

# ROOTS

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

Volume 4

Spring/Summer 2007

Issue 1

## Cooperation is Key to ANS Prevention

Sixteen organizations signed a cooperative agreement in April to seal their commitment to serving on the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Committee. Their primary goal is to oversee the implementation of the ANS Management Plan, approved last year by the Adirondack Park Agency and endorsed by every county government in the park. The committee identified a list of annual priorities for 2007, including stewardship at boat launches, training programs, and monitoring and eradication activities. More information about the plan, achievements to-date, and annual priorities are posted on [www.adkinvasives.com/Aquatic/Resources/Resources.html](http://www.adkinvasives.com/Aquatic/Resources/Resources.html).



Sixteen ANS Committee members signed a cooperative agreement at the Adirondack Park Agency's April meeting.  
*Photo: Keith McKeever, APA*

## PRISM: A Prescription for Progress

The New York Invasive Species Task Force recommended the formation of PRISMs – Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management. Modeled after groups like APIPP, Long Island Invasive Species Management Area, and St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Weed Management Area, PRISMs will provide the framework for regional, collaborative action to address invasives. PRISM goals include coordination, prevention, early detection, rapid response, management, research, and education. Eight PRISMs, including APIPP, are proposed across New York.

## Upcoming Events

- **Southern Adk Lakes Management Conference, June 9, Queensbury**
- **APIPP Aquatic Invasive Plant Training June 21, 26, 28 – RSVP by June 8**
- **Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Days June 9, 12, 29, July 21, August 7-11, 17, 24 – Volunteers Welcome!**
- **Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 8-14, Parkwide**
- **Adirondack BioBlitz, July 20-21, Paul Smiths, NY**
- **Adirondack Water Quality Conference, August 20-21, Paul Smiths, NY**

## Watch Out Weeds

Five stewards will bolster the APIPP seasonal team this summer, with short-term funding from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Adirondack Nature Conservancy, and Environmental Protection Agency. Welcome to Elicia Andrews and Steve Langdon of Saranac Lake; Tessa Hopsicker of Hinckley, NY; Holly Alley of Asheville, NC; and, from Orlando, FL, Jennifer Van Dyle. Their assistance will help resource managers protect roadsides, forest preserve, and protected lands from invasive plants, such as giant hogweed, garlic mustard, and yellow iris.

## Frogbit Eradication

APIPP will undertake its first aquatic invasive plant control project this summer, thanks to funding from the DEC's Eradication Grant Program. Detected by Nancy Edblom, a volunteer in St. Lawrence County, the European frogbit infestation will be eliminated by hand-harvesting from one reach of the Grasse River.

## Plants, Pests, & Pathogens, Oh My!

The park's lands and waters face additional threats beyond invasive plants. Forest pests, such as sirex woodwasp, and aquatic pathogens, like viral hemorrhagic septicemia, are on the move. Spread prevention tips include using local firewood and never transporting live bait – more online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html>.

## Publications Available

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byway Program, APIPP has two new brochures – one describes our program, the other, the problem plants. Call 518-576-2082 x131 to request copies, or view them at [adkinvasives.com/publications.html](http://adkinvasives.com/publications.html).

## Awareness Week July 8-14

Join organizations and citizens across the park during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week to help spread the word about the dangers of invasive species. Presentations, field activities, and workshops will be ongoing throughout the week. Log on to [adkinvasives.com/InvasiveSpeciesAwarenessWeek.html](http://adkinvasives.com/InvasiveSpeciesAwarenessWeek.html).

## State Updates

The FY 2007-08 Environmental Protection Fund budget includes a record \$5 million to implement the ISTF recommendations. NYS DEC Invasive Species Eradication Grant Programs, deadline June 29 - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32861.html>

## Cheers

### DEC Region 5, Regional Director

The Department of Environmental Conservation is a pivotal partner of APIPP, participating since the program's inception in the late 90s. Under the regional direction of Mr. Stuart Buchanan, the Department has made noteworthy progress in supporting and advancing the programs and activities of APIPP and its partners. Volunteer lake monitoring, boat launch stewardship, signage at state launches, and controlling terrestrial invasive plants on forest preserve are among them. In recent years, Mr. Buchanan played an instrumental role in guiding the development of a regional plan for aquatic nuisance species (ANS) management in the Adirondack Park – a plan now eligible for federal funding under the NYS ANS Plan. Known as “Stu,” Mr. Buchanan’s participation and leadership have been valued by many friends and partners across the region. Thank you, Stu, for your dedication to protecting the park from invasive species.



Stuart Buchanan, Region 5 Director of DEC, played an integral role in guiding the development of the ANS Plan and ANS Committee, as well as securing funds to begin the plan's implementation.

*Photo: Keith McKeever, APA*

## Plant Profile

### Species Alert – Hydrilla

Though not yet detected in New York waters, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is on the watch-list of many lake groups and managers. A submerged, perennial herb that grows in dense patches from depths of 20 ft., hydrilla can be found in both still and running water and is tolerant of acidic to basic, oligotrophic to eutrophic, and fresh to brackish water. It excludes native species, creating stagnant areas with low oxygen levels and altering pH and temperature levels. The mats are impenetrable to fish and make water recreation and navigation difficult.

Native to Africa, Australia, and parts of Asia, hydrilla was first introduced to the U.S. via the aquarium trade. Now present through much of the southern U.S. and west coast, it has isolated occurrences in New England. Hydrilla reproduces via seeds, tubers, fragments, and turions, and typically has five leaves, with serrations and reddish midribs, that are whorled around the stem – which distinguishes it from its native look-alike, Elodea. If you detect hydrilla in the park, please report it to Hilary Oles, [holes@tnc.org](mailto:holes@tnc.org).



Hydrilla's finely-toothed leaves are in whorls of 4-6.

*Photo: David Spencer, USDA-ARS*

## On the Horizon

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

- Help formalize the framework for PRISMs.
- Conduct training sessions in aquatic plant identification and coordinate volunteer monitoring.
- Inventory and control priority terrestrial invasive plant infestations throughout the park.
- Assist the implementation of the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.

**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 (ANC). Short-term funding is provided by ANC, NYS Department of Transportation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Federal Highway Administration, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

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