

**LIISMA Highlights**  
**January 30, 2009**  
**Forest Park**  
**Queens, NY**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Summary of 12/8/08 meeting approved.

**Attendees:**

Jennifer Higbie – Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)  
Michael Bilecki – National Park Service (NPS) Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS)  
Jordan Raphael – NPS FIIS  
Kathy Schwager – The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Alex Entrup – TNC  
Marilyn Jordan – TNC  
Ariana Newell – NYS OPRHP  
Tim Wenskus – NYC Parks  
Josephine Scalia - NYC Parks  
Jessica DiCicco – Prospect Park Alliance  
Adam Doan – Prospect Park Alliance  
Alpa Pandya - TNC

**Round Table Discussion**

**Prospect Park Alliance (Jessica DiCicco)** – The Prospect Park Alliance has been doing invasives control work, focusing on multiflora rose and non-native maples. They have also been controlling *Phragmites* by using a black tarp to cover the *Phragmites*, exposing it to extreme heat during the summer.

**NYC Parks (Tim Wenskus)** – City Parks has been focusing on planting trees, but in the process has done many small invasives removal projects. They are also working on removing a stand of bamboo. The stand has been cut and plans are being made for growing season treatments.

At Forest Park, they are removing invasive maples and are replanting with natives as part of a forest restoration program.

A few Asian Longhorn Beetle infested trees were found on state land upstate only 1/8 mi. outside of the quarantine zone. No decisions have yet been made as to how to deal with this.

Tim brought in vials with preserved Emerald Ash Borer for LIISMA members to use in outreach.

Viburnum Leaf Beetle sightings were confirmed on North Brother Island in the Bronx. It is not yet known to occur in Brooklyn or Queens. LIISMA members should be aware and familiar with the pest; visit <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/vlb/> to view a Cornell fact and ID page.

**NPS FIIS (Mike Bilecki)** – Jordan Raphael, park biologist, is taking over for Fernando Villalba as the IPM/invasive species contact for Fire Island. The park is continuing the PMIS grant project started in 2007, which funded the invasive species interns. FIIS is working on securing more funding for continued invasives removal, which could start again in 2011. Efforts thus far have concentrated on controlling invasives in the Otis Pike High Dune Wilderness Area, and they have achieved some success. If they do not get designated funding again, they will use some park funds in combination with the NPS Northeast Exotic Plant Management Team's efforts to address the invasive species concerns. The ISPZ plan

for the FIIS wilderness area is under review by natural resource staff, and will then be sent to the superintendant for approval.

**BNL (Jennifer Higbie)** – Has been given approval to control *Phragmites* on some areas in BNL. Resource staff is submitting proposals for the funding of removal projects.

**NYS OPRHP (Ariana Newell)** – NYS Parks is working with student groups for invasive removal projects next growing season.

**TNC (Alpa Pandya)** – Invasive species funding from the State Environmental Protection Fund is being cut from \$5M to \$3.5M this upcoming year and it may be further reduced to \$1.5M the following year. It is from this line item that each PRISM is supposed to receive its funding so there is the possibility that LIISMA may not receive funding.

February 9, 2009 is invasives lobby day to raise awareness for invasive species issues. **We need all the help we can get so please contact Alpa if you are interested in attending** ([apandya@tnc.org](mailto:apandya@tnc.org)).

One possible source of federal funding is through the Green-TEA (Transportation Equity Act), which is discussed later in the meeting. The Federal Stimulus Program is another potential source of funding, but details on how to access it are not yet clear. A CCC type of program for invasives removal is one idea that may be proposed.

**TNC (Kathy Schwager)** – LIISMA has not yet received state funding, and it is still not known when the funding will come through. As a result, LIISMA will not be able to have a Rapid Response team or a conference for 2009. A conference and an EDRR team are still planned for when funding does come through.

#### **Discussion:**

*Green-TEA Appropriation for Invasives Management Along State Road Rights-of-Way -*

The focus of the appropriation request is on EDRR in high quality and sensitive areas bordering state roads. The money would support control on DoT lands. Heavily impacted areas along major state highways will not be considered for this work.

Some ISPZs are bordered by state roads (e.g. hwy 24 in Flanders). The focus of the work would be in Region 11 because there are not many areas in Region 10 that qualify as high-quality and would be considered EDRR priorities. LIISMA agreed that the focus of this funding should be in Region 11 and support pursuing this appropriation.

This will be part of a statewide effort to bring money to all the PRISMs in NYS to supplement State funding.

NYC Parks has applied for this funding in the past (when it was ICE TEA) and may be able to offer some guidance in applying for this money.

#### **Presentation:**

Glyphosate Treatment of *Ludwigia peploides* in Sweyze Pond

*Kathy Schwager*

#### **Presentation:**

Scientific Review Committee Update: County "Do Not Sell" Lists and Proposed Amendments

*Marilyn Jordan*

The work of the BBG and SRC can be viewed at [www.NYIS.info](http://www.NYIS.info)

#### **Other Updates:**

*Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands General Permit for EDRR* – Rob Marsh (DEC) is OK with the LIISMA approved list. The permit will cover mechanical removal with hand tools only. TNC will likely be the permit holder, but any LIISMA members will be able to utilize the permit.

Any work under the permit will require a letter with specific requirements (to be outlined later) to be sent to the DEC with TNC copied as well. It is important that all processes are followed to the letter. Any abuse or non-compliant activities under the general permit will result in a loss of the privilege to utilize it.

*10<sup>th</sup> National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week* – Feb. 22-27 in Washington DC Weed Awareness Week. Register at <http://niwaw.allenmm.com> or call 1-888-627-8681. It is a great opportunity to get information to public officials, and it is also a good time to get invasives stories to news outlets.

*Invasive Lobby Day* - February 9, 2009 is invasives lobby day to raise awareness for invasive species issues. Contact Alpa Pandya ([apandya@tnc.org](mailto:apandya@tnc.org)) if you are interested in attending.