Draft Capital/Mohawk PRISM Minutes
October 9, 2009
Schodack Island State Park

Attendance:

Tray Biasiolli	OPRHP
Nola DalGallo	OPRHP
Kennoth Carnes	NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets
Neil Gifford	Albany Pine Bush Preserve Comm.
Diane Goetke	NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets
Garrett Grilli	OPRHP
Casey Holzworth	OPRHP
Erik Kiviat	Hudsonia Ltd.
Melissa Miller	OPRHP – Schodack Island State Park
Nancy Pierson	OPRHP
George Robinson	OPRHP
Peg Sauer	American Wildlife Conservation Foundation
Leslie Surprenant	DEC – OISC

The Theme of the Meeting was Restoration

- Casey Holzworth presented background on Schodack Island. The island has been used by the US Army Corps of Engineers to deposit dredge spoils from the Hudson River. Most of the native vegetation has been replaced by invasives.
- George Robinson from SUNY Albany presented "Ecological restoration—the missing link in invasive species management?"
- Erik Kiviat from Hudsonia presented "Variable flatsedge, common reed, and other environmental weeds: What should our priorities be?" Erik has done ecological research on cerulean warblers on the Island.

Current Invasive Species Issues/Needs

Leslie Surprenant – A budget of $3 million is available for invasive species activities this year. $1 million is available for aquatic invasive control grants. Three Great Lakes PRISMs are cooperating in a proposal under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. DEC anticipates moving forward early in 2010 with distribution of IFBs for PRISMs which currently do not have contracts with the state for funding of $50,000 - $100,000 annually.

Ken Carnes – The focus of Ag and Markets is currently on agricultural crops. Current problems include late blight in potatoes and tomatoes, leek moth in garlic and onions in Plattsburgh, western bean cutworm, and rust in mums.

Neil Gifford – The Pine Bush Preserve Commission has been conducting follow-up on locust sprouts and oriental bittersweet after fire management. They are also cooperating on restoration of parts of the Albany County landfill to increase functionality and biodiversity.

Diane Goetke – After completion of control measures for emerald ash borer in Cattaraugus County, the State has established a quarantine of two counties prohibiting removal of ash-related articles. It is anticipated that the contract for the development of a Comprehensive Management Plan for invasive species in the State will be approved early in the next calendar year at a level of $100,000 for one year.

Nancy Pierson – OPRHP is cooperating in emerald ash borer control by installing traps in state parks. It is also participating in "Don't Move Firewood" educational efforts.

Casey Holzworth – Casey is one of five OPRHP biologists cooperating in Asian longhorned beetle surveys.

Erik Kiviat – Erik reported the discovery of western mosquito fern in Putnam County.

Peg Sauer – Peg showed the group a trailer of the invasive forest insect DVD under production by the American Wildlife Conservation Foundation. Completion is anticipated by the end of the calendar year.