

**LIISMA Highlights**  
**March 27, 2008**  
**Cornell Cooperative Extension Office**  
**Riverhead, NY**

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

**2) Approval of Minutes**

Three changes p.3 Troy Weldy title, p.5 Climax to Climex last page Sound Planting to Sound Gardening

**3) Roundtable discussion**

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** - Kathy Schwager - Through State and private funding, TNC has secured a Student Conservation Association (SCA) Native Plant Corps. crew for this growing season. They will work on EDRR, eradication at Cedar Point County Park (East Hampton), mapping at Pipe's Cove (Southold), mapping on the Montauk peninsula and mapping and controlling invasives in Hither Hills/Hither Woods.

Cedar Point County Park- Garlic Mustard Pull Sat. 5/10/08. It can be viewed on TNC's website at:

[www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newyork/volunteer/art14886.html](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newyork/volunteer/art14886.html)

Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) - Ward Melville Heritage Organization applied for LI Sound Futures Fund grant funds to eradicate perennial pepperweed at West Meadow Beach (Stony Brook) Kathy had a meeting to coordinate the area's efforts. Suffolk County will work with Ward Melville Heritage Organization and the Town of Brookhaven to remove pepperweed. There is no Town of Brookhaven/SC/ DEC letter of support, although there is verbal support. Ward Melville plans on getting volunteers out to work on the project. Suffolk County Parks has agreed to apply for the wetlands permit required for this project on behalf of all 3 agencies/organizations.

Perennial pepperweed is difficult to control, and there is no clear strategy for total control. It will likely require lots of pulling and digging over a period of many years.

**EEA** - Bill Jacobs - is working to restore a 35 ac. beachfront site with dunes in Rockaway. The name of the site is Avene by the Sea. It is infested with Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) and privet (*Ligustrum spp.*). EEA will employ cutting, injecting, and foliar treatments. After the site is cleaned up, it will be turned over to city parks.

**USDA** - Tom Cullen - Aquatic Plant inspections have been going well. Also, the Do-Not-Sell list has been disseminated to the sellers. There have not been any Do-Not-Sell or noxious weeds intercepted.

Everyone check out the Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants. Here is a link to the PDF of the field guide:

<http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/mciap/FieldGuide.pdf>

Administered by the NYSDEC for the US Forest Service, the Forest Land Enhancement Program avails a private owner of at least 5 acres of forest land or lands suitable to establish forest to at least a 25% or 50% cost share to implement sustainable forestry practices. According to Mr. Cullen, the fund is running out of money.

**DEC** - Aphrodite Montalvo – Both the Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasives Eradication Grants have been announced by the DEC. The DEC hopes to interview for a regional forester soon.

**NYS Dept. of Ag. and Markets** - Joe Parent – No new Pine Shoot Beetle infestations were found in the state.

The cooperative effort between the state and the USDA for Sirex Wood Wasp Trapping has been suspended. The state continues to trap for Sirex Wood Wasp but on a smaller scale. The new finds of this insect are in the upstate region and is **not** close to LI at this time. Again to our knowledge the insect is not currently on Long Island. There have been a few new sightings in new counties. A nematode has been released that helps control the wasp.

Exotic bark beetle and emerald ash borer trapping will be expanded. They are using prism traps placed near ash trees, and would like to have them in a variety of locations. Please contact NYS Ag. & Markets if you know where there are any stands of Ash trees on Long Island. Kathy will send out an e-mail to the list serve asking for info on location of ash tree stands.

NYS Ag. & Markets will advertise a job to interface with invasive specialists and the DEC to coordinate efforts. The LIISMA MOU has not yet been signed.

**Connetquot State Park** - Gary Lawton – Applied for LI Sound Futures Fund grant to research restoring *Spartina* in a *Phragmites*-infested marsh through salt water flow restoration. They are looking to alter the dike system and eventually implement the plan. The study will include elevation and hydrology studies.

**Nissequoge River Water Shed** – Louise Harrison - If anyone is interested in any meetings of the plan for restoring the river contact Louise Harrison.

**Central Pine Barrens Commission (CPB)** – Ann Carter- Seeing a lot of ATV damage in the Pine Barrens. By eliminating ATVs it will not only prevent the direct damage, it will also eliminate them as a vector of seed and disturbance that allows for the establishment of weeds.

