**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

**Mid-Winter Aquatic Partner Roundtable**

**Zoom Meeting Notes**

**February 9, 2021 | 10:00am-11:30pm**

**Tammara Van Ryn – Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

* Tammara Van Ryn, APIPP’s program manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced APIPP staff, provided an introduction to Zoom, and reviewed the agenda.
* Tammara showcased some of APIPP’s 2020 highlights (see below), and noted details can be found in APIPP’s annual report posted on its website. <https://adkinvasives.com/data/files/Documents/APIPP-2020-Annual-Report-Reduced-Size.pdf>.
	+ 134 volunteers and 6 Adirondack Research team members surveyed 99 Adirondack waterways for aquatic invasive species (AIS)
	+ No new infestations of small-bodied aquatic animals were found
	+ One new lake was found with AIS: Eurasian watermilfoil, in Weller Pond
	+ Two already invaded lakes added curly-leaf pondweed: East Caroga and West Caroga
	+ 75% of 440 Adirondack waterways surveyed remain AIS free
	+ Four invasive species were managed by partner organizations
	+ Eurasian watermilfoil: 17 lakes
	+ Variable-leaf watermilfoil: 5 lakes
	+ Water chestnut: 3 lakes
	+ Zebra mussels: 1 lake
	+ A Milfoil Management Summit was held in August, 2020; the recording is available at <https://adkinvasives.com/Resources/Resource-Library/Video-Recordings>
	+ Over 80 lake maps were posted on APIPP’s website <https://adkinvasives.com/Resources/Resource-Library/Lake-Maps>
* Tammara discussed APIPP’s 2021 plans and opportunities, as noted below.
	+ Volunteer Surveys
	+ Backcountry Water Monitors
	+ APIPP AIS Coordinator Onboard
	+ Adirondack Research Surveys
	+ Lake Management Tracker Adopters
	+ BioBase Mapping Equipment Loan
	+ Workshops, Outreach and More…
* Tammara introduced and facilitated the partner discussion centered around two questions.
1. What are your top one to two aquatic invasive species priorities for 2021?
2. Are there projects you would like to coordinate with other partners on in 2021?

**Xue (Alice) Dong – Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI)**

* AWI embarked on an education project around Lake Champlain’s headwaters last year and plans to continue these efforts in 2021.
* AWI continues its efforts to educate residents and visitors about pollution and AIS. It participates in ISAW and hosts education programs, including Water Week.
* Last year AWI worked with eight lake associations.

**Allison Stefanelli – Adirondack Council**

* Current efforts are centered around lobbying for an extension of the boat transport law and mandatory inspections for boats using Adirondack waters.

**Anita Louise Deming – Boquet River Association**

* Plans to continue milfoil and knotweed treatments.

**Bob Bombard – Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District**

* Works with Schroon and Brant lakes on milfoil removal.
* Runs a county lakes and ponds monitoring program that was very busy last year.
* Does light water chemistry monitoring and is involved in permitting for invasive species removal.
* Has been seeing more brittle naiad in the Lake Champlain basin.
* Is working on an underwater dive film that will focus on problems caused by AIS.

**Caitlyn Steward – Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District**

* Will have a new technician this year.
* Developed a Love Your Lake video series.
* Purchased a plankton net to survey for spiny waterflea.
* Plans to work with Friends of Lake Algonquin on aquatic plant mapping; may want to want to borrow APIPP equipment.
* Plans to survey a lake for AIS, and is considering Eighth Lake.
* Plans to continue AIS outreach.

**Carrianne Pershyn – Ausable River Association**

* This will be the Association’s eleventh year hiring a river steward; the steward provides education at the most popular fishing spots. The steward can also help survey for some terrestrial species on APIPP’s priority list.
* The Association would like to reconnect with lake associations in the watershed this year
* Tammara suggested that the APIPP and Ausable River Association steward might be able to help each other out for some workdays this summer.

**Catherine McGlynn – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)**

* Is working on best management practices for controlling European frog-bit with other states, as well as control and delineation efforts for species such as water chestnut and hydrilla throughout the state.
* Is focusing on education and outreach and updating the inspection station manual.

**Diana Lawrence – Adirondack League Club**

* Adirondack League Club waterbodies have non-native plants present but do not have invasives.
* The Club is focusing on prevention and putting effort into awareness building.
* It is working to improve its website to make it a more effective repository of information.
* The Club hopes to build its own boat wash station this year.

**Diane Burgess – Garnet Lake Conservation Association**

* Hopes to continue knotweed and milfoil treatments.

**Donna Baribeau – Adirondack Garden Club**

* Is interested in learning more about milfoil.

**Emily Tyner – Lake Clear Association**

* Is focusing on prevention, outreach, education, and monitoring.
* Has a Keep Lake Clear education program.
* Is concerned with overuse, and is looking into issues with road salt.

**Eric Paul – Adirondack Watershed Institute**

* Hopes to improve the level of detail of boat inspections.
* Noted that almost all AWI’s programs involve coordination with partners.
* Offers training to stewards, anyone interested in the trainings should reach out to anyone at AWI.
* Is planning to set up a decontamination station at a new location this year and offered to assist the Adirondack League Club as it sets up its station.
* Is restructuring its seasonal staff this year. It will hire about 100 boat stewards. Please share the job posting!
* It will remove administrative tasks from lead stewards this year so they can better assist stewards in field.
* It will add a steward at the West Lake boat launch. It will try floating stewards between more than one launch, which allow more launches to be covered.

