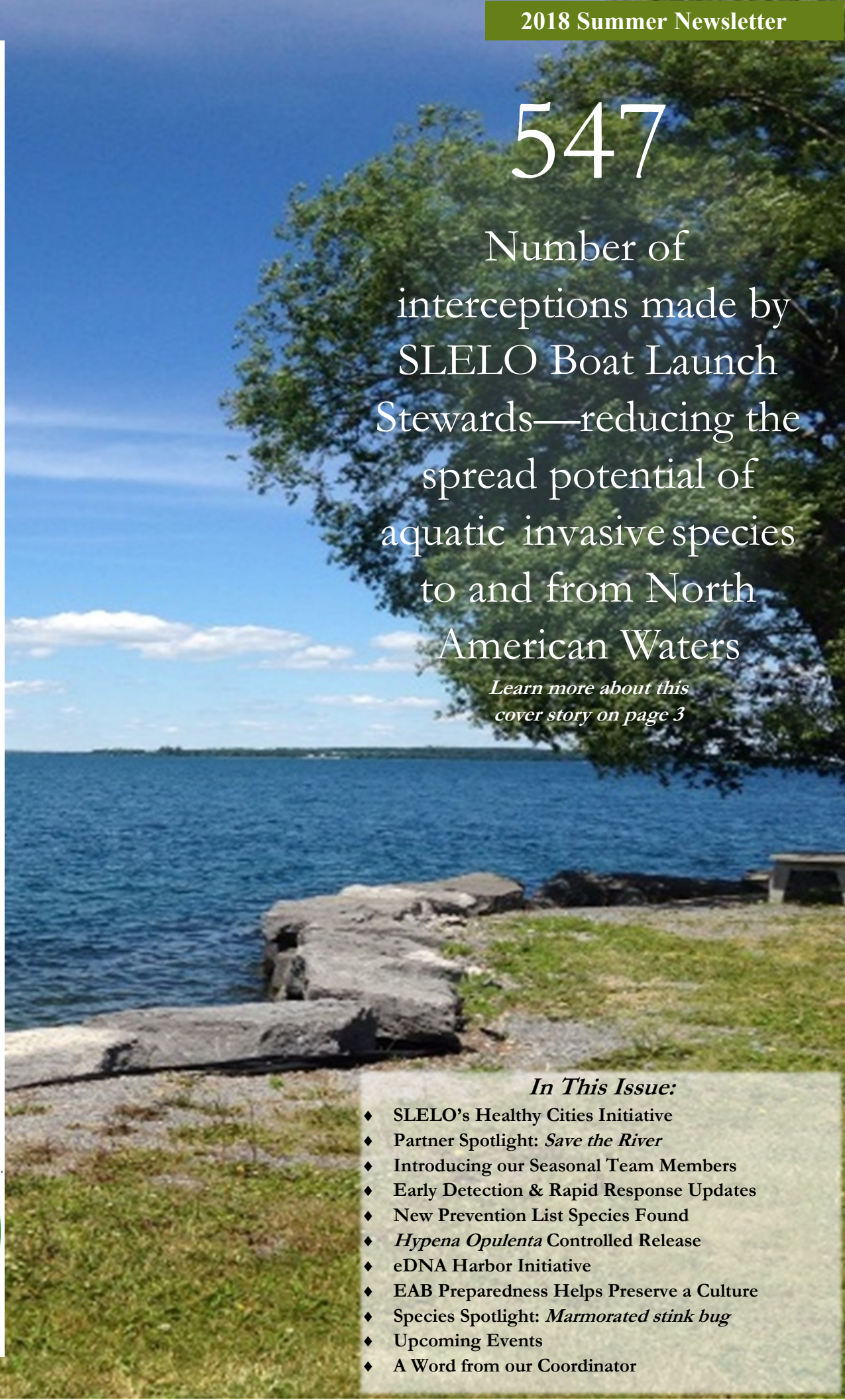
2018 Summer Newsletter

SLELO PRISM

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

Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species



547

Number of interceptions made by SLELO Boat Launch Stewards—reducing the spread potential of aquatic invasive species to and from North American Waters

