

## Lower Hudson PRISM

### Partners Meeting

March 20th – 10:00 am-3:30 pm

Scenic Hudson River Center. Beacon, NY

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#### DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Report 2018 goal progress
2. Plan PRISM calendar with partner events
3. Discuss Best Management Practices among partners
4. Hear updates from projects in the region

#### WELCOME AND SEASONAL OUTREACH PREPARATION

Linda Rohleder, LH PRISM coordinator, began the meeting with a call to action for an increase in outreach and tabling events this season. Partners were also reminded of the outreach materials that can be provided, such as the Dutchess County CCE Invasive Species Panels and trifold display boards. Samples of additional outreach materials were distributed as well. Linda also announced that there is a Lower Hudson PRISM tablecloth available for partners interested in representing the PRISM at an event. Additionally, partners were asked to let PRISM staff know of any events that may be appropriate for the PRISM to be represented at and a staff member may be able to attend.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The seasonal AmeriCorps Terrestrial Invasives Strike Force crew has been filled for the 2018 season and will begin in April.
- The Boat Steward positions for the Aquatic Invasives Watercraft Inspection Stewards Program, as well as the Lead Boat Steward (an AmeriCorps service position) have been mostly filled. The Kingston launch still needs a steward.

#### LHPRISM ACTION PLAN: PROGRESS REPORTS

Linda asked partners to share what progress has been made thus far in the goals of the Action Plan.

##### ***Goal 1: Capacity Building***

- New PRISM website has gone live ([www.lhprism.org](http://www.lhprism.org)). Species profiles and Partner Portal content are still being updated.

- Nicole Wooten of Hudson Highlands Land Trust is working on outreach materials for Oak Wilt and reaching out to news organizations.
- The New York – New Jersey Trail Conference is in the process of piloting a Detection Dog Conservation Program. Detection dogs are new to the conservation field, but projects have been done successfully in Washington and Canada, and have been shown finding rare, endangered, and invasive species. The Pilot Program will only cover one species. Active fundraising through online donations is occurring to purchase Willow, a fully trained black Labrador. We hope that this will increase the visibility of both the PRISM and the Trail Conference.
- It looks like USDA is planning for the continuation of the Mile-A-Minute Program Intern. The intern will be hosted again by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

**Goal 2: Conservation Targets**

- The ISF Crew will be completing a project to protect rare and endangered species this season.

**Goal 3: Strategic Management**

- The BlockBuster survey program will be refined for this season. It will be partially combined with the existing ISF program, which will enable data to be compiled using a similar structure. This will allow previous BlockBuster surveyors to contribute at a lower level (Standard or Intermediate Invasive Plant Surveyor) if they found identifying 27 species too difficult or allow other volunteers to grow into the BlockBuster program. Training will be more consistent this season, as only one PRISM staff member will be teaching.
- The working group for terrestrial species categorization has finalized classifications into the 5 tiers. Some species were moved into different tiers (Established to Widespread, Emerging to Established). The updated classifications can be seen here: <https://lhprism.org/document/lower-hudson-species-categorization>
- The PRISM also aims to prepare categorizations for both aquatic invasive species and forest pests. If you would be interested in being a part of either working group, please email Linda at [lrohleder@nynjtc.org](mailto:lrohleder@nynjtc.org).
- An Integrated Pest Management training of 20 people occurred at the Wallkill Valley Land Trust. The site was highly disturbed and primarily focused on Oriental bittersweet. The WVLT will also be applying for grant funding to conduct a rare plant survey.
- Taro Ietaka of Westchester County Parks and Bronx River Parkway Conservancy have partnered for the continuing study of *Corydalis incisa*. The site has been prepped and removals will occur in May.

- Mianus River Gorge’s Hemlock Woolly Adelgid chemical treatment will continue this season, as well as the introduction of the biocontrol developed by Cornell University, a silverfly. A grant was also received for invasive species removal in the old growth forest as well as native tree plantings.

***Goal 4: Education and Outreach***

- Lauri Taylor of Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District displayed the PRISM invasive species panels at the Putnam County Annual Seedling Sale.
- Jenn Lerner of Putnam County CCE will hold a training during Invasive Species Awareness Week and will display the PRISM invasive species panels.
- Dutchess County CCE will hold two ornamental native alternative workshops and will be tabling at Taste of New York, which has proven successful in the past.
- Spotted Lanternfly materials have been created for tabling and outreach.

***Goal 5: Mitigate Pathways***

- Matt Aiello-Lammens will update the PRISM invasion pathways document and support with current research.
- The Trail Conference will be participating the Spotted Lanternfly trap monitoring program and will be recruiting and training volunteers. The Trail Conference will use previous data of tree-of-heaven locations to set traps. State-wide trap locations have been set; they are located primarily north but some are still within the PRISM.