Gypsy moth is devastating oak trees in some areas particularly in the Hampton Hills Area.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)** - Andy Senesac - Andy found what looks to be an infestation of perennial pepperweed on a preserve in the Town of Southold. It falls within in the Pipes Cove study area that will be mapped by the upcoming SCA team. For more information call Maurine Cullinane (maureencullinane@aol.com). Mowing may be the method best to be used. Suffolk County is considering using tarps for treatment.

\*\*Note – The plant was mis-identified and, thankfully, turned out not to be perennial pepperweed, but Chinese lespedeza (an invasive, I know, but one not as bad as pepperweed).

**Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)** – Jennifer Higbie – BNL signed the MOU. BNL is applying for WPA status, with most of the proposed area falling within the Central Pine Barrens Region.

**Nassau County Parks** - Al Lindberg – Nassau was awarded a DEC Terrestrial Invasives Eradication Grant for controlling mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*), and is planning on hiring seasonal workers to help in control.

A permit application for water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) control was submitted to NYSDEC for work this year.

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) has seemingly been wiped out on the Muttontown Preserve property, but is still present on the abutting privately owned property.

**Fire Island National Seashore** - Fernando Villalba- secured funding to control invasives in the eastern end of the Wilderness Area and also at the William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach. Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) was documented in the wilderness area on the East End. They are using basal bark treatments with Garlon 4. The William Floyd Estate is maintained as a cultural site, which includes invasive plants in the landscape. National Park Service has worked with their cultural resources division to develop a plan for control. They are going to control

what grows outside of the precise areas that were planted in the historic landscape. FINS has identified a few areas to designate as WPAs. Three SCA crew will help control invasive plants in the central and east end and inventory invasives on the west end of the park this growing season.

Native landscape is part of the cultural landscape - it is important for those who work with cultural resources staff to stress this.

**4) Presentation - Karen Eichelberger CPBC** - Invasives control in the Pine Barrens Region using the Student Conservation Association.

**5) Presentation - Marilyn Jordan TNC** - LIISMA Scientific Review Committee (SRC) Update

Marilyn Jordan will get in contact to see if USDA may be able to send a member as a non-voting representative to the SRC meetings.

The LIISMA Scientific Review Committee will begin sending out e-mails to LIISMA about which species will be assessed at each meeting, to see if anyone from LIISMA wants to bring information to the SRC for consideration.

**6) Discussion - Kathy Schwager** - A long range vision for LIISMA  
What is the vision for LIISMA and Long Island as a whole? Where are we going to be in ten years? How do we want to continue mapping? How do we move forward with treatment and mapping?

There are ~150,000 acres of open space on LI and about 45,000 acres have been mapped for invasives. There was general agreement among all present that not all 150,000 acres needs to be mapped. Some areas could be mapped for just a few select species, but it would take far too much time to map for every species. Suffolk County has about 45,000 ac. that still need to be mapped. Nassau County has about 3,000 acres of preserved area.

According to Al Lindberg, there is a major need for people to be looking over areas both large and small to understand priorities. Al is retiring soon, but will probably (hopefully) still be involved in SRC and LIISMA. Many others are retiring soon and their knowledge needs to be incorporated into a plan.

Nissequogue River Watershed was discussed as a priority area for State Parks map invasives in because funding will come down after assessment.

Strategies should be developed for controlling invasives on private land, including laws and policies. This is an issue with some giant hogweed infestations. There is another example of mile-a-minute infesting three adjoining properties.

Big goal: Change peoples behavior so that a holistic approach to controlling invasive plants can be possible.

An interagency stewardship committee that could work on all lands could be formed. LIISMA could be funded with authority and staff to coordinate weed efforts. The western US has County Weed Boards that are trained in weed control, a similar concept.

The legislative branch is not represented in LIISMA or SRC. All government representation is currently in the executive branch. It would be good to contact the county legislators that sponsored the DNS list legislation and see if they will get a rep to come to LIISMA meetings. A representative could learn quite a lot from the roundtable. It is in the interest of LIISMA to have informed allies in the legislative branch.

