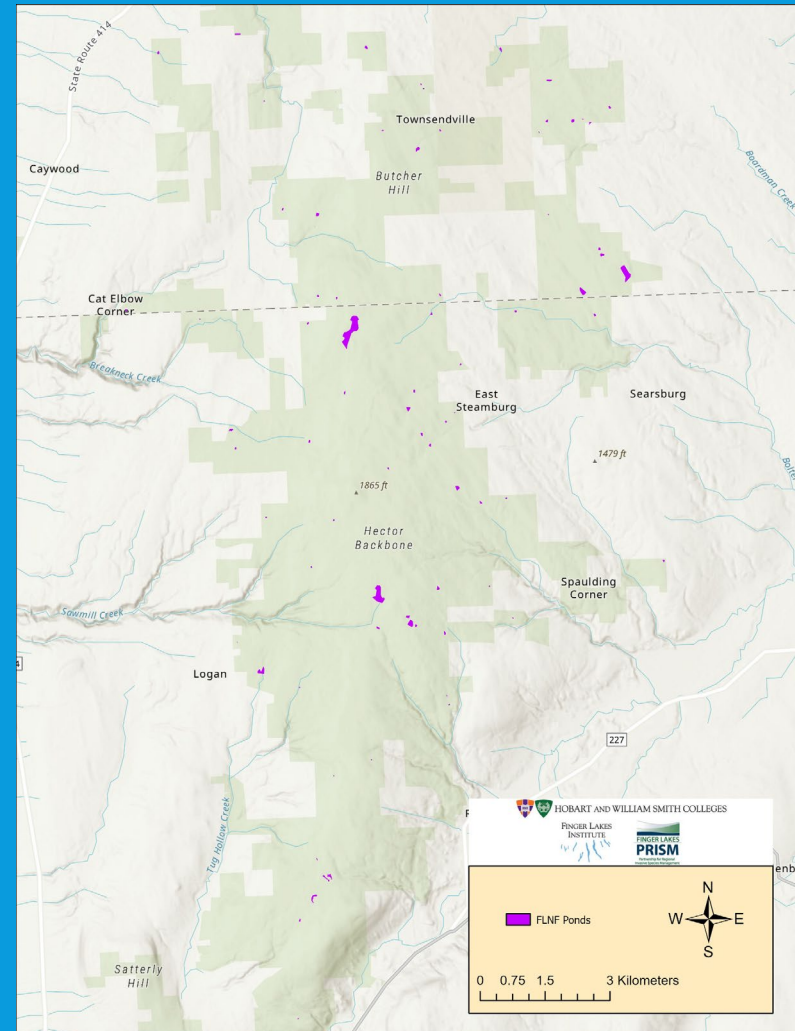
- In addition to EDRR rake tosses:
 - How do macrophyte communities change from June through October at randomly selected sites visited 1x per month?
 - How do macrophyte communities differ between different sites within and between lakes?
 - How do rake characteristics affect EDRR sampling?



AIS FIELD TEAM

FLNF Ponds Survey

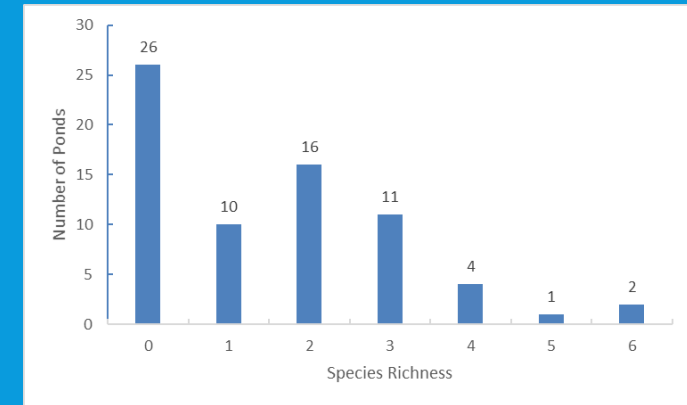
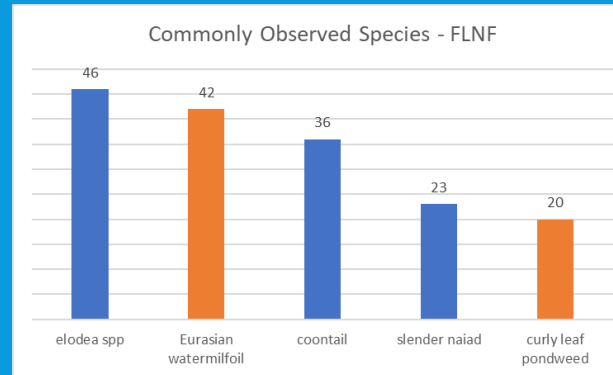
- USFS Cooperative Weed Management Area program
- Surveyed 70 of the 83 ponds in the FLNF
- Mix of sampling regimes including:
 - Water chestnut presence/absence (7)
 - AIS survey (48)
 - Water quality and AIS Survey (8)
 - Water quality, TIS, and AIS survey (7)
 - 13 ponds not sampled



AIS FIELD TEAM

FLNF Ponds Survey

- Elodea most common species in FLNF ponds
- 61% of ponds surveyed had at least 1 species present
- Removed water chestnut from 4 ponds:
 - Teeter: 89lbs
 - Ballard, Burdick, and Bumpus ponds: < 10lbs, but completely removed from pond.

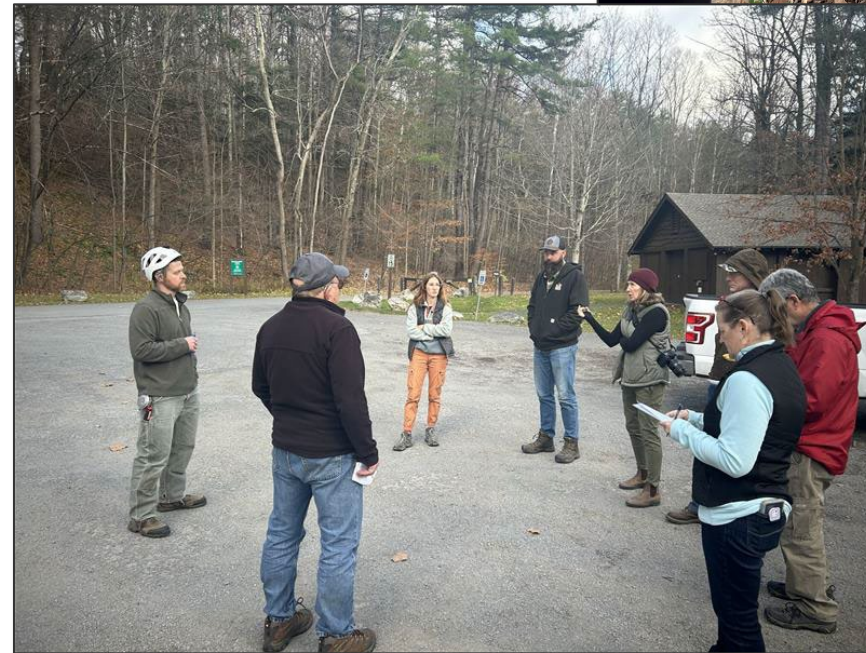




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Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment

- Treatment of four State Parks wrapped up the end of last week
- Close partnership with NYS OPRHP Stewardship staff
- Treating trees within 25 m stream buffer to protect soil stability, reduce erosion
- Focus on treating trees that require climbing
- Public education



Inches Treated

	Type 3 (Non-rope)	Type 4 (Ropes)
Fillmore Glen	340	3899
Buttermilk Falls	818	1969
Robert H. Treman	1013	1272
Watkins Glen	2073	4929



Education and Outreach

- Presented at international conferences
 - North American Invasive Species Management Association, Missoula, MT
 - International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, Halifax, NS
- Spoke on "Connections with Evan Dawson" for NYISAW, reaching ~45,000 listeners
- Hosted 4 meetings
- 26 trainings and workshops
- Tabled at 6 events
- Presented at 15 events including regional and statewide conferences, regional meetings
- Participated in additional 19 regional and statewide meetings
- Bsal outreach materials
- Updates to our field guide and management guide – available soon!



Other Updates/Achievements

- RFP to host the next Finger Lakes PRISM contract
- Managing Invasives on Private Lands Critical to Finger Lakes Ecosystems
 - 2 year program working alongside NYS OPRHP staff
 - Addressing invasive species populations that cross park and private lands
 - Primary focus on Japanese knotweed and water chestnut
 - Fair Haven Beach SP, Robert H. Treman SP, Stony Brook SP
- Farewell Matt Gallo
- Working on a new logo
- Finger Lakes Research Conference – January 30, 2025



Acknowledgements

- **HUGE thanks to our partners and volunteers!**

- We had almost 100 active volunteers collecting data on trails and waterways this summer, collected hundreds of invasive species observations and *thousands* of non-detections

- Program funding provided by:
 - USDA US Forest Service
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
 - NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 - NYS Environmental Protection Fund
 - Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council
 - Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association
 - Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
 - NYS Water Resources Institute

Aquatic Invasive Species project updates

- Preliminary evaluation of rake size and style used for EDRR
- Evaluation of the effects of skimming on macrophyte detections by stewards
- Determining if CSLAP water quality variables can predict macrophyte occurrence on waterbodies



