



**Partnership For
Regional Invasive
Species Management**

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**SLELO Region
Counties**

Jefferson County:
Cornell Cooperative
Extension
(315)788-8450

Lewis County:
Cornell Cooperative
Extension
(315)376-5270

Oneida County:
Cornell Cooperative
Extension
(315)736-3394

Oswego County:
Oswego County Soil &
Water District
(315)592-9663

St. Lawrence County:
Cornell Cooperative
Extension
(315)379-9192

**St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario
PRISM**

"Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species"

Salmon River Initiative

PULASKI: The Salmon River, a major tributary in the eastern basin of Lake Ontario, is a valuable economic and natural resource worthy of protection from the habitat-altering impacts of invasive species. As an economic resource, the Salmon River is a multi-million dollar fishery hosting in excess of 100,000 angler visitors annually. Angling enthusiasts travel from numerous regions across the United States and Canada, as well as from throughout the world, to fish the river.

This 17-mile river system is rich in habitat and diversity and provides, both in the upstream reaches and within the estuary, spawning and nursery grounds for pacific salmon (Chinook and Coho) and the native Steelhead and Atlantic Salmon. The estuary of the river provides shorebird nesting sites for rare species such as the Black Tern and the Least Bittern.

Many local businesses depend on this economic and natural resource.

The partners of the ST. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario – Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO-PRISM)

recognize the importance of this resource along with the

need to protect the river from a highly aggressive species of plant known as Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). The increasing presence of Japanese knotweed within the Salmon River corridor, has the potential to negatively impact the economic and ecological values of the Salmon River and Salmon River Estuary. Dense stands along the upstream portion of the Salmon River interfere with angler access, making some areas of the river less attractive to fishermen. Large-scale alteration of the plant communities within the river system could have direct impacts on shorebirds and other organisms that rely on the native plant types for shelter, nesting materials and food.

Due to the widespread nature of existing Japanese knotweed populations along the river, total elimination of knotweed is not a realistic goal. However, options do exist to aid in the reduction of Japanese knotweed, even on a river-wide scale. The partners of the SLELO-PRISM, have endorsed a Salmon River Initiative that involves knotweed reduction, native plant restoration and public education. Reducing the amount of Japanese knotweed, however, will be dependent upon landowner cooperation.



A Peak at the 2013 Field Season

Unique habitats along with rare, threatened and endangered species in the SLELO-PRISM region are being threatened and displaced by invasive species. To address this issue, partners of the SLELO-PRISM are moving forward with a robust plan. Hosted by The Central and Western New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the SLELO-PRISM is now in our second year of “formally” addressing invasive species. The partnership has representatives from various organizations throughout a five county area who have adopted a second annual plan of work for the 2013 field season. The plan will address invasive species issues such as prevention, early detection, control and habitat restoration which

in turn will help to preserve critical lands, waters and natural areas in the region.

habitats, forest lands, shoreline dunes and globally rare Alvar lands. In addition, the group treated over 141 Giant Hogweed sites reducing the health threat posed by this plant.

In 2013 the SLELO partners, with help from four seasonal employees, will conduct early detection surveillance and rapid response work (if needed) on nine priority conservation areas within the eastern Lake Ontario watershed.

In addition to ED/RR work, the SLELO team will conduct prevention work, eradication & suppression work, education and outreach, volunteer monitoring training and citizen science events.

Last year the SLELO partnership was instrumental in protecting hundreds of acres of freshwater resources, wetland

<i>SLELO Goal</i>	<i># Planned Activities</i>	<i>% Time</i>
Control	15 activities	32%
ED/RR	8 activities	17%
Prevention	7 activities	15%
Education & Outreach	6 activities	13%
Information Management	4 activities	9%
Cooperation	3 activities	7%
Restoration	3 activity	7%

The above table lists the various activities to be undertaken by the PRISM Partners for the 2013 field season.

Schedule of Events

Public Information Sessions: (all sessions begin at 7:00 PM)

- Lewis County: Thursday May 16th- Lewis County Cooperative Extension Office. 5274 Outer Stowe St. Lowville, NY
- St. Lawrence Co. Thursday May 30th – St. Lawrence Co. CCE Learning Farm. 2043 State Highway 68, Canton, NY
- Jefferson County: Thursday June 6th. – CCE Office, 203 North Hamilton St. Watertown, NY.
- Oswego County: Tuesday June 11th – Edick Hamlink VFW. 5930 Scenic Ave., Mexico, NY.
- Oneida County: Thursday June 20th – Madison-Oneida BOCES Triplexus. Conference Room. 4937 Spring Road, Verona, NY

All sessions are free, but registration is required. Reserve by email williams@tnc.org or call (315) 387-3600, ext. 25. Please indicate which session you will be attending.

