

ROOTS

INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS OF THE ADIRONDACK REGION

A Newsletter of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

Volume 5

Fall/ Winter 2008

Issue 2

Million Dollar Milestone

New York State bolstered efforts to combat invasive species in the Adirondack region when it approved the contract with the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to provide \$1.3 million to operate the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) for five years. Funds support three full-time staff who facilitate invasive species coordination, early detection, monitoring, control, research, education and spread prevention in the Adirondacks. APIPP was the first of eight *Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management* to receive state funds for core coordination.

Founding Partners Look Ahead

At the APA's monthly meeting in August, APIPP's four founding partners – TNC, DEC, DOT, and APA – signed a cooperative agreement symbolizing a new chapter in APIPP's plan for regional invasive species management. Directors reflected on accomplishments and future needs, such as increased capacity to control priority infestations.

Aquatics Coordinator On-Board

APIPP welcomes Tyler Smith to the Adirondack invasives team. As the Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator, Tyler will take the reins of the regional aquatic invasive species monitoring program. He will also develop programs to address other aquatic invasives. Tyler is well-suited to tackle aquatic invasives, with a background in wildlife management and botany from Humboldt University and three years experience managing invasive eelgrass in Humboldt Bay.



Tyler Smith talks with students during Essex County Environmental Field Days.

Upcoming Events

- **APIPP Fall Partner Meeting, October 30, Ray Brook, NY**
- **Champlain Canal Aquatic Invasive Species Informational Meeting, November 6, Fort Edward, NY**
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species In-Service Training November 11-13, Ithaca, NY**
- **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference, January 19-21, Saratoga Spring, NY**
- **International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, April 19-23, Montreal**

Response Required

Northern snakehead. Hydrilla. Oak wilt. Feral hogs. Kudzu. Invasive plants and pests made news monthly across the state this summer. The newest arrival to Adirondack waters? Spiny waterflea, an aquatic invertebrate that made its debut in Great Sacandaga Lake. With so many species on the move, it is increasingly clear that improved surveillance, detection, and response efforts are required. Focusing on the theme of response, the New York

Invasive Species Council met in Ray Brook in August for its third quarterly meeting. Presenters shared case studies and lessons learned regarding rapid response. Both APIPP and the Lake Champlain Basin Program presented regional information about planning and implementing rapid response.

Spread Prevention

Volunteers and summer staff are valuable stewards of waterways. Boat launch stewards across the Park interacted with thousands of boaters this summer and intercepted hundreds of potential imports to and exports from Adirondack lakes and ponds. For the first time, APIPP also partnered with Blue Mountain Lake shoreowners and Mac's Canoe Livery to reach out to paddlers during the 26th annual Adirondack Canoe Classic, a 90 mile paddling event from Old Forge to Saranac Lake. The course includes both infected and uninfected waters, so race organizers and volunteers carried the message "Clean Boats Clean Waters" to participants from start to finish.



Volunteers from Blue Mountain Lake help visually inspect boats along the Marion River Portage of the 90 Miler. Tyler Smith offers complementary boat washing in Old Forge prior to the start of the race.

Invasive Species Soundbytes

Governor Paterson and Adirondack Park Agency Chairman Stiles proclaimed the second week of July each year as Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week; 2009 activities will be scheduled July 5-11.

The second round of Terrestrial Invasive Species Eradication Grants was announced in September, and the deadline for proposal submissions is October 31. Good luck to all applicants!

Stay informed about invasive species news in NY by phoning into the monthly invasive species conference call, held the last Wednesday of every month from 11-12. Contact Leslie Surprenant lsurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us for more information.

Cheers

Town of Inlet: Invasive Plant Partnership

Communities across the Park are faced with the growing problem of invasive species in their lakes, natural areas, and private lands. The Town of Inlet, Hamilton County (southwestern Adirondacks), has played a leadership role in combating unwanted plants. For several years the Town worked with groups along the Fulton Chain of Lakes to assist milfoil management efforts. Now, they set their scope on controlling Japanese knotweed. Champions within the community rallied their neighbors and Town and Village employees to push back the line of invasion – keeping waterways weed-free and protecting rivers and roadsides from knotweed's damaging impacts. Citizens and staff mapped plant occurrences, learned and applied best management practices, and leveraged local dollars and people power to knockdown knotweed. Now known as RIIPP, (Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program), the initiative recently expanded to other communities in Hamilton County, such as Blue Mountain Lake. Thank you – Team Inlet - for your help in the fight against invasive plants!



Community members make a difference in halting the spread of invasive plants in their lands and waters. (L) Jerry Charbonneau, certified applicator for the Town of Inlet, treats a patch of knotweed. (R) Highschool students help pull milfoil from 6th/7th Lakes.

Photo credits (L) Doug Johnson (R) Ron Smith.

Species Alert

Spiny Waterflea (Bythotrephes cederstroemi)

The spiny water flea is a tiny (less than half an inch long) crustacean with a long, sharp, barbed tail spine. A native of Great Britain and northern Europe east to the Caspian Sea, the water flea was first found in Lake Huron in 1984—likely imported via ballast water. Populations have since exploded and the animal can now be found throughout the Great Lakes, in some inland lakes in Western New York, and now in Great Sacandaga Lake in the Adirondacks. The animals may compete directly with young perch and other small fish for food, such as "Daphnia" zooplankton. Its sharp spine makes it extremely hard for small fish to eat, leaving only some large fish to feed on them. Spiny water fleas also reproduce rapidly. During warm summer conditions each female can produce up to 10 offspring every two weeks. As temperatures drop in the fall, the water flea produces eggs that can lie dormant all winter.

Spiny water flea eggs and adults may go unseen in bilge water, bait buckets, and livewells. Also, fishing lines and downriggers will often be coated with both eggs and adults. Prevent the spread of water flea and other aquatic invasives by cleaning all gear between waterways and never releasing unwanted bait. Adapted from: <http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/spinyflea.html>



Recently detected in Great Sacandaga Lake in the Adirondack Park, spiny waterflea (*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*) is present in the Great Lakes and in Western New York.

Photo credits (L) United State Fish and Wildlife Service, (R) Minnesota Sea Grant.

On The Horizon

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

- Implement Scenic Byways Invasive Plant Community Outreach Program.
- Report findings of BRI project: *Post-treatment Monitoring of Three Wetland Invasive Plants*. *
- Update terrestrial and aquatic databases with 2008 data and complete the 2008 Annual Report.
- Participate in the New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee.
- Collaborate with NY PRISMs and the Office of Invasive Species Coordination.

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 for a Scenic Byways Project by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Adirondack North Country Association, and *for a restoration research project by the New York State Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI). Long-term funding is provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Fund.*

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