LIISMA Highlights
February 18, 2010
Salt Marsh Nature Center
Marine Park, Brooklyn, NY

1. Highlights for December meeting approved

2. Roundtable Announcements

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – Laura Bavaro – Governor Paterson's budget proposal for FY2010-11 cuts the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) by 33%, from $212M to $143M. The EPF was scheduled to grow to $300M in 2010 under the EPF Enhancement Act passed in 2007. The Governor's proposal is a 52% cut from the $300M funding level. The EPF funds the invasives eradication grants and many other environmental protection programs.

US National Park Service Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) – Jordan Raphael – The Federal Recreational Fee Demonstration Program money used for invasives control for the last 3 years has been exhausted, but because the project was so successful, additional funding for invasives management at FINS has been allocated. The Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) plan is in the process of being incorporated into the FINS General Management Plan (GMP). In addition, the density of invasive species in an area will be used as a metric for 'wilderness character'.

USDA – Steve Clark – Khapra beetle (a pest of grain and feed) trapping has been completed for the year. None have been found on LI thus far.

NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets – Robert P. Leonti – trapping on North and South forks of LI will target European oak borer (if funding is secured). They will also be looking for fire ants in the region. Fire ants can live in many microclimates in NY, especially greenhouses.

Prospect Park Alliance – John Jordan and Jessica DiCicco –Along with volunteers, Prospect Park Alliance has been doing both aquatic and terrestrial restoration. They are doing some *Phragmites* removal. They have found egg casings of viburnum leaf beetle on the majority of the viburnums. Arrowwood and mapleleaf viburnums are the most highly impacted. Now is the ideal time to spot the egg casings on infested trees. You can trim off the egg casings for control, although this is not feasible on a large scale. Cornell Cooperative Extension has great information on the VLB identification.
http://www.hort.cornell.edu/vlb/id.html

EEA, Inc. – Bill Jacobs – EEA is still awaiting the State invasives eradication grant money for a Japanese knotweed control project using stem injection techniques. Once awarded the grant, more information will follow.

NYC Parks (Marine Park) – Calvin Godfrey – The Marine Park in Brooklyn is working with volunteers to remove invasives and plant natives at the Marine Park Marsh. Calvin is considering applying for public funding for a native plant garden, and would be interested in advice from anyone that has experience in funding and creating native plant gardens. At the next LIISMA meeting in Marine Park (Aug. 5) the group will go on a field trip to see the site.

NYC Parks – Tim Wenskus – NYC Parks, with Army Corps of Engineers, is creating a 60-acre grassland on White Island in Marine Park in Brooklyn. They have brought in a soil mix that should support the desired grassland plants and suppress *Phragmites*. The sand/soil mix is being put on now and will eventually be planted with native plants from the Greenbelt Native Plant Center. They are also planning a 50-acre restoration of salt and freshwater marsh at Marine Park.

The USDA has created a great new guide to invasive plants. It is available on the USDA website. http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/34183

Montana State University has created some artificial invasive plants for interpretive use. Tim brought a few garlic mustard plants to share.

Viburnum leaf beetle has been moving quickly. It has spread from the Bronx to Brooklyn's Prospect Park in one year. It may soon be found throughout LIISMA.

The NYC One Million Tree Campaign continues. They will be hosting an education program about the ecological benefits of the campaign at the New School in Manhattan on March 5 and 6. The cost will be $50 and information can be found on-line.
http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/home/home.shtml

USFS will open a branch office in NYC to bring scientists and researchers to look at city systems and share work with scientists in the region.

NYS Dept. of Transportation Region 11 – Paul K Johnson – If DoT is going to effectively control invasives and plant natives, recommendations need to be outlined in policy. Guidelines for control efforts and planting lists generally come from Albany. The policy is created in the form of an Engineering Bulletin (EB). The landscape architects' bureau helps shape the policy that goes into the EB. EB is generally the means by which plants are selected to be planted during projects.

In construction and maintenance contracts there are lists of 'protected' and 'need to remove' species. In huge projects, it is possible to get good work done if there is a framework for including invasive management priorities within the project scope. A state list could be helpful in getting invasives control accomplished on DoT land because the list informs which species would be included on the remove list.

TNC – Alex Entrup –Volunteer events can be posted on the TNC website. Email Alex at aentrup@tnc.org with details of the event to get it posted online. TNC has a fairly large distribution list, so it could be helpful in getting more volunteers out for your events. The volunteer site can be viewed at: www.nature.org/volunteer/longisland.

3. Presentation: Introduction to Ballast Water Management – Bill Nelson (USCG-Auxiliary)

Mitten Crab has proven to be a major problem in California and other areas of the Pacific West. The species is starting to show up along the eastern seaboard, including the Chesapeake Bay (2005-2007), Delaware Bay (2007), Hudson River (2007-2009), and in New Jersey (2008-2009). It lives parts of its life cycle in both salt and fresh water, and can migrate great distances over land and water. It is omnivorous, and has a voracious appetite. It could severely impact the environment on Long Island and elsewhere. The crab can be distinguished by the furry "mitten" on the claws. There are not native fresh water crabs, so any crab found in freshwater should be suspect. If found contact the NYS DEC at 845-256-3171 or 845-256-3071. DEC Mitten Crab alert can be found online at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/35888.html.

