

**LIISMA Highlights  
December 11, 2008  
Central Pine Barrens Commission Office  
Great Neck, NY**

**1) Welcome and Introductions:**

Summary of 10/16/08 meeting approved without amendment.

**Attendees:**

Gary Lawton – NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)  
Ann Carter – Central Pine Barrens Commission (CPBC)  
Michael Bilecki – National Park Service (USNPS) Fire Island National Seashore  
Alexis Alvey – Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)  
Rich Gass – NYS Department of Transportation (NYS DoT)  
Vincent Cocca – NYS DoT  
Laura Bavaro – The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Kathy Schwager – TNC  
Alex Entrup – TNC  
Marilyn Jordan – TNC  
Joe Parent – NYS Department of Ag & Markets  
Bill Jacobs – EEA, Inc.  
Erin Brosnan – EEA, Inc.  
Jane Jackson – North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA)  
Diana Sanford – Suffolk County Parks (SCP)  
Christine Boelke – SCP  
Laura Stephensen – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)/Peconic Estuary Program (PEP)  
Paul Haeberle – Long Island Field Training Association (LIFTA)  
Ariana Breisch – NYS OPRHP

**Roundtable Discussion:**

NYS Dept of Ag & Market (Joe Parent) - 2009 insect trapping season will start soon. Oak commodity and grape commodity surveys will be added to the surveys completed last year. Bacterial leaf scorch and oak wilt were found in NYS recently. It has not been determined if these infestations are isolated or widespread.

It is possible that seasonal invasive crews could be taught to identify pests and pathogens, so that early detection could be improved.

EEA, Inc. (Bill Jacobs) – EEA & Allied Biological carried out chemical and mechanical controls at Hempstead Harbor Cove on *Phragmites*. The infestation was about 500-600 sq. ft. EEA submitted a proposal for the Suffolk County feasibility study to eradicate invasive aquatic species from Canaan Lake (Patchogue) and Upper and Lower Lakes (Yaphank). Allied Biological is controlling *Cabomba* for the Peconic River Sportsman's Club, and is part of the proposal team. Ecology & Environment, Inc. has restored fish passages and is also cooperating on the proposal.

Erin Brosnan is new to LIISMA. She is now with EEA. She has worked with USFWS in MI, applying pesticides while controlling invasives there.

NSLA (Jane Jackson) – Jane has been actively giving presentations about invasives and she is looking for more control information available. Polly Weigand is working on the sheets.

NYS OPRHP (Gary Lawton) – Wineberry, and other invasives have been controlled at Connetquot River SP. Invasives have been effectively controlled on the bluff at Nissequogue River SP. There is still need for control of Norway maple and other invasives along other bluffs and slopes.

NYC parks would be a good contact for information on removal of overstory maples and on slopes.

CPBC (Ann Carter) – wrapped up the SCA team who controlled weeds throughout the Pine Barrens. CPB is working on brochure for ATV awareness, yard waste and other threats to the Pine Barrens.

NPS FIIS (Michael Bilecki) – Jordan Raphael is Fernando's replacement and he will be the LIISMA rep for NPS. FIIS is coming up on the last year of funding for their three-year seasonal invasives management crew. They have been successful in controlling many invasives, but after wrap up it is unknown what level of effort will continue.

The NPS Northeast Region (totaling 90 parks), including FIIS, was asked to submit habitat restoration and invasives management projects for consideration in a Federal economic stimulus package. It is anticipated that NPS-NE Region will be receiving \$1.8 million. Shovel-ready projects that could be implemented within 180 days using contract labor were sought.

The Fire Island Otis Pike Wilderness Area Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) plan is near completion and should be ready in January 2009.

CCE (Alexis Alvey) – Has been focusing on invasive species education to the green industry, including at some upcoming conferences. At the Jan. 10 Ag Forum, Marilyn Jordan will present the Scientific Review process to growers. At the Horticulture Conference Jan 26, Marilyn Jordan and Kathy Schwager will be presenting the Scientific Review process and discussing the ban legislation.

CCE (Andy Senesac) will be working with Alexis and others to develop a list of commercially viable alternatives to invasive plants.

NYS DoT (Rich Gass) – Fiscally things are tight at the DoT, so there are not many projects. On Rt. 110 between the LIE and NSP the DoT is working to eradicate some infestations. DoT is planning on removing *Ailanthus* on Southern State Parkway, but there have been problems working with the contractor.

SC Parks (Diana Sanford) – Kristine Bulkey is a new member of SC Parks. *Hydrilla* has been found in Sans Souci Lakes (Bayport). While figuring out the best overall plan, they are planning on introducing grass carp and are applying for pesticide exemption. *Hydrilla* was also found in Blydenburgh Pond (Smithtown). Blydenburgh is one of the largest ponds on LI and is hydrologically connected to many other ponds, and it is unclear how the infestation will be approached. *Hydrilla* identification cards were available at the meeting.

Laura Stephenson (DEC PEP) – Will report on *Ludwigia* during presentation.

Ariana Briesch (NYS Parks and Rec.) – Is working with King's Park Environmental Club at Nissequogue to introduce the students to the bluff restoration project.

Contractors installed a benthic barrier in Belmont Lake to keep *Cabomba* from being carried on boats. They are studying now to see how well the project has worked. The barrier was put in a little late, so it took more maintenance than normal. Barriers cannot be used to cover the entire pond floor, so other options are being considered. At one point, grass carp were being used as control. Herbicide has been considered. The herbicide Sonar will control the *Cabomba* slowly and

incompletely, but reportedly will not kill other plants. Restoring underwater areas is difficult - revegetation is not a likely option.

