

## Adirondack Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

NYS DEC, Ray Brook, 10am-12pm

Participants: Hilary Smith and Tyler Smith (APIPP), Meg Modley (LCBP), Pat and Tom Willis (Rainbow Lake Association), Dan Kelting (AWI), Sue Smith (Lewis Creek Association), Ed Snizek (APA), Emily Debolt (LGA), Dan Levy (DEC), Mark Malchoff (LCSG)

### 1. Announcements:

- The next joint terrestrial and aquatic committee meeting will be on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the APA conference room in Ray Brook from 9:30AM – 2:30PM. We will discuss the revision of the ANS management plan and development of a terrestrial invasive species plan. Both plans will be combined into a comprehensive invasive species management plan for the Adirondacks.
- NYS Outdoor Writers Annual Conference (OWA): The OWA will hold their annual conference in Lake Placid on October 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Outdoor writers from across New York State will be present. APIPP will have a display on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and be on-hand to discuss ways the writers can integrate invasive species information in their work.
- Thank you letters: APIPP, LCBP, and the LGA sent thank-you letters to Paul Smith's College, and the Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council, Fisheries Federation, and Lake Association. The purpose of the letters is to thank these organizations for developing a spread prevention program for the Spiny Waterflea on Great Sacandaga this summer.
- Lake George / Lake Champlain PBS AIS documentary: Mountain Lake PBS is exploring opportunities to produce a 50 minute documentary on AIS in the Lake George/Lake Champlain region. The developers are hoping to complete the project by 2010. The cost of the project is approximately \$50,000 and the developers are looking for underwriting support. Meg suggested that they could be eligible for the Lake Champlain education and outreach grant. Dan Levy reported that the DEC has created a "spotlight on invasives" for the DEC TV. Dan will see if this is something we could integrate into the PBS documentary. The committee felt that this is a valuable project and is willing to follow its progress and look for funding.
- Others:
  - NALMS (North American Lake Management Society) is meeting in CT on October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Tyler Smith, Meg Modley, and Emily Debolt will be attending.
  - ANS TASK FORCE Meeting 11/4 in Silver Spring, MD.
  - NEANS (Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel) meeting on 11/9 – 11/10 in Salem, MA.
  - Lake George: The Lake George Watershed Coalition is holding a forum on stream buffers and watershed protection on October 13th. There will be a round table with other lake and water organizations at the end of the meeting where participants can ask questions.
  - October 15<sup>th</sup> is the North Country Storm Water Trade Show and Conference.
  - November 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, invasive species PRISM In-service at Cornell University.
  - Lake Champlain: The local implementation grant RFP's will be released in October (see: <http://www.lcbp.org/grants.htm>).
  - The LCBP ANS subcommittee met in September in Grand Isle, VT and discussed the Spiny Waterflea risk assessment among other items. Steve Sanford will organize a meeting between DEC and the Canal Corporation to discuss management options for

- AIS in the Champlain Canal.
- Water Chestnut funding in New York State for next year has yet to be secured. The funding level is typically \$140,000 for every two years. The harvesting operation has had great progress over the years but progress would be severely setback if harvesting stops.
- The LCBP boat launch stewardship program will finish their season at the end of September. A report will be out in the next few months.
- Vermont passed an ANS control bill in May. See: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/DOCS/2010/ACTS/ACT046.PDF>

Updates:

- *90 Miler stewardship*: APIPP was pleased to participate in the 90 Miler' Canoe Classic again this year. The 90 Miler is an annual canoe race that starts in Old Forge and travels through both uninfected and infected waters until finishing in Lake Flower in Saranac Lake. APIPP helped sponsor the event again this year and showcased a one page ad in the Race Guide highlighting AIS spread prevention steps to take prior to and during the race. Tyler had a display table during registration and coordinated inspection stations with the Raquette Lake Shoreowners Association and the Blue Mountain Lake Association at two portages between infected and uninfected waters. Feedback from the racers was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of our spread prevention efforts.
- *Hadlock Pond*: Hadlock Pond is a relatively small, privately owned waterbody in the south eastern corner of the Adirondack Park. The lake association has been using a mechanical weed harvester for 10 years in accordance with an APA permit to control nuisance aquatic vegetation. They recently applied to renew the permit and Ed went to check the plant community they intended to manage. Ed found EWM heavily infesting at least 60% of the water body. Due to the danger of increased fragmentation, the APA pulled the permit and required a professional plant survey. Hadlock Pond has had to contend with several challenges over the years. A year ago their dam went out and they had to set up a special fund to pay for the dam. Now, the EWM problem is getting out of control and they recently had a public meeting to discuss setting up a separate tax district to manage the AIS. Hadlock also has the first known occurrence of Brittle naiad (*Najas minor*) within the park's boundaries as well as Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). Tyler has been working with the lake association to develop spread prevention and outreach plans.
- *Fulton Chain Survey*: Dan Kelting reported on his progress conducting an aquatic plant survey of the Fulton Chain. His team surveyed between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> lakes this year and only found Eurasian milfoil patches in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Variable-leaf milfoil was well-established throughout the chain of lakes. Visibility conditions were excellent and they feel confident that most of the littoral zone was covered. Both patches of EWM were recorded using GPS and subsequently hand-harvested.
- *Champlain Frogbit Project*: Sue Smith gave a report on her accomplishments this year removing European frog-bit from Town Farm Bay on Lake Champlain. This bay has been identified by the State Natural Resources Agency as an ecological priority. The Lewis Creek Association and the LCBP helped fund Sue, 2 full-time pullers and 4 part-time pullers to harvest frog-bit from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>. The volume of plants pulled per day dramatically increased as the season progressed. In total, they removed 7 tons of frog-bit. Sue is looking for funding to continue work next year.
- *Great Sacandaga Lake fishing tournaments*: There are two large fishing tournaments on the Great Sacandaga Lake in September and there is a risk that the anglers could inadvertently spread Spiny Waterflea to other water bodies. NY DEC is taking the lead on tournament

outreach before and after the tournament. The anglers will receive information before they reach the tournament, at several public speaking events during, and at tournament finish. The tournament organizers implemented a rule that all bilge needs to be drained prior to leaving the race.

- *Funding Opportunities:* Last month Hilary presented several funding sources that could be used to fund a regional watershed stewardship program in the Park. Unfortunately APIPP and partners could not pull together a proposal in time for the DOS (Department of State) funding. Also, the USFWS ANS funds might be difficult for APIPP to receive next year because it may be absorbed by the Great Lakes Restoration Program available to the state.
- Hilary reported on a meeting she had with Senator Schumer's staff. Senator Schumer has addressed a variety of invasive species issues throughout the state for several years. Hilary met with his staff in September and presented a few federal wish list priorities for invasive species spread prevention. Hopefully, Schumer will help move invasive species legislation and funding priorities through Congress. David Higby (TNC Federal policy coordinator) will be coordinating with Schumer's office on securing funds to implement the Champlain Canal barrier feasibility study.

#### Discussion

- *Providing invasive species management guidance to citizens and resource managers (Dan Levy):* Dan has been working on terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant issues for 7 years and feels like he is losing ground. He often receives specific questions from the public on how to manage infestations and on when/where groups of volunteers can best be utilized on Forest Preserve and sometimes he is unsure of the answers. There has been a lot of work done already all over the country but little of that work is captured because plant managers usually do not publish their data. His suggestion is to create a central location to compile case studies with management details pertaining to specific projects. That way, someone will know how much it would cost to manage a particular infestation. For example; what kind of resources do you need to manage a 100 m<sup>2</sup> Phragmites infestation? The committee discussed how a project like this could be completed and it seemed perfect for a graduate thesis or student project. Several of the committee members agreed to help Dan think of ways this could be implemented.
- *Timeline for ANS Management Plan revision:* Hilary suggested that we bring the terrestrial committee in on the discussion to combine the ANS plan with a new PRISM/all taxa management plan. Dan and Mark agreed to help and start thinking about how the plans can be updated.
- *Preliminary scoping for 2010 IS conference:* The aquatic committee felt that a 2010 Invasive Species conference hosted by Paul Smith's College is a worthwhile project to spend time on and will present it at APIPP's fall meeting. If PRISM partners agree, then planning will continue throughout the winter.

#### Additional Action Item:

- Send link to NYS Invasive Species Task Force Report:  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife\\_pdf/istfreport1105.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/istfreport1105.pdf)

#### Next Meeting:

Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>