***Goal 6: Information Exchange***

- Trail Conference volunteers have been assisting with research for invasive species profiles on the new website. If partners have interns or volunteers who would like to contribute email [invasives@nynjtc.org](mailto:invasives@nynjtc.org).
- Trail Conference volunteers have also been researching Best Management Practices and compiling information.
- The LHPRISM Facebook page is a key element in information exchange. If you have any posts you would like shared please email them to [invasives@nynjtc.org](mailto:invasives@nynjtc.org).

**PARTNER PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Jenn Lerner, Putnam County CCE: Invasive Forest Pests**

- Thirty new forest pest cover sheets have been created which include basic I.D., life cycle, current range, how to report and who to report to. Hosted by New York State IPM website.
- Species of note: Winter moth- caterpillar defoliator, removes resources vital for photosynthesis. The winter moth has had widespread impacts in coastal areas of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Long Island. There is a successful biocontrol out west; the tachinid fly is host-specific but has not been tested in the east.
- Contact Jenn Lerner for full presentation

**Eric Stone, LHPRISM: PRISM Partner Survey**

- A working group was held to draft a partner survey to understand the efficacy of the PRISM, including meetings, goals, and utilization
- A partner survey was sent out and received 19 responses, and results showed that most partners feel that education is the most important PRISM activity (88%)
- The greatest need among partners is certified pesticide applicators and volunteers for removals.
- Partners maintain that overall, meeting locations are convenient or somewhat convenient.
- Additionally, partners generally feel that the PRISM is effective or somewhat effective.

**Krista Munger, PRLC: Defining the ISPZ**

- The ISPZ working group's goal was to define the LHPRISM's idea of what an Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) is in effort to start the nomination process of areas that could be ISPZs. The goal is to be able to allocate funding toward special areas designated as ISPZs and possibly use them as advertising for the PRISM.
- Another goal of ISPZ designation would be to showcase these areas for education and conservation efforts, making it possible for uninvaded areas to stay that way through funding for management, or for research areas as native ecosystems.
- The final definition with goals was put up for a vote.
- The motion passed with 29 for and 1 abstention and is defined below with the accompanying goals:

- "An ISPZ is an area adhering to LH PRISM criteria that is under active management to prevent invasive species from harming its intact native components".
  1. The site to be designated is predominantly characterized by native systems (e.g., habitat, communities, species abundance or composition – with some flexibility on the particular measure to be used so that it is appropriate to the site)
  2. The site must be facing some threat from invasion
  3. The site must have a written management plan including assessment of conservation targets and threats; including long-term strategies for monitoring, control, mitigation, EDRR and introduction pathway/invasibility management AND there are dedicated staff or volunteer structure to effect management plan.
  4. There is no size requirement, but the area must be sufficiently defined that it is ecologically defensible\* (i.e., the boundaries are clear and practicable in terms of preventing invasion across them and the area is neither too small nor too large to preclude effective prevention)
  5. The area can form part of a larger, single ownership parcel or can comprise multiple parcels with multiple owners; however, in all cases, there must be a single entity with competent authority and sufficient capacity to take responsibility for and implement the appropriate prevention plan.
  6. The feasibility of prevention is evaluated in the context of other threats (deer, development, etc.)
  7. There must be conservation value to protect based upon not only conservation priority habitats, communities or species or satisfying other LH PRISM criteria as a conservation target area, but also on the site's value as a largely uninvaded site for outreach, education or research.
  8. Sites can be terrestrial or aquatic, and not only invasive plants, but other invasive taxa can be included, as appropriate, when considering site designation (with the prevention plan stating which groups of taxa, e.g., plants, forest pests, aquatics are its focus).

- Proposal process still needs to be discussed and defining “predominantly native” will be necessary.

### **Spring/Summer Calendar Planning**

Partners shared their events planned for the season. These will be posted on the Events calendar on the PRISM website. Please let us know if you would like an event posted.

### **Best Management Practices Working Group**

Linda opened the floor for a round table discussion between partners on effective management options for invasive species. Below is the information shared by partners.

- Black Jetbead: Easy to pull but will re-root
- Japanese Angelica: Cutting is ineffective for large infestations but possible for small infestations. Basal bark and herbicide is recommended. Also, pruning flowers is good to prevent spread
- Glossy buckthorn: Cutting and grazing will cause re-sprouts, as of now, constant cutting throughout the year is the only non-chemical recommendation
- Japanese Knotweed: Carrie Sears discussed the success of using goats for Japanese Knotweed control
- Goutweed: Herbicide effective but must be manually removed near wetlands.
- Lesser celandine: Covering with black plastic for solarization, digging and sifting soil may be a possibility; Mianus River Gorge will test this season. The Trail Conference will see the efficacy of manual removals from last season.
- Italian Arum: Has been treated with herbicide but efficacy has yet to be determined. Manual is typical, but bulbs grow very deep.

