



Partnership For
Regional Invasive
Species Management

Volume 1 Issue 3

Summer 2013

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SLELO Partners

- Cornell Cooperative Ext.
- The Nature Conservancy
- NYS DEC
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
- NYS Dept. of Transportation,
- NY Sea Grant
- Ducks Unlimited
- County Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Fort Drum Military Installation
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust - T.H. Commission
- Save The River
- Audubon - Central NY Chapter

www.sleloinvasives.org

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario PRISM

"Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species"

Partner Initiatives

NY Sea Grant Launch Steward Program

In 2013, the New York Sea Grant (NYSG) Launch Steward Program, which offers voluntary watercraft inspection education to motorized and non-motorized boaters, is expanding from Jefferson and Oswego counties to include waterfront sites in Cayuga, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Wayne counties.

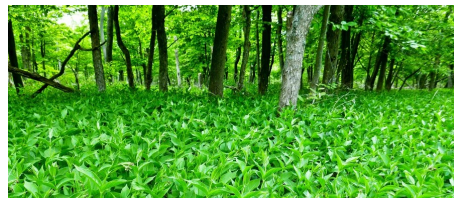


(L to R from top): Nick Spera, Clint Whitaker, Ryan Thompson, Brittney Rogers, Mary Penney, Heather Dunham, Sophia Oliveira, Megan Pistolesse.

The seven college students hired as stewards, are teaching boaters how to look for, remove and dispose of unwanted aquatic hitchhikers, including aquatic invasive species (AIS). These NYSG Launch Stewards empower boaters to keep pristine waters clean and contain AIS to waters where they are already found by teaching boaters about simple prevention methods like draining bilge water and washing and drying boats.

NYSG Coastal Community Development Specialist Mary Penney serves as the Launch Steward Program Coordinator. NYSG coordinates the Steward Program in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks, the Towns of Sodus, Scriba and Henderson, the City of Oswego, and Onondaga County. Funding is through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative contract administered by the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance. For more information watch www.nyseagrant.org for details on public programs.

Pale Swallow-wort Control Trials at Robert G. Wehle State Park



In 2010, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation began field trials to evaluate the use of construction implements to mechanically control pale swallow-wort at Wehle State Park, in Henderson. Parks employees used a combination of five different tractor-mounted implements to

remove swallow-wort over three different areas.

The initial plan was to remove swallow-wort roots and crowns from the soil; however, the density of the root mat was so intense that the majority of the soil had to be removed as well in order to achieve control. Bringing in clean topsoil was considered, but park staff decided to leave the sites with what little topsoil remained in the hope that they might develop into habitat resembling the thin-soiled, globally rare alvar communities of the area. After three years of monitoring, levels in the test plots are dramatically lower than the surrounding area, with no further intervention. Additionally, although more detailed surveys are needed, the sites do seem to resemble alvar habitat. Parks plans to continue partnering with SLELO and the USDA Agricultural Research Station on research projects at the park and in the region.

Casey Holzworth - NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation

SLELO Seasonal Employees

Each year, the SLELO program recruits a team of seasonal employees who assist with delivering the field components outlined in the SLELO annual work plan. This year's team includes:

Shelby Delgado, serving as Education/Outreach Coordinator, is a recent graduate of SUNY ES&F in Wildlife Biology. Shelby served as a Honors Intern for the Albany Pinebush Preserve Commission.

Logan West who serves as an Ecological Restoration Crew Member and also as one of SLELO's Early Detection/Rapid Response Team members holds a B.S. degree from SUNY ES&F in Conservation Biology. Logan brings with him unique experience in radio telemetry work with Black Bear populations in the Sequoia National Park.



Pictured above from left: Shelby Delgado, Logan West, Mike McHale and Mike Parks.

Mike McHale is an experienced crew member who has been with the program for three seasons. Mike holds a B.S. degree from Brockport State University in Conservation Biology/Terrestrial Ecology. Mike has assisted with the development of SLELO's HPA Protocol (Highly Probable Areas) and has served as our lead Early Detection crew member.

Mike Parks has been an instrumental part of our field crew for several seasons. Mike is a New York State Licensed Pesticide Applicator and leads our invasive species eradication and suppression activities. Welcome Team SLELO !

COMMUNITY EVENT: ASH TREE TAGGING

Sponsored by SLELO PRISM Partners

August 17th, 2013 From 10am-12pm at SUNY Oswego's Rice Creek Field Station. 193 Thompson Rd. Oswego, NY

All of New York's Ash Trees are in danger of being destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer- an Invasive species!

This event aims to...

1. Create public awareness of the Emerald Ash Borer
2. Promote community preparedness
3. Encourage individual involvement in prevention and eradication efforts.

For more information contact Shelby Delgado (SLELO-PRISM Outreach Coordinator) at 315-387-3600 x23 or Sdelgado@TNC.ORG

Our PRISM's Watch-List Species

Hydrilla
Mile a Minute Vine
Didymo
Asian Long Horned Beetle
Hemlock Wooly Adelgid
Silver, Big head and Grass Carp
New Zealand Mud Snail
Hemimysis, Asian Clam, Kudzu
Feral Swine

For More Information visit:
www.sleloinvasives.org

Our PRISM's Priority Conservation Areas

Because resources are limited, it is important that SLELO-PRISM partners focus invasive species management on sites that are considered ecologically important assets and/or sites that are believed to have conservation value. Other factors involved in determining site-based management on both public and private lands include whether a site may be a seed bank or vector, or may pose a proximity threat to a high value site.