Learn more about this cover story on page 3

In This Issue:

SLELO PRISM Takes on a Healthy Cities Initiative

By: Rob Williams-SLELO PRISM Coordinator, Megan Pistolese-SLELO E/O Coordinator, Joe Chairvolotti-Oswego SWCD

There are many ways one could define a healthy city. The presence of green space and areas in which nature exists, play a large role in the overall health of local citizens. The trees that bring beauty to our streets also shade our homes, provide oxygen, and help filter our drinking water. Community gardens beautify our urbanized world and support our beloved pollinators. However, the trees and plants that make up our green spaces can be adversely affected by invasive species. Invasive emerald ash borers make the ash trees that line our streets a liability to municipalities and home owners, and invasive plants displace native vegetation which diminishes natural habitats needed to support wildlife. These losses may seem subtle at first, but they are powerful enough to influence the green spaces we all enjoy and benefit from.

Planting pollinator habitat at TILT's Zenda Farms. From left: Sue Gwise, Rebecca Dahl, Megan Pistolese. Photo credit: Kate Frazer, The Nature Conservancy,

The impacts that invasive species have on our cities are recognized by the SLELO partnership, and we're teaming up to promote a Healthy Cities Initiative. The two main components of this initiative are to increase native pollinator habitat, through a citizen based Pollinator Pathway Project (*a concept borrowed from a larger nationwide effort under the same name)* and to promote community preparedness for encroaching invasive forest pests.

A Pollinator Pathway is a series of small native gardens that provide habitat for pollinators in urban landscapes and help reduce the spread of invasive plants. Invasive plants tend to thrive in areas that are lacking competition from a diverse presence of plant species, and sometimes exotic plants become more than a nuisance and cause harm to the ecosystem. To address this, the SLELO Pollinator Pathway Project encourages citizens to grow native pollinator friendly plants, rather than exotic non-native species. Citizens can reduce the likelihood of an invasive species becoming established on their property by choosing to grow native plants over exotic non-native species, as many invasive plants were once thought to be desired nursery stock.

The SLELO PRISM Pollinator Pathway Project is being co-hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, The Nature Conservancy and the Habitat Network. Since its beginning in 2015, a series of workshops have been held to recruit participants. So far there are over fifty volunteers who have pledged to choose native over exotic plants. Over a dozen participants have helped create a visual representation of the SLELO Pollinator Pathway Project by mapping their gardens online with the Habitat Network's Yardmap tool. The Habitat Network is a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to bring people, scientists and nature together to explore the effects of new conservation practices in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes.

There are plans underway with various SLELO partners to increase participation, including a pollinator habitat recently planted by volunteers at the Thousand Island Land Trust's Zenda Farms. Anyone who is interested in participating in the SLELO Pollinator Pathway Project, please contact: Megan Pistolese (SLELO PRISM Education/Outreach Coordinator) at: 315-387-3600 X 7724 or megan.pistolese@tnc.org.

Community preparedness, the second main component of the SLELO PRISM Healthy Cities Initiative, involves reaching out to municipal leaders and decision makers to gage their understanding of emerald ash borer and to provide guidance to help leaders implement a preparedness strategy or management plan for ash trees on public lands. The Oswego Soil & Water Conservation District in cooperation with the SLELO PRISM has connected with 20 municipal leaders of Oswego County to educate them on the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and to gage their needs for the implementation of a preparedness/management strategy. A similar outreach initiative is being considered for Jefferson County coordinated by the DEC region 6 Urban Planning Committee (ReLeaf) and the NYS Urban Community Forestry Program through DEC's foresters.