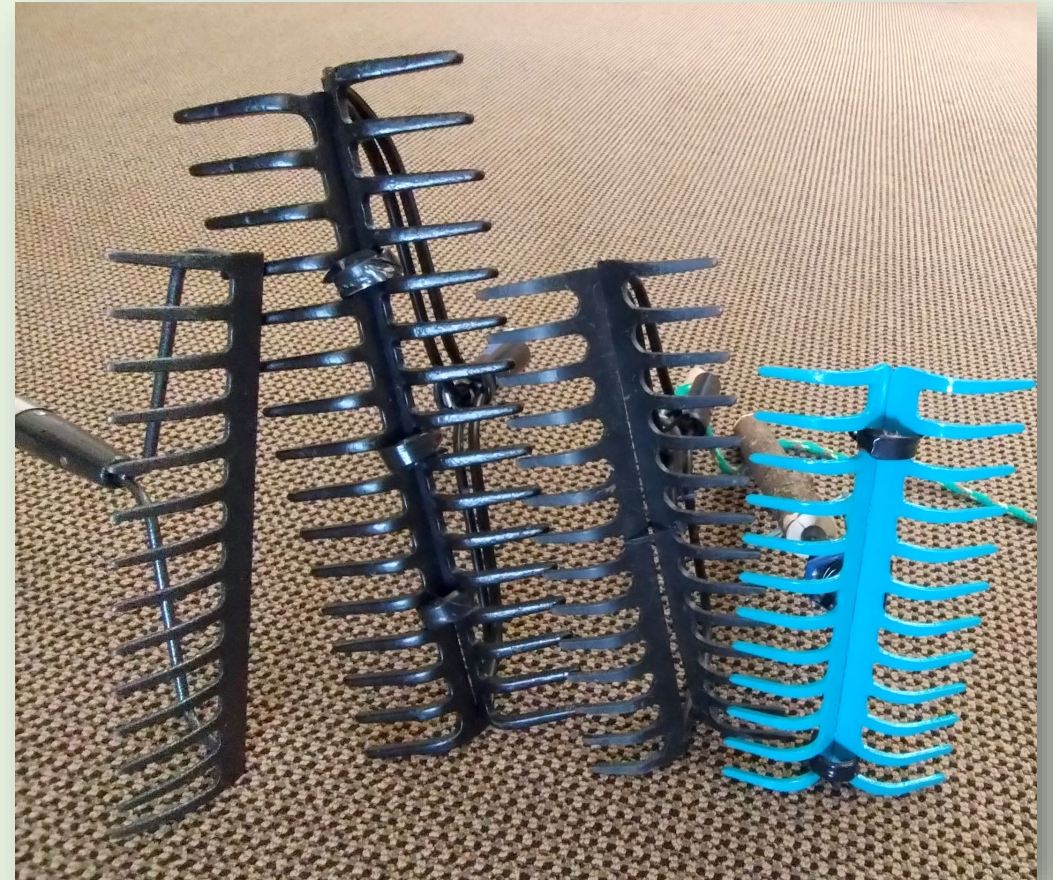
USFWS

Evaluation of rake size and style used for EDRR

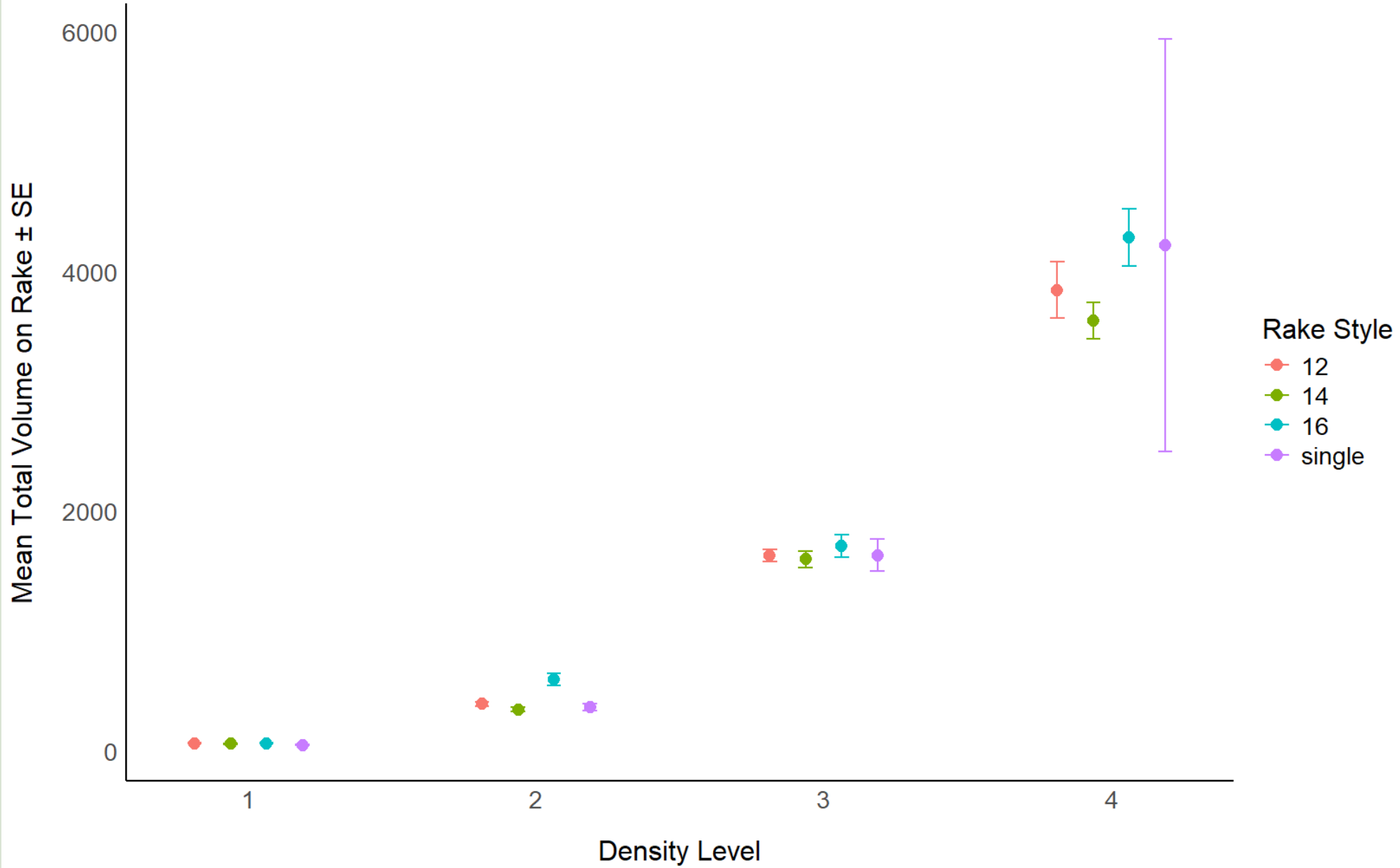
Macrophyte survey crew evaluated 4 different styles of rakes, randomly assigned to team members: 14" single rake, and 16", 14", and 12" double-headed rakes. Occurrence and volume of macrophytes per rake toss (ml) collected.

Fieldwork completed 1 Nov, with nearly 6,000 rake tosses performed.

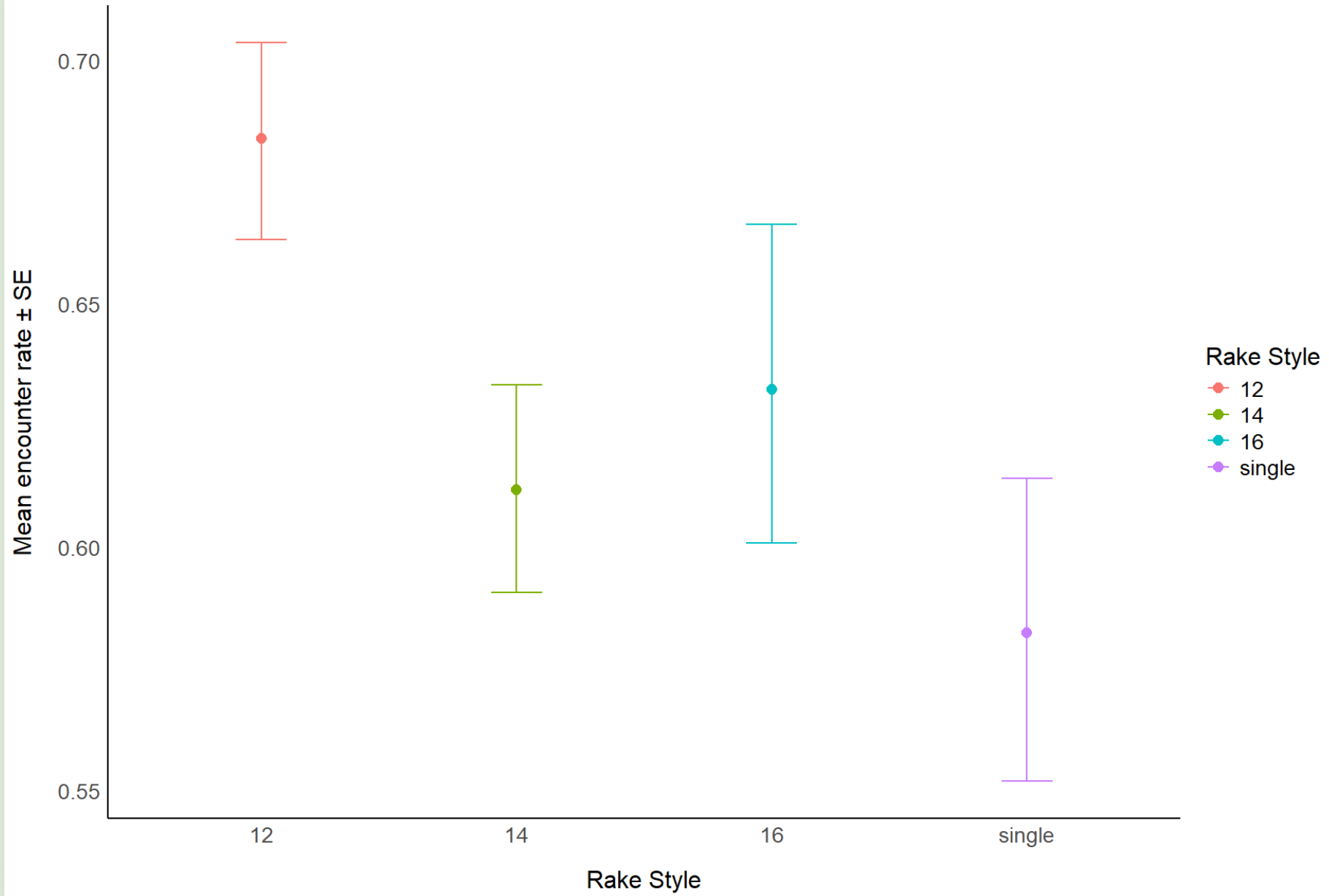
Macrophyte volume, species-specific differences in encounter rates, many other differences among rake styles will be evaluated.



