

ROOTS

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

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Issue 1

Waterways Take the Stage

The Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Management Plan being submitted to the APA for approval is an important step to a united and strategic fight against aquatic nuisance species.

In addition to completing the park-wide plan, the Steering Committee also conducted informational presentations during regional and local conferences, sought resolutions of support from county governments, held grant workshops to assist community members in the preparation of proposals to the newly established DEC ANS Eradication Grant Program, and requested the establishment of an Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week. Plan supporters are already implementing countless activities outlined in the Plan, such as plant surveys, control projects, and educational programs.

The all-star list of steering committee members includes the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Adirondack Council, Adirondack Park Agency, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Adirondack Watershed Institute, Department of Environmental Conservation, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Lake George Association, Lake George Park Commission, Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, and Upper Saranac Lake Foundation.

Improving Rapid Response

One of the challenges of rapid response (RR) is, in fact, making it rapid, so two key efforts are underway to put fast feet in action. The Lake Champlain Basin Program's ANS Subcommittee, of which APIPP is a member, is identifying leadership roles, stakeholder groups, and permitting procedures to facilitate RR to new ANS in the Basin. A second RR effort involves a system of inventory, validation, control, and assessment of terrestrial invasive plants on forest preserve in the park. During the Unit Management Planning process, APIPP identified known occurrences of invasive plants as well as information gaps. Last year, the DEC's Student Conservation Association Steward "ground-truthed" infestations on 9 units. Control will begin this year on priority areas, and additional inventories will be done on 5 units – yielding a true early detection rapid response network.

Upcoming Events

- **Art Exhibit: Alive in New York – A Growing Invasion**
May 11 – June 30, APA VIC Paul Smiths, NY
- **Northeast Symposium on Native Plant Education, Conservation & Gardening**
June 27 – June 29, Oswego, NY
- **APIPP Aquatic Plant ID Training**
June 22, 27, 29 – RSVP by June 12
- **Terrestrial Plant Control Days**
May 30, June 9, 12, 29, July 21, August 7-11, 17, 24 – Volunteers Welcome!
- **Course: ID of Aquatic Flowering Plants, July 30–August 5** *Paul Smiths, NY*

The 2006 A-Team

APIPP welcomes four seasonal interns – all "firsts" in their positions – to its stewardship team this year, thanks to grants from the U.S. Forest Service and Environmental Protection Agency, and short-term funding from the Department of Environmental Conservation and Adirondack Nature Conservancy. Derek Franklin of Lake Clear, NY, and Paul Smith's College is the U.S. F.S. State Land Steward. Tessa Hopsicker of Hinckley, NY, and a graduate of

SUNY ESF is the E.P.A. Mohawk Valley Wetland Steward. Morgan Perlette of Peru, NY, and a graduate of SUNY Plattsburgh is the Conservancy's Resource Steward. Joining us from Asheville, NC, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Elisa Mayes is the Student Conservation Association Forest Preserve Steward. Under the supervision of Steven Flint, this team will inventory and control priority terrestrial invasive plant infestations throughout the park. Watch out weeds!

Kudos to WMAs

Simply stated, weed management areas (WMA) are specific areas where groups work together to combat invasive plants. In addition to the Adirondack Park, Long Island and Eastern Lake Ontario have established WMAs. The NYS Invasive Species Task Force and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation promote this successful collaborative approach to invasive species management.

Landowners Take-on Invasive Plants

Representing hundreds of thousands of acres, more than 40 private landowners and resource managers from the timber industry, state agencies, and not-for-profits attended planning workshops held in Voorheesville and Keene Valley. The workshops, the first of their kind offered in the Adirondacks, introduced elements of a successful invasive plant management plan for large tracts of land. Through hands-on exercises, participants learned the importance of identification, mapping, and setting priorities to control invasive plants. The 2-day event was sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and hosted by APIPP and the DEC.

Workshop participants at the Barnett Center for Conservation, Keene Valley.



Cheers

Darrin Fresh Water Institute

The Darrin Fresh Water Institute (DFWI), a facility of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, is a leader among freshwater research centers. Located on the shores of Lake George, DFWI oversees a variety of programs including ecosystem monitoring and environmental education. Larry Eichler lends his time and knowledge to assist APIPP's annual aquatic plant training sessions, which have reached over 300 participants to date. When questions arise, professionals and public alike seek Larry's advice on plant identification and management techniques. A valuable resource for New York and beyond, DFWI research yields important information about freshwater systems, aquatic nuisance species, and water quality.

Thank you Larry Eichler and the DFWI research team for your partnership, expertise, and contributions to protect the Park from invasive species!



Larry Eichler assists annual aquatic plant training sessions. This year sessions will be held in Bolton Landing, Caroga, and Long Lake.

Plant Profile

Species Alert - Yellow Floating Heart

Found in slow moving rivers, lakes, ponds and swamps, yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*) is a rooted, floating-leaved plant that grows in dense patches. It excludes native species, creating stagnant areas with low oxygen levels. The mats make it difficult to fish, boat, swim, or paddle a canoe.

Native to Europe, Asia, and the Mediterranean, this ornamental pond species spreads vegetatively and by seed. Seed hairs help the seeds float and aid their attachment to waterfowl, a vector that can spread this plant to new areas. In the park, this plant is known only in Lake Champlain.

Leaves are 3-10 cm on long stalks and are frequently purplish underneath, with slightly wavy, shallowly scalloped margins. Bright yellow, 5-petaled flowers have edges that are distinctly fringed (native floating heart has white flowers). If detected in the park, please report to Hilary Oles, holes@tnc.org.



Flowers are a key identifying feature of the invasive floating heart.
Photo M. Malchoff, SUNY Plattsburgh Lake Champlain Sea Grant.

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.
- Conduct training sessions in aquatic plant identification and monitoring.
- Inventory and control priority terrestrial invasive plant infestations throughout the park.
- Train DEC Campground managers to implement terrestrial invasive plant control.
- 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 Nature Conservancy (ANC). Short-term funding is provided by the ANC, NYS Department of Transportation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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