As EAB increases its presence in our region, it is pertinent that municipal leaders take the initiative to set a management strategy in place before it's too late. To learn about funding opportunities that may support EAB preparedness & management efforts please visit the New York State Grant Gateway. To learn more about EAB Preparedness visit the SLELO PRISM Website.

Partner Spotlight: Save the River

By: Patricia Shulenburg, Save The River Program Manager

Save The River was formed in 1978 to protect and preserve the ecological integrity of the Upper St. Lawrence River through advocacy, education, and research. Save The River takes an active role in River advocacy issues including: preventing invasive species, restricting winter navigation, increased spill response planning and public communication transparency, and variable water levels management.

Community partnership is essential to our success. Save the River works with many partners including SLELO PRISM to educate students and the public about the importance of invasive species identification, mapping, prevention, and management. Save the River offers three educational programs to address invasive species and their impacts to the St. Lawrence River through their *In the Schools/On the Water* curriculum, and with engaging field trips with their *Riverkeeper Volunteer* training, and *Junior Riverkeeper* programs.

The *Riverkeeper Volunteer* monitoring program trains volunteers of all ages to become "eyes and ears" on the River to monitor for potential pollution problems, invasive species, wildlife die-offs, harmful algal blooms, and threatened and endangered species. The program offers a one hour classroom presentation, and an interpretive hike or kayak paddle and participants are provided a Riverkeeper guidebook. Volunteers are trained to monitor for subtle changes in River ecosystem health and learn how to submit their observations using Save The River's online reporting system. During the last *Riverkeeper Volunteer* training, held on June 23rd at Gray's Creek in Cornwall, ON, 15 volunteers learned how to identify native wetland plants (duckweed, arrowhead, blue flag iris, and spatterdock) and how to distinguish native species from invasive species. Invasive species identified on the interpretive paddle included flowering rush, yellow flag iris, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, amur honeysuckle, Eurasian watermilfoil, European frogbit, and fanwort. Early detection species were also covered during the *Riverkeeper Volunteer* training and volunteers were encouraged to keep a lookout for early detection species including rusty crayfish, hydrilla, tench, northern snakehead, Asian carp, Brazilian waterweed, and Asian clam.

Approximately four hundred students have became *Junior Riverkeepers* in 2018 with more programs planned this summer. The Junior Riverkeeper program takes material included in the Riverkeeper Volunteer training and tailors the information for k -12 students in the classroom. Each program is developed with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards to be grade and topic specific by working with individual teachers to bring place-based education into the classroom.

Riverkeeper Volunteer training at Gray's Creek in Cornwall, ON. Photo credit: Karen Cooper, St. Lawrence River Institute and Tara MacDonald, The Glengarry News.

This year Save The River is also partnering with NY/PENN Girl Scouts to bring Junior Riverkeeper programs for scouts earning their Wonders of Water and Water Ambassador badges. Overall, 964 k-12 students, and 52 educators participated in Save the River's *In the Schools/On the Water* programs and field trips in 2018. Save The River incorporated invasive species education into nine *On the Water* field trips. Species covered during the field trips include zebra and quagga mussels, sea lamprey, rusty crayfish, water chestnut, and round gobies. Students learned about bioaccumulation of toxins and other impacts of invasive species in the St. Lawrence River.

Save The River partnered with SLELO PRISM and hosted an iMapInvaisves workshop with Jefferson Community College on April 24th. Seventeen people learned how to identify invasive species, record observations using the iMapinvasives app on their smartphone, and tested their skills assessing the riparian area on campus along the Black River.

Save The River is committed to furthering invasive species education and partnership opportunities to promote watershed resiliency. There are many ways to get involved! You can attend a Save The River program, become a Riverkeeper Volunteer, or host an educational program for your students or scout troop.

To learn more about Save the River and our educational programs please visit www.savetheriver.org or their social media page www.facebook.com/SaveTheRiver. You can also contact Patricia Shulenburg, Save the River Program Manager patricia@savetheriver.org or call 315-686-2010.