Other Events:

- May 23rd . Spring Training for Partners & Guests, iMapinvasives and Decision Analysis Tool. 9:00 AM—CCE Watertown. Register at: www.nyimainvasives.org/
- July 13th . Water Chestnut Pull, Port Ontario. Contact John DeHollander 315.592.9663
- June 4th - Black River Watershed Conference. For info. Contact: cluther@lewiscountyny.org
- TBA. Volunteer Monitoring Training Event, to be announced.....

Carleton Island Work Group

Carleton Island is located in the St Lawrence River in Northern New York. It is part of the Town of Cape Vincent, in Jefferson County. Over the last year, the Carleton Island Work Group, Thousand Islands Land Trust, and the Town of Cape Vincent have worked together to develop a Swallow-wort Management Plan to control/eradicate the Pale Swallow-wort infestation on the island. Last year both mechanical and chemical applications were conducted. The same is scheduled for 2013.

Working together to accomplish our common goal has created a great sense of community! So far there has been a vast amount of effort put towards coordinating island meeting, raising funds to cover management costs, and educating neighbors and fellow island residents about the invasive species.

*Jake R. Tibbles, Executive Director
Thousand Islands Land Trust*



Be Careful With The Bait!
Help preserve our freshwater resources by preventing the introduction & spread of non-native bait species.

Species Profile

The Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) is a rooted, floating aquatic plant that inhabits shallow to deep, fresh water habitats and forms dense, floating mats. When established these plants restrict light availability, reduce dissolved oxygen levels and displace other native vegetation. It also limits boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational activities.

The rosette of leaves on the surface of the water are alternate and triangular in shape and can



Rosette of *Trapa natans* taken at Oneida Lake.
Photo by Rob Williams

grow to be quite large. *Water Chestnut* has small, four-petal flowers that bloom from July to frost. The nut-like fruit (nut) has two to four, 0.5 in. (1.3 cm) long, sharp, barbed spines. They ripen in about a month and can remain viable as long as 12 years. Each seed can produce 1-15 rosettes and each rosette can produce as many as 20 seeds. In some areas, *Trapa natans* can produce and drop seeds as early as the beginning of July.

Trapa natans is currently found in the SLELO-PRISM region from Guffin Bay (Chaumont harbor) to the Oswego River and inland to Oneida Lake. Community stakeholders and resource users are encouraged to come together to coordinate annual “hand-pull” events to help contain the spread of this invasive species. For more information of the Water Chestnut plant visit www.sleloinvasives.org.

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management is hosted by The Nature Conservancy and is a collaboration of interested individuals and organizations teaming up to stop the spread of invasive species. For more information about this initiative or the Partnership, please visit www.sleloinvasives.org

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN



The five Great Lakes of Canada and the United States (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario) and their associated watersheds harbor 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater, 11,000 miles of coastline, over 30,000 islands, and nearly one-quarter of all North America's native freshwater fish species. Nearly 70 million acres of mixed temperate forests span its upper watersheds, covering half the basin. In its entirety, the Great Lakes can and should be considered a "whole ecosystem". Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are argued by many to be the single greatest systemic threat to the Great Lakes "whole system". They destroy habitats, cause native species declines, and alter processes that drive Great Lakes function. AIS are individually and collectively major ecosystem disruptors, causing environmental and economic impacts, and people who identify with the Great Lakes are acutely aware of the significance of the AIS threat and problem. It is fair to say that AIS are the Great Lakes' top environmental enemy (TNC 2012).

So then, how can regional partnerships play an expanded role in AIS prevention and management on a "whole system" scale? It can be argued that most, if not all, of our work is currently linked to restoring and protecting many of the very assets that make the Great Lakes great! The SLELO PRISM encompasses the entire eastern shoreline of Lake Ontario along with much of the St. Lawrence River and although much of our work focusses on regional asset protection, I would challenge our partners to consider what our work means to the Great Lakes and identify any opportunities that lend themselves to our expertise.

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