

LIISMA Highlights
August 21, 2008
New York City Parks Oak Ridge
Queens, NY

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Approval of Summary

The summary of the June 5, 2008 meeting were approved without amendment.

3) Roundtable Announcements

Steve Clark (USDA) - The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat continues to approach NY, and the USDA continues to put traps out in the five boroughs and on Long Island.

One exciting incident from the month: A graduate student attempted to bring termites back from Panama and the container housing them broke open on the plane. The aircraft had to be quarantined until control efforts exterminated the insects.

Al Lindberg (Nassau County Parks) - Mile-a-minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) vine removal has been ongoing at Garvie's Point Museum and Preserve in Glen Cove.

This brings up an important opportunity to get the word out about successful EPF projects, and hopefully protect funding in the future. All members using grants or EPF money, please send a paragraph and photos for success stories.

Laura Bavaro (TNC) - A trail system from Long Island Sound to the Peconic Estuary in Southold (also known as Pipe's Cove) is envisioned by the County, Town, and Village. There are rare and endangered species in the area. Before the project is implemented the NY Natural Heritage Program will collect data for T&Es and SCA crew will map invasives.

Molly Hastings (NYS Parks) - Ariana Breisch is now the biologist responsible for controlling invasives on State Park lands. State Parks is now getting better equipment. Two seasonals are here until March, and they work with Ariana regularly.

Caper spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) has been eradicated from Connetquot River State Park through EDRR efforts. Control efforts in year 1 yielded 13

garbage bags, year 2 yielded seven bags, and this year yielded about 1 bagful.

ISPZ plan for Connetquot State Park is currently moving forward. Ariana is training staff, and the plan is being implemented. Future mapping efforts may need assistance in order to be implemented. Updated data is now posted on the web.

Josephine Scalia (NYC Parks) - NYC Parks is re-inventorying the parks in order to assess success of management strategies. Interior woods seem healthy, but edges are highly invaded. The forest is aging, and storms cause older oaks to fail, opening the canopy to invasive species.

Tim Wenskus (NYC Parks) - NYC Parks has 1983 data to compare against current data. Many invasive species are held off in interior forests, but the major problems have been in edges. This problem is exacerbated because of fragmentation.

Tim brought in examples of EAB damage. Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) in Udall's Cove is currently being controlled.

Jessica DiCicco (Prospect Park) - NYC parks has been doing lots of Norway and sycamore maple (*Acer platanoides*, *A. pseudoplatanus*) removal. They have posted signs identifying areas as restoration sites. The treatment site is about 10 ac. total. They have been working on controlling mile-a-minute as it is considered EDRR in the western part of LI. They have been hand pulling and tarping *Phragmites* as well. The removal has been part of the first large-scale bird habitat restoration project. Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) have been treated using glyphosate. They have tried cutting and covering with mulch and newspaper, cut/spray, foliar spray. Preliminary results look like cut/spray is the most effective method.

Alex Entrup (TNC) - Sweyze Pond *Ludwigia peploides* glyphosate treatment has been continuing. The third treatment has been completed with the final scheduled for the last week of August 2008. Water quality and vegetation monitoring is being completed as part of this project. Preliminarily, it seems that the treatments have been successful.

Hand removal of *Ludwigia* on the Peconic River continued this year and appears to be successful. Hand-pulling in 2006 and 2007 yielded about 120 cubic yards of material. This year, however, only about 3 cubic yards needed to be pulled. A full report of *Ludwigia* control efforts in the Peconic will be presented at a future meeting.

Kathy Schwager (TNC) - The Student Conservation Association (SCA) weed crew is working at Cedar Point County Park (CPCP) ISPZ. The crew has worked on barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) attempting to eradicate invasives in CPCP. They are also mapping Hither Hills, Hither Woods, Teddy Roosevelt County Park, Montauk State Park, and Camp Hero. The Pine Barrens also has an SCA crew that has been doing eradication work throughout the Central Pine Barrens. They've accomplished much. Fire Island SCAs have also done significant invasive control this season.

Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) has been found in Mill Pond in Oyster Bay. USFWS mobilized and pulled most of the infestation. Control was done just before seed set. It will be an ongoing effort. Other infestations are in Swan Pond on the Peconic River, and Mill Pond in Wantagh.

Scott Kishbaugh will come down the week of August 25th to do pond surveys on Long Island. He will be surveying about 25 ponds. He surveying for invasive aquatic plants and doing water quality assessments.

Marilyn Jordan (TNC) - Marilyn has been performing experiments on the viability of kudzu seeds on Long Island. Her experiments suggest that kudzu can indeed produce viable seeds on Long Island. In 2005 and 2006 kudzu seeds were gathered in Huntington, Cold Spring Harbor, and North Brother Island, Bronx. 1/3 of seeds germinated right away. About 20% rotted and the rest germinated when scarified. The seeds remain viable from fall, through winter and in spring. A researcher in MD has been doing cold tolerance on kudzu seeds in deep freeze.

Polly Weigand (SCSWCD) - Polly just signed paperwork to be approved as part of the Suffolk County Invasive Species Advisory Board. She will get back into the control methods worksheets, needs info specifically on flowering, seed set. Request for chemical control methods, but Polly needs info from others to distribute that.

4) EDRR on Long Island: How do we put the RR into EDRR?

