

ROOTS

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

Volume 7

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Issue 2

Interns, Volunteers Lend Helping Hands

From plant surveys and plant pulls to education and outreach, interns and volunteers helped to hold the line of invasives this summer. APIPP's steward Gus Goodwin controlled plants under water and in wetlands. Gus also visited private campgrounds to talk with owners about forest pests and firewood regs. Throughout the summer Student Conservation Association team members, visiting groups and other volunteers joined long survey days and backbreaking control efforts. Many thanks to everyone!



Events

- **APIPP fall meeting**, November 4, APA, Ray Brook
- **Cornell Invasive Species In-Service Training**, Nov 16-18, Ithaca, NY
- **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society**, January 18-20, New Castle, NH
- **National Invasive Species Awareness Week**, Feb 28 – Mar 3, Washington, D.C.

(l) Volunteers attend aquatic plant training.
(r) APIPP Steward Gus Goodwin removes invasive plants.

Forum Attracts 150

Held on the banks of Lower St. Regis Lake at Paul Smith's College, the Adirondack Forum attracted nearly 150 participants representing interest groups ranging from shoreowners to utility planners. The first of its kind to be offered in the region, the Forum addressed all taxa of invasive species and provided an opportunity to exchange scientific, educational and technical information. The lineup of speakers featured local, regional and state examples of innovative invasive species programs. Thank you to everyone who helped to organize the Forum and to those who attended!



(l) Adirondack Forum connected 150 community members.
(r) Volunteers help cut phragmites on Forest Preserve.

Spiny Waterfleas, Asian Clam Take Residence in New Waters

Spiny waterflea is in four Adirondack waters: Great Sacandaga Lake, Pecks Lake, Stuarts Bridge Reservoir and now Sacandaga Lake. While no management options exist for waterflea invasions, control options do exist for the Asian clam, a species detected in August in Lake George. Many partners are involved in response efforts that include surveys, monitoring, education and eradication. Control may involve laying matting on the bottom of the lake to smother the clams. This coordinated response is one of the first examples of early detection and response to an aquatic invasive species new to the region.



Asian clam densities could reach 6,000 clams/sq.m and cause algae blooms and biofouling. A population was detected in southern Lake George in August. Coordinated response efforts are underway.

Photo courtesy of Emily DeBolt, Lake George Association

Fighting Phrag, APIPP Scores!

APIPP teamed up with partners and volunteers to tackle terrestrial invaders on Forest Preserve in new ways this year. Having sights set on several significant infestations of common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*), APIPP's seasonal terrestrial coordinator Brendan Quirion led the charge to control the wetland invasive by first cutting the plant, then treating it with herbicide. This spring the DEC and APA gave the green light to treat terrestrial invasive plants on state land using herbicide, once site workplans are in place. This major win will put a stop to the silent spread of this and other invading plants.

Local Laws Target AIS

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a growing threat to Adirondack waters and communities. At least six towns and villages passed, or are considering passing, local ordinances making it illegal to enter or exit waters of the town without first removing aquatic plants and animals visible to the naked eye. The NYS Legislature will consider a similar statewide law when it is next in session.

Invasive Species Soundbytes

APIPP's "Eye on Invasives" column appeared biweekly in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise and Adirondack Express. In Lake Luzerne in May, herbicide was used for the first time in the Park to treat Eurasian watermilfoil. Monitoring is underway. Emerald ash borer was detected in at least seven counties in NYS. Help with forest pest detection: www.BeetleDetectives.com. Two NYS bills are on the horizon: Aquatic Species Transport, and, a Regulatory System for Non-native Invasive Species. 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

Tupper Lake Garlic Mustard Elimination Project

Landowners are making a difference throughout the region. In Volume 5, Issue 2, this newsletter celebrated the work of the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program which is stamping out Japanese knotweed in several towns in the southwestern Adirondacks. A similar initiative is underway by a team of citizens in Tupper Lake. Their concern is the new and rampant spread of garlic mustard in the Village. Noticing a wave of garlic mustard following a local sewer replacement project, Ed and Ellie Hecklau, Carol Richer, Joan Blackman and Susan Nolde joined forces to put a halt to this spreading threat. In 2009, they contacted the Village and local partners, sought landowner permission and then inventoried the 172 properties impacted by the sewer project for garlic mustard; 25 had infestations. The source was linked to contaminated top soil and hay. Volunteers then dug out and bagged all of the plants – 7 bags in total. In 2010, they revisited the sites and removed only 3 bags. Monitoring is slated to continue in 2011 to ensure that control is sustained for years to come.

Congratulations to the volunteers of the Garlic Mustard Elimination Project for protecting Tupper Lake from one of the worst terrestrial plant invaders!