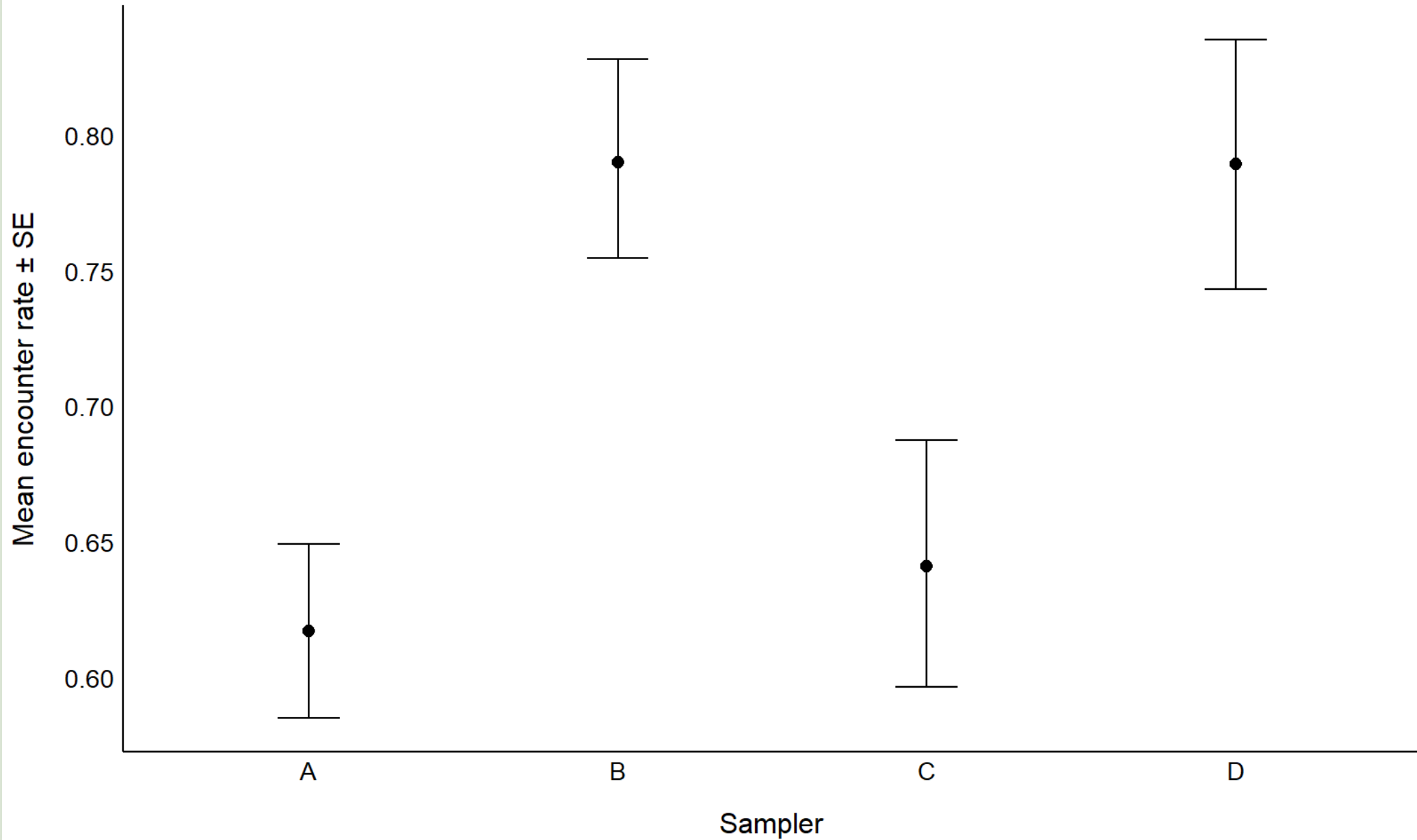
Mean Volume by Density and Rake Style

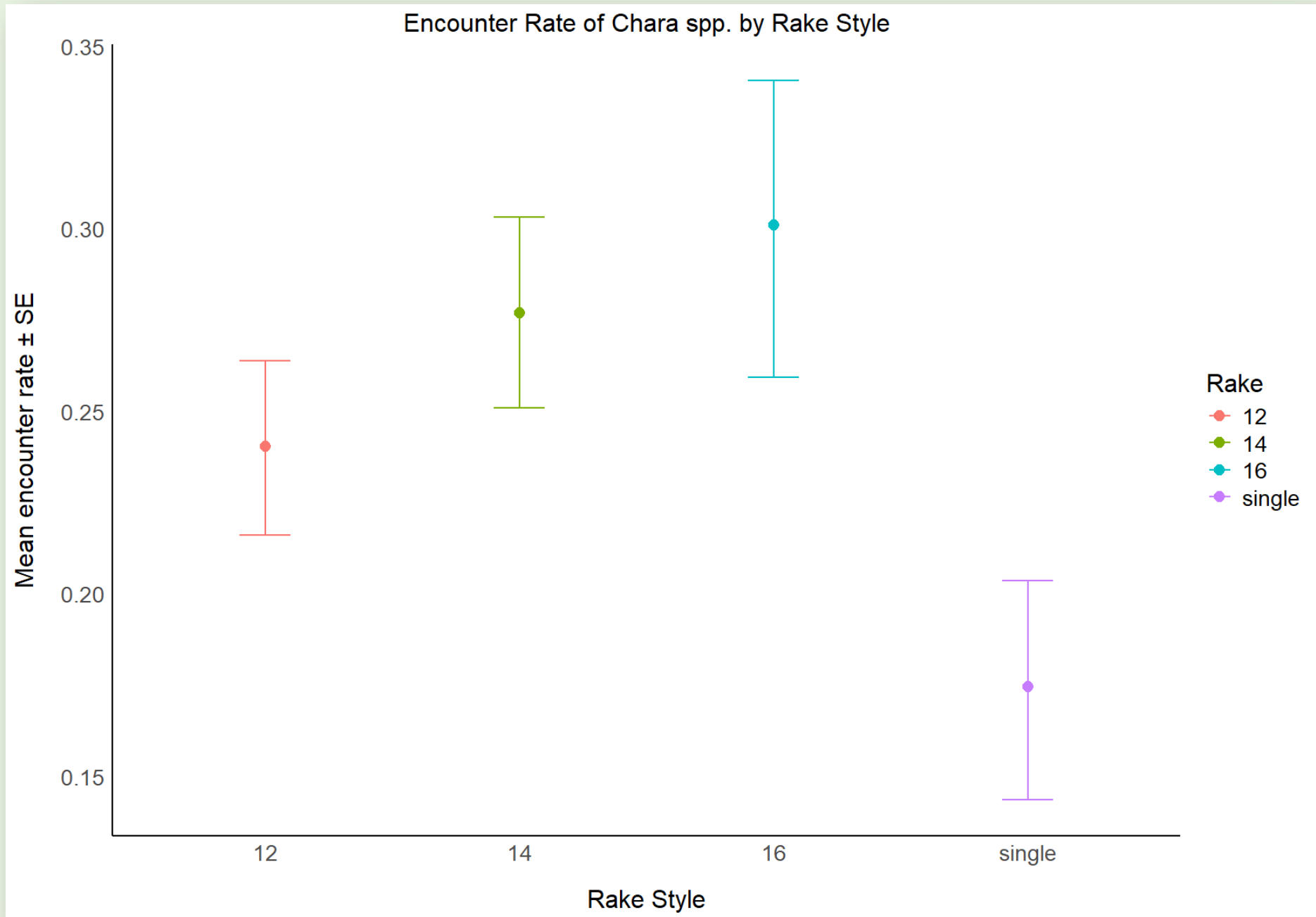


Encounter Rate by Rake Style



Encounter Rate by Sampler for 12" Rakes





The effects of skimming on macrophyte detections by stewards



Macrophytes were skimmed from launch areas and measured (ml)

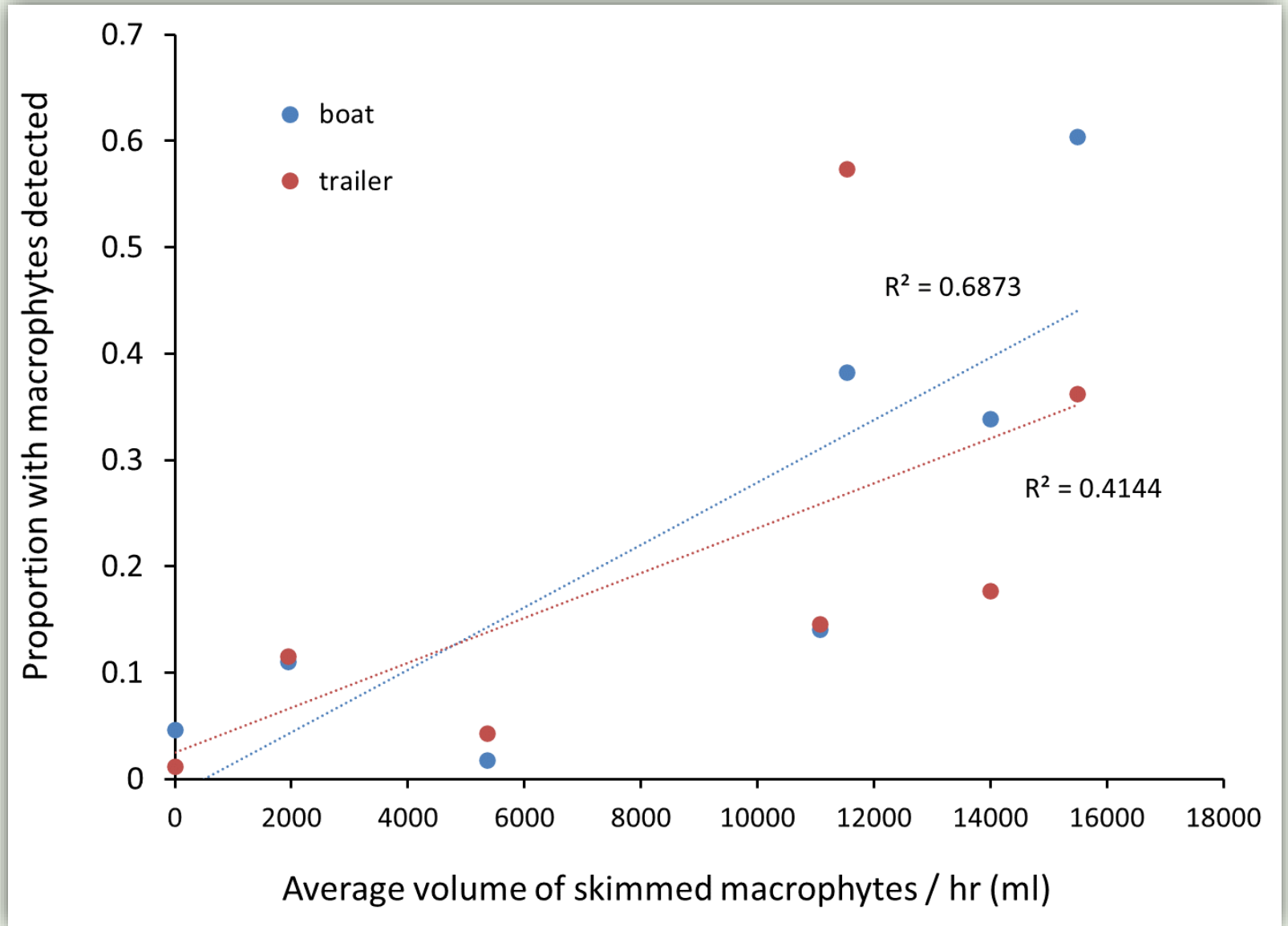
Macrophyte detections on boats / trailers at launch areas were recorded as usual.



Greater amounts of macrophytes in the launch area were correlated with greater rates of macrophytes encountered on boats and trailers.

To our knowledge, this relationship has not been previously quantified.

We intend to continue this work with a more formal design next season.



