

**Lower Hudson PRISM  
Partner Meeting**

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**January 30, 2020 – 10:00 am-3:30 pm**

The Fresh Air Fund – Sharpe Reservation – 436 Van Wyck Lake Road, Fishkill

**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

- The Lower Hudson PRISM Request for Proposals is open. Deadline to submit projects for funding (<\$20,000) is February 24<sup>th</sup>
- ISF Crew removal projects have been scored and chosen by Ryan Goolic and Linda Rohleder
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week occurs at two times this year. Legislative awareness occurs from February 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, with New York's Environmental Protection Fund Advocacy Day falling on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The PRISM is fully funded by the EPF, and partners are encouraged to speak to their local legislators and advocate for the work being done in the PRISM. The NISAW focusing on local events will be from May 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>
- New York's ISAW will be from 7<sup>th</sup>-June 13<sup>th</sup>
- Partners were encouraged to get involved in the Partner 575 Compliance Volunteer project. More information email Ryan at [rgoolic@nynjtc.org](mailto:rgoolic@nynjtc.org)
- Teatown's EagleFest will be on February 8<sup>th</sup>, with PRISM being represented by several partners
- The Hudson Valley Stewardship Roundtable meeting is on February 28<sup>th</sup> in New Paltz. Registration can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/slpdfjd>
- Linda will be offering another invasives ID and management training for professionals in April. DEC pesticide credits will be offered.

**Partner Updates**

- Jessica Schuler has moved from NYBG to Westchester County Parks
- Don Gabel, along with Daniel Atha, will be the representative for NYBG
- Gennaro Ferraro is the new representative for Rye Nature Center
- **New Partners:** Northeast Aquatic Research, represented by Alejandro Reyes, Town of New Castle Conservation board, represented by Missy Fabel, and Terrapin Tree Care, represented by Lauren Coats

10:10 Meeting each other - Entire group

10:15 **Partner Spotlights:**

**Cara Gentry – Wallkill Valley Land Trust**

WVLT comprised of 40 conservation easements and 3000 acres of land, including the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, farmland, and nature sanctuaries. They offer and participate in several programs, including the

DEC amphibian road crossing project, connecting student researchers from SUNY New Paltz with conservation easements, walk and talks, and their invasive species project on Joppenbergh Mountain.

Joppenbergh Mountain is 118 acres in Rosendale, NY, and hosts hiking and mountain biking trails, with the main trailhead located off a parking lot, increasing connectivity for invasives. There are several ecologically significant areas, including box turtle habitat and cave microclimates that host bats. Habitat designations include Calcareous talus slope woodland, limestone woodland, upland forest, and floodplain hardwood forest. Limestone woodland imperiled or vulnerable habitat for NYS.

There are two primary invasive exclusion areas on the mountain. Treatment of Oriental bittersweet, Japanese barberry, wineberry, multiflora rose, and garlic mustard began in 2017 with the help of a grant that developed the program and volunteer handbook. To date, there have been 18 trainings and worktrips, and future objectives include monthly worktrips, exclusion zone monitoring, extending the project to other priority areas, and hosting an intern to map and survey invasives on the property.

### **David Decker – Audubon NY – Constitution Marsh**

Constitution Marsh is ~270 acres owned by NY State Parks but under the care of Audubon. The marsh has endured a heavy human footprint, including a railroad and attempted farmland conversion. It hosts diverse vegetation communities necessary for breeding grassland birds, but are threatened by invasive species, primarily *Phragmites australis*. Management of phragmites has been inconsistent in the past, but the project was fully pursued beginning in 2012. The total area of phragmites is 6.8 acres, which the marsh treats via a unique non-herbicide method. A water-permeable geotextile has been successfully used to reduce patch size. In three experimental patches, the phragmites was fully controlled by 2013.

The marsh is under heavy tidal influence from the Hudson River, so the textile is kept in place by using hooks to grasp rhizomes beneath the sediment. It takes ~2 years for the patches to be reduced to bare mud, which can then be reseeded by adjacent native vegetation. Thus far, patches have not been able to spread past control area, and after 3-4 years, the treatment area looks very similar to native control areas.

