

ROOTS

INVASIVE PLANT NEWS OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK
A Newsletter of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

Volume 3

Fall/Winter 2006

Issue 2

Many Hands Made Light Work

Grant funding and short-term partner contributions enabled APIPP to bulk up inventory and control efforts this summer. Four energetic and dedicated stewards joined Steven Flint in the quest to protect the park from terrestrial invasive plants. This roving team could be seen from the St. Lawrence to Champlain to the Mohawk Valley and lots of places in between. Field stats available online.



Amazing APIPP Interns: (l to r) Derek Franklin (NY), Elisa Mayes (NC), Tessa Hopsicker (NY), and Morgan Perlette (NY).

Update from the State

The 2006 state budget included an unprecedented \$3.25 million for invasive species. The funding will be used to implement the 12 recommendations that the NY Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF) submitted to the Governor and Legislature in the fall of 2005. Co-chaired by the Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Agriculture and Markets, the ISTF continues to meet and make steady progress since its establishment in 2003. Next steps will be administering numerous contracts and grants to put EPF dollars to work.



Upcoming Events

- **Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Meeting**
November 16-17, Portland, ME
- **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting**
January 15-17, West Dover, VT
- **NY Invasive Plant Council Conference**
February 7-8, Albany, NY
- **National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week**
February 25 – March 2, Washington, DC

Awareness on the Rise

Governor Pataki proclaimed the second week in July as Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week. This year, organizations across the park led 30+ activities to raise citizen awareness about invasive plants, animals, pests, and pathogens. In 2007, events will be held July 8-14.

"Launch"ing a New Program to Stop ANS

Paul Smith's College and APIPP offered a new pilot program designed to intercept aquatic nuisance species at boat launches to prevent their spread into our lakes and ponds. Ten lake associations participated in the Volunteer Boat Inspector (VBI) program, which was modeled after the reputable Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program and inspection programs in Maine and Wisconsin.

Sights from the Season

Wayne Blanchard joined the invasive plant attack as NYDEC's new Campground Invasive Species Specialist and launched invaluable early detection and eradication efforts of terrestrial invaders. Garlic mustard and invaders beware!



Partners Meg Modley (LCBP) and John Davis and Erika Edgley (Adirondack Council) phrag-whack with APIPP on RT 28.

At left. Lake association members at the VBI training practice approaching lake users at launch sites and inspecting watercraft.

At right. Sharing tent space with the Cooperative Loon Program at the Wild Center's opening ceremonies, APIPP was a big hit and reached thousands of visitors!

Cheers

*Paul Smith's College
Adirondack Watershed Institute*

What an extraordinary year for the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) of Paul Smith's College. Under the direction of Daniel Kelting, AWI and its talented staff offer premiere programs such as the Watershed Stewardship Program and the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program. Other notable achievements include hosting a bi-annual Water Quality Conference, co-authoring the Adirondack ANS Management Plan, participating in the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, and overseeing science-based milfoil management programs.

Thank you Dan Kelting, AWI, and the Paul Smith's team for your partnership and for bringing valuable programs and services to lake communities across the region!



AWI and APIPP co-hosted a week long aquatic plant course with Dr. Barre Hellquist. Participants shown here on Upper Saranac Lake.
Photo courtesy of E. Shizok.

Plant Profile

*Species Alert -
Oriental Bittersweet*

A plant prized for its showy red fruits yet despised for its ability to blanket forest canopies and strangle trees, Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a deciduous, woody, twining vine. Native to Japan, China, and Korea, this perennial spreads vegetatively by root suckering and by seed-dispersal via birds and small mammals. People contribute to its spread by planting it for ornamental purposes and using it in decorative arrangements. In the park, this plant is present in hamlets but threatens to expand along forest edges and creep into understories.

The leaves are alternate with shallow to finely toothed margins. Bright red fruit appear in the fall in leaf axils, which distinguishes it from American bittersweet, a native plant with only terminal fruit. Hybridization can occur, so correct identification is essential before starting any management program. For more information, log on <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pdf/ceor1.pdf>



In fall, yellow-green fruits burst revealing red flesh and seeds. Axillary fruits distinguish Oriental bittersweet from American bittersweet which are terminal.
Photo credit J. Randall, TNC; inset L. Mehrhoff, IPANE

On The Horizon

Here is a snapshot of APIPP's near-term priorities:

- Secure funding to ensure APIPP has the financial resources it needs to meet its objectives.
- Finalize workplans for grants awarded by the DEC ANS Eradication Program, Biodiversity Research Institute, and FHWA Scenic Byways Program.
- Compile plant distribution datasets and prioritize prevention and management activities.
- Assist the implementation of the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.
- Continue Rapid Response planning coordinated by the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

**Looking for a way to
get involved?**

Give us a call today
about volunteer
opportunities that
reflect your interests.

APIPP is housed by the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Short-term funding is provided by TNC, NYS Department of Transportation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information contact

Hilary Oles, Program Coordinator, PO Box 65 Keene Valley, New York 12943; 518-576-2082 ext 131, holes@tnc.org