Ballast water has been responsible for various invasive species being introduced. The U.S. Coast Guard will likely adopt the Proposed Ballast Water Discharge Standards (available online at www.regulations.gov, then search USCG-2001-10486)

A PDF of the presentation will be distributed over the list serve.

4. Discussion: The future of ISPZs and invasives management in the face of climate change - Kathy Schwager

The ISPZ one page summary has been updated to include the concept of using ISPZs as a way to create resilience through preserving biodiversity. The new language for the ISPZ is as follows:

As climate predictions become increasingly dire, natural resource managers continue to evaluate adaptation options for climate-sensitive ecosystems and seek actual on-the-ground implementation mechanisms. Resiliency is defined as the amount of change or disturbance that a system can absorb before it undergoes a fundamental shift to a different set of processes or structures. Helping to ensure the resilience of an ecosystem is predicated on maintaining the genetic diversity, biologic diversity, and heterogeneity of landscape mosaics within the system. To keep this diversity, ecosystem processes (i.e., water cycle, mineral cycle, energy flow, and community dynamics) need to remain as intact as possible – processes that invasive, non-native plants and animals threaten. ISPZs serve as refugia for native species which may result in greater resilience of our ecosystems. Protecting areas with ecological memory (e.g., ISPZs) theoretically increases the chance of ecosystem reorganization after disturbance, including organisms adapting in place and the areas serving as stepping stones for other species to move between suitable sites. If the conditions are right, these sites may also have the potential of colonizing outward. As the pressure from invasives in New York grows, the need for ISPZs will increase.

The ISPZ concept has been modeled as a potential climate change adaptation strategy. Some of the idea for using ISPZs as an adaptation strategy came about because many of the ISPZs were identified as biodiversity "hot spots." Limiting the damage done to ecosystem processes by invasive species may increase the adaptive capacity of these areas, making them more resilient to the effects of climate change.

TNC has applied for a USFS grant to take the ISPZ concept nation-wide. The grant could fund NY Natural Heritage Program efforts to identify "hot spots" on all land within NYS.

NYC parks – "Heat Island Effect" has been in some ways climate change on a smaller scale, (i.e. more CO^2 and higher temperatures). The selective pressures have possibly created genotypes better suited to a warmer climate. This is an area requiring additional research. Climate has also been considered within restoration efforts (e.g. sea level rise when planning salt marsh restoration).

NPS-FINS – Incorporating the ISPZ as a part of the GMP will help in fulfilling the NPS need to evaluate climate change in planning. FINS could also help the Park Service use the ISPZ concept in other parks.

LIISMA approved the new ISPZ fact sheet, and the new language will be reflected in the ISPZ section of the LIISMA website at www.liinvasives.org and will be distributed to other PRISMs.

5. Updates

LIISMA Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands General Permit – Kathy Schwager – The permit will likely have to be approved by Albany because it covers multiple regions. It is hoped that it will be done this field season, but it may take longer.

I-MapInvasives – Kathy Schwager – iMapInvasives is a GIS based invasive species online mapping program/database. There will be a training held on Long Island in the future. It will be a 3-5 hr. training session. If interested in attending contact Kathy Schwager at kschwager@tnc.org. The iMap website can be accessed at http://www.imapinvasives.org/.

Scientific Review Committee Update – Marilyn Jordan – The SRC will soon complete its work, having met 42 times and assessed the invasiveness of 180 species non-native to New York State. To date 69 species have been ranked as "High" or "Very High" and will be recommended to be banned for sale.

Moderately invasive species are recommended to be on the "Manage" list, in which they will not be banned for sale, but should not be planted by land managers and ought to be considered for control. The work of the SRC has informed invasive species legislation and the "Do Not Sell" lists in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and has been accepted by the NYS Invasive Species Task Force. About half of the assessments are available on-line at www.NYIS.info under the "Resources" tab, and the rest will soon be posted.

State Invasive Species Legislation – Laura Bavaro –The NYS Invasive Species Task Force is coming up with a process for creating the committee's recommendations. The State Committee has adopted the Scientific Review Committee recommendations and they will be included in the report. The report will be available in about four months with all of the committee's recommendations.

6. Other

The next meeting is April 8 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Riverhead.

Attendees:

Laura Bavaro, TNC
Stephen Clark, USDA
Jessica DiCicco, Prospect Park Alliance
Alex Entrup, TNC
Calvin Godfrey, NYC Parks, Marine Park
Bill Jacobs, EEA, Inc.
Paul K. Johnson, NYSDOT
John Jordan, Prospect Park Alliance
Marilyn Jordan, TNC
Robert P. Leonti, NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets
Bill Nelson, USCG Auxiliary
Jordan Raphael, NPS-FINS
Kathy Schwager, TNC
Tim Wenskus, NYC Parks