### **Nicole Wooten – Hudson Highlands Land Trust**

Based in Garrison, NY but encompassing the NY Highlands, the HHLT pursues land protection of easements as well as owned preserve areas. They also participate in the NY Highlands Network, aid in municipal planning, and provide outreach and education. They manage 600 acres of land, with 450 acres being active parks. Their efforts against invasive species include outreach to landowners of easements and active management on preserved land. This year, HHLT partnered with the Fresh Air Fund to host an intern program for invasive species management at Granite Mountain Preserve (350 acres). Target species included yellow archangel, black swallowwort, and *Viburnum dilatatum*

#### **11:00 Invasives Strike Force crew projects for 2020 – Ryan Goolic**

- 36 projects were submitted and selected for the 2020 season. For more information email Ryan at [rgoolic@nynjtc.org](mailto:rgoolic@nynjtc.org)

#### **11:30 A Non-Profit Native Plant Nursery – Brian Bergen**

- Brian spoke to partners about an idea to form a non-profit nursery to grow native plants for restoration post-invasive species management. Partners offered advice and concerns, as well as suggested plants that would be appropriate. There is a growing need for reliable native seed sources and plants for restoration. If you have any information regarding possible partners for this endeavor and/or what species you would like for restoration purposes, email Brian at [bbergen67@yahoo.com](mailto:bbergen67@yahoo.com)

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

**1:00** **New PRISM Logo discussion** – Linda Rohleder

- Four other PRISMs as well as the DEC have adopted new logos that focus on invasive species management messaging. The Lower Hudson PRISM has been asked to consider adopting this style of logo for consistent branding across the state. Primary concerns from partners with this change is the absence of ‘Partnership’ from the new messaging, which many feel is a vital part of the group. Others thought the new logo better represents what the PRISM does to the public, as “Invasive Species Management” is spelled out (not an acronym). Bob del Torto moved to table the discussion until after the 2020 season to get feedback from other PRISMs regarding public perception of their new logos. Tom Lewis seconded the motion. There were 23 votes to postpone decision and 2 abstentions.

**1:15** **Working Group Reports**

- Invasive Species Prevention Zone WG: Budd Veverka reported that the group has moved forward with Priority Conservation Area designation as opposed to ISPZ due to regional differences. Application forms were passed to partners for feedback and the draft can be obtained from Budd.
- Native Plant WG: Linda reported that there have been sign ups, but no action. The WG needs leadership.
- Species Categorization WG: Linda reported Terrestrial group is meeting every other week via conference call.
- Youth Engagement WG: Brent Boscarino reported that priorities include BioBlitz organization, effectively engaging youth to inspire the next generation, more public/family friendly events. Regarding the statewide IS curriculum, the WG has discussed how we can get educators comfortable teaching the curriculum, possibility of teacher toolkit to increase accessibility or offering teaching.
- ISAW WG: There has been one call on statewide initiatives.
- Pollinator Pathways WG: Few sign-ups for Pollinator Pathways workshops despite iNaturalist workshop successes. Group is working on creation of boilerplate presentations for municipalities.
- Website WG: Linda reported that a meeting will be set for February
- Social Media WG: Arden Blumenthal reported that a more focused schedule via a theme rubric has been developed. Brent will send out calls monthly with event posting requests, so please submit any events you would like shared. PRISM staff will be posting on a rotational basis.
- AIS WG: Lindsay reported that a meeting will be set for March

**1:30** **Delaware and Raritan Canal Three-Year Monoecious Hydrilla Control Program: 2019 Perception Angler Survey** – Emily Mayer

*Hydrilla verticillate* was found in the D&R Canal, a potable drinking water source, in 2016 during a hydro-raking operation. 18 of 60 miles of the canal were found to be infested with hydrilla and treatment began. For her graduate thesis, Emily planned and developed a perception survey to see how the control project was viewed by anglers on the canal. Using Survey123, anglers were approached at 16 sites along the canal from June-October. 53 anglers were approached with 12 declining from the survey. Several questions were asked about the D&R function, fishing habits, and hydrilla. Despite extensive signage along the canal regarding hydrilla, treatment, and spread prevention measures, 51% still said they did not know what hydrilla was, and 82% felt that invasive species were an issue in the canal. Major recommendations include increased education and outreach, better signage, and cleaning stations.