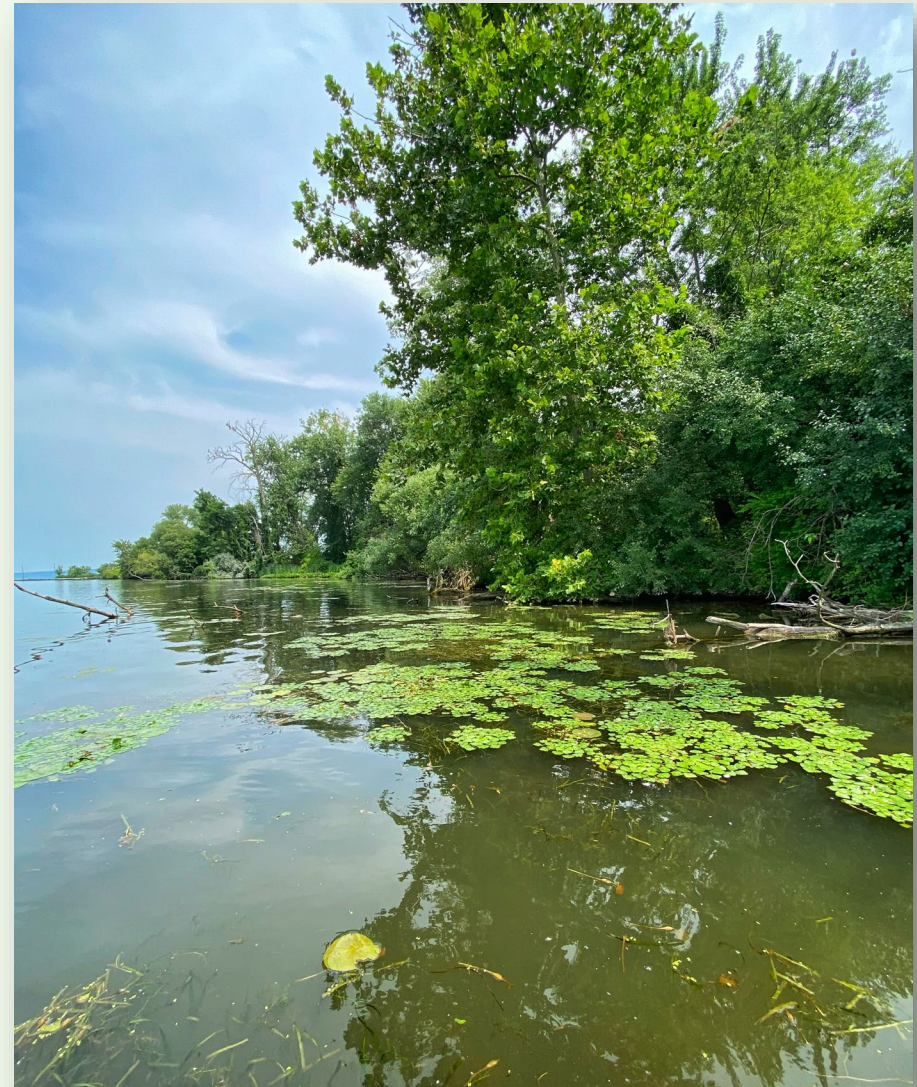
Analyses of macrophyte survey data on waterbodies with CSLAP activities

Identified 22 lakes / reservoirs within the Finger Lakes region that contained Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) data and macrophyte survey data (WISP, EDRR, published)

Conducted cluster analysis to determine which macrophytes were commonly found with each other

Identified lakes with the most similar assemblage of macrophytes

Evaluated effects of CSLAP water chemistry variables on macrophyte occurrence within lakes based on CCA



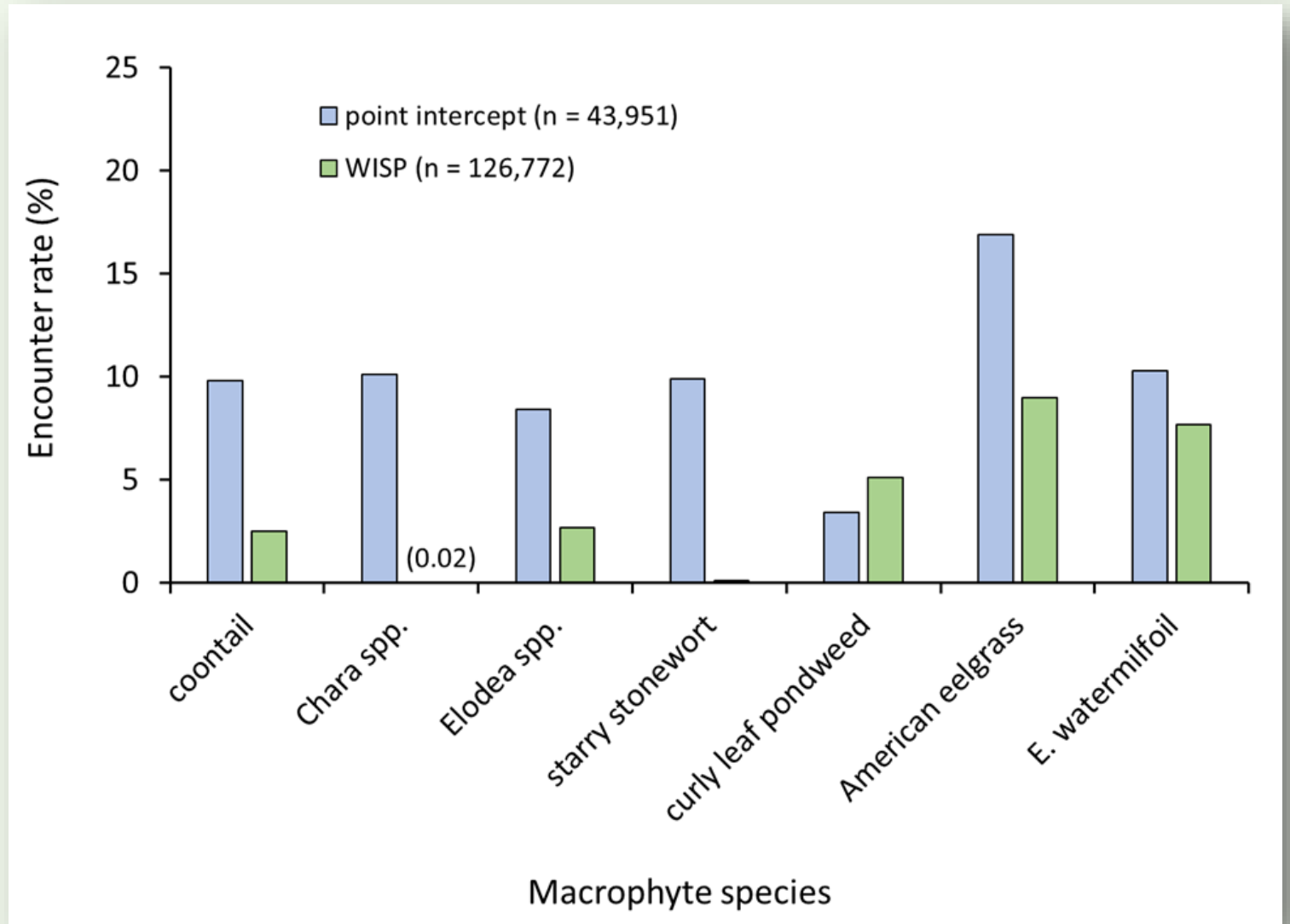
Josh Neff

Comparisons of WISP and EDRR data

Data from FL PRISM stewards and macrophyte survey crew on Canandaigua, Cayuga, Honeoye, Keuka, Otisco, Owasco, and Seneca Lakes, 2019-2022/2023

Encounter rates were much greater for each rake toss than for each inspection (P = 0.003)

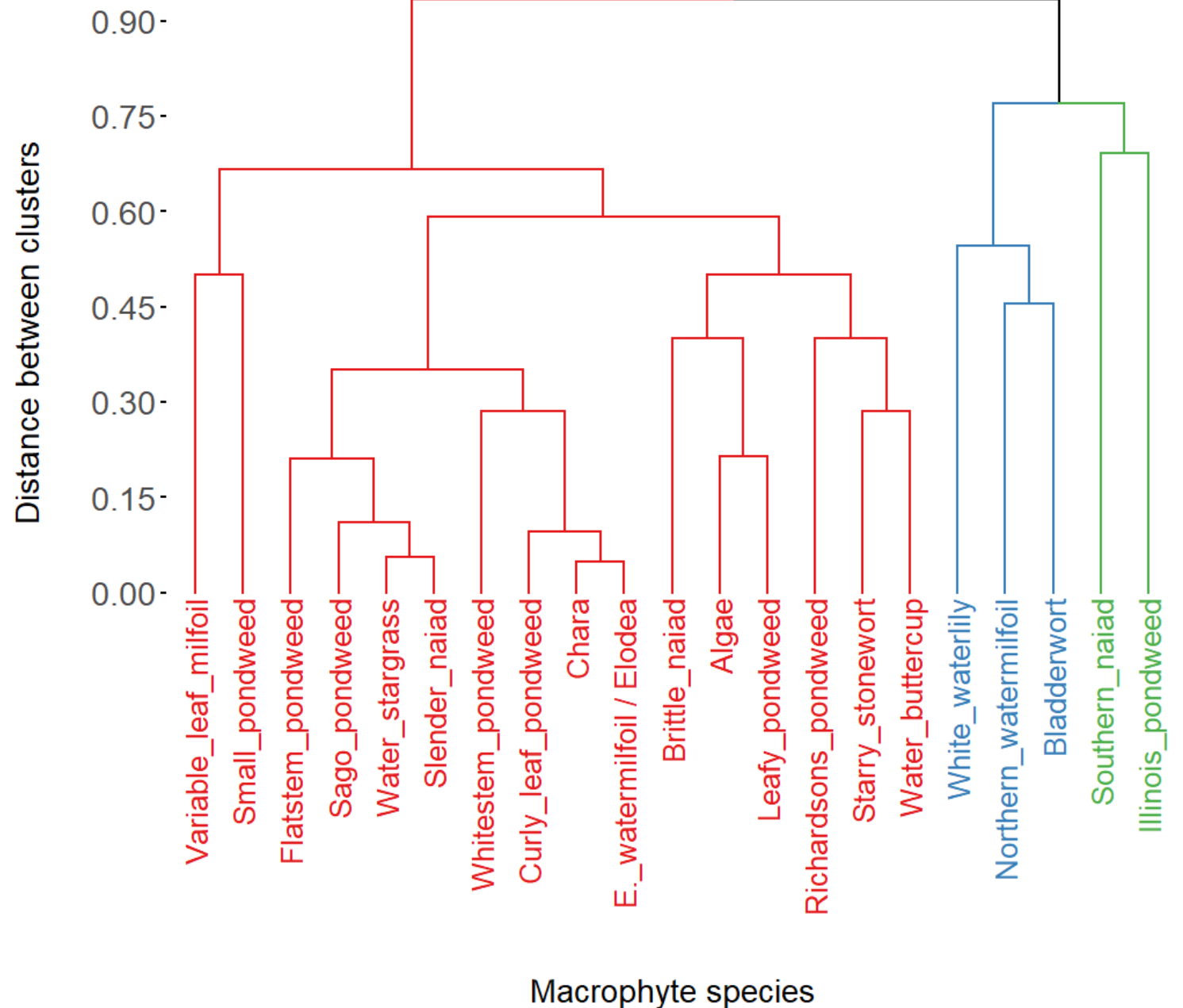
Chara and starry stonewort were rarely detected by watercraft inspection stewards at launches (Chara is not on the WISP form)

