

**LIISMA Highlights**  
December 3, 2009  
Pine Barrens Commission Office  
Great River, NY

**1. Roundtable Announcements –**

*Nelson, Pope & Vorhees, LLC* – Lara Urvat – Their consulting firm is conducting Suffolk County's feasibility study for the eradication of Cabomba and variable-leaved water milfoil in Canaan Lake, North Patchogue and Upper & Lower Lakes, Yaphank. They have created a website [www.Suffolkcountylakes.net](http://www.Suffolkcountylakes.net).

*North Shore Land Alliance* - Jane Jackson – Jane continues to do invasives presentations throughout Long Island. She has presented to numerous groups including garden clubs and school groups reaching over 200 people since the program began.

*Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District* – Polly Weigand – Polly has given presentations on invasive species to a variety of groups. She was a featured speaker at the Conservation Skills Workshop in Cortland. The training aimed to enhance invasive plant and insect identification, as well as provide species-specific control techniques including timing, tools, and disposal. She also gave a presentation to the NY Association of Conservation Districts (the legislative arm of Conservation Districts). There were about 150 people attending the presentation.

There have been an increasing number of reports of mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) throughout Long Island, and it is a growing problem in agricultural settings.

*New York State Ag. & Markets* - Joe Parent - Trapping for winter moths has begun on Long Island. Winter moths are native to Europe, were first established in Nova Scotia in the 1950's, and have been moving south from New England. They have been found in Eastern Long Island, and are expected to infest other areas west. Immature winter moths attack many types of fruit, including apples, blueberries, and cherries, a number of trees and shrubs such as maple, oak, ash, birch, elm, linden, and crabapple.

*New York City Parks* - Tim Wenskus – NYC Parks staff at Fort Totten (NYC Park in Queens at Bayside) has spent most of the summer clearing invasives from the park. The removal project is about half finished now. NYC Parks is working in a few sites on Staten Island, including removal of Oriental bittersweet from Conference House Sea Cliffs, the southernmost point in NYS and one of the state's only hackberry forests. Over the last two weeks, they have been doing their annual Norway maple sweep, using staff to remove the seedling/sapling Norway maples from the forest (at this time of year, the leaves of the Norway maple are still bright yellow so it is easy to spot).

Invasive species awareness week is January 10-14. It is a time to lobby in D.C. and host local events to raise awareness for invasive species.

*EEA* - Bill Jacobs – Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) is still present at West Meadow Beach and is spreading. Town of Brookhaven was awarded a Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant (\$38K) to manage the West Meadow Beach infestation. They will be mowing, cutting and using chemical treatments.

*US Fish and Wildlife Service* – “Susie” Azucena Ponce – Mile-a-minute has been found at a few USFWS preserves. Ornamental fountaingrass (*Pennisetum spp.*) has been found at Sayville grasslands. Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) has been mapped at Seatuck. 25,000 lbs. of water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) were pulled from Mill Pond in Oyster Bay last summer. USFWS will have two interns to help control invasives next season. There will be a need for volunteers to help remove water chestnut from Mill Pond again next year.

*US Dept. of Agriculture* - Steve Clark –The water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) biocontrol will likely be approved soon. Public comments are being taken now. Water hyacinth is not believed to overwinter in NYS, so the biocontrol may not be of concern for PRISMs in NY right now.

*NYS Ag & Markets* - Robert Leonti –The Riverhead Open Space Committee is interested in protecting the Beagle Club property (view location at <http://bit.ly/5TiYUJ>). Mile-a-minute is included in the inventory, along with many other invasives. Reportedly, short-eared owls (a NYS endangered species) are known to utilize the property, and potential champion hackberry tree on the site. DEC Foresters could come out to measure the tree and if it qualifies, put it on the state champ list.

## **2. Summary approved for 9/24/09 meeting**

### **3. Presentations and discussions**

#### **Mile-a-Minute Vine - Andy Senesac - Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Mile-a-minute is a rapidly expanding problem both on Long Island and in the Northeast. Control methods used have included hand-pulling, chemical and biological. The weevil *Rhinocomimus latipes*, a biocontrol, has been used effectively in New Jersey and Delaware. Three sites in NY have released the weevil: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (Westchester Parks Dept.), Iona Island and Bear Mountain State Park in Stony Point, NY (Palisades Parkway). Weevils have not been released on Long Island.

Permits are needed from DEC and APHIS before liberation, and monitoring is required for a 12 month period following liberation. Weevils are being reared in NJ Dept. of Agriculture lab for 2010 and may be available for minimal or no cost.

LIISMA members indicated that they would like LIISMA to lead on this issue. Members were supportive of moving forward with pursuing permits, and would like more information. Cornell Cooperative Extension would like to help in implementing, but needs a landowner to sponsor. Caumsett State Park could be a potential site for release. The Park has a large infestation and is interested in control. Any agencies/individuals interested in liberating weevils on their property should contact Andy Senesac.

Andy was asked to send an email to the group with the following: the University of Delaware (Goldstein) pamphlet, before and after pictures, minimum size for introduction, monitoring protocols, costs and contact information of DEC and APHIS permits, and a list of the native plants on which the weevil has been tested.

