**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

**Mid-Winter Terrestrial Partner Roundtable**

**Zoom Meeting Notes**

**February 10, 2021 | 10:00am-11:30pm**

**Becca Bernacki – Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

* Becca Bernacki, APIPP’s Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the meeting, provided an introduction to Zoom, and reviewed the agenda.
* Becca showcased some of APIPPs 2020 highlights (shown below), and noted the details can be found in APIPP’s annual report posted on its website. <https://adkinvasives.com/data/files/Documents/APIPP-2020-Annual-Report-Reduced-Size.pdf>.
* APIPP’s staff, partners, volunteers and terrestrial early-detection and rapid-response (EDRR) team from Invasive Plant Control surveyed
	+ 38 NYSDEC campgrounds,
	+ 80 recreational access points (such as trailheads and boat launches),
	+ Sections of 33 Forest Preserve units, and
	+ 62 road corridors.
	+ Over 3,600 assessments were recorded.
* Just over 650 new terrestrial infestations were identified, bringing the total of mapped infestations to 6,019.
* APIPP managed 675 infestations of 14 species, totaling over 23 acres.
	+ APIPP documented the absence of invasives at 1,522 historically managed infestations!
	+ 74% of APIPP’s priority terrestrial invasive species infestations are currently under active management or have been successfully removed.
* The Knotweed Management Partnership treated 92 priority knotweed infestations.
* Seven Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer (AVID) plots were established at four TNC preserves.
* Eleven new infestations of emerald ash borer (EAB) were documented by partners, including the first EAB infestation identified in the Adirondack Park.
* APIPP joined forces with Lake George watershed partners to combat the threat of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).
	+ The partnership monitored more than 400 sites.
	+ The foundation was built for a remote-sensing, early-detection project.
* APIPP assisted NYSDEC’s HWA survey and control efforts on Lake George.
* With assistance from the Lake George Land Conservancy and NYSDEC, APIPP completed the first year of HWA management on Dome Island.
	+ Approximately 13% of hemlock trees present on the island (342 trees) were treated.
* Becca next reviewed APIPP’s 2021 plans and opportunities.
* Professional EDRR team
* Invasive Species Management Steward
* Native Plant Reestablishment Study
* Knotweed Management Partnership
* HWA remote sensing, survey, and control efforts
	+ HWA Citizen Scientist Hunt for HWA
* EAB survey, monitoring, and biocontrol
* Workshops, outreach and more…
* Becca then introduced and facilitated the partner discussion centering around two questions.
1. What are your top one to two terrestrial invasive species priorities for 2021?
2. Are there projects you would like to coordinate with other partners on in 2021?

**Allison Stefanelli and Ryan Nerp − Adirondack Council**

* Adirondack Council is very supportive of the invasive species work across the region. While not actively managing invasive species, the Council advocates in Albany for continued funding for invasive species prevention.

**Anita Louise Deming − Boquet River Association**

* Retired from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Volunteer on the Lake Champlain Basin Program Citizen Advisory Committee. Active in knotweed treatment.

**Barbara McIlroy − Piseco Lake**

* Noted that there are more infestations of coltsfoot. Coltsfoot outcompetes native plants that attract pollinators like the asters.

**Bob Colegrove − East Shore Schroon Lake Association**

* Passed to Ev McNeill.

**Carrianne Pershyn −Ausable River Association**.

* This is the eleventh year the Association will have a seasonal steward who will do outreach to anglers along the river. The steward is also responsible for invasive species monitoring and management. The steward pulled a lot of purple loosestrife last year. The steward also survey for knotweed. The Association would like to get involved in EAB and HWA surveys too.

**Diana Lawrence − Adirondack League Club**

* Let people know about a great book about how to do effective outreach and capture people’s attention: *Contagious: Why Things Catch On,* by Jonah Berger.

**Donna Baribeau − Adirondack Garden Club-Program Member**

* Is just learning about invasive species, and found the NYS Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species guide to be a very useful reference. It is important to keep certain plants from being sold in the state.

**Ev McNeill − East Shore Schroon Lake Association (ESSLA)**

* ESSLA is getting more engaged with terrestrial invasive species issues. Members are very concerned about emerald ash borer (EAB) and hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). They would like the state to reduce the “don’t move firewood” law restriction from 50 miles to 25 miles.
* He also noted concerns about the large number of pine trees that appear to be dying.
* ESSLA is also working on a new invasive species guide for its members.

**Ellen Collins − Blue Mountain Lake Knotweed Coordinator**

* Expressed appreciation for APIPP taking on the knotweed project from Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District. Noted that purple loosestrife and wild parsnip are both problems, but understands why they are not APIPP control priorities.
* Ellen noted that, with respect to the comment about coltsfoot, she “weed whacks” it before it goes to seed.

**Ezra Schwartzberg − Adirondack Research**

* Adirondack Research is working on the Lake George HWA project and will be working with APIPP on a native species reestablishment study this summer.
* Adirondack Research is working with NASA on a hemlock-density modeling project that will be applied across the state to show where hemlock stands are the densest. To help test the model, he would love to know where people find dense stands of hemlock. If you want to volunteer to report on hemlock stand density, contact Ezra.