Volunteers detected 1st year garlic mustard rosettes (top) after a sewer replacement project in the Village of Tupper Lake. In the 2nd year, they observed mature flowering plants (left).

Photos courtesy Tom Houtte, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org (1)
Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org (1)

Species Alert

*European Oak Borer** *(Agrilus sulcicollis)*

The European oak borer (*Agrilus sulcicollis*) (EOB) is a species that is closely related to the emerald ash borer (EAB) and infests oak (*Quercus*) trees stressed by defoliation and drought. EOB was first detected in Ontario, Canada in 2008 and found subsequently in multiple locations in four southern Ontario counties. It has also been detected in Michigan (4 counties) from 2003 collections. As part of a national 2009 EAB survey in New York, EOB was discovered in Monroe and Orleans Counties.

EOB is native to most of Europe and is considered an economic pest that may be a factor of oak decline in Europe. It infests upper parts of the stems, branches and smaller sized host trees. The beetle also inhabits freshly cut timber. The larvae develop in or under bark of live *Quercus* species, and require between one and two years to develop before emerging as adults. The host range of EOB includes *Quercus* spp. (oak), *Castanea* spp. (chestnut) and *Fagus* spp. (beech).

Little is known what the likely impact of EOB will be on oaks in eastern North America. Continuing surveys will ultimately determine how widespread this species is in the Northeast.

*Excerpt adapted from

<http://illinoiscapsprogram.blogspot.com/2009/12/european-oak-borer-found-in-new-york.html>,

http://www.ccelivingstoncounty.org/Emerald_Ash_Borer.pdf.



The European oak borer (EOB) attacks oak trees and is known to be in Ontario, Canada, Michigan and New York. EOB ranges from 5-9 mm in length and its color varies from metallic bronze, green, violet, and blue.

Photo credits (1) Milan Zubrik, Forest Research Institute - Slovakia, Bugwood.org

On The Horizon

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

- Advance initiatives including Regional Response Teams, Adirondack Regional Watershed Stewardship Program, Invasive Species Prevention Zones and Community Preparedness Planning.
- Draft and distribute APIPP's 2010 Annual Report.
- Work with partners to draft the APIPP PRISM Strategic Plan.
- 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.

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ROOTS

REMEMBRANCES

*A Tribute to Steven M. Flint
You Are Deeply Missed*

Loss of an Invasive Species Champion

On Friday, October 1, 2010 our friend and colleague Steven Flint died peacefully in the presence of family at Hospice in Dayton Ohio after a courageous battle against cancer. Steven fought hard every day for the park and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. He knew the roadmap of terrestrial invasive plants like no other in the region, and in a 6 million acre park, that's no small feat. He leveraged action from Lake George to Old Forge and everywhere in between. Steven really believed in this work, and because of that, he inspired so many to follow his lead. He made a lasting impact here.

Steven's "can-do" spirit lives on in countless partners, landowners, volunteers, interns and students whom he mentored and inspired throughout his 15 years in conservation with The Nature Conservancy. Steven's influence reached many and his contributions to stewardship are witnessed each day in Adirondack lands and waters.



"Many of you knew and worked with Steven Flint, former terrestrial invasive species coordinator for APIPP. It is hard to imagine a more passionate and hard-working environmentalist. He will be very much missed."
Leslie Surprenant, Invasive Species Management Coordinator, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation





"Steven understood the importance of protecting the natural character of the Adirondack Region today so that society can experience its majesty not just in the present, but for millennia in the future. On many occasions, I received a phone message or email from Steven, left late at night or on a weekend or holiday, noting the location of a new invasive plant infestation and proposing a plan of action to eradicate it - or advising that he already had; usually on his own time, at his own expense."

Kyle Williams, NYS Department of Transportation



"I recall the first time I went out into the field with Steven. I had on my neon green/yellow APIPP volunteer t-shirt and we headed out to hunt down purple loosestrife for the day. We had a great time. He has such a wealth of knowledge about the park and the history and the populations of invasive species. I was the look-out girl and spotted lone purple loosestrife plants off the road side and he would carefully pull over. I would cut the stems and he would inject them. It was a great team effort. He was very passionate about his work and protecting the ADKs.

He will be greatly missed."

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program



"Steven was such a great person, very supportive and generous with his knowledge and time, curious and ready to get the job done. Wow. There will be no weeds in heaven."

Fran Lawlor, Invasive Plant Species Consultant



"He truly touched and changed my life." Sue Smith, Adirondack Mountain Club member and Volunteer



"Steven was a champion. He and I were torn from the same cloth. I will miss him."

Bob O' Brien, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



"The only thing I can figure is that God must have an invasive problem in heaven and called in the 'A' team. We will miss Steven and I'm a much better person for having been privileged to work with him."

John Falge, NYS Department of Transportation