## **2) Presentation: Stakeholder Partnerships and Outreach Successfully Control *Ludwigia peploides* in the Peconic River (Laura Stephenson, NYS DEC Peconic Estuary Program)**

Saturday 7/11/08 and Saturday 8/8/08 will be next year's "Paddle the River" dates for *Ludwigia* control.

Discussion point – there should be some recognition for the success of the efforts. Recognition would help bring attention to successful strategies and serve as proof that control can be effective.

## **3) Discussion: Pursuing an Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands General Permit for EDRR Invasive Plants in LIISMA Study Area**

\*\*Finalize Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) species list

The list is broken up by species-specific EDRR and site-specific EDRR. The permit will be for hand pulling and the use of hand tools only. Site-specific species are those species which may be abundant on the island as a whole, but are not present in some important locations. Some potential sites are: Coastal Plain Ponds, Central Pine Barrens, and LIISMA-designated Invasive Species Prevention Zones (ISPZ)

The general permit may be issued to TNC on behalf of LIISMA (still being discussed). While an Article 24 general permit will likely streamline the administrative burden and time for processing, each LIISMA cooperator seeking to work under the general permit will still have to develop and carry out a site-specific eradication plan and DEC will have to be notified before the control effort takes place.

NYSDEC Commissioner Pete Grannis and NYSDEC Regional Director Peter Scully both think the idea has merit. LIISMA has a meeting with Rob Marsh (Regional Manager, NYSDEC Bureau of Habitat) at the end of the month.

Wineberry and mile-a-minute should be added to the list. Before the list is finalized and included in the permit, it may be changed to reflect the High and Very High ranked species by the LIISMA Scientific Review Committee.

Action: the Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) species list was approved by LIISMA. Kathy Schwager and Laura Bavaro, on behalf of LIISMA, will meet with Rob Marsh.

## **4) LIISMA Website (Laura Bavaro, TNC)**

NYS Invasive Species Website is hosted by CCE/NY Sea Grant (see [www.newyorkinvasivespecies.org](http://www.newyorkinvasivespecies.org)) – they are willing to host LIISMA's site. It could be up and running by February.

Possible pages:

Homepage; SRC- Bylaws, species assessed; ISPZs – show criteria, maps, approved plans; 2010 Conference; Control – Links and Polly's sheets; Current LIISMA Projects – Each member could send in updates and photos; Success Stories; Identification – links and guides for ID; Agendas and Summaries – Posted after each meeting with information on upcoming meetings.

The site will likely cost \$3000-\$4000 and until LIISMA gets its NYS contract TNC will provide the startup funds (reimbursement may be sought once the LIISMA State contract is in place). The

information for the website will be provided by LIISMA members. To get started, TNC will work with CCE and NYIIS to get initial content.

**Action:** LIISMA agrees that this is the best way to move forward to post a LIISMA website. Updates will be provided to the group.

### **5) LIISMA conference/workshop (Kathy Schwager, TNC)**

NYC Parks would be willing to host a LIISMA conference at Prospect Park (once funding comes through). The primary audience is LIISMA members; first to teach how to manage invasives and showcase our work. It would also be open to the public and outside participants.

There could be demonstrations/talks on: control, identification, brainstorming/breakout sessions (trouble species and what to do), grant writing, native alternatives, field component on how to control specific species, organizing volunteers, non-native earthworms, bio-controls, EDRR, DEC grant processes, writing project plan/contract writing and various other topics.

Weed Cutter group in Nassau County may be a good group to present. Concurrent sessions or thematic organization would be best. Some good topics for LIISMA could be: How do other states and PRISMs operate? How are WMAs functioning throughout the country?

Holding such a conference would help position LIISMA as a leader. Lewis Ziska could be a keynote speaker to talk about climate change and invasive species.

Landscape architects and pesticide applicators, International Society of Arborists credits will attract more people. LA credits are only to be given by certified organizations, and takes time and money to give out. You must be an educational institution. It is important to write the description of the class to fulfill specific credit categories. Rich Gass will help set this up if we decide to go ahead with this.

How big should the first conference be? Early October 2009 or Spring/Fall 2010 as a backup is the most likely time to hold the conference.

### **6) LIISMA Scientific Review Committee update (Marilyn Jordan, TNC)**

So far, 74 of 140 species have been assessed. The list is provided in the handout provided by Marilyn Jordan. *Centaurea nigrescens* Tyrol knapweed will be assessed. At many sites on Long Island, Tyrol knapweed has been mistaken for spotted knapweed.

On behalf of the New York Invasive Species Council, the NYSDEC Office of Invasive Species Coordination's Four-tier List Team has adopted the protocol.

It will be recommended to the Suffolk County Invasive Species Advisory Committee, that species scoring High or Very High be placed on the Do Not Sell list. Species scoring Medium will be recommended for the Manage list. It will be recommended that species not meeting these ranks be removed from all lists.

Some species are in need of more information, and others are on the cusp of being moved from one list to another. Input is needed for some species.

The best way to give feedback is through the site:

[www.nystateinvasiveplantassessment.collectivex.com](http://www.nystateinvasiveplantassessment.collectivex.com)

You must create a username and password to be a member. On the site you can download forms and give feedback to help contribute to the forms.

## **7) Other updates**

Weed Awareness Week - 2/23/09-2/28/09 is Weed Awareness Week. If anyone is holding any events please inform Kathy Schwager.

Viburnum leaf beetle was found on North Brother Island. Info is available at [www.hort.cornell.edu/VLB](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/VLB). It can be controlled if caught early. It may have flown here, or may have been introduced through a restoration project. It is unknown how it jumped multiple counties.

The next LIISMA meeting is 1/29/09 at Forest Park in Queens.