Linda also partner’s opinions on the worth of Tier 4 (Widespread) removals: have partners given up?

- Partners either are continuing with removals or weighing options depending on time and the importance of the project, especially in the case for high value areas. Some partners advocate for doing native plantings as well. It was also mentioned that some plants, such as Water Chestnut, should still be treated as an EDRR situation if a population is less established.

### **Meredith Taylor, NYC DEP: Hydrilla Control in the Croton Reservoir**

- In partnership with the DEC's work on hydrilla removal in the Croton River, the NYC DEP has initiated a removal plan of their own after hydrilla was also found in the Croton Reservoir, the source of NYC's drinking water.
- Hydrilla is a federally listed noxious weed with several methods for reproduction, including overwintering buds (turions), rooted tubers in sediment which can remain dormant for 7-10 years, and through vegetative reproduction (fragmentation).
- The infestation spans across approximately 20 of 34 miles of shoreline and density is increasing. An expert review was conducted of the project by the Water Research Foundation, as well as several literature reviews from projects all around the country. Both found that fluoridone is safe and effective and the report has been posted online. Fluoridone is well-known but as a pilot program in NYC, it remains controversial. For public agreement it is necessary to test the efficacy for the reservoir specifically.
- The pilot project will cover two coves less than 10 acres with lowest possible concentration of fluoridone. If effective, 5-year RFP will be issued for full treatment. The project differs from the DEC in its use of Sonar H4C granular pellet, by which fluoridone is released in a small target area.

### **Linda Rohleder, LHPRISM: NYS IS Database, iMapInvasives Improvements**

- Linda presented the improvements of the iMapInvasives app. The app makes field reporting much simpler. It is requested that PRISM partners submit observations to the Lower Hudson PRISM General Project so that Linda can easily confirm those observations

### **Linda Rohleder, LHPRISM: Floristic Quality Assessment Index**

- Linda presented on using the Floristic Quality Assessment Index as an option for a method for getting a quick estimate of biodiversity or quality of habitat.
- The FQAI measurement attempts to synthesize species richness, or number of species that are in a certain plot, with the impact that disturbance has on a community structure.
- It is an index, so somewhat high-level, weighted based on knowing what plants are there.

- Utilizes the CSR model: community is structured whether it is in a stressful environment (low resource), whether there is high amount of disturbance (natural or otherwise), or competition between species. Species between levels are indicative of a stable community.
- For more information contact Linda at [Irohleder@nynjtc.org](mailto:Irohleder@nynjtc.org)

## **CONCLUSION**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 25th at Orange County Land Trust with a hike in Black Rock Forest in the morning.

Notes written by: Lindsay Yoder

## ATTENDEES:

Anne Osborn	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Bart Caterino	NYC DEP
Becca Ligrani	Putnam County CCE
Budd Veverka	Mianus River Gorge
Carrie Sears	The Invasives Project Pound Ridge
Christopher Gow	Village of Tuxedo Park
Clara Holmes	NYC Parks
Daniel Atha	NYBG
Dan Schniedewind	
David Decker	Audubon NY
Diane Alden	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Emily Mayer	SOLitude Lake Management
Emily Phillips	Manitoga
Eric Roberts	Orange County Land Trust
Eric Stone	New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Erik Kiviat	Hudsonia
Glenn Sungela	
George Profous	NYSDEC Region 3
Hillary Siener	Teatown Reservation
Jen Lerner	CCE Putnam County
Jill Eisenstein	Sharpe Reservation
John Mickelson	Winnakee Land Trust
Jonathan Rosenthal	Ecological Research Institute
Joyce Tomaselli	CCE Dutchess County
Julie Ruben	3 Arrows Co-Op
Julia Palmer	Wallkill Valley Land Trust
Karalyn Lamb	The Native Plant Center
Katie Terlizzi	Black Rock Forest
Keri Van Camp	Vassar College
Krista Munger	Pound Ridge Land Conservancy
Kyvan Elep	Scenic Hudson
Lauri Taylor	Putnam County Soil and Water
Linda Rohleder	Lower Hudson PRISM Coordinator
Lindsay Yoder	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Mary Rice	Friends of the Great Swamp
Matt Aiello-Lammens	Pace University
Meredith Taylor	NYC DEP
Mike Fargione	Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies
Mike Young	New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Nate Nardi-Cyrus	Scenic Hudson
Nicole Wooten	Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Taro Ietaka	Westchester County Parks
Tim Wenskus	NYSDEC Region 2
Tom Lewis	Trillium Invasive Species Management