

**LIISMA Highlights**  
**June 5, 2008**  
**Suffolk County Water Authority**  
**Great River, NY**

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

**2) Approval of Summary**

The summary of the March 27, 2008 meeting were approved without amendment.

**3) Roundtable Discussion**

**Nassau County Parks** – Al Lindberg – Hosted an Arbor Day volunteer event March 29th at Muttontown Preserve, and volunteer invasive species removal at Tiffany Creek. Some of the species targeted in the events were Norway maple, Japanese knotweed and multiflora rose.

**New York City Parks** – Tim Wenksus – Received an Invasives Eradication Grant for mile-a-minute Vine. A previously unknown infestation of kudzu was found in Udalls Cove and will be worked on in the future.

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** – Alex Entrup – TNC has hosted two volunteer invasive species events at Uplands Farm in Cold Spring Harbor primarily targeting garlic mustard. The first in a series of library and garden clubs talks about invasive species hosted by TNC and North Shore Land Alliance was held at South Huntington Library.

**NY Department of Transportation** – Richard Gass – Treatment of *Ailanthus altissima* along the Southern States Parkway will begin soon.

**EEA** – Bill Jacobs – In studies around ponds in Nassau County, lesser celandine and Japanese knotweed have been found co-existing. Watch out for this dual infestation as the plants continue to spread east.

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Peconic Estuary Program (NYSDEC PEP)** - Laura Stephenson – PEP, in cooperation with many partners, is hosting a *Ludwigia peploides* pull on June 21-22 and July 12-13 at Peconic Lake Estates Civic Organization, Calverton, NY. The event is open to all. They have so far removed 120 cubic feet of *Ludwigia* and the goal is to get it at maintenance level after the two events. For more information visit [www.peconicestuary.org](http://www.peconicestuary.org) or call Laura at: 631-444-0871.

**NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)** – Gary Lawton – Volunteer events have been held at Connetquot River State Park targeting an invasive *Euphorbia* called moleplant (*Euphorbia lathyris*) and

Japanese barberry. Connetquot is also hiring an intern to implement invasives management plan. Ticks have become a major concern as of late.

**North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA)** – Jane Jackson – NSLA is prioritizing invasives at many sites. Adding to Bill Jacobs' report from EEA, NSLA has observed the co-invasion of pond areas by knotweed and lesser celandine. NSLA is investigating an invasive plant monitoring program in partnership with Rutgers University and NJ Trails Association, in which trail building/maintenance crews receive training and then monitor for invasives as part of their work. Jane will send out information on this program over the list serve.

**Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)** – Jennifer Higbie – The Dept. of Energy recognized invasive species as a management problem on all DOE lands. This will likely support the invasive control work being done at BNL in the future. BNL is continuing work on Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) plan. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) Pine Barrens crew has been working on BNL lands. They were unable to find the kudzu infestation (it was likely too early in the summer), but they plan on returning to the site later in the season to remove it.

**NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets** – Robert Leonti- In addition to the routine greenhouse and nursery inspections targeting specific invasives, the department has deployed the following insect traps: 48 exotic bark beetle (EBB) traps throughout NYC, Nassau and Suffolk. 20 emerald ash borer (EAB) traps placed at camp sites and nurseries that grow ash. 20 wood boring beetle sites. Additionally federal APHIS PPQ officer William Hsiang from Westhampton Beach office has deployed 10 EBB traps in eastern Suffolk and 20 Pine Shoot Beetle traps. The insects are identified at Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) No exotic insects have yet been detected. Trapping efforts are responsible for the discovery of Sirex wood wasp in NYS (not LI).

**US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** – Louise Harrison – Nissequogue River Action Plan steering committee is looking at a variety of management options, including invasive species control as a major action. Input/comments welcome.

**US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS)** – Steve Clark, Tom Cullen – Japanese beetle traps have been set up at JFK and LGA airports. Tom recently visited Florida as part of an exotic fruit fly trapping program. Florida is blanketed in traps for exotic fruit flies. APHIS is looking for two specific species of exotics. The program was interesting because of the large scale and precise identification needed.

**Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District (SCSWCD)** – Polly Weigand – Polly recently gave a presentation at a water quality symposium about

how to prevent the spread of invasive species at other districts in NYS and made recommendations on what other districts could do to improve their management. She also presented at the East End Livestock and Horsemen Association. She emphasized the role that hay and manure play in the spread of weeds, and the need to address them as a means of seed dispersal.

**Fire Island National Seashore National Park Service (FIIS NPS)** – Fernando Villalba – FIIS is 2 years into a 3 year grant which is paying for invasives control, and they are applying now for the 2010 funding. Mastic Beach, Visitor Center area, and the Wilderness Area have been cleared of most invasives. At the William Floyd Estate, they have treated *Ailanthus*. The NPS North East Exotic Plant Management Team (NE-EPMT) came up to help on the project. FIIS has also treated Japanese knotweed infestations by first cutting the stand and then controlling the growth with a chemical treatment. They have also treated infestations of autumn olive, multiflora rose and garlic mustard. FIIS plans to coordinate with TNC and the NE-EPMT for an event to clear out invasives from the Lighthouse Tract. FIIS also plans on distinguishing the Wilderness Area as an ISPZ in the future.

**TNC** – Kathy Schwager – The SCA crew is on the ground and working. They spent one week removing garlic mustard infestations at Cedar Point County Park. Ward Melville contacted Kathy for the perennial pepperweed removal grant. The proposal came back with questions and Kathy provided necessary info so the proposal could be resubmitted. With or without the grant money there will be some control work done through the restoration plan. Kathy and Diana Sanford from Suffolk County Parks will continue planning the project.

Kathy attended the Weeds Across Borders Conference May 27-30 in Banff National Park, Canada. The purpose of the conference was to share information and promote weed management throughout North America. Kathy presented a poster at the conference. Some of the interesting ideas to come out of the conference are: Canada's heavy cooperation with the First Nations in combating the spread of invasive plants. Canada and the U.S. are cooperating in WA through both information sharing and regulatory means. NYS has not yet begun a formal program with Canada. The USNPS is also engaged in cross border weed control in Glacier/Waterton Lakes National Parks. Some Canadian groups have been handing out information packets for landowners with species information specific to the weeds on their property, including treatment recommendations and how to request assistance for control. This could serve as a model for LIISMA outreach.

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Office of Invasive Species** – Steve Sanford – Asked for input from the PRISMs of issues in which the DEC could be of help. Some suggestions are as follows:

1) Cultivars: Scientific thresholds need to be developed for a cultivar certification program (i.e., indicating non-invasiveness and thus appropriate for sale). Likely benchmarks that should be developed include: a) lack of reversion after x generations, b) germination of less than x% of seeds, c) defining characteristic/marker to show that it is the approved cultivar, d) does not vegetatively spread more than x ft per year given x growing conditions, and e) does not negatively affect x, y, z animal species, etc). This would be helpful for the nursery industry.

2) Education: Host classes about invasive plants at the NYSLSA biannual summit, awarding landscape architects' recertification credits. This would be a way to educate a group that is somewhat responsible for the continued use of some invasive species in landscaping.

Steve asked for feedback about how to address the problem of wetland permitting taking too long. Alpa Pandya, TNC, suggested creating a new permit for wetland invasive species control, rather than trying to make invasive species projects fit into a permitting process designed for development. Steve commented that DEC is in the process of creating a "Rapid Response" permit for invasives. Also, the creation of a new pesticide applicator's category for ecological restoration would be helpful. Right now, restoration applicators are being certified in turf grass or right-of-way maintenance. Some other states, such as Florida, have a category specifically for Natural Area Weed Control.

**NYSDEC OIS** – Leslie Surprenant – Leslie invited everyone to join the monthly conference call. The calls are on the last Wednesday of each month at 11:00 A.M. For more information on the calls contact Leslie at:

**Leslie Surprenant**

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The RFP for the terrestrial eradication grants should be coming out soon. The date for aquatic eradication grants is still unknown.

