

ROOTS

INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS IN THE ADIRONDACK REGION
A Newsletter of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

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Issue 1

APIPP Welcomes New Team Members

Brendan Quirion joins APIPP in a six month position as Terrestrial Project Coordinator, and Gus Goodwin serves as the APIPP Steward, a four month position. Brendan interned with DOT in 2007 assisting terrestrial invasive plant surveys along roadsides across the park. He graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with a degree in Wildlife Management. Gus has a degree in Conservation Biology from Middlebury College and has held short-term positions with both the Adirondack and California Chapters of TNC. Brendan's and Gus's past experience with APIPP, knowledge of the park, commitment to habitat protection, and readiness to undertake invasive plant management make them a great addition.

Aquatic Project Offers Spiny Waterflea Monitoring, Plant Harvesting Demos

Spiny waterflea is known in two Adirondack lakes, Great Sacandaga Lake and nearby Pecks Lake. The ease of its spread prompted Tyler Smith, APIPP's aquatic coordinator, to develop monitoring protocols for its presence. Interested volunteers will be supplied with a loaner sampling kit and guidelines. Also new this year is training for volunteers interested in conducting milfoil handharvesting. Contact Tyler at tyler_smith@tnc.org for more information on either of these initiatives.



Allisa Rafferty (l), TNC Conservation intern, displays sampling equipment for a new spiny waterflea monitoring program.



Spiny waterflea (r) is an invasive zooplankton detected in Great Sacandaga Lake and Pecks Lake in the southern Adirondacks. Infestations impact fisheries and are a nuisance to anglers.

Photo: Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant.

Events

- **Aquatic Plant Training**, June 22, 24, Bolton Landing, Blue Mountain Lake
- **Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week**, July 11-17, Regionwide
- **Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species**, August 10-11, Paul Smiths, NY
- **Aquatic Plant Surveys, Terrestrial Plant Control**, ongoing throughout the summer, Regionwide, contact APIPP at 518-576-2082 to volunteer.
- **Fall APIPP Meeting**, To be determined

Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species, August 10-11

Numerous partners in the region are organizing an event that brings stakeholders together to discuss invasive species. The Forum's themes center on the need to consider all types of invasive species - plants and animals, aquatic and terrestrial - and on ways in which communities can be prepared to address them. The purpose is to highlight initiatives underway in the region, showcase local stories of successes and challenges told by community members, feature up-to-date information about new invasive species, and identify important next steps to collectively take to have a real and lasting impact on this challenging environmental and economic issue. More information is available online at <http://adkinvasives.com/Forum.html>.

2010 Terrestrial Inventory Replicates 1998-1999 Surveys

In 1998 and 1999, volunteers conducted roadside and backcountry surveys for terrestrial invasive plants. Data from these surveys established a regional baseline of invasive plant distribution which provided the information that led to the formation of what is today APIPP.

Now, 12 years later, APIPP partners and volunteers are replicating these initial surveys. This summer's rapid regional assessment will document occurrences of terrestrial invasive plants, identify new plant species that are making inroads to the region, and, gain an important perspective about invasive plant spread over a 12 year period.

Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 11-17

The 5th Annual Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week takes place July 11-17. Join partners across the region to host or attend events. A schedule of activities is posted online and regularly updated at adkinvasives.com/InvasiveSpeciesAwarenessWeek.html.

Invasive Species Soundbytes

DEC proposed a draft Regulatory System for Non-native Invasive Species, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/63402.html>.

Invasive species funding in the FY11 Environmental Protection Fund settles at \$3.8M.

View the latest invasive species news in NYS via the NY Invasive Species Information Clearinghouse, <http://nyis.info>. Stay informed by phoning into the monthly invasive species conference call, held the last Wednesday of every month from 11:00-12:00. Contact Leslie Surprenant lsurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us for more information.

Cheers

Ausable River Association

Great ideas come from great organizations. Under the direction of Carol Treadwell, the Ausable River Association (ASRA) is one of those organizations. ASRA continually sets the bar high for meaningful projects with high impact throughout the river's watershed. ASRA works hand-in-hand with local businesses, elected officials, residents, and community groups. They are a long-time partner of APIPP and help with invasive plant inventory, control, and education. Projects include monitoring Cup plant along the river, releasing biological control for Purple loosestrife, and raising awareness about stream invaders such as didymo, or rock snot, to name a few. New this year is the first River Steward in the Adirondack region. Kevin Chlad is informing anglers along the Ausable River about aquatic invasive species and prevention measures to take to avoid their spread. A new rack card *Clean Gear Clear Water* helps to outline those steps. These are just a few of the projects ASRA helped to spearhead in the watershed. Find out more online at <http://www.ausableriver.org/>.

Congratulations to ASRA for protecting the Ausable River as an ecological and recreational resource for many generations to come. Keep up the great work!



Carol Treadwell speaks about the importance of clean waders and gear at the annual Two-Fly event in Wilmington, NY. Anglers are asked to clean their waders prior to casting their line to help prevent invading species such as didymo from spreading to the Ausable River. Didymo is reported in Kayaderosass Creek; its headwaters are in the park in Saratoga County.

Photo courtesy Flycaster Photography.

Species Alert

Emerald Ash Borer (Agrilus planipennis)

Purple traps hanging in ash trees signify a hunt for the emerald ash borer (EAB). Introduced from Asia to Michigan in 2002, EAB has since spread to 14 states, and counting. An infestation was detected near Montreal, Quebec in 2008 and in Randolph, NY in 2009. EAB attacks green, white, and black ash. Symptoms include crown dieback, excessive growth of stems and leaves along the lower trunk of the tree (epicormic shoots), and vertical fissures in the bark. Peel back the bark of an infected tree and you may also see s-shaped galleries formed by EAB larvae. Increased wood pecker activity in ash trees may also be apparent.

Adult EAB are small (1/2" long) with a flattened back and are bright metallic green with purple abdominal segments beneath the wing covers. They emerge in May and June leaving distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of branches and the trunk. They feed along the margins of the leaves. A number of native insects resemble EAB. If suspected, place the suspicious insect in a jar in the freezer and call APIPP or your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office. More info is available online at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/> or <http://nyis.info/>.



Emerald ash borer is a metallic green insect that attacks ash trees. Adult beetles emerge in May and June.

Photo credits (l) David Ciappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org; (r) Brian Sullivan, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org.

On The Horizon

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

- Implement aquatic and terrestrial monitoring and management priorities in partnership with volunteers and community groups.
- Build public awareness of emerging threats such as swallow-wort, didymo, spiny waterflea, emerald ash borer, and Asian longhorned beetle.
- Work with partners to draft the APIPP PRISM Strategic Plan and host the Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species at Paul Smith's College in August.
- 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). Funding is provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Fund.

For more information contact: Hilary Smith (director), Tyler Smith (aquatic), Brendan Quirion (terrestrial), PO Box 65 Keene Valley, New York 12943; 518-576-2082

