

LIISMA Highlights
July 30, 2009
Oak Ridge, Forest Park

1) May 28, 2009 highlights - Highlights were approved.

2) Roundtable announcements -

Department of Ag and Markets (Joe Parent): Emerald ash borer was first detected in New York State (Cattaraugus County) in June 2009. All 39 trees within the 10 acre infestation area were cut and chipped. More than 6,000 purple prism-shaped traps have been deployed across the state to determine if more infestations exist – none have been found to date. A documented vector that enables this insect to spread is moving firewood from one place to another. In 2008, New York banned untreated firewood from entering the state and restricts intrastate movement of untreated firewood to no more than a 50-mile radius from its source. Biosurveillance using wasps that eat EAB larvae may be employed in the future. In comparison to the rest of the NYS, there are few ash trees on Long Island.

The Nature Conservancy (Kathy Schwager): The submerged aquatic invasive *Hydrilla verticillatum* is now found in the following locations on Long Island: Sans Souci Lake (August 2008), Lotus Lake (August 2008), Blydenburgh Lake (September 2008), and Lake Ronkonkoma (July 2009). Owners of these lakes continue to develop management plans, which may include the use of aquatic herbicides, grass carp stocking, dredging, or some combination thereof. Herbicides may include the use of Sonar (flouridone) and Komeen (a copper-based chemical that keeps turions from forming--used in fall only).

Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) infestations are in Mill Pond, Wantagh (Nassau County Parks) and Mill Pond, Oyster Bay (USFWS NWR). As this is an early detection/rapid response species for Long Island, several volunteer pull days have been conducted. To date, the three volunteer pulls in Oyster Bay have yielded 10,700 pounds, and more needs to be pulled. The Wantagh infestation is notably smaller, with ~1 cubic yard pulled during their one event on July 7th. The difficulty here is that individual plants are located amongst the spatterdock making detection more difficult and time-consuming.

New York City Parks (Tim Wenskus): Funded in part through a LIS Futures Fund Grant, Alley Pond Park will celebrate National Estuaries Day on Saturday September 26th – come out for the Little Neck Bay Festival! Much work is taking place throughout the park system, including porcelain berry and Oriental bittersweet removal at Fort Totten Park (Queens). An infestation of water chestnut has been found in Tibets Pond (Yonkers). There seems to be more mile-a-minute vine throughout Staten Island this year than last.

Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District (Polly Weigand): The Long Island Native Grassland Initiative (LINGI) plant sale at Suffolk Community College was a success. Flats of Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) and Purple top (*Tridens flavus*), as well as several forbs were sold. A fall plant sale may also be held. In other news, mile-a-minute vine is taking hold in several sites, including hedgerows, in the Riverhead/Mattituck area.

ERADICATION SHEETS: On October 1st, Polly is finalizing information sheets on best invasive control techniques for the following species:

Japanese Knotweed	Chinese Silvergrass (<i>Miscanthus</i>)
Wisteria	Tree of heaven
Chinese and Japanese stiltgrass	Bamboo

Black & Pale Swallow-wort
Mile-a-minute vine
Kudzu
Multiflora Rose
Japanese Barberry

Garlic Mustard
Oriental Bittersweet
Mulberry
Mugwort

This is a practitioner's last chance to provide first hand experience to this project. Specifically, the following information is sought:

1. Timing (dates of initial removal and follow up removal timing),
2. Control methods (via hand pulling, digging, associated tools/techniques)
3. Follow up maintenance/control activities
4. Disposal methods and equipment cleaning

Conversely, any information on techniques that failed to control these species is equally important and useful. Once compiled, it is envisioned that these sheets will be available on the internet.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (Alexis Alvey): CCE of Suffolk County has planted an "Alternatives to Ornamental Invasive Plants Demonstration Garden" featuring a myriad of alternatives that should be considered in lieu of planting invasive plants. The garden is open to industry members as well as the public. The garden is located at the Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center, in Riverhead at 3059 Sound Ave. Donations of plants will be accepted. If you are interested in donating plants, please contact Alexis Alvey.

Con Edison (Mike Amato and Brian Brush): Mike Amato is responsible for 113 miles of transmission lines spanning Richmond County, Staten Island, Westchester County and Dutchess County. It takes three years for them to complete maintenance of the entire system and then they go back and do it all over again. Their biggest concern is the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*) because it grows so quickly and could ultimately interfere with the lines (causing breaks in service). When they do maintain the right of ways, it is to trim trees.

Brian is responsible for the natural resources department. Managing invasives is important from a community relations perspective as well as because of access issues. There is a need to dovetail an invasives management plan into Con Edison's existing corporate plan.

The Nature Conservancy (Dara Seidl, intern): Dara is helping with TNC's secret shopper initiative this summer to track the effectiveness of Nassau and Suffolk County's current invasive plant "do not sell" laws. Unfortunately, purple loosestrife can still be found at select nurseries. Through the internet, all the species on the Do Not Sell list can be found. On behalf of LIISMA, TNC is working with Nassau and Suffolk County on better education and enforcement.

Prospect Park (Jessica DiCicco and Adam Doan): Jessica reports that mile-a-minute is still an EDRR species at Prospect Park. Information gathered from test plots indicate that goutweed should be cut and then herbicided – it is best to treat the whole stand. A similar approach is taken for mugwort. Adam reports that they have had much success with their *Ludwigia* control efforts (hand-pulling) this year and last. In one pool, no *Ludwigia* grew this year. The current infestation is less than 2 acres and the Park is confident that they can get it under control over the next few years. In the *Phragmites* treatment plots, using black plastic is going well. They have planted broadleaf cattail in its place and the plants are doing well.

3) Presentation: Alternatives to Ornamental Invasive Plants (Alexis Alvey, CCE of Suffolk County)

In response to recent legislation banning the propagation and sale of many invasive plants, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, the Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association, the NY Landscape Architects, and Farm Bureau convened a working group to develop a list of suitable alternatives for the Long Island Region. The working group's goal was to highlight four alternative species for each invasive. The LIISMA Scientific Review Committee has provided input as well. A guide book detailing the alternatives is anticipated for the 2010 planting season.

4) Updates

- a. Scientific Review Committee – The LIISMA SRC continues to review the scientific assessments of invasive, non-native plants. Completed assessment forms continue to be posted on www.liinvasives.org
- b. County Legislation – On behalf of LIISMA, The Nature Conservancy has met with both Nassau and Suffolk counties to talk about enforcement of the current Do Not Sell lists. The Suffolk County Legislature is expected to vote on amendments to the Suffolk County legislation on August 4th.
- c. LIISMA website – pages and new information continue to be added to the LIISMA website – found at www.liinvasives.org
- d. LIISMA Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands General Permit – work to obtain this permit continues.

Meeting Attendees

- 1) Kathy Schwager, TNC
- 2) Tim Wenskus, NYC Parks
- 3) Jessica DiCicco, Prospect Park
- 4) Joe Parent, NYS Dept of Ag and Markets
- 5) Polly Weigand, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District
- 6) Alexis Alvey, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
- 7) Marilyn Jordan, The Nature Conservancy
- 8) Dara Seidl, The Nature Conservancy
- 9) Laura Bavaro, The Nature Conservancy
- 10) Mary Witke, Forest Park
- 11) Mike Amato, Con Edison
- 12) Brian Brush, Con Edison
- 13) Adam Doan, Prospect Park