**Environmental Protection Agency Long Island Sound** – Louise Harrison – EPA will soon be joining LIISMA and the Lower Hudson PRISMs. Louise will be attending both meetings.

**-End of Round Table –**

**4) Presentation: A Statewide Perspective on Invasives Management -**

Leslie Surprenant, Steve Sanford NYSDEC Office of Invasive Species Coordination - Steve Sanford presented a PowerPoint covering the history, makeup, responsibilities and vision for the DEC Office of Invasive Species. Leslie spoke about her role as PRISM coordinator.

**5) Feedback on species ID/control worksheets -Polly Weigand – Polly**

developed draft control recommendations for a number of invasive species. The worksheets include history, biology and control methods. For chemical recommendations Polly directs people to tncweeds/ucdavis.org. Polly has had some difficulty in getting quality photos of all plants in various growth stages, so if anyone has photos that they would be willing to share, please send them to Polly. Also, contact her with any feedback about the worksheets. Her contact info is:

**Polly Weigand**

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**6) Invasive Species Prevention Zones update – Alpa Pandya – Alpa**

briefly reviewed the purpose and guidelines for creating an ISPZ. One of the ultimate goals is to tie it to EPF funding language. This would, in effect, tie grant funding to strategic planning, thus aligning funding streams with PRISM priorities. The Suffolk County Advisory Board will meet in the next 30 days, hopefully coordinating County agencies to be on board with ISPZs. Terrestrial and invasive control work can now be funded by the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program and Land Stewardship Initiative (i.e., ¼ penny tax). Alpa is working with Al Lindberg to plan for the future of management of Nassau County park lands. Al is retiring soon and it is important that stewardship is a continued priority after his departure.

**7) LIISMA Scientific Review Committee update – Marilyn Jordan – Marilyn**

will send out the 19 species list of assessed species. Results of the 19 species reviewed and approved were summarized (see below). *Lonicera tatarica* and *Lonicera bella (morrowi x tatarica)* were grouped with *L. morrowii* due to hybridization and difficulty distinguishing them in the field. Therefore the number of species and species groups is 17.

Rank	# species
VH	7
H	3
M	3
L	2
U	2
Grouped	2
SUM	19

SRC has been reviewing an average of nearly 4 species per meeting. Now that the NYS and LIISMA forms are unlikely to change significantly, SRC will likely be able to review 5 or 6 species in future meeting.

**8) Adjourn** –The next meeting will be August 21, 2008 10am - 12:30pm at Oak Ridge, Forest Park in Queens.

### Attendance

Laura Bavaro	TNC	Al Lindberg	Nassau Co. Parks Rec. and Museums
Ariana Breisch	NYSOPRHP	Susan McCormick	NPS-FIIS/SCA
Ann Carter	Central Pine Barrens Commission	Jim Mesenbourg	NYSOPRHP
Steve Clark	USDA	Gerry Moore	BBG
Ray Corwin	Central Pine Barrens Commission	Bob Nellen	NYSOPRHP
Thomas P. Cullen	USDA	Alpa Pandya	TNC
Alex Entrup	TNC	Steve Sanford	NYSDEC
Richard Gass	NYSDOT	Kathy Schwager	TNC
Louise Harrison	USFWS/LI Sound Office	Laura Schwanof	EEA, Inc.
Jennifer Higbie	Brookhaven National Lab	Dara Seidl	TNC
Jane Jackson	North Shore Land Alliance	Andy Senesac	CCE, Suffolk Co.
Bill Jacobs	EEA, Inc.	Laura Stephenson	NYSDEC/PEP
Judy Jakobsen	Central Pine Barrens Commission	Leslie Surprenant	NYSDEC
Marilyn Jordan	TNC	Barbara VanGilder	NPS-FIIS/SCA
Gary Lawton	NYSOPRHP	Fernando Villalba	NPS, Fire Island National Seashore
Robert Leonti	NYS Ag & Markets	Polly Weigand	SCSWCD
Jason Ligon	NPS-FIIS/SCA	Tim Wenskus	NYC Parks