### **I-Phone Application for native alternatives to invasive plants - Alex Entrup**

The Nature Conservancy is working to create an i-Phone application for the environmentally-conscious gardener and landscaper. With this application, end users will be able to learn about and find appropriate plants to purchase while at nurseries or shopping online. Users will be able to look up species and read whether it is native, non-native or invasive. If invasive, it would have recommendations for native alternatives. Additionally, the application will have photos, information such as deer resistance, growing conditions and other pertinent information. Users and nurseries would have the ability to contribute content by uploading reviews and feedback. They would also be able to upload GPS points or addresses of nurseries where the plants are available.

The app is planned to be free to download. The bulk of the work has already been done. Cornell Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the nursery industry and LI Farm Bureau, already have developed a list of native alternatives to popular invasive plants. The LIISMA Scientific Review Committee's work could be infused into the rankings. There are also many photos already compiled by NY Flora Atlas, LIFB, CCE and many others. LIISMA agreed that the application is a good project and is worth pursuing.

### **Proposed LIISMA EDRR and Management Workshop – Kathy Schwager**

LIISMA is working with Invasive Plant Control (IPC), a company that specializes in invasive plant management, to create a workshop open to a limited number of LIISMA members (first come first serve). The workshop would be hosted at The Nature Conservancy's Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island. Steve Manning of Invasive Plant Control (IPC) and Les Mehrhoff of University of Connecticut IPANE and IPC are planning the agenda with Kathy Schwager.

LIISMA members support the idea of a control methods workshop and expressed interest in the following topics for the workshop:

Bid specifications (has been done in Delaware and elsewhere)

Case study/break out sessions for strategies on specific control problems  
Discussion of when restoration is called for after controlling invasives  
Field demonstration of control methods (chemical and non-chemical)  
Identification table and EDRR (species to look out for in the future)  
Proper disposal of invasives

#### **Scientific Review Committee – Marilyn Jordan**

140 species are now assessed and available on-line. They can be viewed and downloaded at [www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info). The two species that have been the most difficult to review are *Miscanthus sinensis* (because of apparent differences in behavior within the species) and California privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) (species is not always easy to identify). If any LIISMA members know of any infestations of the aforementioned species that have escaped into natural areas, please collect samples (if possible get seed heads, and a root sample) and send them to:

Gerry Moore  
Brooklyn Botanical Garden  
1000 Washington Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11225  
[gerry.moore@bbg.org](mailto:gerry.moore@bbg.org)

#### **State Invasive Species Legislation – Laura Bavaro**

The Four-tier State Invasives Team continues discussions over definitions in Title 17. Much discussion has centered on the word “prohibited species.”

In Title 17, “prohibited” is currently defined as a species which is unlawful to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education. In contrast, the verbs in the Long Island Do Not Sell List laws are sold, transported, distributed, or propagated. In an effort to focus the anticipated legislation on something meaningful and actionable, the word "sell" will be added to the Prohibited definition and the word "possess" will be deleted. Reasoning:

"Sell" implies that a store owner is doing the action - this is something that can control much easier.

"Possess" implies that if someone has a prohibited invasive species on their property that they will have to eradicate it or be in violation of the law. Enforcing this would be ridiculously difficult and expensive.

LIISMA agreed that the definition should include the word “sell”, and that “possess” should be deleted from the legislation. LIISMA was supportive of the effort to create a list banning the sale of invasive species state wide. The list should include all species found to have an invasiveness rank of High or Very High in the New York State Invasive Assessment as reviewed by the Scientific Review Committee.

### **Do-Not-Sell List – Kathy Schwager**

In 2011 some species are coming online for prohibition in Nassau and Suffolk counties:

*Lonicera japonica*, *Lonicera maackii*, *Lonicera morowii/tatarica/xbella*,

A few other commercially-available species will be banned in the near future:

2013 - *Acer platanoides* (except cultivars 'crimson king' and 'royal red' banned effective 1/1/2016), *Euonymus fortunei*, *Phelloderdron amurense*, *japonicum*, *Rhamnus frangula* (*Frangula alnus*), *Robina pseudoacacia*, *Salix atrocine/cinerea*

2014 - *Berberis thunbergii* (includes all hybrids with other *Berberis* species)

2016 – *Euonymus alatus*

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010 at the Salt Marsh Nature Center in Marine Park in Brooklyn.**

#### **Attendees:**

Karen Eichelberger – Central Pine Barrens Commission

Robert Leonti – NYS Ag. & Markets

Sue Feustel – Caumsett Foundation

Kathy Schwager- The Nature Conservancy

Andy Senesac – Cornell Cooperative Extension

Stephen Clark – USDA APHIS PPQ

Monica Williams – US Fish and Wildlife Service

Azucena Ponce – US Fish and Wildlife Service

Jennifer Higbie – Brookhaven National Laboratory

Erin Brosnon – EEA, Inc.

Bill Jacobs – EEA, Inc.

Jeff Speich – NYS Dept. of Conservation

Tim Wenskus – NYC Parks

Ann Carter – Central Pine Barrens Commission

Alex Entrup – The Nature Conservancy

Gary Lawton – NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Marilyn Jordan – The Nature Conservancy

Laura Bavaro – The Nature Conservancy

Lara Urvat – Nelson, Pope, & Voorhis, LLC

Joe Parent – NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

Jane Jackson – North Shore Land Alliance

Polly Weigand – Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

Rich Gass – NYS Dept. of Transportation

Rich Turell – NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

Diana Sanford – Suffolk County Parks

Tony Rho – NYC Parks