

**Lower Hudson PRISM  
Partner Meeting**

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**December 5, 2019 – 10:00 am-3:30 pm**

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Rockland Co, 10 Patriot Hills Dr., Stony Point

**DESIRED OUTCOMES**

1. Get to know each other better
2. Learn about accomplishments of 2019 contracted projects
3. Approve 2020 action plan
4. Organize winter working groups

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

**9:30** *Arrivals ...coffee and tea will be available*

**10:00** Welcome & Quick Announcements – Linda Rohleder

- Chris Hendershot no longer at Rye Nature Centre, unsure if they want to continue partnership
- Winnakee Land Trust partnership in suspension until they hire a new land steward
- Lauri Davis (Putnam Soil and Water) canceled her partnership due to changes in work priorities
- Vote at today's meeting for new dates for Invasives Species Awareness Week [\*our feedback was given to NYSDEC and new dates have subsequently been announced]
- Working Groups interest sheet handout to be filled out; does not commit you to be in group
- Nicole White (Hydrilla Treatments in Croton River) is looking for volunteers for Suffern World Outdoor show tabling – Feb 27<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> – free admission. [Nicole.White@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Nicole.White@dec.ny.gov)
- Partner year end reports are due by January 10th to be incorporated into PRISM annual report, get metrics (emailed) to Linda
- Eagle Fest is coming up February 8<sup>th</sup>, outreach opportunity. Contact Teatown soon if you want table
- Upcoming PRISM meetings: Jan 30 at Sharp Reservation in Fishkill **REQUIRED RSVP**. March 17<sup>th</sup> at Pace University in Pleasantville
- ISF Crew Work Day applications to request ISF crew work to remove invasive species and new Volunteer Work Day applications to request support running a volunteer work day will be sent out soon. Volunteer work day application requests limited to PRISM partners, ISF Crew Work Days applications open to for anyone. Deadline January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Contact Linda to schedule a Conservation Dog Demo as part of a group event to enhance outreach. Needs an indoor room, a parking lot nearby, and a natural area nearby.

**10:10** Meeting each other (Entire group)

**10:15** **Partner Spotlight:** PLAN It WILD – Amanda Bayley

- Nature based landscape designers; biodiversity in urban landscapes; new American Landscapes; holistic approach
- Healthier yards – less lawn, more native landscapes. Beautiful and functional
- Landscape consultations, customized recommendations (focal areas, native and invasives present)
- Habitat assessments – ecological communities, habitat connectivity, dominant plants, etc.
- They sell native plants & easy to assemble garden kits
- Also conduct active outreach
- Changing the definition of garden beauty – not just flowers, what they attract too
- Removal of invasive species, invasives management
- Landscapes with wide ecological web, ecosystem services

### 10:30 eDNA Surveys for Early Detection of IS in Waterbodies – Michael Tessler

- Environmental DNA – all shed DNA, can pick up signature from live and degrading DNA
- Helps with early detection
- qPCR – amplifies a certain section of DNA, see if there's a signal
  - Independent procedure for each species
- Metabarcoding – amplifies multiple sections, can get more than one species/procedure
- Croton River and *Hydrilla*
  - General to specific primers tested
  - Found other species as well, including Eurasian milfoil
- Terrestrial plants can be sampled too
- Lower Hudson PRISM
  - Niche models
  - Found: water chestnut, milfoil, naiads, coontail, pondweeds, elodea, water celery, duckweeds
  - Physical survey vs DNA; didn't always match up, but complimented each other
  - Can do many sites in one day
- Things to be aware of
  - Contamination – field and lab
  - Low genetic variability – big problem for plants
  - Low quality database – few species, misidentified species
  - Bad sequence
- How to interpret
  - Presence/absence
  - Abundance
  - Proximity
  - Location (upstream)