Scouting for Invasives

By: Emma Gutierrez & Sarah Kirkpatrick . SLELO's 2018 Early Detection Team

Emma Gutierrez and Sarah Kirkpatrick of the 2018 Early Detection Team are scouting the SLELO PRISM for invasive species. Of the 9 Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) to be surveyed this season, they have visited 5 so far in search of both "Target Management" and "Prevention List" invasives. "Target Management" species are those that have already been established in the SLELO PRISM, with efforts towards containing current populations. "Prevention List" species are those that the Early Detection Team is hoping to catch before establishment to prevent further spread.

The team is surveying Highly Probable Areas (HPAs), habitats where invasives are more likely to be found due to disturbance or human activity. So far, the Rusty Crayfish (Prevention List species), has been re-confirmed as widespread in Oneida Lake and in low abundance in Delta Lake. Porcelain berry was also confirmed in St. Lawrence County with assistance from our friends at SUNY Canton. One noteworthy "Target Management" species is the Emerald Ash Borer, recently found along the south shore of Oneida Lake. Other species are being identified, monitored, and treated as resources allow helping to make native communities more resilient to invasive species invasions. The Early Detection Team hopes to continue their efforts in identifying low abundance species before they become an ecological threat.

SLELO's 2018 Early Detection Team, Emma Gutierrez (back of canoe), Sarah Kirkpatrick surveying for invasive species. Photo credit: Rob Williams, SLELO coordinator.

(Cover story)

Reducing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species One Boat at a Time!

By: Rob Williams, SLELO Coordinator

2018 marks the third year of an effort to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species by the partners of the SLELO PRISM. Boat launch stewards, trained in aquatic invasive species management, are on post at strategic high-use boat launches along Eastern Lake Ontario for the summer to educate boaters and conduct voluntary watercraft inspections. Stewards will spend 12 weeks looking for aquatic invasive species and educating boaters on how to prevent the spread of invasives between Lake Ontario and other waterbodies. In addition, boat launch stewards collect data about vessels entering and exiting the lake, including their destinations. This helps predict the potential spread of invasive species throughout the Eastern United States and Canada.

This year, SLELO Stewards have inspected **547** watercrafts so far and hope to top 1,500 by the end of the season. Of the **547** watercraft inspected, **86%** were motorboats, followed by personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks and canoes. Spread-prevention literature is provided to all participants. Boaters visiting Eastern Lake Ontario come from all over New England and numerous other areas including Florida, Texas, Alaska and Canada.

Having aquatic invasive species specialists at boat launches is a highly effective way to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. Given the connectivity of New York's waterways, watercraft stewardship and inspections are a high priority for our partners.

SLELO's 2018 Boat Launch Stewards, from left: Casey Harkleroad, Alex Linerode, Evan Jones and Ben McCrobie

SLELO's Rapid Response Team Makes an Impact

By: Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM Coordinator

NYS DEC licensed applicator Mike Parks and apprentice Ed Miller have had a busy season as SLELO PRISM's Rapid Response Team. The cooler than normal spring delayed plant growth, but once summer hit (seemingly instantly), terrestrial invasive plants wasted no time converting sunlight into plant tissue.

Giant Hogweed: *(Heracleum mantegazziamum)*
This season, Mike and Ed visited 44 active sites in two SLELO counties, Jefferson and Lewis. Sites in Oneida County are managed by the NYSDEC, and those in Oswego County by the Conservation District. As yet there has been no confirmed giant hogweed in St. Lawrence County. Various treatment methods, including herbicide application and manual root cutting, are used depending on site characteristics. In 2018 an effort was made to reduce herbicide use by manually treating 94% of all active sites. To date, 19 giant hogweed sites within the SLELO PRISM region have now been eradicated.

Swallow-wort: *(Cynanchum spp.)*
June and July are the months to suppress the most common invasive species being managed in the SLELO region, swallow-wort. This season our team will visit an estimated 79 swallow-wort sites across eight Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs), and six low-abundance sites including a 36-acre plot on Carleton Island.

