



**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 | December



***In this Newsletter:***

- **Introducing the NEW Lower Hudson PRISM website!**
- **Surveyor Volunteer Season in Review**
- **Vinelopping Workshop Recap**
- **Upcoming Events**

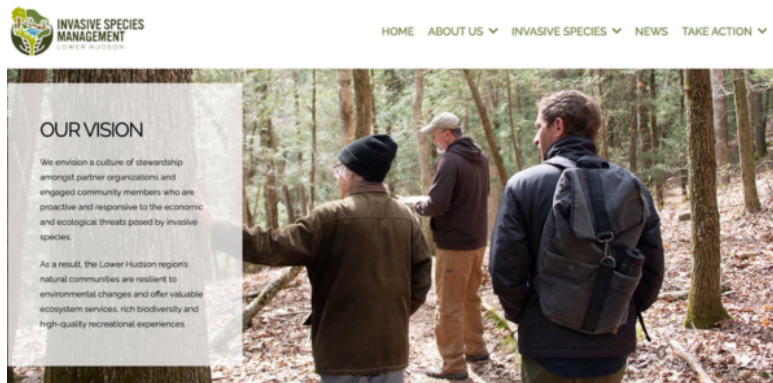
**NEW Lower Hudson PRISM Website**



The Lower Hudson PRISM team is *beyond* excited to unveil the **NEW, much-anticipated Lower Hudson PRISM website!** Our team, along with web designer, [Devine Design](#), has worked throughout much of 2024 to upgrade and improve the existing lhprism.org site.

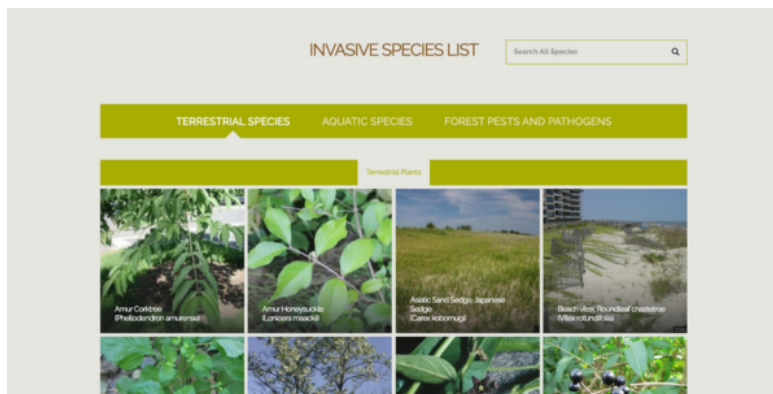
[Visit Our New Site!](#)

Easy navigation and visuals that *pop*:



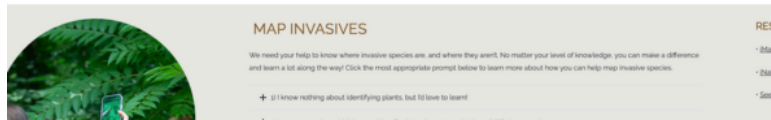
This revamped site offers better navigation, searchable and organized invasive species pages, action steps to prevent the spread of invasive species, an explanation of what makes the Lower Hudson PRISM tick, and so much more!

Searchable invasive species pages:



Clear steps **YOU** can take to make a positive impact:

## ACTION STEPS/RESOURCES



**We invite you to explore the new site tell us what you think!** Learning how to protect the land you love just got a lot more engaging...and fun!

## Surveyor Volunteer Stats | Season in Review



We recently held an end-of-season celebration for our **Surveyor Volunteers** - a group of dedicated people reporting specific invasive (and native!) species along our trail systems to help drive impactful management decisions. During this festive fête, we reviewed collected data, played ecological trivia, and shared experiences from the trails.

Below are some **highlights from the data analysis** presentation that we shared with the surveyors at the event that demonstrate the collective impact of their dedicated efforts!

- **58 surveyors completed 122 assignments** equating to 760 hours dedicated and close to 200 miles of trails surveyed in total for the year.
- This effort led to close to 14,000 individual “detected” or “not detected” points being submitted to iMapInvasives. Wow!!!
- Despite the negative impact of invasive beech leaf disease on our region’s beech stands, our survey teams reported **over 750 beech trees showing little to no symptoms**.
- Specific sections in New Jersey of Pyramid Mountain, Long Pond Ironworks, and Jenny Jump SF had several healthy beech stands.
- Specific trails in Minnewaska SP, near Lake Skannatati in Harriman SP, Highland Lakes SP and Stony Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Warwick, NY also had strong-looking beech stands.
- The **goal of the beech survey work is to find trees showing resistance to the disease** in the hopes of creating robust stock for future replanting and efforts similar to the [lingering ash program](#)
- Surveyors only found 4 reports of Japanese spiraea this year: along the Orange Heritage Trail in Goshen, the Hudson Valley Rail Trail in Highland, Sugarloaf Trail in Hudson Highlands, and along Wappinger

Creek on the opposite bank of the Cary Pines Trail in Millbrook. This is good news as Japanese spiraea is an emerging invader in the region and one we are hoping isn't popping up randomly along our region's trails!

- Nearly 5 times as many Morrow's/Tartarian/hybrid bush honeysuckles were reported than amur honeysuckles across both states.
- Just over 50 Linden and Siebold's viburnums were reported by survey volunteers in NY and NJ combined.
- 75% of surveys in NJ compared to 33% of surveys in NYS reported at least one native viburnum per trail assignment. It's always great to see a native understory shrub succeeding!

**Thank you again, surveyors**, for providing hope for future restoration work!

## VineLopping Workshop | Westchester County



Recently, the Lower Hudson PRISM team was invited to present at a "vineLopping" workshop - organized by Planting Westchester, Westchester County Parks, and the Department of Planning. This workshop was designed to drum up volunteer participation in forming "vineLopping squads" to **help manage vines along roadways, parks, and natural areas in Westchester County**. Our team focused on identifying common and emerging vine species and best management practices.

Attendees learned the steps for forming vine squads that could engage in invasive species work through the Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program, and heard from a group of expert panelists who provided advice on forming impactful community groups. The afternoon featured hands-on vineLopping techniques and practice with invasive species management.

**Interested in forming a vineLopping group?** Reach out to us at [invasives@nynjtc.org](mailto:invasives@nynjtc.org)

## Upcoming Partner Events



### CCE Westchester Certified Tree Steward Training 2025

**Tuesday, Apr 22 - Friday, May 2, 2025**

**CCE of Westchester County, Elmsford, NY**

The Tree Steward Program is a comprehensive workshop dealing with arboriculture. Through both classroom learning and outdoor exercises, the participants will learn all about tree biology, identification, pruning, planting, rigging and much more. Personal protection as well as tree protection will be emphasized.

[View details](#)

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