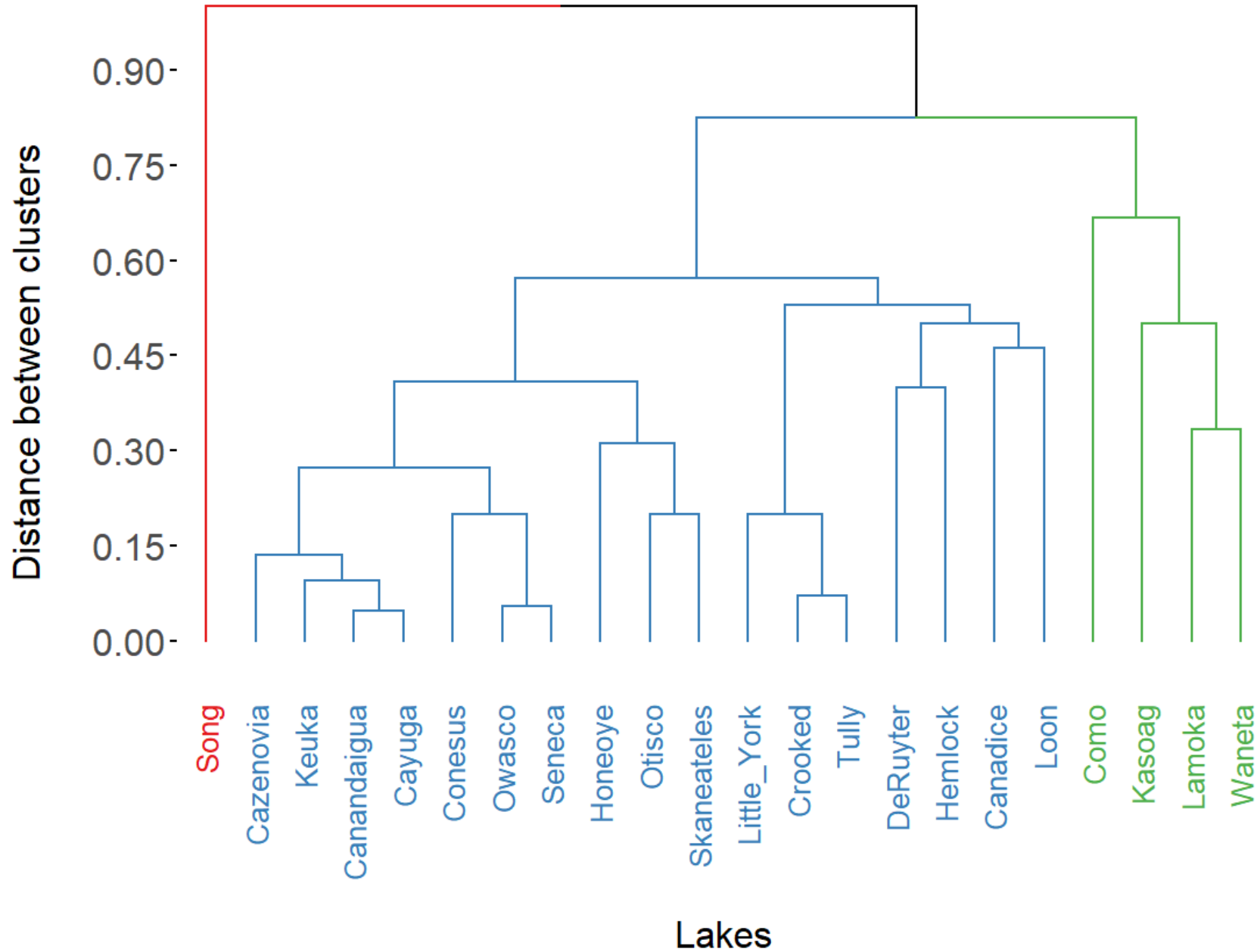


Coontail and American eelgrass occurred on all lakes

Cluster analysis: shorter bars indicate a greater similarity of occurrence among lakes

Elodea and E. watermilfoil had the same distribution among lakes





The following common species were not observed in Song Lake, but were observed in nearly every other waterbody, which may help explain its uniqueness:

Chara (20 out of 22 waterbodies)

Elodea (21 out of 22)

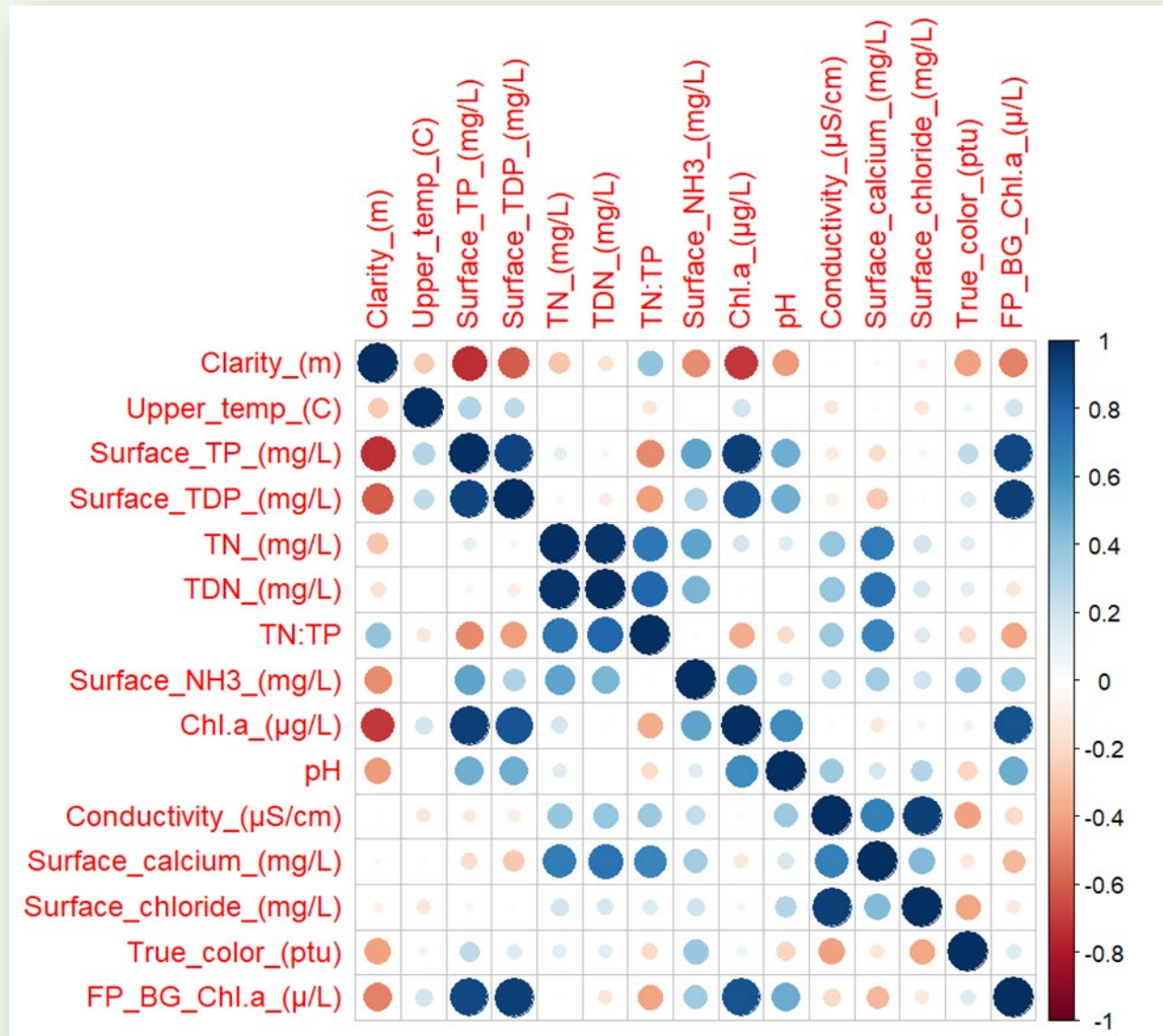
E. Watermilfoil (21 out of 22)

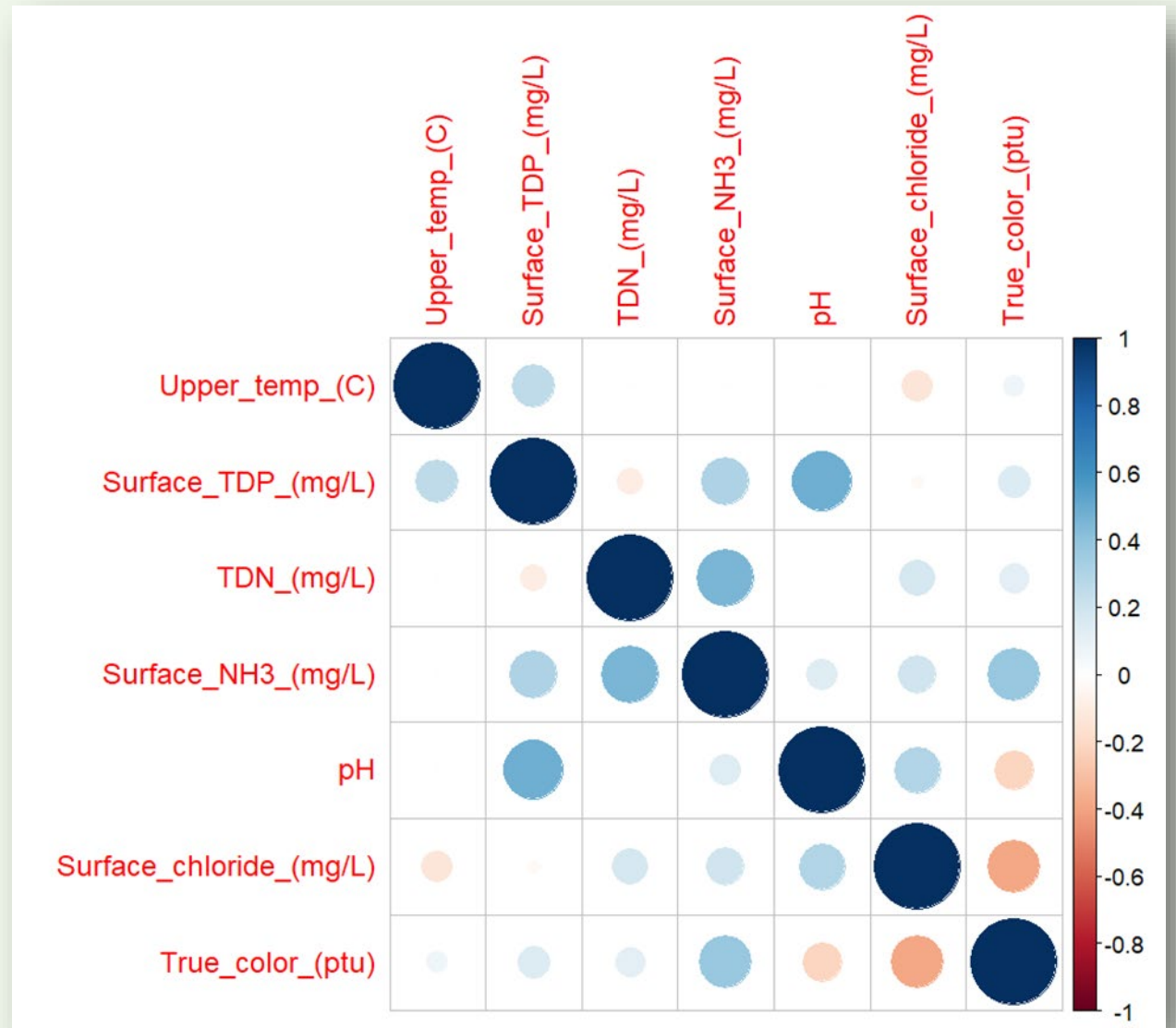
Curly leaf pondweed (20 out of 22)