**Frank R Williams − SLELO PRISM Volunteer; NYS DEC WAVE Volunteer**

* Lives in Utica and does citizen-science monitoring, mostly for HWA, for SLELO. He goes in the field in the summer to find hemlock stands and then he goes back in the winter with SLELO volunteers to survey for HWA.

**Jamie Parslow − Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD)**

* The District is also involved in knotweed management. Jamie is training to become a pesticide applicator. HCSWCD did a lot of knotweed treatment in 2020 as well as treatment of wild parsnip.
* HCSWCD is doing a native seed project with Department of Transportation. They collected seed this past year, and then they sprayed it along roadsides to encourage native plant revegetation. They hope to expand this project in 2021.

**Kathy Welch and Bill Widrig − Chateaugay Lake Association**

* .Mostly focused on aquatic invasive species, but also interested in HWA and other issues. They own a property with hemlock on it and are willing to monitor it on a regular basis for HWA.
* Carrie Marschner, from the NYS Hemlock Initiative noted there is a “My Hemlock” program landowners can get involved in. The Hemlock Initiative would love to have them survey their property.
* APIPP staff also noted there will be a new HWA citizen-science initiative launching in late February.

**Thom Allgaier − NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets**

* Two big issues for the Department are Asian longhorn beetle and spotted lantern fly (SLF). There is a lot of attention devoted to SLF around the state since the major infestation was found last year.
* A new SLF citizen-science effort is launching, where volunteers can sign-up to survey a specific grid for SLF. The hope is that people will survey the grid in more than one season to look for SLF in the various stages of its lifecycle.
* Thom provided a bit of an introduction to SLF. There are 70 host plants for SLF, but one concern for Adirondack forests is maple trees. The biggest agricultural concerns are in NYS are apples, grapes and hops.

**Kathy Regan − Adirondack Park Agency**

* Kathy is the supervisor of the Resources and Scientific Services division of the Agency. She talked about requirements for getting a permit for HWA treatment if chemicals are being applied near a wetland. There is a new general permit that will cover forest insects. Once you apply for the permit and are approved, you only need to report annually.

**Carrie Marschner − NYS Hemlock Initiative**

* Carrie provided more information on the “My Hemlock” initiative. She is happy to sign people up for the program and is available to provide training.

**Lorretta MaNamee− NYS Department of Transportation (DOT)**

* DOT tries to prevent the spread of invasive species. DOT is working on new mowing regimes to help prevent the spread of certain invasives.
* DOT does some phragmites control, and DOT is also working on the native seed project with HCSWCD.

**Susan Smith − Volunteer**

* Interested in a broad range of invasive species issues. Would like to connect with the people on Chateaugay Lake.

**Steve Young − New York Natural Heritage Program**

* Steve is the botanist at the NY Natural Heritage Program. He is also part of the Adirondack Botanical Society. He hopes to do some field trips this summer to look for Tier 1 and Tier 2 species.
* You can contact Steve at smyoun26@esf.edu about the Adirondack Botanical Society or Adirondack Orchid Society. He hopes to do an orchid survey on Valcour Island this summer.
* He also noted that he is tracking a population of. Himalayan balsam, *impatiens glandulifera,* in the Chateaugay Lake area.
* He may also survey the Whiteface Highway for native plants.

**Cornelia Florence − Conservation Chair, Adirondack Garden Club**

* The Club is happy to be involved with APIPP. The Club can help by educating gardeners about invasive species. Emily-Bell Dinan posted information about the April APPIPP workshop for gardeners.
* Cornelia is from an apple growing family, and is very concerned about SLF. The family also has forest land and is concerned about HWA.

**Alex Novick − Lake George Land Conservancy**

* Alex joined late due to car troubles. Lake George Land Conservancy is very active in the HWA early-detection and treatment work around Lake George. The Conservancy is a partner in the upcoming HWA trainings.

**Emily-Bell Dinan − APIPP**

* Emily-Bell introduced and led a discussion of 2021 APIPP outreach materials.
	+ She reviewed the priorities for new materials and discussed APIPP’s historic materials.
	+ She showed three style ideas for new materials.
		- Photo style
		- Contemporary “WPA” style
		- Illustrative style
	+ A poll was conducted to determine which style partners thought would most catch the eye of Adirondack audiences. Partners preferred the WPA style (60%), with the Illustrative style a clear second choice.
	+ Emily-Bell solicited ideas about how partners could help APIPP distribute these new outreach materials
* Emily-Bell closed by reviewing upcoming APIPP events.

**Becca Bernacki − APIPP**

* Becca thanked everyone for coming and wrapped up the meeting.

There were approximately 20 people present on the call, including the APIPP staff members noted above and APIPP’s Program Manager, Tammara Van Ryn, and APIPP and SLELO PRISM’s Conservation and GIS Analyst, Zack Simek.