

LIISMA Meeting Highlights
October 16, 2008
Cornell Cooperative Extension Riverhead, NY

Round Table and Announcements:

NYS Ag & Markets (Joe Parent)-Exotic bark beetle trapping has finished. Several pods of European Crane Fly have been detected. On Staten Island there was a new finding of bacterial leaf scorch (affects oak, maple, elm, sycamore, mulberry). Oak wilt was found in upstate NY, but not yet on Long Island. It will likely become a bigger problem, as it was thought to only be present in the South, but now has been shown to survive in Northern climates.

Central Pine Barrens Commission (Karen Eichelberger) – Their Student Conservation Association (SCA) team worked to eradicate invasive plants from seven sites throughout the central pine barrens this season. Next year the team is planning on conducting ecologically-based restoration activities. This season the crew was limited because they were unable to work in the ISPZs, and participating land managers did not get permits to work in areas near water. The team created a poster that was on display at the Pine Barrens Research Forum and is on display at this LIISMA meeting.

NYS DOT R-11 (Paul K. Johnson) – Paul came to LIISMA after discovering Kudzu on the BQE. Rob Smith called in the suspicious plant to Rich Gass and it was identified as kudzu. The following day DOT dug it up. It seems that it may have come from nursery stock originating from TN.

Legislator Schneiderman (Legislative aide Christina Delisi) – The first meeting of the Suffolk County Invasives Advisory Board is October 17th, 2:00 at the Rose Carappaca Auditorium in the William Rodgers Building in Hauppauge.

US Fish & Wildlife Service (Alex Chmielewski) – The Pine Barrens SCA team eradicated most of the swallow-wort and barberry in one area. In addition, they cleared the railroad track of bittersweet. There are two occurrences of stilt-grass and swallow-wort at Wertheim that will need attention, using a combination of glyphosate and hand-pulling. Stilt-grass could still be pulled at this time.

Brookhaven National Laboratory (Jennifer Higbie) – The Pine Barrens SCA crew removed the patch of kudzu. The crew could not remove the crown because of digging permit issues, but they did remove the above ground parts of the plant. The crew also treated two occurrences of black swallow-wort. Because of the late timing in the season, they clipped the seed pods. Some barberry infestations were also removed. BNL has nearly completed the two Invasive Species Prevention Zones (ISPZ) plans. They created two zones totaling about 2,000 ac. of undeveloped area within BNL. Phragmites was also pulled by a separate contractor within BNL's OUV remediation site.

NYS DOT R-10 (Rich Gass) – Purple loosestrife was found in a recharge basin. It was removed last week, which may be after seed set. It seems that it escaped from a nearby community garden.

Nassau County Parks (Al Lindberg) – Nassau County Parks is implementing a NYS Invasive Species Eradication Grant at Gardner's Point targeting Japanese knotweed.

EEA (Bill Jacobs) – Bill developed a list of firms that have the expertise to control invasives in natural areas. He will continue to add other firms if people inform him. The list includes Allied Biological, EEA, and Invasive Plant Control. Innovative mosquito management is another company that does restoration especially in wetlands (Alex Chmielewski). There are also landscapers in PA that specialize in invasive management control.

TNC (Laura Bavaro) – To date, the LIISMA Scientific Review Committee has approved the non-native invasive plant ranking forms for 52 species. So far five species have an invasiveness ranked of High or Very High. In partnership with Suffolk County Parks and NYS DEC, TNC held a media event to promote the invasives management successes at Cedar Point County Park in East Hampton (project funded through a NYS Invasives Eradication Grant).

Summary approved from 6/5/08 meeting.

Presentation: Alternative Roadside Groundcovers (Andy Senesac)

Andy Senesac presented his research and findings on non-invasive ground covers. He distributed a handout listing the species tested in his research and a color brochure detailing the characteristics of the best non-invasive ground covers (posted on the NYSDOT website; google "CU Allstar groundcovers" to find the website). The recommended list will also be posted on the CCE of Suffolk County website. Andy is also developing a handbook detailing ground covers. It is hoped that the recommendations from this research will trickle down throughout the nursery industry.

Discussion: General Permit

Discussion continued from the last meeting about the need for a LIISMA-wide article 24 general permit for invasives eradication Adirondack Park (6+ million acres) stakeholders have a similar permit in place that allows for the control of 40 invasive species within the Park's wetland boundaries.

Although more detailed discussions need to take place with NYSDEC, Commissioner Pete Grannis and Regional Director Peter Scully think the concept is a good one. Kathy Schwager and Laura Bavaro, on behalf of LIISMA, will ask to meet with Rob Marsh in December.

Ideas for the permit include:

- The permit could possibly include hand-pulling and mechanical, or hand-pulling alone.
- The permit might be able to specify as "non-motorized" or we could ask to have weight limits.

Kathy Schwager, on behalf of LIISMA, is developing the list of invasives for this effort – to be approved at the next meeting. The group would like to have many species on the list. Because it is for only non-motorized methods, rapid response should be allowed with as little obstacle as possible.

Oak Mortality on Long Island (Laura Bavaro)

The DEC has found 14,166 ac. of hardwood mortality during recent LI flyovers. The suspected causes of "oak decline" are a combination of:

- gypsy moth
- anthracnose

- orange striped oak-worm defoliation
- armillaria root disease
- spring droughts

Ag & Markets have been on the lookout for oak wilt, bacterial leaf scorch, and sudden oak death, but none has yet been found on Long Island.

Cicadas, fall cankerworm and wasps are other causes suspected by LIISMA members.

Fall cankerworm has not been confirmed by NYS Ag and Markets.

LIISMA members should send DEC information if they are aware of other causes.

Discussion: 2009 NYSDEC Terrestrial Grant Projects

Terrestrial Invasives Eradication Grants-

\$1 Million available for all eradication grants. \$700K will likely go toward aquatic and \$300K likely toward terrestrial. TNC is developing a terrestrial invasive eradication proposal for the Nicoll’s Fields grasslands at Mashomack Preserve Shelter Island. The 67-acre project will focus on the eradication of black locust, barberry, swallow-wort, among others. All LIISMA cooperators are urged to apply for this grant - money is available and we need more submissions. The deadline for terrestrial eradication grants is 10/31/08.

At the next LIISMA meeting we will discuss potential projects for the upcoming call for aquatic invasive eradication grant proposals.

If you have a project, but not the resources to implement the plan, one could subcontract to one of the firms mentioned by Bill Jacobs (see above). One may also be able to work with a company to write the grant itself.

Other updates

Hydrilla EDRR on Long Island-

Hydrilla has been found in NY and now on Long Island. In Bayport there are three infested ponds. Management options include herbicide, grass carp and hand removal. Further updates will come at LIISMA meetings. Be on the lookout for Hydrilla in Long Island’s water bodies.

The next LIISMA meeting will be December 11, 2008 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM at the Pine Barrens Commission Office in Great River, NY

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