### 11:00 Aquatic Invasive Species Program – Lindsay Yoder, Teatown Lake Reservation

- 2015-2018 Primarily focus on education and outreach. WISP, volunteer survey training
- 2019 First year of full 5-member AISF crew, shift focus to EDRR and monitoring via surveys, management of water chestnut
- 1739 boaters engaged, 1080 inspections, 89% agree to inspection (Croton, Esopus, Peekskill)
- Concerns
  - Low inspection acceptance rate compared to state-wide numbers (Croton lowest at 68%)
  - Only 50% boaters take preventative measures, 45% cite lack of equipment as the reason
  - Less than 2% hitchhiker detection rate. Issue with detection, or actually a low hitchhiker rate?
- Doubled our inspection rate from 2018 to 2019
- Issues
  - Skewed data (due to unasked questions)
  - Inconsistency with data collection
  - Miscommunication with partners
- Goals
  - Pare down launch sites (Peekskill, Esopus, Haverstraw Bay Marina, Croton Echo)
  - More detailed training
  - More rigorous QA/QC early in season
- Education and outreach
  - Focusing on high volume, targeted events (Eagle Fest, Marine Science Fest, Suffern World Outdoor Show)
  - Fewer events attended but more people reached compared to 2018

- Volunteer surveying
  - More trainings, more people, 4 volunteers
  - Focus on Interns, Lake Associations
- AISF crew
  - Is a Trail Conference Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Crew
  - Crew members experience monitoring, management, and get professional development
  - Use point intercept method for monitoring, with rake tosses
  - Analysis was done in ArcMap, shows density, invasive/native composition, species composition
- Goals
  - More surveys and management
  - Facilitate meetings, trainings, workshops, and field work with professionals
  - Volunteer with DEC Fisheries
  - Continue Bloody Red Shrimp Sampling
  - Develop vulnerability index to rank water bodies
  - Conduct Community-level analysis of water bodies
  - More Citizen science
  - Support development of watershed management plans
  - Social media

**11:30 Lower Hudson PRISM Summit**– Jessica Schuler, The New York Botanical Garden

- 473 registrants, mainly NY but also NJ and CT
- A good percentage stayed for afternoon speakers
- Doug Tallamy, Carrie Sears, Randy Westbrook key speakers in morning
  - Randy wants to do day long trainings in NY
- Video on YouTube next week
- Next LHPRISM Summit will be in two years

**12:00 Lunch & Networking...** *bring your own lunch– microwave & refrigerator will be available*

- *Organization of Working Groups – fill out and hand in interest work sheet*

**1:00 Approval of 2020 Work Plan** (*Partners Vote*)

- Linda read a list of minor changes made since the draft was distributed
- Motion to approve as corrected - Joyce Tomaselli, seconded
- All voted For, nobody voted against or abstained
- Will be posted and sent out in the next few days

**1:30 Monitoring and Managing Ash Workshops** – Jonathan Rosenthal & Radka Wildova, Ecological Research Institute

- Framework for constructive actions for each stage of invasion
- Incorporates path to long term conservation based on finding lingering ash
- Partially resistant lingering native ash (<1%) provide reason for hope
  - Found for all 3 north eastern ash spp.
- Tasks for each stage of EAB infestation
- Lingering ash search zones established in EAB decimated areas
- Using Anecdota.org. They've been very helpful.
- Projects
  - MaMA Ash/EAB Surveys, MaMA Monitoring Plots Network, MaMA Lingering Ash Search
- Push to get out message to No longer do large scale proactive cutting of healthy ash. Still encountering foresters and departments promoting cutting under the mistaken belief that it slows EAB spread (it actually does the opposite).

- Conducted 9 workshops, 157 participants from 46 institutions. Many were representatives for their organization and will likely function as trainers for many others.
- Set up 13 monitoring plots in LH PRISM
- Showed a Georeferenced Catskills/Lower Hudson MaMA Action map
- With pre- and post- surveys showed that Knowledge improved about EAB and about lingering ash through workshops
- Also another finding from the MaMA effort: Don't assume it's EAB killing trees. Have found many in our region that likely were killed by other factors.