Japanese knotweed: (*Fallopia japonica*)
The preferred time to manage knotweed is late in the season (August/September), after the plant has flowered and has begun the process of moving nutrients to its rhizomes. This season our Rapid Response Team anticipates visiting sites in five PCAs to suppress approximately .37 acres of knotweed.

Rapid Response Team member Ed Miller using root cut method on giant hogweed plant. Photo by Mike Parks.

New Prevention List Species Detected in the SLELO Region

By: Rob Williams-SLELO PRISM Coordinator

A new "Prevention List species" has recently been discovered and confirmed in our region by our friends at SUNY Canton in cooperation with SLELO's Early Detection Team. Porcelain berry/vine (*Ampelopsis glandulosa var. brevipedunculata*) has been observed in St. Lawrence County and has been confirmed by the New York State Natural Heritage Program's Chief Botanist, Steve Young.

This is the first confirmed observation of this species in Northern New York and one of the very few confirmed observations in upstate New York. Porcelain-berry is native to northeast Asia and was introduced to the US as an ornamental. It is fast growing, hardy and will climb and entangle fences, landscape borders, bridges, road signs and nearly anything in its path. The vines can grow 15 feet in one season creating homogeneous stands, invading open habitats and affect ecosystem function. "I have personally seen what this species is capable of having observed populations in Westchester County NY" (Rob Williams).

This low abundance, early detection was in St. Lawrence County and landowner has agreed to remove and properly dispose of the plants and roots.

Porcelain berry, Photo by Tony Beane.

Releasing a Biological Control for Swallow-wort

By: Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM Coordinator

Eastern Lake Ontario is the epicenter for swallow-wort, an invasive plant, that if left uncontrolled, has the ability to choke out all the vegetation that exists within its path. But after waiting nearly 15 years, a biocontrol agent for this aggressive plant has finally been approved for controlled release. *Hypena opulenta* is a moth native to Ukraine that feeds exclusively on swallow-wort. The process for the controlled release of this moth requires significant host-specificity testing and a lengthy approval process. Once completed, the next step entails rearing enough moths to make them an effective biocontrol method.

This past week, Lindsey Milbrath from USDA APHIS, along with SLELO Coordinator, Rob Williams and our two early detection team members, Sarah and Emma, released 825 *Hypena Opulenta* larvae (3rd, 4th, 5th instars and some pupae), at two locations near Robert Wehle State Park, a location heavily infested with swallow-wort. SLELO will assist with weekly monitoring of this controlled release and *H. Opulenta* adults will be liberated outside of the cages and allowed to free-range. Additionally, we have nominated two other sites for a potential release by the DOT, who also have obtained some bugs.

The use of (*Hypena Opulenta*) as a biocontrol method certainly wont rid us of swallow-wort, but if the moths can successfully over-winter and reproduce then perhaps they will help us to suppress and slow the spread of swallow-wort which would be a great victory for our partners battling this invasive plant.

Sarah Kirkpatrick, and Emma Gutierez aid Lindsey Milbrath with a controlled release of swallow-wort biocontrol *Hypena Opulenta*. Photo credit: Rob Williams, SLELO.

Lake Ontario Harbor Initiative

By: Rob Williams-SLELO PRISM Coordinator

During the coming months, SLELO PRISM will collaborate with the Finger Lakes and Western New York PRISMs, along with the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University, on a project that will strengthen early-detection capability in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The focus will be on four high-risk shipping ports located in, Buffalo, Rochester, Oswego and near the St. Lawrence-Lake Ontario confluence. These Great Lakes ports have been identified by Sea Grant as having a high invasion risk from invasive Ponto-Caspian (central European) species.

The project involves collecting water samples near these ports and analyzing the samples for environmental DNA (eDNA) found in the water. This effort will play an important role in developing post-implementation data following the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship Ballast Water and Sediment Agreement which took effect in September 2017.

