

WNY PRISM
General Meeting - November 24, 2008

Tifft Nature Preserve

GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

Helen Domske - NY Sea Grant, Dave Spiering – Tifft Nature Preserve, Mike Goehle - USFWS, Rick LeFeber - Cattaraugus LDC, Meg Janis - NYS OPRHP, Kit Pitkin - NYS OPRHP, Evyn Costanzo - NYS OPRHP, Patrick Marren - NYSDEC, Bob Smith - NYS Nursery and Landscape Association, Sarah Piecuch - NYSDOT, Alisa Vilonen - NYSDOT, Steve Mead - Buffalo Zoological Gardens, Walt Nelson - CCE, Chuck O’Neill CCE, - Paul Fuhrmann – Acting Coordinator

Summary

- P. Fuhrmann provided overview of status and activities since last general meeting. WNY PRISM Steering Committee is intact with the exception of Sarah Piecuch DOT region 5 who is transferring to Rochester area office. Alisa Vilonen who is a LA with DOT Region 5 will take Sarah’s place. Sarah will remain active with IS issues and on the WNY member’s list. Many thanks to Sarah for her insights and contributions to WNY IS and restoration projects.
- 2008 activities included collaboration with agencies and private sector project sponsors on technical information and resource sharing.
- Mile a Minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) confirmed occurrence on private property in Olean NY near confluence of Olean Creek and Allegany River. A good example of Early Detection/Rapid Response, NYSDEC forester confirmed and initiated removal of plant and seed pods. Naja Kraus DEC Lands and Forests and Melissa Bravo Pa. Dept. of Agriculture provided background info and fact sheets. This is a species that could severely impact habitats in WNY. WNY PRISM to offer assistance to DEC Region 9 for survey and mapping riparian areas and rail ROW in vicinity. Volunteers will be needed. Stay tuned.
- Black Swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*, *Cynanchum nigrum*, *Vincetoxicum nigrum*) AKA Dog Strangler Vine is expanding westward in Williamsville NY. Unconfirmed occurrence in managed landscape near Transit Road NYS Rt. 78 and Sheridan Drive NYS RT. 324. Ed McGowan NTSOPRHP/ Lower Hudson PRISM noted this species along NYS Thruway east of this location in 2008. Another serious threat to habitat in WNY
- WNY PRISM is expected to be involved in collaboration and informational resource sharing with regional watershed and urban stream projects with IS components.
- Mission Statement that had received most approval from members was circulated for final comment and approval. All attendees indicated this version was appropriate to WNY PRISM. Without any objection or modification, This will be adopted for WNY PRISM. **“Proactively identify, evaluate, and address invasive**

species priorities in western New York using a coordinated partnership of local professionals, organizations, and private citizens to improve, restore, and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources.”

- General solicitation for eligible host organization or PRISM Coordinator was revisited. Helen D. noted that this as well as Mission Statement ‘has been introduced and deliberated in the last year’. It was agreed by attendees that it’s time to move forward, finalize draft solicitation and have eligible entity actively engage NYS Program re: options and selection process procedures.
- Sarah Piecuch noted that DOT has an invasive species program which documents occurrence, location and control/management actions along transportation corridors.
- Rick LeFeber noted contract mechanism (reimbursement for expenses) and Coordinator funding possibly subject to renegotiation would be a constraint for many interested parties.
- P. Fuhrmann noted administrative consistency is important in this position as well as operational capacity to build, implement and grow a regional program. Guidance and resource network available from NYS program office but regional program and priorities will be designed by regional, interested parties. Presently there is no direct contract mechanism in place to apply for Coordinator funding. It is critical to maintain organizational capacity in WNY within the Steering Committee to address eminent invasives issues and continue regional collaboration. For most of us invasive issues are part of our daily workload or professional interests. With funding support WNY PRISM will expand operational capacity, project activities and general effectiveness.

Walter Nelson - Extension Resource Educator, Invasive Species Cornell University under Chuck O’Neill. Cooperative Extension attended meeting and outlined his position with CCE IS program. Walter’s extensive experience includes entomology and terrestrial plants in addition to public outreach and engagement. Regional PRISMs can access Walter through CCE’s evolving IS program for support in a variety of areas:

- Educational outreach assistance
- Technical materials and presentation support
- NYS State Mapping Database
- Internet clearinghouse
- IS voucher specimen protocol

Chuck O’Neill - Charles R. O’Neill, Jr., Sr. Extension Specialist Cornell University/New York Sea Grant, Director, NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse, Director, National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse Coordinator, Cornell Invasive Species Program.

Chuck is responsible for CCE program as funded through NYS PRISM. He noted:

- Web based clearinghouse is dedicated to NYS IS information with national partners <http://www.imapinvasives.org/index.html>

- Outreach products are being developed based on funding but will include archived TNC PowerPoints, species profiles, control and management methodologies and techniques, etc.
- Regional PRISMS will have access to Clearinghouse site for postings and regional information
- Continued participation and progress in Regional PRISMs is critical to maintain momentum re: funding process, steering committee, draft solicitation for coordinator, draft work plan, RFP process or NYS PRISM invitation for proposals
- Current funding mechanism is based on reimbursement for expenses which can be a constraint for potential applicants or host organizations
- Chuck outlined a current application for funding that would involve outreach and training for 4H program members to learn IS survey and mapping in 'environmentally sensitive and manageable areas'. WNY PRISM was asked to support this application by providing a level of collaborative services and sites in Erie and possibly other WNY counties. Program would involve Identification, career skills, NYFA voucher specimen collection and submittals, IMAP data and all agreed this was worthwhile and without exception offered support.

Mike Goehle - Region 5 Aquatic Nuisance Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service organized and managed the August Water Chestnut pull on Tonawanda Creek in Ellicott Creek Park. (see attached project report)762

Patrick Marren - Senior Forester NYSDEC Region 9 noted the present documented occurrence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in proximity of WNY counties. EAB handouts were provided to the attendees. This could be the next serious insect IS to impact WNY which would severely affect **all** species of ash (*Fraxinus*). Public Meeting on NYS regs. re: "Don't Move Firewood" will be held on Jan. 20th at Reinstein Woods. Comments are being solicited from public and stakeholders. WNY PRISM will have an informational table top exhibit. WNY PRISM members are encouraged to submit comments on EAB NYS regulations.

Note: Many wetland complexes in this area are dominated by green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*). Less common in WNY wetlands but culturally significant black ash (*F. nigra*) would also be imperiled. White ash (*F. americana*) common in natural and managed landscapes or urban forests. Aside from cutting as a preventative measure, access related damage to aquatic habitats and potential disturbance could provide sites for colonization of a variety of invasive plant species.

Action Items

- Steering Committee to revisit WNY Coordinator Solicitation and criteria for Host Organization or Individual. Comments from general WNY PRISM members should be sent to acting coordinator within 30 days circulation of final/revised minutes.
- Develop an approach for collaboration with DEC re: Mile a Minute mapping in spring/summer 2009.
- WNY PRISM to assist Mike Goehle USFWS in organizing next water chestnut pull on Tonawanda Creek. NOTE: Severe late December flood event on this

creek could move water chestnut downstream and into other backwater areas. Community outreach for early detection would greatly assist in rapid response, control and monitoring.

- Pursue relationship with CCE for outreach and coordination of resources and efforts within the statewide program.
- Adopt Mission Statement