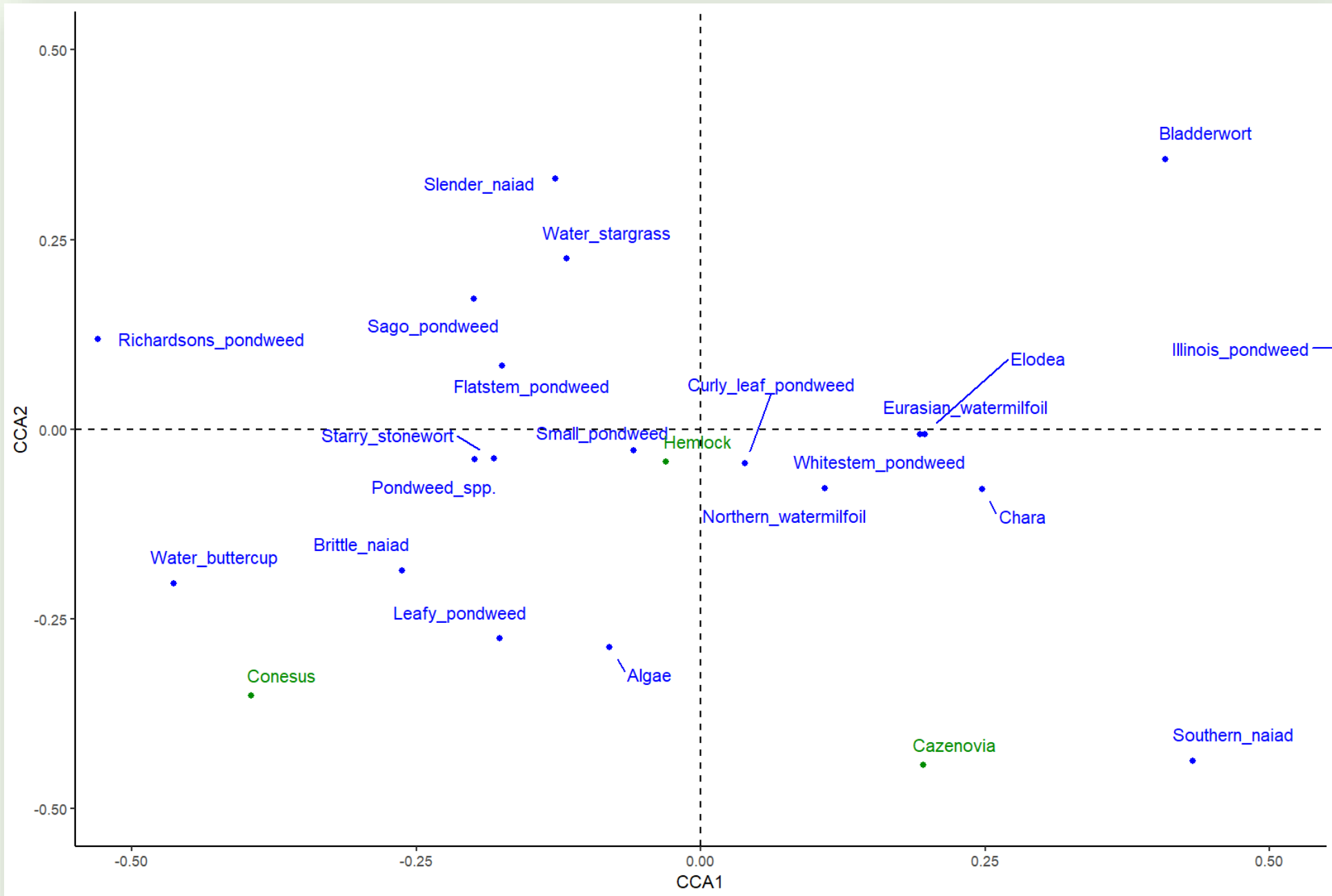
Accuracy of survey results could not be determined for any waterbody