Pictured above: a lake freighter at the Port of Oswego. Photo by. Rob Williams.

Preserving Cultural Traditions through EAB Preparedness

By: Aaron Barrigar, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division has been preparing for the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire) for several years now since its discovery near Detroit in 2002. EAB is an exotic beetle native to Asia that arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried on cargo ships and airplanes. As of May 2018, it is found in 33 states, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba. EAB is a highly destructive wood-boring beetle that feeds solely on ash trees (*Fraxinus* species).

Since its establishment and spread in North America, EAB has killed millions of ash trees in urban and forested areas and has caused billions of dollars in economic losses, long-term ecological damages, and has had immense impacts on *Onkwehón:we* cultural traditions of splint basketry. **Basketmaking is an important traditional art form that has been practiced in Akwesasne for generations and, for many, is part of their livelihood.** It is a means for continuing traditional Mohawk teachings and preserving *Akwesashró:non* culture, which is in danger of being lost.

To help protect their land and culture from EAB, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe have implemented multiple preventative measures to prepare for the arrival of this invasive pest. The Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment (ATFE) have collected ash seeds for a period of 15 years dating back to 1993. These seeds are cryogenically stored in the National Center for Germplasm in Ft. Collins, CO to preserve genetic diversity in future ash populations. Since 2008, annual deployment of green funnel traps and purple panel traps have taken place to detect the presence of EAB and other forest health-affecting agents in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). As of 2014, forest inventories have been conducted to determine the percentage of ash species present within Akwesasne's forests. This information was used to reduce 20% of the overall ash composition on tribe lands through forest stand improvement operations to help reduce the amount of ash stands available to host EAB. In 2015, a plan was created to assist the community of Akwesasne to respond, adapt and recover from damages caused by an EAB infestation. The plan focuses on preserving black ash as a resource for traditional basket making and the tools and strategies available to do so.

Unfortunately, the Emerald Ash Borer was positively identified in the southern portion of Akwesasne in the summer of 2016 from a green funnel trap sample. Additionally, EAB larvae were recovered in late 2017 from an infested sentinel tree established at Robert Moses State Park. The State Park is less than 5-miles from the western boundary of Akwesasne. This is a great concern, as Ash (*Fraxinus* species) is a major component of the forests in Akwesasne ranging as high as 74% in some areas. Based on collected ash inventory data, **an estimated 185 million adult beetles could be produced from these areas**, significantly contributing to rapid EAB population growth and expansion.

Angello Johnson girdling a trap tree. Photo credit, Aaron Barrigar.

In response to this alarming news, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, with help from the United States Forest Service (USFS) and U.S. Department of the Interior have created a delimitation survey to determine the extent and severity of the infestation in Akwesasne. This survey uses "sentinel trees" as a detection tool to map out the location and population densities of EAB in an area. Sentinel trees are trees that have the bark and phloem removed around the circumference of the tree trunk, which stresses the tree. Adult EAB beetles are very attracted to stressed trees and prefer to lay their eggs in these trees rather than healthy Ash trees. Sentinel trees are used as traps to attract adult EAB beetles to lay their eggs inside the tree and trap the larvae. Once this has happened, the tree is cut down, the bark is removed and then inspected for the presence of EAB larvae and galleries. A map of EAB infestations can be created by establishing a grid-like formation of sentinel trees over an area.

To date, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has established 202 Sentinel trees across Akwesasne to help map out the location and population densities of the emerald ash borer. These trees will be cut down, debarked, and sampled this coming fall and will provide essential information for future forest management decisions and strategies in controlling EAB populations in St. Lawrence County and beyond.

Species Spotlight:

Brown marmorated stink bug. *By: Sue Gwise, CCE Jefferson County*

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) *(Halyomorpha halys) is* native to China, Japan, the Korean peninsula and has been on our radar ever since it was introduced to the eastern U.S. in 1998. A major pest of tree fruit, it caused extensive damage to orchards in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey in 2009. Its range is expanding and it is now found throughout New York State. Typical of any invasive, the BMSB is very good at hitchhiking and is easily transported from one area to another.