## **2:00 Invasive Species Management and Prevention Internships – Keri VanCamp, Vassar College**

- Keri directs the Vassar Ecological Preserve, a 415 acre field station
- Highly fragmented, areas with heavy infestations, some with light infestations
- Prior Conservation action planning had laid out
  - What do we want to conserve
  - What are the barriers to conservation
  - How do we overcome the barriers
- Internship Goals
  - Provide a Holistic learning experience
  - Implement invasive species action plan
  - Monitor response to management
  - Prevent new invasives through targeted outreach and education
- Conducted outreach to Vassar College Grounds Department, to general public, and municipalities
- Stated the Hudson Valley Invasive Species Phenology Project (on iNaturalist)
- Targeted Sapphireberry, Linden viburnum, chocolate vine, castor aralia, jetbead, and fortune's spindle for management
- Removal priorities
  - Containable
  - Protect Vulnerable/rare species
  - Clean invasives from Canopy gaps
  - Edges
  - Priority communities
  - Along trails
- Developed a Best management practices calendar
- Tried Goats as management, great for engagement
- Participated in Monitoring and Managing Ash (MaMA)
- Participated in Spotted lanternfly monitoring

## **2:30 Asian Tick, Jumping Worm and Spotted Lanternfly Education - Joyce Tomaselli, CCE Dutchess**

- Help survey Hudson Valley Region for key new forest pests
  - Spotted lanternfly, tree of heaven, Asian longhorn ticks, jumping worm
- Workshop - May
  - Pest history, identification, harm life cycle, and iMap mapping
- Distributed posters – July
- Dutchess County Fair - August
- Worm Hunt – October
- CCEDC Dutchess Dirt promoted awareness and action – May to September

## **3:00 Treatment of Hardy Kiwi in Bedford, and Treatment of Sticky Sage in Dover – Tom Lewis, Trillium Invasive Species Management**

- Sticky sage

- over 100 acre infestation, one of the only few infestations in NY and the whole country
- Under treatment since 2013
- Glyphosate foliar spray very effective
- 88 acres treated in 2019
- Hardy kiwi
  - Edible fruit, vine
  - Under treatment since 2016
  - 41 infestations in 2019 on 20 parcels. Up by 1 infestation from 2018
  - Bird dispersed? Small mammal dispersed
  - 7 sites now have no more hardy kiwi
  - Conducted surveys, volunteer events, treated at all sites where permission exists,
  - Concern: fruiting at one site where permission has not been secured

### 3:30 Wrap up & Adjourn

Our Next Meeting is Thursday, January 30 at The Sharpe Reservation, Fishkill

#### Attendees:

Ann Barry	CCE Rockland
Joyce Tomaselli	CCE Dutchess
Tom Lewis	Trillium Invasive Species Management
Thom Algaier	NYS DAM
Rebecca Policello	Rockefeller State Park Preserve
Claire Davis	Locust Grove
Patricia Butter	volunteer
Bart Caterino	NYC DEP
Christopher Gow	Village of Tuxedo Park
Nicole Wooten	Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Tim Stanley	The Fresh Air Fund / Sharpe Reservation
Lindsay Yoder	Teatown Lake Reservation
Budd Veverka	Mianus River Gorge
John Butler	Van Cortlandt Park Alliance
Bob DeTorto	Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy
Andrew Middlebrook	North Salem Open Land Foundation
Dominic Schmitt	volunteer
Walt Daniels	
Tim Wenskus	NYS DEC Region 2
Dan Smith	Scenic Hudson
David Decker	Audubon NY
Michael Tessler	
John Zeiger	Westchester Land Trust
Ryan Goolic	New York – New Jersey Trail Conference
Emma Antolos	NYS DEC
Steven Pearson	NYS DEC
Danielle Begley-Miller	Teatown Lake Reservation
Bryan Ellis	NYS DEC
Diane Alden	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Cara Gentry	Wallkill Valley Land Trust
Chris McArdle	New York Restoration Project
Amanda Bayley	Plan it Wild

Anne Osborn	Catfish Pond Association
Matt Smetana	Green Chimneys – Model Forest
Glenn Sungela	
Julie Ruben	3 Arrows Cooperative
Tait Johansson	Bedford Audubon
Keri VanCamp	Vassar College
Matthew Aiello-Lammens	Pace University
Jessica Schuler	The New York Botanical Garden
Taro Ietaka	Westchester County Parks
John Mickelson	
Kristen Ossmann	CCE Rockland
Jonathan Rosenthal	Ecological Research Institute
Brent Boscarino	New York – New Jersey Trail Conference
Linda Rohleder	New York – New Jersey Trail Conference