Gardenia.net



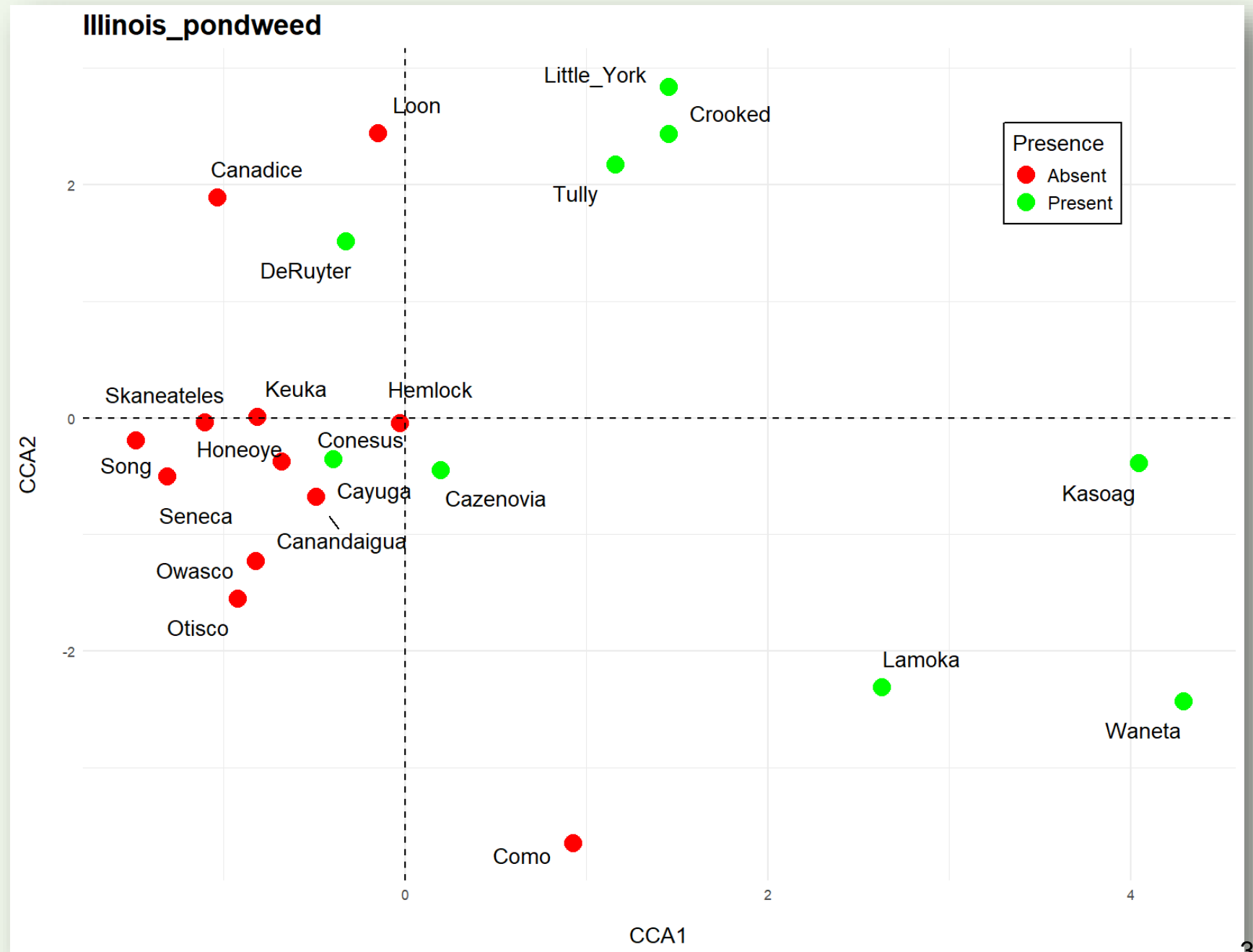




Occurrence of Illinois pondweed was positively associated with true color



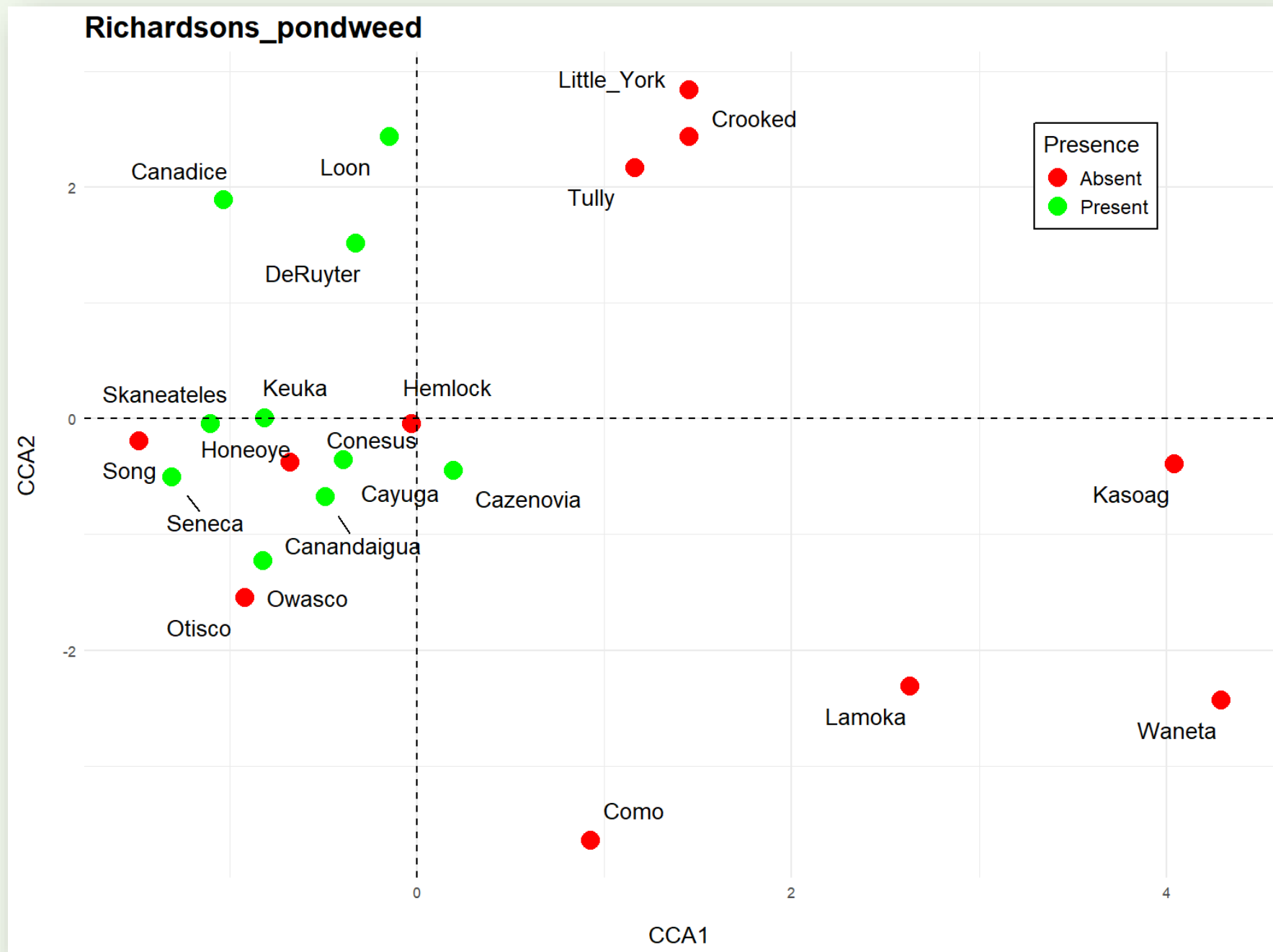
Dick Culbert



Occurrence of Richardson's pondweed was negatively associated with true color



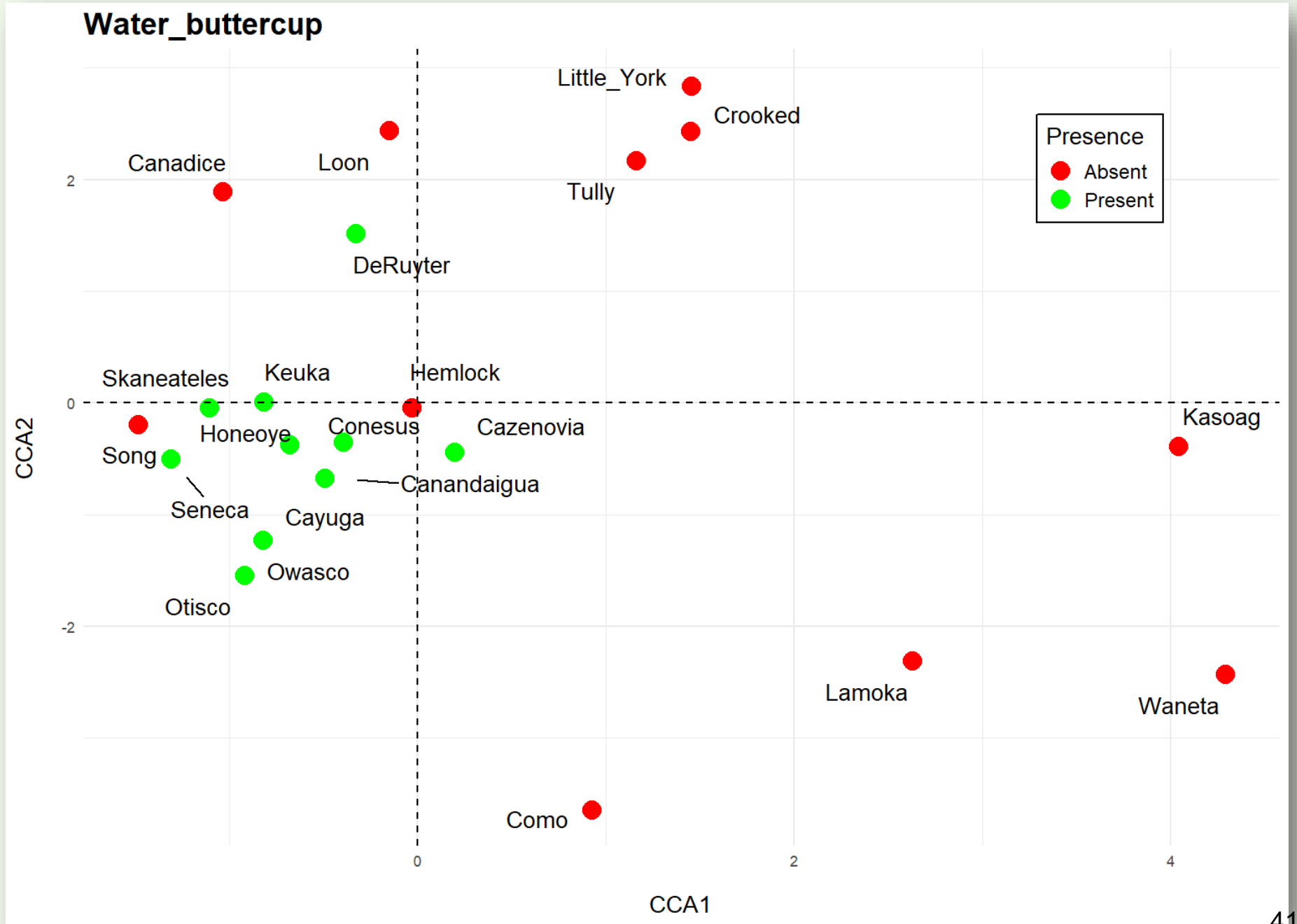
Gerald Carr



Occurrence of water buttercup was negatively associated with true color



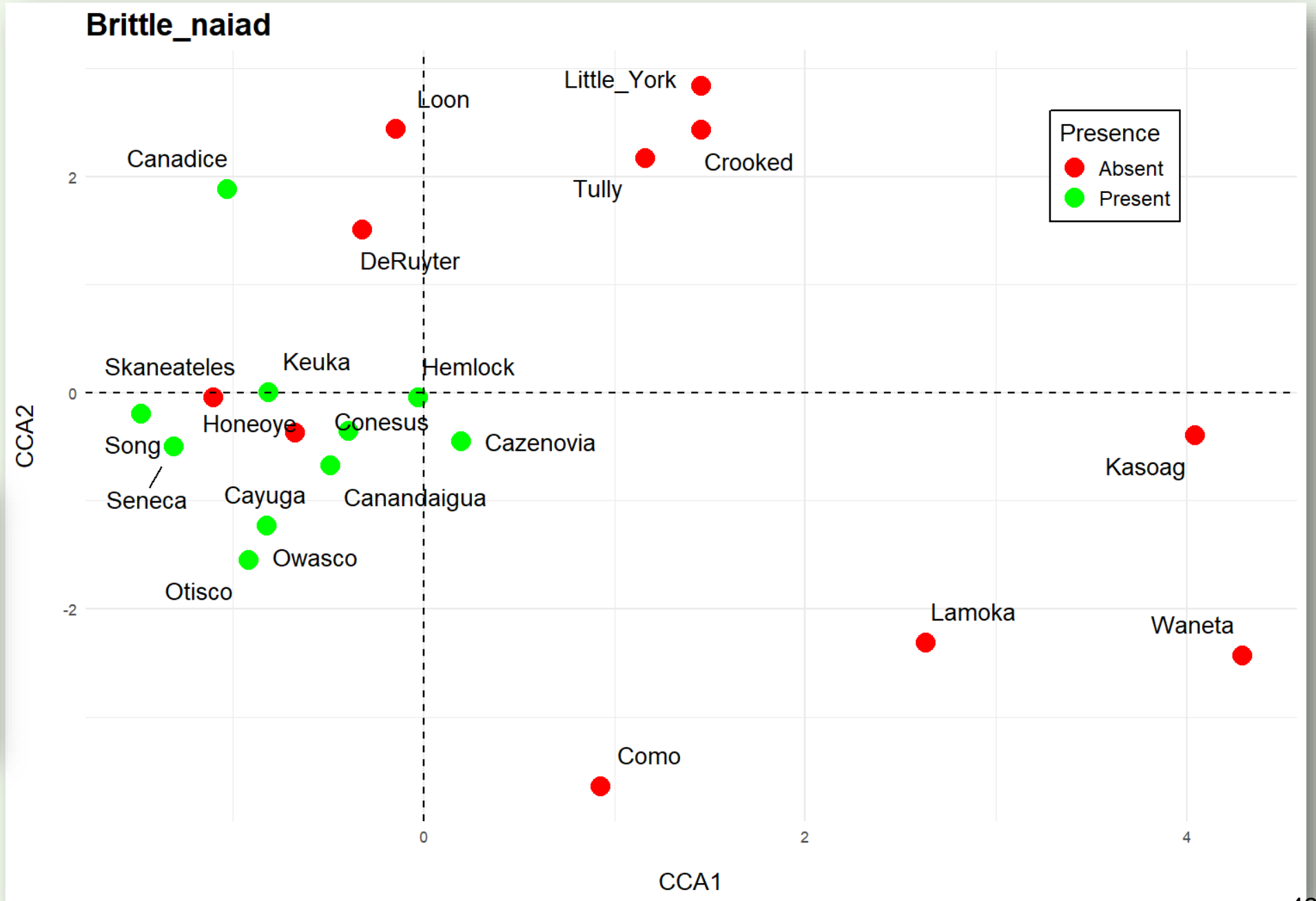
Doug McGrady



Occurrence of brittle naiad (an AIS) was negatively associated with true color



Graves Lowell



2025 field season

- Refine methodology to quantify macrophytes in boat launch areas
- Continue exploring effects of macrophyte removal on encounter rates
- Identify goals and questions for macrophyte survey team based on results of this field season and other program needs
- Continue evaluating data and programs, including terrestrial programs



Acknowledgements

The CSLAP / macrophyte project was funded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell University, with funding from the NYS Environmental Protection fund, in support of NY's Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act.

Josh Neff, Emmy Rando, Jet Meyer, and Noah Blocher collected macrophyte data used for rake style evaluation (FL PRISM funded).