The partners of the SLELO PRISM have identified 42 areas that have been the initial focus of our efforts. These areas can be found in the SLELO Five Year Strategic Plan available from our website at www.sleloinvasives.org.

To further our effectiveness when conducting early detection assessments on the priority sites, we have adopted an HPA protocol (Highly Probable Area) that focusses our efforts on the areas where there is a greater probability that an invasive species will be introduced and/or become established. Combining priority sites with HPA protocols increases our overall efficiency.

Emerging Threat Hydrilla

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is a submerged aquatic plant thought to be native to Asia and/or India. It was once sold as an aquarium plant and may have been introduced to the Americas by dumping of aquarium waters or plants into natural bodies of water.

Hydrilla can be found in slow moving aquatic habitats such as reservoirs, lakes, ponds, springs, rivers, and tidal zones. It can tolerate varying hydrological conditions such as salinities as high as 7% and a wide range of acidities, although optimum growth is seen at a pH of 7. It can grow in very low light conditions (as low as 1% of full sunlight) allowing it to colonize deeper depths than many native plants.

Identification

Hydrilla is a submerged plant found rooted to the bottom of a water bed. It grows upward from this point and its height depends on the depth of the water.

Leaves appear in whorls of 4 to 8. Leaf margins have 11 to 39 sharp teeth per centimeter with a red midrib

Impacts

Hydrilla verticillata forms dense mats at the surface of the water. These mats can smother native vegetation, interrupt irrigation practices, and interfere recreation, hydroelectric production, and water flow. It can invade most slow-moving or still water systems.



Hydrilla leaf



Hydrilla tubers (root)

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN



During the first six months of this calendar year, I have presented to thirteen audiences on behalf of the SLELO Partnership. In each of these presentations I incorporate the basics of our PRISM structure, our partners and their efforts, invasive species prevention and management. In addition and to “bring-it-home” so to speak, I include a segment on invasive species “Quick-Facts” and what I have discovered is that these “quick-facts” are not only what captivates the audience, but defines what we do and why we are engaged in invasive species management.

For example, “Invasive species are a factor in the decline of 49 percent of all threatened or endangered species” as cited by (Pimentel 2004). This means that (half) of our threatened or endangered flora and fauna are in demise as the result of invasive species—that, in my opinion is a very important statistic!

In *Rat Island* (William Stolzenburg—2011) the story is told of how a single invasive species killed three times the number of seabirds than were killed by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. Within three years this one invasive species left the once biologically diverse island of Kiska barren, leaving a single, cannibalistic creature - The Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). I could go on citing the impacts that invasive species have on our natural areas and on our cultures right here in Northern New York and at all levels, from recreational impacts to trophic impacts. These kinds of impacts are what justify the need for invasive species prevention measures targeting new introductions as well as preventing the spread of existing invasive populations.

In the SLELO region, I commend the work of our partners in protecting the ecological integrity of our important natural areas. The work that we do is important, justified and is invaluable for future generations.

Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM Coordinator - The Nature Conservancy

Partner Initiative – New York State Department of Transportation

By Rebecca Miller

Historically, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has played a role in the spread of invasive plant species by the nature of its work in maintaining and constructing existing and new highway corridors. Because these corridors are linear and cross valuable resources such as water bodies and wetlands, spreading invasives during everyday operations can be inevitable. With the signing of Executive Order 13112 in 1999, NYSDOT has made a commitment to controlling and preventing the spread of invasives. These species pose not only an ecological threat, but can be damaging to the very infrastructure the NYSDOT is trying to maintain. Areas where invasives have created sight distance problems, where they have grown up through asphalt pavement and damaged roads, and the continuous cleaning of ditch lines where invasives have established themselves year after year have made the Department realize the economic implications of leaving these species untreated. Tools that NYSDOT has available to help control and prevent the spread of these species include best management practices that are used in daily operations, special notes and item numbers to treat and dispose of infestations included in Capital Program projects and a special herbicide spray crew to address priority areas such as wetland mitigation sites and other locations considered to be of high ecological value. The Department has even released bio-control agents for purple loosestrife and has funded the research for a bio-control for phragmites.



The SLELO PRISM covers three NYSDOT Regions: R2 - Utica, R3 - Syracuse and R7 - Watertown. Each Region is responsible for protecting resources and addressing the invasive species within their respective counties. This can be challenging because the PRISM boundaries do not correspond with the Regional boundaries. Some Regions can have anywhere from 2 to 4 PRISMs with whom they need to coordinate their invasive species efforts with. To help simplify things, the NYSDOT has assigned each PRISM a liaison to ensure that the priorities of those respective PRISM's are addressed and to share that information with the other Regions within that PRISM. As a principal partner, the NYSDOT is here to help and support the SLELO PRISM in any way it can. In return, the guidance we receive from SLELO and its partners will benefit us all in the fight to control and prevent the spread of invasive species within the PRISM as well as statewide.