

ROOTS

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

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Stellar Stewardship

APIPP's strike team against invasive plants was afield park-wide this summer, thanks to support from the Adirondack Nature Conservancy (ANC), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Interagency collaboration contributed to the team's success: ANC lent supervisory assistance, DEC Region 6 loaned a vehicle to its two Student Conservation Association stewards, and DEC Region 5 provided housing at its Whitney Headquarters to two DOT student intern stewards. For the second year, DEC Operations staffed Wayne Blanchard to manage infestations on campgrounds. Adirondack waters also fared well this season. One-hundred-thirty-nine volunteers spent more than 720 hours surveying 92 Adirondack waters for invasive aquatic plants. For the first time since the lake monitoring program began in 2002, no new aquatic infestations were reported.

NYS News

A major win in the battle of invasive species came in August when Governor Spitzer signed legislation establishing the NY Invasive Species Council and Advisory Committee. The Council will continue the work begun by the NY Invasive Species Task Force and ensure the development and implementation of a comprehensive statewide invasive species program.

PRISMs Shine Statewide

Step into NY, and you'll step into a PRISM. PRISMs are interjurisdictional partnerships among governmental and nongovernmental organizations and citizens formed to prevent, manage, map, monitor, research, educate about, and mitigate impacts of invasive species in a specific geographic region in NY. Each of eight of PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management) has met, and planning for regional action is underway. Learn more about PRISMs by logging onto <http://www.ipcnys.org/#prismmap>.



Upcoming Events

- **Finger Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Workshop**
October 24, Geneva, NY
- **Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Meeting**
November 27-28, Providence, RI
- **Northeastern Weed Science Society, Annual Meeting**
January 7-10, Philadelphia, PA
- **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society, Annual Meeting**
January 14-16, West Dover, VT
- **National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week**
February 24 – March 1, Washington, DC

Celebrate in '08

In 1998, partners initiated a seasonal pilot project to inventory terrestrial invasive plants along roadsides. Nearly ten years later, APIPP is a two-time, national award-winning program addressing both terrestrial and aquatic species and serving as a model for PRISMs across NYS. Join APIPP next summer to commemorate its ten year anniversary, which will be celebrated during the third annual Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 6-12.

Sights from the Season

Clockwise. Steve Langdon pulls European frogbit from the Grasse River. Hilary Oles and Wayne Blanchard monitor a phragmites infestation before it is treated. Volunteers attend aquatic plant training in Speculator. Partners take part in a terrestrial plant identification workshop
Photos courtesy of Steve Langdon, Ray Curran, and Hilary Oles



At left. The Lake George Watershed Conference sponsors an invasive plant paddle as part of Invasive Species Awareness Week.
Photo courtesy of Emily Debolt, Lake George Association

At far left. Lake George Association organizes Upward Bound to weed out Oriental bittersweet from an infestation near West Brook in Lake George Village.
Photo courtesy of Emily Debolt, Lake George Association

Cheers

Lake Champlain Basin Program

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) works in partnership with government agencies from New York, Vermont, and Quebec, private organizations, local communities, and individuals to coordinate and fund efforts which benefit the Lake Champlain Basin's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. Its staff have taken aim at aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in the Basin and launched many important programs: spread prevention workshops for state agency staff, radio ads for fishing and boating tournaments, and most recently, a stewardship program to intercept ANS at boat launches on Lake Champlain. Another significant LCBP initiative is its inter-state and provincial planning for rapid response to *new* ANS invasions in the Basin – one of the first of its kind in the nation. Learn more about these efforts, and more, by visiting the LCBP website, www.lcbp.org.

Thank you, Meg Modley - LCBP ANS Coordinator, and the entire LCBP team for your partnership and for bringing valuable programs and resources to communities across the Basin.



Water chestnut harvesting (left) and the Lake Champlain Stewardship Program (right) were two of the many invasive species projects undertaken by the LCBP this summer.

Photo courtesy of Meg Modley, LCBP

Plant Profile

Species Alert – *Didymosphenia geminata*

River watch! A non-native invasive algae, *Didymosphenia geminata* (otherwise known as “Rock Snot,” or “Didymo”), was detected in NY’s Batten Kill and Delaware rivers as well as three Vermont rivers this summer. A freshwater diatom that prefers cool, flowing, nutrient-poor waters, didymo appears to be extending its range and adapting to alternate ecological zones. Colonies start out as a single microscopic organism but quickly develop into visible circular clumps. The beige, brown, or white algae attaches to plants, rocks, and other substrates with a stalk. Thick mats smother native plants and aquatic insects, which may be devastating to fish populations.

Identification of didymo is extremely difficult, and there is no known control once populations are established. To help prevent its spread, wash all hard surfaces (paddles, kayaks etc.) with 140F water, a 2% bleach solution, or a 5% mixture of salt, dish soap, or hand soap for one full minute. Soak soft-surface items (eg. felt bottom waders) between 30-40 minutes in hot soapy water. Or, freeze items for 24 hours. For more information, log on to www.biosecurity.govt.nz.



Didymo, a.k.a “Rock Snot,” is a brown alga that has a rough, fibrous texture similar to wool or a cotton ball (above).

In comparison, native algae are usually slimy and gelatinous.

Photo credit <http://www.epa.gov/Region8/water/didymosphenia/>

On The Horizon

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

- Submit seasonal reports to our grantors: the DEC ANS Eradication Program, Biodiversity Research Institute, and Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byways Program.
- Finalize contract with DEC for state funding from the Environmental Protection Fund.
- Upgrade APIPP's website and database.
- Assist the implementation of the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.
- Take steps to transition APIPP into the Adirondack PRISM.

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 Environmental Conservation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Federal Highway Administration.

For more information contact

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