Mill Pond has been infested with water chestnut for more than two years. Al Lindberg has been waiting on approval for a permit to hand pull, but it still has not been approved. Part of the problem may be the permitting process itself. It was originally designed to protect wetlands from unnecessary and adverse human impact, not help trained professionals protect and restore these areas by removing invasive plants.

It was agreed that LIISMA should also pursue an Article 24 (freshwater wetlands) general permit for hand removal of select EDRR species. Adirondacks has a blanket permit for EDRR species when hand pulled. As LIISMA is the umbrella organization for public and private land managers working together to prevent the spread of invasive species, it would be best for LIISMA to pursue the Article 24 general permit on behalf of all LIISMA partners.

The first step is to create a list of EDRR species. A general permit for region 1 and 2 would be necessary to help NYC Parks. It would be of tremendous help to Nassau County Parks. The invasive species office in Albany could help in coordinating this effort.

Could all PRISMs coordinate and each present a list to the DEC for a general permit? We should be in contact with Adirondacks to address any of their concerns. We already have a few good lists of EDRR species (aquatic and terrestrial).

Kathy will report back at the next meeting.

Could LIISMA have a conference?

Maybe a couple of one day workshops work better. Full day LIISMA meeting with various presenters. Invasive Plant Control, Inc. (a private company specializing in invasive plant management) could present and give workshops on TNC property. He could present on grant writing, contract writing and control methods. First, LIISMA needs to get its funding. It looks like mid 2009 when the money could come through.

5) NYS Four Tier List Update

As per NYS Legislation, the NYS Invasive Species Council (which then created and gave these responsibilities to the Four Tier Team) is charged with developing and recommending three invasive species lists (prohibited, regulated, unregulated) for plants, animals and pathogens. The recommendations are required to be presented to the Governor and Legislature by January 2010. There are numerous members of the Four Tier Team, including gov't. agencies, industry, CCE, academic, non-profit. As per Title 17 §9-1703, the invasive species definition includes the language that the harm must significantly outweigh any benefits. LIISMA implored that caution must be taken when listing species – that economic interests do not trump scientific fact and the health of our natural ecosystems. A scientific protocol and a socio-economic protocol will be developed for each taxonomic group.

It is likely that the Four Tier Team voting members do not have the expertise or time needed to fully populate the soon-to-be-developed invasive species assessment forms. Similar to the plant invasiveness assessment forms, it is likely that an academic research institution or non-profit would best be positioned for this task. Given LIISMA's experience with developing and carrying out the plant invasiveness assessment protocol, it was discussed that the legal deadline for a list may not be very realistic. The NYSDEC Office of Invasive Species Coordination is investigating whether there is money to subcontract some of this work.

6) LIISMA Scientific Review Committee Update

At their August 13, 2008 meeting, the New York State Four Tier Team accepted the NYS and PRISM invasiveness assessment forms as the official scientific protocol to be used to assess the invasiveness of plants in the entire state. As previously reported, the plant invasiveness protocol was developed by Drs. Jordan and Moore and Mr. Weldy and is currently being used by the LIISMA Scientific Review Committee to review 140+ species.

To date, The LIISMA SRC's 17 stakeholders have assessed 48 species. The ranking is comprised of four categories: Ecological impact, biological characteristic and dispersal ability, ecological amplitude and distribution and difficulty of control. The SRC looks at characteristics for the whole State. After state assessment, the PRISM form is filled out. The PRISM form looks at local amplitude and climate to compute a PRISM rank.

Appendices have been created for human health and economic impacts, but no ranking.

Tim Wenksus could bring NYC Parks employees for some SRC meetings. The next meeting for SRC is on Maples, so NYC Parks could bring people in.

LIISMA may send out email soliciting information on the species to be assessed. Over the next few meetings the barberries, maples, and Euonymus will be assessed.

7) PRISM Survey for CCE

CCE asked each PRISM to fill out a questionnaire of needs, etc. Invasive animal and pathogen database would be good. Since this is a regional issue, CCE would be a good agency to tackle this problem. Such a database would better inform future decisions made by the NYS Four Tier List Team and land managers in general.

There is a need for a clearinghouse of information for treatments, sites, etc.

Could we create native alternatives cost estimates, and/or educate growers and landscape architects on how to grow and incorporate non-invasive plants.

Andy Senesac (CCE) with partners did studies on alternative roadside ground covers and a list of acceptable species was developed. Some LIISMA members caution that the list should be reviewed because some recommended species may be invasive.

8) Cultivars-Possible Benchmarks

Conversation will be held during a future meeting.

9) Other Updates

10/1 8:00-4:00 CT Invasive Plant Working Group.

10/7-9 TNC Global Invasive Species Team

Scott Kishbaugh found what is suspected to be a Hydrilla infestation near the NJ border in Orange County.

Leslie Surpernat sent out email about New Zealand red snail found in Great Lakes.

8/25 Workshop on bio-control of Mile-a-minute vine.

10/14-17 Natural areas management workshop in TN.

Attendees

Kathy Schwager, TNC

Steve Clark, USDA

Laura Bavaro, TNC

Jessica DiCicco, Prospect Park Alliance

Adam Doan, Prospect Park Alliance

Alex Entrup, TNC

Molly Hastings, NY State Parks

John Jordan, Prospect Park Alliance

Marilyn Jordan, TNC

Al Lindberg, Nassau County Parks

Josephine Scalia, NYC Parks

Polly Weigand, Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

Tim Wenskus, NYC Parks