

# ROOTS

INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS IN THE ADIRONDACK REGION

*A Newsletter of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program*

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## Notes from Afield

Staffers and volunteers were busy this summer contending with invasive species issues across the region. APIPP was lucky to have the helping hands of the APIPP intern, 2 Student Conservation Association interns, DEC's Wayne Blanchard, 2 SUNY Plattsburgh interns; and 161 aquatic volunteers who spent 980 hours surveying 85 lakes. Communities also took a stand against invasives including Inlet, Blue Mountain and Indian Lake (Japanese knotweed); Elizabethtown (black swallowwort); and Tupper Lake (garlic mustard). Details from the field season will be presented in APIPP's annual report.



Stewards assist state and federal efforts to deploy and monitor emerald ash borer traps. Jaysen Dickinson (fl); April Vrba (l); Dan Mullane (c), Adrian Sellars (r), and Amy Ignatuk (fr).

## Species Spread On the Rise

Preliminary stats from the 2009 field season show an increasing trend of species occurrences and spread. Yellow iris and phragmites invaded new wetlands; cup plant expanded along the Ausable River; swallowwort, giant hogweed, and Oriental bittersweet are spreading into natural areas; volunteers detected Eurasian and variable-leaf milfoils in previously uninvaded waters; and, brittle naiad was detected for the first time in the southeastern Adirondacks. Boat launch stewards also sounded the alarm that water chestnut's spiny nutlets were frequently attached to the carpet of boat trailers and spiny water fleas were clinging to gear leaving Great Sacandaga Lake.

## Upcoming Events

- **APIPP Partner Meeting**, *October 26, Ray Brook, NY*
- **North American Lake Management Conference**, *October 28-30, Hartford, CT*
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Outreach In-service**, *November 10-12, Ithaca, NY*
- **National Invasive Species Awareness Week**, *January 10-14, Washington, D.C.*
- **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Conference**, *January 18-20, Saratoga Springs, NY*

## Making Headlines

From milfoil to spiny water flea and boat launch stewards to forest pests, headlines about invasive species and efforts to combat their spread kept readers busy this summer. Many reporters chronicled the march of invasive species in New York State and the Adirondacks. APIPP also helped build public awareness by contributing a bi-weekly column to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise that ran from July thru October.

Media coverage was not only in print but also on the air waves. Thanks to grant funding from the Scenic Byways Program, APIPP underwrote a daily invasive species message on North Country Public Radio from Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

## Poster Now Available

APIPP produced an 18x13.5 poster for distribution to partner groups, nature centers, schools, businesses, tourism information centers, and others. The poster reinforces three national campaigns that emphasize simple steps that people can take to prevent the spread of invasive species: 'Don't Move Firewood'; 'Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers'; and, 'Be PlantWise'. Contact APIPP for your copy, [hsmith@tnc.org](mailto:hsmith@tnc.org) or 518-576-2082.



## Invasive Species Sound Bites

\*Senator Schumer held a press event at the Wild Center in August calling for a 4 point plan that would increase federal funding for invasive species: [http://schumer.senate.gov/new\\_website/record.cfm?id=317359](http://schumer.senate.gov/new_website/record.cfm?id=317359) .

\*Emerald ash borer was detected in Randolph, NY in June. Two counties are now quarantined: <http://nyis.info> .

\*Bloody red shrimp was detected in Oneida Lake in August, the first inland lake infestation in NY: <http://nyis.info> .

\*Stay informed about invasive species news in NY by phoning into the monthly invasive species conference call, held the last Wednesday of every month from 11-12. Contact Leslie Surprenant [ljsurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ljsurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us) for more information.

## Cheers

*Paradox Lake Association,  
Lake Placid Shoreowners,  
Great Sacandaga Lake Community*

Invasive species managers strive for rapid response, and thanks to community based efforts, rapid response occurred in several lake communities this summer. After detecting aquatic invasive species, citizens from Paradox Lake, Lake Placid, and Great Sacandaga Lake teamed up with partners, assembled the information, developed the strategies, and secured the resources to fight back against Eurasian milfoil, Variable-leaf milfoil, and spiny water flea, respectively.

After working swiftly with state agency staff, scientists and managers, shoreowners saw to it that surveillance and removal programs for invading plants were underway in Paradox and Placid. Similarly, members of the Great Sacandaga Lake community collaborated with APIPP's Tyler Smith, Paul Smith's College, Lake George Association, and DEC to put into place educational programs, signage and stewards to inform lake users about the importance of cleaning boats and gear to halt the spread of spiny water flea. APIPP congratulates members of the Paradox Lake Association, the Schroon Lake Town Supervisor and Council members; the Lake Placid Shoreowners Association; and, the Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council, Lake Association, and Fisheries Federation, Inc.



Sue Riggins sampling milfoil in Lake Placid (l); Dave Canfield posting signage at Edinburg Marina and Powersports, Great Sacandaga Lake (r).

Photos provided by APIPP and The Leader-Herald/Bill Trojan

## Species Alert

*Variable-leaf Milfoil  
(Myriophyllum heterophyllum)*

Variable-leaf milfoil is native to the U.S. but is listed as exotic invasive in New England states and its historic distribution in NY is unknown. APIPP began its aquatic invasive plant monitoring program in 2002, and in recent years it listed variable leaf as a "watched" species. With new populations detected in previously uninvaded waters this year, the designation was upgraded to invasive.

Like Eurasian milfoil, variable-leaf has feathery leaves, though variable-leaf leaves are at times both whorled and alternating. Leaves are subdivided into leaflets, which usually number greater than 10. The stem can be dark green, brown or red. Variable-leaf is a perennial species that spreads by fragmentation. Plants prefer shallow bays, coves, inlets and outlets. Nearly 20 lakes have expansive variable leaf populations including Lake Flower and Oseetah Lakes, Raquette Lake through to Piercefield Flow, the Fulton Chain, Cranberry Lake and the Oswegatchie, among others.

Native milfoils are also common in the Adirondacks but they can be very difficult to distinguish from variable-leaf and Eurasian. Please report any milfoil sightings to APIPP.



Variable-leaf watermilfoil

Photo credit APIPP



Eurasian watermilfoil

Photo credit VT Depart. of Environmental Conservation

## On The Horizon

*Here is a snapshot of APIPP's near-term priorities:*

- Work with partners to draft APIPP PRISM Management Plan.
- Locate resources for Response Teams and Boat Launch Stewardship Programs.
- Analyze distribution occurrences to inform prevention and management priorities in 2010.
- Participate in the New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee.
- Collaborate with NY PRISMs and the Office of Invasive Species Coordination.

**Looking for a way to get involved?**

Give us a call today about volunteer opportunities that reflect your interests.

*APIPP is housed by the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Short-term funding is provided for a Scenic Byways Project by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Adirondack North Country Association. Long-term funding is provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Fund.*

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