**Erin Vennie-Vollrath – NYSDEC and Lake Champlain Basin Program**

* Will be working on water chestnut harvesting in southern Lake Champlain, which is a collaboration between multiple agencies.
* Working on the vessel incident discharge act.
	+ Performing a horizon scan of what species spread to the Champlain region.
* Working on boat steward programs.
* Updating the AIS identification guide.
* Using eDNA for Asian clam, and zebra and quagga mussel detection.
* Doing hydrilla work on the Connecticut River.

**Ezra Schwartzberg – Adirondack Research**

* Was joined on the call by the AIS early-detection crew leader.
* Has several invasive species contracts throughout the state.
* Worked for APIPP, Capital Region PRISM, NYSDEC, and private lake associations last summer and plans much of the same work for this summer. Will survey lakes in the southeastern Adirondacks for APIPP this summer.
* Is making maps for lake associations that can be used for education and outreach.

**Guy Middleton – Upper Saranac Foundation**

* The Foundation plans to revise the lake management plan.
* Has an online public survey about land use, recreation, water quality, and invasives species treatment that will inform the plan.
* Has three public information meetings planned to generate ideas for management of Upper Saranac Lake.
* Plans to continue AIS harvesting. There has been great success with milfoil management and there are plans to expand into tributaries (Fish Creek and Clear Pond).

**Jaime Parslow – Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District**

* Is working on a story-map for each of 21 lakes that are monitored, and the maps will include invasive species information.

**Jay Federman – Friends of Moody Pond**

* Found milfoil in Moody Pond two years ago.
* Built a community group last year and is applying for grants for management.
* Had a great fundraiser and can hire divers for two weeks this year, although more time will be needed.
* Wants to investigate salt and other mineral content and the impacts on the pond.
* Looking for help with funding.

**Kathy Regan – Adirondack Park Agency**

* Issued first permit to chemically control milfoil on Minerva Lake.
* Has entered BioBase data into GIS.
* Has more permit applications than ever.
* May update the NYSDEC memorandum of understanding for AIS management.

**Kathy Welch – Chateaugay Lake Foundation**

* Completed its second year of the lake tracker survey and is happy to give others advice on how to do it.

**Kristen Wilde – Lake George Association**

* Plans to bring back their invasive species education intern.
* Is tracking milfoil lake-wide.
* Noted that the Lake George Park Commission runs inspection stations and may extend the number of weeks of service this year due to increased boating.

**Mary McLean – Chateaugay Lake Foundation**

* Completed its fourteenth year of milfoil management.
	+ Primarily hand harvesting and benthic matting.
	+ Was diver-assisted last year.
	+ Investigating the potential for herbicide treatment.
	+ Will evaluate use, and will continue to hand harvest priority areas this year.
	+ Not able to do lake-wide management, which reduces effectiveness.
* Will continue monitoring program.
* May pursue use of BioBase.
* Interested in expanding outreach materials and updating materials at the boat-launch kiosk.

**Meg Modley – Lake Champlain Basin Program**

* Erin provided the primary report. Meg noted that staff is available to answer questions about funding opportunities.

**Neil Chippendale – Schroon Lake Association**

* Operate two launches and two boat wash stations.
	+ AWI provides steward training.
	+ Has a milfoil program in partnership with others.
* Creating a watershed management plan for the Schroon River.
	+ Has a steering committee looking at a number of projects, including a fish study and streambank erosion study on the upper Schroon River.
* Has been bottom mapping for three years.
	+ Purchased a sonar unit with East Shore Schroon Lake Association.
	+ Plans to do a vegetation analysis to better coordinate with divers and have their work be more targeted.
* Looking to APIPP for assistance with outreach and education.
	+ Wants to do outreach using BioBase maps and include information around the maps about invasives, boat washing, etc.

**Ryan Nerp – Adirondack Council**

* Will continue to advocate for state funding for AIS prevention and for boat wash stations.

**Steve Young – New York Natural Heritage Program**

* Noted that there are 17 rare aquatic species in the Adirondacks.
	+ Partners can learn more about 10 of them via guides on the NY Natural Heritage Program website.
	+ Steve will send a list of rare species to APIPP to distribute to partners.
* Mentioned a small waterlily that might turn up in the Chateaugay area.
* Encouraged people performing management to check Natural Heritage records to ensure they are not impacting rare species. <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/erm/>

**Zoe Smith – Adirondack Watershed Institute**

* Highlighted research programs that are funded by NYSDEC: investigating pathways of spread to Adirondack lakes, compliance with the transport law, and efficacy of inspection stations.

**Emily-Bell Dinan – APIPP**

* Emily-Bell introduced and led a discussion of 2021 APIPP outreach materials.
	+ She reviewed priorities for new materials and APIPP’s historic materials.
	+ She showed three style ideas for new materials.
	+ Photo style
	+ Contemporary “WPA” style
	+ Illustrative style
	+ A poll was conducted to determine which style partners thought would most catch the eye of Adirondack audiences. Partners preferred the WPA style, with the Illustrative style a close second choice.
	+ Emily-Bell solicited ideas about how partners could help APIPP distribute these new outreach materials
* Emily-Bell closed by reviewing upcoming APIPP events.

**Tammara Van Ryn – APIPP**

* Thanked everyone for coming and wrapped up the meeting.

There were approximately 30 people present on the call, including the APIPP staff members noted above and APIPP’s Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator, Rebecca Bernacki, and APIPP and SLELO PRISM’s Conservation and GIS Analyst, Zack Simek.