A member of the 'true bug' insect order, it has the typical shield shape of a stink bug. The adults are about 17 mm long and have a brown marbled (marmorated) appearance. There is also black and white banding on the sides of the abdomen. Many native stink bugs look very similar; **the key to the identification of the brown marmorated is the white banding on its antennae.** No other stink bugs exhibit this characteristic. Like all stinkbugs it can give off an offensive odor when disturbed

Above: Adult Brown Marmorated Stink Bug – Note the black and white banding on the antennae.. Photo credit: Susan Ellis, Invasive.org

BMSB's go through five immature or nymph stages before becoming adults. Each stage lasts about a week. The nymphs are smaller and similar in shape to the adults, but the color is quite different. In the first stage the nymphs are a striking red and black color. In the second stage they are uniformly black. Successive stages begin to resemble the adult, as seen below.

From left to right, four nymphal stages of BMSB (second through fourth instar),

BMSB feed on the fruit and leaves of vegetables, soybeans, grapes and tree fruit- over 100 plant species are hosts. Feeding damage on fruit causes water soaked lesions that render the fruit unmarketable. Damage after cold storage of fruit is a major concern. It also is a nuisance pest because of its aggregation behavior of invading structures. Similar to lady beetles and box elder bugs, BMSB move into homes to pass the winter season. Large aggregations can plug vents and cause electrical shorts in wires.

As an agricultural pest there are many options for the control of BMSB including insecticides and organic products. Natural enemies of BMSB include egg parasitoids and predators, earwigs, lacewings and spiders. Mechanical exclusion is the best way to keep BMSB from entering homes- seal cracks and openings with caulk; repair damaged screens. Once inside the home the BMSB will not cause any damage unless you have large quantities of stored fruit. If they become a nuisance simply suck them up with a vacuum.

Above: egg masses and first instar. Photos by W. Hershberger, Stop BMSB.

HOSTS OF THE BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG:

Apple	Blueberry
Pear	Raspberry
Peach	Grape
Cherry	Mulberry
Corn	Catalpa
Soybean	Bean
Tomato	Rugosa Rose
Pepper	Norway Maple
Blackberry	Asian Honeysuckles

Upcoming Invasive Species Events

We encourage our partners to highlight their upcoming invasive species related events in each newsletter. Please contact Megan Pistolese to submit an event at : megan.pistolese@tnc.org. Visit our website Events Page to learn of upcoming events near you!

Join the Invasive Species Mapping Challenge: July 5th-19th
Help fill data gaps for Water Chestnut and expose the presence of Asian Jumping Worms
Learn more and register at **www.nyimapinvasives.org**

- **Utica Zoo Invasive Species Discovery Day: Monday, July 9th 4:30pm-6:30pm** at 1 Utica Zoo Way, Utica, NY 13501. Learn about invasive species and play some games. **Regular Zoo admission applies.** Contact info@uticazoo.org , 315-738-0472.

- **Water Chestnut Pulls Scheduled Within SLELO PRISM.** Please provide your own watercraft & life vest. You are encouraged to pack a lunch, bring water, sunscreen and bug spray. **Contact event coordinators to learn if a canoe seat can be saved for you.**

  ◊ **Annual DEC Lakeview WMA Pull: Tuesday, July, 10th 9am-2pm.** Meet at South Sandy Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch and then group will follow each other to the launch at Lakeview Marsh. To register email: information.R6@dec.ny.gov .

