St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

Swallow-wort

SLELO-PRISM Swallow-wort Control – Multiple Sites

2012 Field Season

Figure 1: Swallow-wort images.

Introduction and Background

Swallow-wort *(Cynanchum spp)* is a highly invasive plant that has established itself in numerous areas throughout the SLELO region. As one of SLELO's target management species, our field crew has begun controlling this plant at several priority sites within the region. Rather than report on each site separately, we have folded all sites into this single report. This report will be updated periodically.

Perch River Wildlife Management Unit – Cooke Road.

This 7862-acre WMA is located in central Jefferson County five miles northwest of the City of Watertown. State Route #12 runs through the lower third of the Perch River marsh and has a parking area. The primary access points for recreationists are along the Vaadi, Dog Hill, and Allen roads -**Figure 2**.

Perch River is dominated by its wetland and open water habitats but also offers woodland, early succession, and grassland habitats. The area is well known for its waterfowl and furbearer populations and also supports deer, upland small game, and variety of unique non-game species. The grasslands are mowed periodically in late summer to inhibit brush growth and maintain the diversity of habitat that make Perch River so attractive to wildlife.

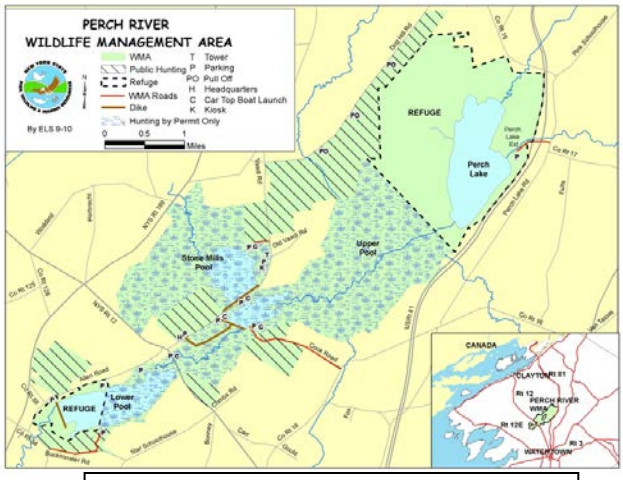

Figure 2: Map of the Perch River WMU and Cooke Road.

SLELO – PRISM
c/o The Nature Conservancy
269 Ouderkirk Road. Pulaski, NY 13142
Rob Williams, Coordinator

Water levels in the impoundments are managed to provide stable open water and emergent marsh habitat for the waterfowl and other water-dependent bird and furbearer species found on the area.

Actions Taken:

Two areas along Cooke Road totaling 5,500 square feet were treated for Swallow-wort using a foliar application of glyphosate applied by SLELO's licensed pesticide applicator Mike Parks. Area No. 1 was approximately 1,500 sq. ft. and area No. 2 was approximately 4,000 sq. ft.

Chaumont Barrens:

Shallow soils, barren limestone bedrock and austere, windswept vegetation characterize the Alvar Barrens and Grasslands of Jefferson County. A globally imperiled habitat, the barrens support several rare plants and animals. At this site Swallow-wort is threatening the native habitat and a long-term effort to suppress Swallow-wort is under way.

Actions Taken:

A total of **21** Swallow-wort sites have been treated using a foliar application of glyphosate. **Figure 3**.

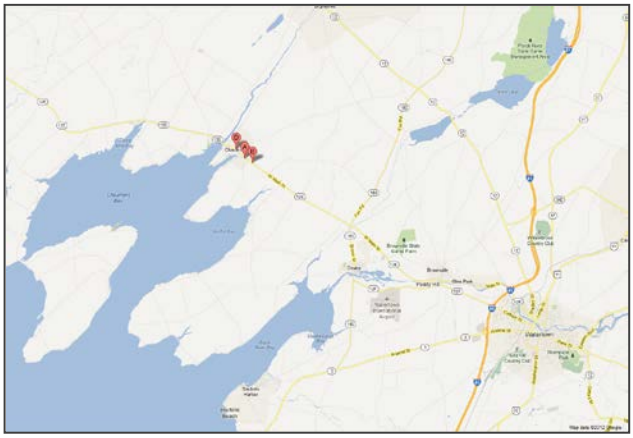

Figure 3: General location map of Chaumont Barrons.

Black Pond WMU / El'Dorado:

This is a freshwater dune barrier system which includes preserve lands and wildlife management unit areas.

Actions Taken:

Numerous Swallow-wort populations occur in this area of which **26 sites** have been treated with a foliar application of glyphosate. Several sites have been treated and work continues at this supersite. **Figure 4.** Limited secondary spraying also occurred in August.

Figure 4: Swallow-wort supersite near Black Pond WMU & El'Dorado Preserve

Three Mile Creek WMU– OBI, Couch Easement:

This 413-acre property in northern Jefferson County, NY, is home to the Three Mile Creek Barrens Alvar. It is one of the few alvar habitats in North America. Several rare plant and animal species live in this unique and environmentally significant alvar landscape.

Ontario Bays Initiative, Inc. in late 2006 acquired a conservation easement on the private property. The easement prohibits development of the property, which includes 5,000 feet of road frontage on the Three Mile Creek Road (County Route 5), **Figure 5**.

Actions Taken:
A 5.6 acre site has been treated with a Foliar application of Garlon-4 totaling 38.5 gallons applied in 2012.

Figure 5. Couch Easement Alvar along Co. Route 5.

Mud Bay:

Located along the south side of Mud Bay, there is a boat launch and access road owned by NYS DEC Region 6. While conducting aquatic surveillance, the SLELO field crew observed two areas infested with Swallow-wort.

Actions Taken - **Rapid Response**: Upon observation, the SLELO field crew hand-pulled approximately 3 cubic yards of Swallow-wort plants. Another area located along the access road hosted a population of Swallow-wort that exceeded hand-pulling capacity. This site was reported to our licensed pesticide applicator who, upon obtaining permission from the landowner (DEC) applied a foliar application of Glyphosate to an area approximately 4,756 square feet. A followup/secondary foliar application was needed towards the end of July.

Lakeview Wetland Complex:

There were five Swallow-wort sites identified in iMap that prompted the SLELO field crew to conduct a site assessment of these sites in 2012. Surveillance of these sites revealed that no plants were present (perhaps a data entry error within iMap), however one single site revealed a population of plants that was subsequently treated (**rapid response**) with a foliar application of Glyphosate.

Renshaw Bay:

A small embayment (**Figure 6**) located along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario which borders sand dunes to the south was investigated, specifically at property owned by Tom McLeod. No plants were found at this site. A population of Swallow-wort plants was observed along the main access road leading to Renshaw Bay. Since this site is not a priority area for SLELO, no follow-up treatment is scheduled.

Figure 6: Renshaw Bay

Southwick Beach:

On August 14th surveillance was conducted at this site. Only one plant was found and subsequently hand dug.

Black River Trail:

On August 21st, following a report from one of SLELO's partners that Swallow-wort was present along a popular access trail leading to a section of Black River in Jefferson County, several new Swallow-wort populations were observed. At the time of this report, seasonal field representative Mike parks is awaiting permission to access and treat the site from Brookfield Power.