**2:00** **“NY State Invasive Species Curriculum”** - Emma Antolos

A statewide IS curriculum has been part of the invasive species education and outreach strategic plan and is a management plan objective. For development, multiple representatives (teachers) were involved. An MOU was provided to UAlbany to write a curriculum for middle and high school students, as invasive species are a fairly high-level topic. Major goals of the curriculum are to give students a better understanding of what invasives are and their impacts, connect them to iMapInvasives, hone ID skills, get students in the field and reporting their findings, improve data analysis and conclusion drawing skills, and create a generation of early detectors.

Unit summary: 10 40-minute lessons, final product is a group poster with introduction, methods, results, and conclusion. The curriculum also includes field work and optional field trip. The goal is to utilize iMap to increase awareness and combine ecology with technology, contribute data, increase early detection capacity and place-based learning

Connecting teachers to PRISMs: PRISMS can potentially provide technical assistance while schools supply volunteer network. For one example, there will be a teacher-training workshop at Sharpe Reservation in April. So far, educators love content but are hesitant with plant ID skills and need resources (PRISM contacts). Additionally, they need support with materials such as guidebooks and samples. Next steps are to build reliable toolkits and host more teacher-training workshops

### 2:30 “Play – Clean – Go” Campaign (recorded presentation) and Discussion

- PlayCleanGo is an invasive species prevention outreach campaign targeting common vectors. Several national agencies have signed on and groups in Canada and Mexico. Supplies are available for purchase. Partners were able to take a boot brush (hoof pick) and see fliers. Partners viewed a presentation, which can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_HgcLHZ7u4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_HgcLHZ7u4)

### 3:30 Wrap up & Adjourn

## OUR NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY MARCH 17 AT PACE UNIVERSITY, PLEASANTVILLE, NY

### ATTENDEES

John Tweddle	Reynolds Hills	Bob Del Torto	Bronx River Pkwy Reservation Conservancy
Josh Beese	NYNJTC	Daniel Atha	New York Botanical Garden
Rebecca Rew	Beacon Institute	Tom Stanley	Sharpe Reservation
Claire Davis	Locust Grove	Jim O'Donnell	CCE Ulster
Danielle Begley-Miller	Teatown Lake Reservation	Erik Kiviat	Hudsonia
John Zeiger	Westchester Land Trust	Bart Caterino	NYC DEP
Brent Boscarino	NYNJTC	Emily Phillips	Manitoga
Lindsay Yoder	Teatown Lake Reservation	Diane Alden	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Lauren Coats	Terrapin Tree Care	Linda Rohleder	NYNJTC
Barry Kogan	Wave Hill	Emily Mayer	SOLitude Lake Management
Thomas Schindelman	Wave Hill	David Decker	Audubon NY
Tait Johansson	Bedford Audubon	Jill Eisenstein	Friends of the Great Swamp
Carolynn Sears	The Invasives Project Pound Ridge	Nicole Wooten	Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Lindsay Charlop	LIISMA	Mary Rice	Friends of the Great Swamp
Keri Van Camp	Vassar College	Dan Smith	Scenic Hudson
Jonathan Rosenthal	Ecological Research Institute	Brian Bergen	
Glenn Sungela		Jen Adams	Randalls Island Park Alliance
Anne Osborn		Dylan Finley	NYNHP
Kyle Sanduski	Orange County Land Trust	John Marino	NYNHP
Mike Fargione	Cary Institute	Taro Ietaka	Westchester County Parks

Holly Clark	Scenic Hudson	Tom Lewis	Trillium ISM
Arden Blumenthal	NYNJTC	Matt Brincka	NYS OPRHP
Andrew Middlebrook	North Salem Open Lands Trust	Chris McArdle	New York Restoration Project
Walt Daniels		Emma Antolos	NYS DEC
Joyce Tomaselli	CCE Dutchess	Budd Veverka	Mianus River Gorge
Thom Allgaier	NYS Department of Ag and Markets		