

## Adirondack Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee

**Location and Duration:** Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, DEC, Ray Brook, 12:30-2:30

Participants: Hilary Smith, Tyler Smith, and Gus Goodwin (APIPP), Pat and Tom Willis (Rainbow Lake Association), Ed Snizek (APA), Emily Debolt (LGA), Dan Levy and Lance Durfey (DEC), Mark Malchoff (LCSG)

### Agenda:

#### - **Announcements:**

##### **PRISM news**

Hilary reported that the NY Invasive Species Council met in May and discussed the draft regulatory system for non-native species and a proposed aquatic species transport law. The Council endorsed the draft regulatory system but did not act on the transport law, postponing any decisions until the next meeting in July. Two towns in the Adirondacks, however, proceeded with enacting their own local ordinances. Hilary will distribute an electronic copy of the local aquatic species transport ordinance implemented in the Town of Lake Pleasant and Town of Santa Clara.

The program and speaker list for the Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species is nearly finalized. Registration will open at the end of June.

##### **Other?**

Emily shared a press release from Lake Tahoe reporting that canoes and kayaks were vectors for New Zealand mudsnail, (the link to access the article was the following, though it no longer appears to be active: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_15226869?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15226869?nclick_check=1))

#### - **Updates & Discussion Items:**

##### **Funding status (USFWS, 2 pots)**

Hilary reported that the annual funding from USFWS for ANS Mgt Plan implementation was secured for \$33,593. Funds will be used to continue milfoil eradication in Follensby Clear Pond. Two additional proposals were also submitted: one to EPA and one to USFWS for use of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funds to support boat launch stewards and a response team in 5 watersheds in the western Adirondacks (the Raquette, Grasse, St. Regis, Black, and Oswegatchie). The EPA proposal was not accepted for funding, but the USFWS proposal was. The group discussed the challenge, however, of building a program for perpetuity but having only one year of funding. Mark stated that Lake Champlain Sea Grant also collaborated on a multi-state Sea Grant proposal and will have AIS educational materials to distribute.

##### **Watershed stewardship programs**

Eric reported on the progress of the Watershed Steward Program this summer, which is gaining in numbers of launches covered. Paul Smith's College hosted 35 participants at the joint steward training offered in May. Participating lakes include Canada Lake, Pecks Lake, Raquette Lake, Paradox Lake, Osgood Pond, Schroon Lake, Rainbow/Kushaqua Lake, Saratoga Lake, Upper St. Regis Lake, Lake Placid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pond, Tupper Lake, Long Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, Lake George, and Lake Champlain. Great Sacandaga Lake will not have stewards this year due to lack of consensus about use of funds.

Eric also handed out copies of the Clean Boats Clean Waters rack card to Committee members. 100,000 rack cards were printed with funding from Paul Smith's College and the Lake Champlain Basin Program. They will be shared among partner organizations and lake associations for distribution at launches and relevant businesses. Hilary will feature the steward program in the invasive species column that will run June 15 in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

Gus presented a map of car- and boat- wash stations in the North Country region. The map will be printed in the July-August edition of "Embark," a recreational outing and tourism publication distributed by the Adirondack Daily Enterprise. It will accompany articles about AIS and the importance of utilizing check, clean, dry spread prevention measures.

### **New Didymo populations**

Didymo was detected in Kayaderossas Creek. ASRA designed and printed 40,000 copies of a Clean Gear Clear Water rack card to distribute to anglers and relevant businesses. Funding for printing was cost-shared among ASRA, Trout Unlimited, and the DEC Office of Invasive Species Coordination. Carol hired Kevin Chlad as the Ausable River Steward. His workplan this summer involves outreach along the river, asking anglers to participate in a short questionnaire about AIS and cleaning methods, and outreach in surrounding communities. Hilary asked Carol about the need for stream invader signs to post at high use river access sites. Carol recommended that Hilary contact Bill Wellman who distributed signs earlier this year.