  ◊ **Grindstone Marsh Pull: July 9th from 12pm-3pm; July 10th-July 12th from 9am-3pm** at Selkirk Shores State Park 7101 New York 3, Pulaski, NY 13142 . To register contact: Logan West:, 716-377-5025, Logan.West@parks.ny.gov

  ◊ **Annual Port Ontario Pull: Thursday, July 12th, 10am-12pm.** Meet at the Pine Grove Boat Launch located on Pine Grove Road off Route #3 Pulaski, NY 13142. Contact (315) 592-9663 joe.chairvolotti@oswegosoilandwater.com.

  ◊ **Lewis Point (Oneida Lake) Pull: Saturday, July 14th 9am-12pm.** Take Rt. 31 to Lewis Point Road in Canastota, NY 13032. Meet at the north end of Lewis Point Road through a black iron fence. There may be extra boats if requested. To register contact Carol Ford cford113@yahoo.com , 315-289-9506.

- **Regional Invasive Species Climate Change Management Symposium Thursday July 12, 2018** at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. To view the agenda and learn how to attend via Zoom CLICK HERE.

- **Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange August 8th & 9th 9am-4pm** at the SUNY Oswego Rice Creek Field Station located on Brownell Road in Oswego, NY. To register contact the **New York Sea Grant,** (315)312-3042, SGoswego@cornell.edu. GLEEE Website

- **Save The River's RiverKeeper Workshops/Paddles:** To register contact: Patricia Shulenberg, patricia@savetheriver.org , 315-686-2010
  - ◊ **Wellesley Island State Park:** August 18th
  - ◊ **Wilson Hill:** Date TBD
  - ◊ **Otter/French Creek:** Date TBD

- **Aquatic Invasive Species Workshops:** Learn how to identify invasive species that threaten our waterways and get involved in invasive species removal opportunities and Invasive Species Volunteer Surveillance Networks. **To register contact Megan Pistolese,** mgan.pistolese@tnc.org**,** 315 387 3600.

  ◊ **Saturday August 25th 11:30am-3pm** at the Harrisville First United Methodist Church, located at 14294 Maple Street Harrisville, NY 13648.

  ◊ **Thursday August 30th 1pm-4pm** at the Colton Fire Station located at Riverside Drive in Colton, NY 13525.

Visit the state-wide ISAW events calendar to learn of events near you!
Please take the organizers/participants survey after the event.

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Seasonal Teams Make the Difference

Each year beginning in the cold days of January, we embark upon a process to seek qualified people to become a member on one of several seasonal teams we create to fulfill our Annual Work Plan tasks. Depending on special grant projects, the number of seasonal employees can vary, but typically involves eight team members participating on three distinct teams to include our Early Detection and Rapid Response Teams along with our Aquatic Invasive Species Specialists (Boat Launch Steward) Team.

Many of our seasonal staff members are students looking to gain practical experience and investigate career opportunities, some just seeking to keep up with their student loan payments. Whatever the case, these seasonal teams deserve tremendous credit for their commitment to our mission. Without these teams, implementation of our most strategic activities would simply not occur.

Results are impressive. Each season our Early Detection Team search twelve or more Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) including countless Highly Probable Areas (HPAs) for thirteen prevention or watch-list species along with fifteen target management list species. Our Rapid Response Team conducts control measures on hundreds of sites to eradicate or suppress target species across multiple PCAs, not to mention taking a defensive stance against the swarms of black flies and other hungry insects.

Our Aquatic Invasive Species Specialists give up almost all of their precious summer weekends to set up camp at local boat launches to interact with boaters intercepting numerous aquatic invasive species and preventing their spread to other waterbodies.

So, with great appreciation, I would send along a well-deserved "kudos" to our seasonal team members and encourage all of our partners to recognize their efforts. Thank you.

~ Rob Williams

SLELO PRISM Partners

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- The Nature Conservancy , CWNY
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
- NYS Department of Transportation
- NY Sea Grant
- Ducks Unlimited
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Fort Drum Military Installation
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- Tug Hill Commission
- Save The River
- Onondaga Audubon
- Thousand Islands Land Trust
- NY Power Authority
- CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary

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The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Our host organization