Cayuga County Planning Department

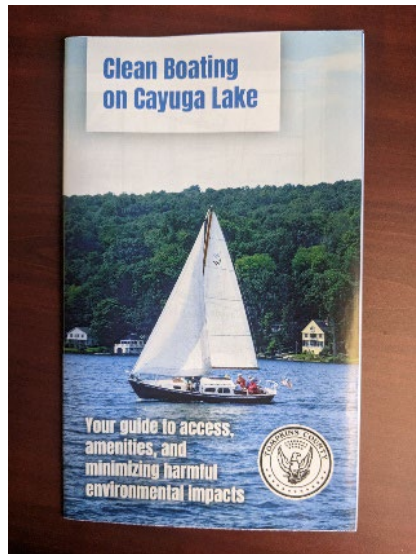
- Most work funded by FLOWPA.
- Presentation on invasive species at the June 6, 2024 WQMA meeting as part of NYSISAW.
- Educational blog posts, newsletter articles and articles in the newspaper.
- Provided invasive species education at Conservation Field Days.
- O&M of CD3 at Emerson Park.





Cayuga County Planning Department

- Reprinted copies of Cayuga Lake Clean Boating map
- Received three invasive species signs for Finger Lakes boat launches from the FL-PRISM.
- Assisting the OLWMC in request to the FL-PRISM for a boot brush station for the Fillmore Nature Preserve.



Seneca County Soil & Water
Conservation District

2024 AQUATIC VEGETATION
CONTROL PROGRAM

MECHANICAL HARVESTING

CAYUGA LAKE:

➔ No Mechanical Harvesting in
Cayuga Lake due to suspected
Hydrilla in harvesting area.

CANAL:

- ➔ -July to late August
-93 tons of aquatic plants removed
-Majority Eel Grass w/ some Milfoil
-Total expenses = \$35,511

Overall, weed densities were light
compared to past years.

WATER CHESTNUT

CAYUGA LAKE:

3 SWCD staff hand pulled water chestnut
in Cayuga Lake removing approx. 200 lbs.





Department of
Environmental
Conservation

NYS DEC R7 AIS Strike Team

2024 Field Season Summary

Macrophyte Monitoring

R7 Strike team covered:

- **7,156** monitoring points
 - 6,230 points on Cayuga Lake
- **3,053** acres
- **8** Counties
 - Cayuga, Seneca, Tompkins, Cortland, Chenango, Onondaga, Tioga, Oswego
- Assisted USACE in a multi agency monitoring event on Cayuga Lake with FLPRISM, USFWS, and NYS DEC.

2024 Region 7 AIS Strike Team



Hydrilla Management

- Cayuga Lake - South Aurora
 - 127.5 Acres
- Cayuga Lake - Sheldrake
 - 2.3 Acres
- Cayuga Lake - Ladoga Bay/
Lansing Harbor, Myers Park
 - 5,000 sq ft
- Spencer Pond and Little Nanticoke Creek (Tioga County)
 - 32.6 Acres – Spencer Pond



2024–2026 NYS DEC Proposed Fluridone Treatment Areas
Cayuga Lake, Aurora, NY

Little Creek (0.2 acre)	South Deep Add Treatment Area (3.3 acres)
Southern Shallow 2 (2.7 acres)	South Deep Treatment Area (31.4 acres)
Long Point Boat Launch (0.9 acres)	Southern Shallow 1 (89.0 acres)

Other Things!

- Assisted with the removal of over **5,000 lbs.** of water chestnut from Montezuma wildlife refuge, Seneca River, and Cayuga Lake Inlet
- Assisted SLELO and R7 Fisheries Staff with Fanwort removal at Black Creek in Mexico, NY. (**3,600 sq ft**)

Mechanical Harvesting of Water Chestnut on the Seneca River



Photo credit: Emily Timkey, NYSDEC, NYSWRI

Manual removal of fanwort Black Creek Dam in Mexico NY.



51
Photo credit: Brittney Rogers, SLELO/TNC

Thank You

Emily Timkey-Benzinger

(She/her)

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Region 7

NYS Water Resource Institute at Cornell University

Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

Invasive Species Coordination Section

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

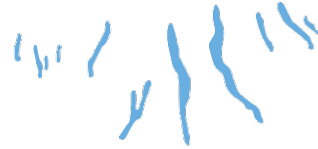
Office: (607) 753- 3095x 258 | Emily.Timkey@dec.ny.gov





HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

FINGER LAKES
INSTITUTE




Finger Lakes Water Chestnut Working Group

11/13/2024





Today's Agenda

- **Setting the stage**
 - **Roundtable sharing from partners**
 - **Discussion and brainstorming:**
 - + Regional goals
 - + Possible strategies
 - + Group structure
 - **Define our network:**
 - + Name relevant organizations, citizen groups, potential new partners, regional resources
 - **Next steps**
- 

Setting the Stage

FL WATER CHESTNUT WORKING GROUP—This working group will report to the FL PRISM while also helping to inform and direct water chestnut-related activities by the FL PRISM and other regional partners. The group will guide conversations, identify issues, implement strategies, engage the community, and inform decision-making to support the conservation goals of the region.

MEETING FORMAT— These meetings will include roundtable sharing or reporting as well as drafting / iterating / editing components, helping to identify regional points of interest. Outcomes of each meeting include actionable tasks that help create progress towards the working group's larger goals and mission.

**► OUR DISCUSSION TODAY WILL HELP ORGANIZE AND
SHAPE A NEW WATER CHESTNUT WORKING GROUP! ◀**



Roundtable Sharing

PROMPTS

(Please limit your sharing to 2- 3 minutes to allow for many contributions.)

Areas of concern
(Where?)

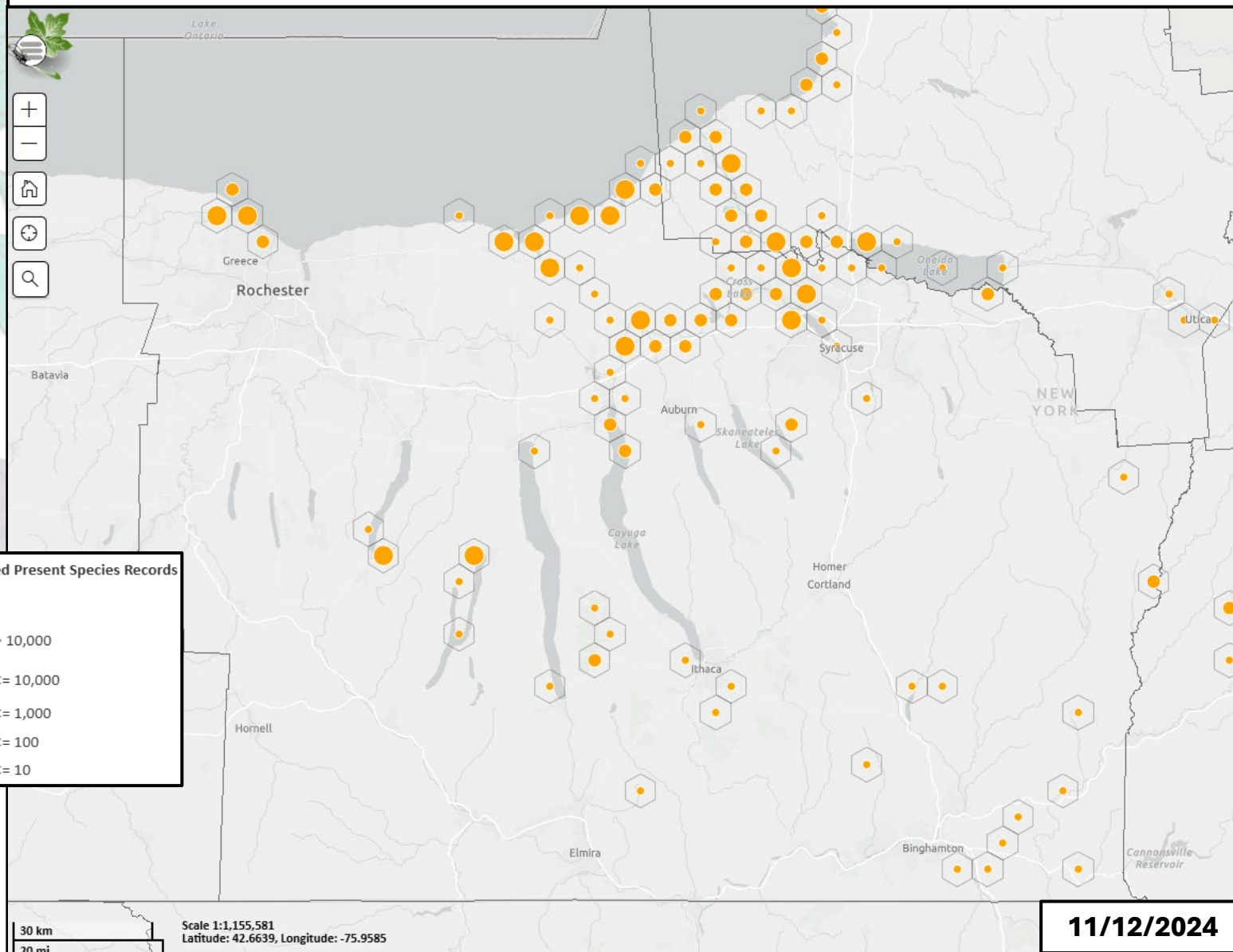
What is the work that you do?
(i.e., surveys, hand pulls, harvesting)

How are you able to execute the work?
(i.e., funding sources, partnerships, etc.)

What are your goals?
(Why does this group interest you?)



DISTRIBUTION OF WATER CHESTNUT (*Trapa natans*) IN FL PRISM



Discussion and Brainstorming

GOALS	STRATEGIES	STRUCTURE
<p>EXAMPLE 1</p> <p>Assess sites of infestation and prioritize management</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Update regional maps (surveyed areas, known infestations, new populations, etc.)</p> <p>2</p> <p>Generate more participation and data contribution on iMapInvasives</p> <p>2a</p> <p>Host iMap <i>Water Chestnut Action Site</i> trainings for partner organizations, *professionals, volunteers, public</p> <p>3</p> <p>In addition to iMap, create digital share point for updated data and other resources (SOPs, research, etc.)</p>	<p>Co-chairs?</p> <p>Sub-committees? e.g., education / outreach, funding, field surveys, permitting / logistics, etc.</p> <p>Monthly or quarterly meetings?</p>

Note-taking

GOALS

- Eradication vs. containment vs. control
- Concern with shift of focus away from WC
- Reestablish WC as a priority species at a statewide level
- Toolbox – standardize monitoring, surveys, management efforts, management activities
- Education of active entities – registry of stakeholders?
- Determine economic impact regionally/statewide – tourism, relocation, quality of life measures
- SUNY Brockport extensive surveying
- Promote iMap -
- Initiate/facilitate collaboration
- Support research efforts – NYISRI, SLU
 - Also – restoration; pre/post action surveys