

ROOTS

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

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Partnership Wins National Award

This summer the Federal Highways Administration awarded the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) an "Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative." APIPP is one of only seven recipients in 2004 to receive this competitive and prestigious award nationwide. The award commends APIPP's dedication to partnership-building and commitment to apply innovative environmental solutions to sustain natural systems across the Adirondack landscape.

Since 1998 APIPP has worked with partners across the region to plan and implement Park-wide invasive plant inventory, monitoring, mapping, management, and education. APIPP now coordinates two projects: the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Project and the Aquatic Invasive Plant Project.

APIPP's many successes reflect the enthusiasm of its participants - staff, citizens, and visitors of the Adirondacks. Principal partners operating under a Memorandum of Understanding are the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Transportation, Adirondack Park Agency, and Invasive Plant Council of NYS.

One of the few places in New York State not yet overrun with invasive species, the Adirondacks remain relatively intact, and opportunity still exists to prevent widespread infestations. APIPP relies on partnerships, early detection, rapid response, best management practices, and education to prevent invasive plant infestations. Its ability to share information, build consensus-based solutions, and prioritize target species and target places allows successful and cost-effective action.

Upcoming Events

- **APIPP Annual Presentation**, Adirondack Park Agency, December 9, 2004
- **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting**, Saratoga Springs, NY, January 17-19, 2005
- **National Weeds Awareness Week**, D.C., February 27 - March 4, 2005
- **Northeast Regional Communities and Urban IPM Conference**, Manchester, NH, March 15-16, 2005

Notes from Afield

Terrestrial Project Takes Control in 04

Steven Flint, Invasive Species Field Coordinator, led a rigorous season reducing plant populations across the Park. Together with Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) intern Amanda Subjin, Steven scoured the roadways for new invasive plant sightings and controlled existing sites.

Volunteers conducted plant inventories on approximately 8,000 miles of county and town roads, and 70 volunteers assisted control efforts spending 677 hours pulling, cutting, and bagging plants.

Black swallow-wort, yellow iris, and giant hogweed received immediate attention this season, as did our priority sites of Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and phragmites.

Aquatic Project Paddles for Prevention

Hilary Oles, Coordinator of APIPP, offered training in aquatic plant identification and survey techniques to 74 participants, together with Darrin Freshwater Institute, NYS DEC, and Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks. Seventy-one volunteers spent over 300 hours monitoring 77 waterways. Surveys detected Eurasian watermilfoil in Putnam Pond in Essex County, bringing the total number of lakes with known infestations in the Park to 47.

APIPP engaged over 3,500 community members and staff in presentations and workshops. Key audiences included DOT maintenance staff, local highway departments, DEC Environmental Conservation Officers, Forest Rangers, Fisheries Staff, Campground Interpretive Staff, Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation, and Adirondack Mountain Club staff.



APIPP volunteers "phrag whack" along Rt 86.



Amanda Subjin, ADK Intern, controls black swallow-wort (left). Paddlers in search of aquatic invasive plants (right).

Cheers

Boquet River Association (BRASS)

An organization with ambition, BRASS is one of APIPP's valuable partners. Directed by Robin Ulmer, this watershed group takes a proactive approach to battling invasive plants.

BRASS inventoried, mapped, and managed terrestrial invasive plants throughout the Boquet River Watershed. In addition, Ms. Ulmer received a Lake Champlain Basin Program grant to lend support to the towns of Willsboro and Westport to manage populations along local roads. This summer BRASS also organized a workshop with SUNY Plattsburgh to instruct volunteers to monitor the impact of biological controls on purple loosestrife. These projects serve as models that will benefit communities across the Park.

Thank you Robin Ulmer and the Boquet River Association for your partnership, creativity, and vigilance against invasives!



BRASS volunteers learn techniques to monitor biological controls.

Plant Profile

Species Alert - Giant Hogweed

This season brought a new species to our attention: the nefarious giant hogweed, also referred to as "Queen Anne's Lace on Steroids."

Confirmed in Old Forge, this plant was introduced as an ornamental and prefers rich, moist soils and roadsides, streambanks, and waste areas. Unfortunately beauty is only "skin-deep" – this plant seriously threatens human health with its caustic and potentially blinding sap.

A few look-alikes may confuse identification, such as cow parsnip, queen Anne's lace, poison hemlock, and wild chervil, however giant hogweed can be identified by its large, palmate, deeply lobed leaves; mottled reddish-purple, herbaceous stem with white hairs; height of 15 feet; and flattened white flowers produced in August. If detected in the Park, please report to sflint@tnc.org, or for more information, log on <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>.



Giant Hogweed towers to heights of 15 ft.

On The Horizon

In the coming months APIPP will be working on a variety of important issues which include:

- Developing an Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Management Plan with the assistance of partners, interested parties, and the public.
- Preparing a 2005 work-plan for the Federal Highways Administration Scenic Byways funding received.
- Seeking additional funding to secure APIPP in both the short and long-term.
- Collaborating with audiences including municipalities, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Fish and Game Clubs, and Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Contributing information as requested by the NYS Invasive Species Task Force.

Looking for a way to get involved?
APIPP will match your interests to our needs!
Give us a call today!

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER CONTEST!!
Submit your ideas to holes@tnc.org by
February 1, 2005. Most fitting name wins!!

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