Tyler said that he'd be willing to coordinate a field trip to Kayaderossas Creek to view the didymo infestation firsthand. The date tentatively selected is July 7.

### **BASS Questionnaire (status)**

Mark presented preliminary findings (summarized below) from the questionnaire distributed to NY BASS members. He said they received about a 10% response (5% electronically) out of 986 surveyed.

**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT:** The majority of respondents indicated a high degree of familiarity with Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, and hydrilla. Numerous respondents indicated that they were completely unfamiliar with European frog-bit, Brazilian elodea, and fanwort. Many respondents also indicated a working knowledge of alewife, round goby, white perch and northern snakehead. Knowledge of spiny/fishhook water flea, and rusty crayfish was slight. Opinions of the degree of harmfulness posed by a suite of invasive plants and animals varied widely by species, though the bulk of response was "no opinion". Strong opinions were offered as to the degree of harm posed by viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS). Anglers were highly likely to exhibit spread prevention techniques. Only a combined 10% of these anglers rarely or never inspected their boats for aquatic plant fragments, mud, etc. following a day's fishing. No demographic variables (annual income, education level, age) served as predictors of the propensity to inspect, and/or wash, and/or dry gear (Spearman's rho;  $p > 0.05$ ). The propensity to inspect and wash equipment was significantly correlated ( $p < 0.05$ ) as was the propensity to inspect and dry equipment ( $p < 0.01$ ). Over 20 respondents indicated that they had visited between nine and twelve lakes in 2009, while 12 respondents reported visiting in excess of twelve lakes. Some survey respondents indicated tournament angling to be "very important" as an AIS vector, though it ranked lower than *Shipping*, the *Erie Canal System*, and *Aquaria Release* categories.

### **Aquatic plant management programs underway**

Tyler and Ed described the status of the Lake Luzerne herbicide treatment. Renovate (triclopyr) was applied on May 17<sup>th</sup> and post-treatment monitoring indicates that the treatment was successful. The milfoil within the treatment area was down and decaying. The sequestering curtains were still up and water monitoring continues. A fisheries assessment was still underway.

Tyler reported that several clumps of variable milfoil were detected and removed by AIM in spring surveys of Lake Placid. He also reported that eradication efforts at Paradox Lake are continuing again this year and that an elaborate and effective network of volunteer surveys and response was established in collaboration with the lake manager.

Ed reported that the Town of Chesterfield received a permit to release sterile carp in Augur Lake, which is an ongoing biological control program.

### **Spiny waterflea**

Pecks Lake and Great Sacandaga Lake are known to have infestations of spiny waterflea. Tyler will offer spiny waterflea monitoring guidelines this summer and purchased sampling equipment to loan to interested volunteers. Tyler also will offer two aquatic plant training sessions in June in Bolton Landing and in Blue Mountain Lake. He noted that volunteer involvement on Indian Lake in Hamilton County seemed to be on the rise.

### **Fishing tournament outreach**

Lance said that DEC's Environmental Conservation Officers will continue to monitor tournaments on Great Sacandaga Lake and raise awareness about spiny waterflea. He said that the DEC provides guidance about AIS to tournament organizers that receive a Temporary Revocable Permit for tournaments on Lake Champlain and Lake George. TRPs, however, are not required if the number of participants is below a certain threshold. Also, providing AIS information is limited to those two waterways. Lance shared a copy of an invasive species ad in DEC's wildlife hunting guide.

Mark will conduct tournament outreach on various dates throughout the summer in the Champlain Valley.

### **Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week activities**

Hilary reminded partners to send her any postings by July 1 for events during Awareness Week, July 11-17.

### **Others?**

Pat asked Hilary to mail a copy of the meeting notes from the spring APIPP joint partner meeting.

Pat asked Tyler to collect milfoil samples for Pat to share with Rainbow Lake Association members by July 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, tentative field trip to Kayaderosas Creek