LIISMA could use a professional facilitator to help pull all the ideas together to develop a mission and sets of goals and objectives. \$200-\$400 could be enough to hire someone to help LIISMA create a vision and mission statement for the next ten years. This larger discussion would need to be a precursor to updating the LIISMA management plan. While the LIISMA management plan should be updated, the EPF LIISMA funding from the State is needed first. An annual action plan for the organization should be developed to give direction.

### **7) Weed Prevention Areas Update - Alpa Pandya, Kathy Schwager**

LIISMA supports efforts to formally designate Invasive Species Prevention Zones (ISPZs), formerly known as Weed Prevention Areas. ISPZs are a planning tool that LIISMA and select partner agencies have been using for years. Formal state designation will attract attention and funding to a planning process that everyone supports. ISPZs should cover all natural areas meeting the criteria across jurisdictional boundaries, not just state (or public) lands.

LIISMA has been using the WPA concept unofficially (i.e. to focus staff and equipment on prevention/EDRR techniques in mostly intact natural areas where the work is most likely to be effective). Criteria were adopted in December 2007.

At this time, LIISMA proposes that the state formal designation only cover LI because LIISMA is the only PRISM far enough along in the mapping and designation process of WPAs. Other PRISMs are not as far along in their planning processes. The process for ISPZ designation is still being developed and designation will likely be evaluated on a case by case basis. It is envisioned that a draft State bill would cover LI/LIISMA and include language so that other PRISMs

may opt in as they adopt the criteria and start using them for mapping and eradication planning.

Invasives mapping currently encompasses only terrestrial and freshwater aquatic plants, but ISPZs could include other ecosystems and species. Invasives mapping will likely expand into the marine and underwater areas.

Whether watersheds or freshwater systems (ponds, lakes, streams) should be their own ISPZ or incorporated as part of a broader land-and-water-based one is still to be discussed, but it will probably be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the water body (size, impacts from land and users around it, etc.) and its needs.

Louise Harrison (US FWS) stated there are several sub-regional, intermunicipal, watershed-based management plans for Long Island that could be reviewed for their relevancy to creation of weed protection areas (as well as potential sources of funding): the Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program (NYS Department of State), the South Shore Estuary Reserve Management Plan (NYS DOS), the Peconic Estuary Program's Management Plan, the Pine Barrens Management Plan, and more. The Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program, for example, identified "regionally important natural areas" which could be chosen as the basis for overlaying WPAs. These planning tools, already subjected to extensive public review and approval, are the bases of a variety of intergovernmental and private cooperative efforts and funding programs of which we could take advantage. When projects adhere to the recommendations of these official plans, extra points are awarded to grantees of public funds.

It does not seem that the State invasives eradication grants have clear criteria which prioritize funding invasives management in natural areas. EDRR and other prevention strategies are the most effective and efficient way to control invasives. State funding of eradication work in severely impacted areas is also important, and this bill would not preclude that type of work.

The Central Pine Barrens has a plan that has been in place for years and now is able get funding and on the ground control, because land managers and owners are on board. ISPZs could similarly get work done and funding secured.

Within the next couple of months (summer), the ISPZ concept and bill language will be developed with the help of the criteria already adopted by LIISMA, the input of the other PRISMs, and the State Office of Inv Spp. LIISMA will work with State legislative sponsors later this year.

**8) Meeting Conclusion** - Next meeting is 6/5/08 at the CPB office in Great River, NY.

**Attendees:**

Laura Bavaro	TNC	Marilyn Jordan	TNC
Ann Carter	Central Pine Barrens Commission	Gary Lawton	NYSOPRHP
Steve Clark	USDA	Gwen Lerner	Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District
Marie Conte	NYS Dept of Ag & Markets	Al Lindberg	Nassau Co. Parks Rec. and Museums
Thomas P. Cullen	USDA	Aphrodite Montalvo	NYS DEC
Karen Eichelberger	Central Pine Barrens Commission	Joe Parent	NYS Dept of Ag & Markets
Alex Entrup	TNC	Kathy Schwager	TNC
Louise Harrison	USFWS/LI Sound Office	Andy Senesac	CCE, Suffolk Co.
Jennifer Higbie	Brookhaven National Lab	Rich Turell	NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets
Bill Jacobs	EEA, Inc.	Fernando Villalba	NPS, Fire Island National Seashore