



**INVASIVE SPECIES
MANAGEMENT**
LOWER HUDSON

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Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LH PRISM) is hosted by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and is dedicated to protecting the Lower Hudson region's biodiversity and ecosystems with a focus on controlling the harmful impacts of invasive species.

Stewardship Newsletter | May



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Become an Invasives Strike Force Surveyor!



Our Invasives Strike Force (ISF) Survey season is about to launch and we have our species survey list finalized! This year's survey will not only feature priority invasive species but also include identifying and reporting select native species as a reminder of what we're trying to protect and to celebrate the biodiversity discoveries to be found in our region.

This year's ISF Surveyor volunteers will be identifying the following invasive species: Linden viburnum, Siebold's viburnum, Japanese spiraea, Bell/Morrow/Tartarian honeysuckle, and beech leaf disease (BLD).

Surveyors will also learn to identify and report several native viburnums (blackhaw, arrowwood, mapleleaf, and highbush cranberry viburnums) **as well as a rotating native species** each month. During June, that plant will be false Solomon's seal, or Solomon's plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*).

As a fully trained volunteer, you will monitor assigned trail sections convenient to your home and schedule!

While we have a solid number of volunteers already signed up, we still need your help! Without a determined community effort, we can't combat the threat that invasive species pose to our treasured natural areas. **Please join us today!***

*(If you are a returning surveyor, register for the trainings + fill out this [surveyor interest questionnaire](#) to rejoin our efforts in 2024.)

Note: Register for one "Part 1: Species ID" in-person OR webinar.

Invasives Strike Force Surveyor Workshop (in-person) - Part 1: Species ID

Wed., May 15, 07:00-8:15 pm
Trail Conference HQ

[Register](#)

Invasives Strike Force Surveyor Workshop (webinar) - Part 1: Species ID

Mon., May 20, 07:00-8:15 pm
Virtual event

[Register](#)

Invasives Strike Force Surveyor Training Workshop- Part 2: Survey Protocols

Wed., May 29, 07:00-8:15 pm
Virtual event

[Register](#)



April Lower Hudson PRISM Partner Meeting at Croton Point Park



You say grassland, we say restoration! During April's Lower Hudson PRISM partner meeting, we reviewed our upcoming season, had breakout

working group sessions, and explored an active restoration project at Croton Point Park in Westchester County.

During the first half of the meeting, the Forest Pests and Pathogens Working Group discussed updates to beech leaf disease and hemlock woolly adelgid reporting and prioritization, the Education and Outreach Working Group touched on the challenges (and successes!) of communicating invasive species issues to the public, and the Native Species Protection Working Group collected information on regionally rare species/habitats, and potential candidates for Priority Conservation Areas.

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to a thoughtful tour of the 100-acre Croton Point Grassland Restoration led by Taro Ietaka of Westchester County Parks. This multi-year project aims to turn this capped landfill originally overtaken by mugwort and other invasives, into a native grassland favorable to native wildlife.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to Westchester County Parks for hosting!

Congratulations to the Lower Hudson PRISM Subcontract Recipients!



Congratulations to all of our PRISM partners and applicants who received funding to carry out special invasive species projects in 2024 through Lower Hudson PRISM subcontract awards.

Black Rock Forest will focus on recovery, restoration, and revegetation of forest gaps caused by the spread of pests and pathogens and subsequent

tree mortality. There will be particular emphasis on improving forest pollinator habitat and engaging volunteers and an undergraduate intern in invasive species management activities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Dutchess County will be focusing on developing and delivering invasive species training focused on municipalities and volunteer groups in Dutchess County. There will be a particular emphasis on education and mapping of several key invasive pests and pathogens including spotted lanternfly, hemlock woolly adelgid and beech leaf disease.

A collaborative group that includes **Vassar College, Sharpe Reservation/Fresh Air Fund, Fordham University's Calder Center and Hudson Highlands Land Trust** will be running invasive species management internships that support community members underrepresented in the environmental field.

Hudsonia will be researching and compiling scientific literature and practitioner experience to develop small-scale, non-chemical best management practice guidelines for managing invasive plants that are of greatest concern to many landowners and property managers (public and private).

The Town of Kent was awarded funding to develop and implement a boat steward program that delivers aquatic invasive species education and outreach to boat owners and visitors to White Pond.

The Walkkill Valley Land Trust will launch a volunteer training and invasive species management program to remove water chestnut from the Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary.

As we begin our journey toward a new Lower Hudson PRISM website, we hired **Devine Design** to redesign, revamp, and refresh our current site.

The Trail Conference, as the lead organization overseeing the LH PRISM Program, couldn't be more excited to support these important projects that will help protect the lands we love.

Upcoming Events



Join the Habitat Helpers

Come help us care for the native plant landscape at the Trail Conference headquarters!

Join volunteers from the Bergen - Passaic chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey to care for the native plant habitat at the Trail Conference headquarters. We learn about native plants and care for the habitat by weeding, planting, pruning and mulching.

Sunday, May 19, 10:00 am

[Register](#)

Sunday, June 2, 10:00 am

[Register](#)

Discovering Riparian Zones | Trail & Ecology Speaker Series

Tuesday, May 21st
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Trail Conference HQ, Mahwah, NJ

Speaker: Andrew Middlebrook, [North Salem Open Land Foundation](#)

Riparian zones are the lands along the edges of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies whose soils and vegetation are shaped by the presence of water, making them different from upland, or dry, habitats.

During this presentation and guided walk, Andrew Middlebrook, Director of Land Stewardship at North Salem Open Land Foundation, will explore the abundant diversity within a riparian zone focusing on the native



plants and animals that rely on them for habitat.

[Register](#)



Storytelling and the Language of Invasive Species Virtual Workshop

Monday, June 3
1:00 - 2:00 pm
Online via Zoom

This virtual workshop will **explore the art of storytelling and how to frame invasive species' language** in a way that reduces cultural biases, racism, and exclusionary concepts. Interactive ad-lib style activities will be incorporated to engage the audience and have fun with this concept! This webinar will be catered toward professionals, but is open to anyone interested.

Hosted by: Lower Hudson, LIISMA, SLELO, & WNY PRISMs as part of NYISAW

[Register](#)

Invasive Species Removal Workday | Protecting Native Habitat

Saturday, June 8
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Rye Nature Center, Rye, NY

In the spirit of New York Invasive Species Awareness Week (NYISAW), and in collaboration with Jay Heritage Center, the Invasives Strike Force Crew will be leading a hands-on practice workshop designed to understand the importance of native species protection, through invasive species education and control.

Invasive species like black jetbead, wineberry, porcelain berry and Japanese honeysuckle will be targeted and removed by hand in several areas to protect other native species; learn how to properly identify and remove them.

[Register](#)



NYISAW is coming!

Mark your calendars - New York Invasive Species Awareness Week is coming! Lookout for a list of events from us and our partners in our June Newsletter.

[Learn more](#)



New York - New Jersey Trail Conference
600 Ramapo Valley Rd Mahwah, NJ 07430

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