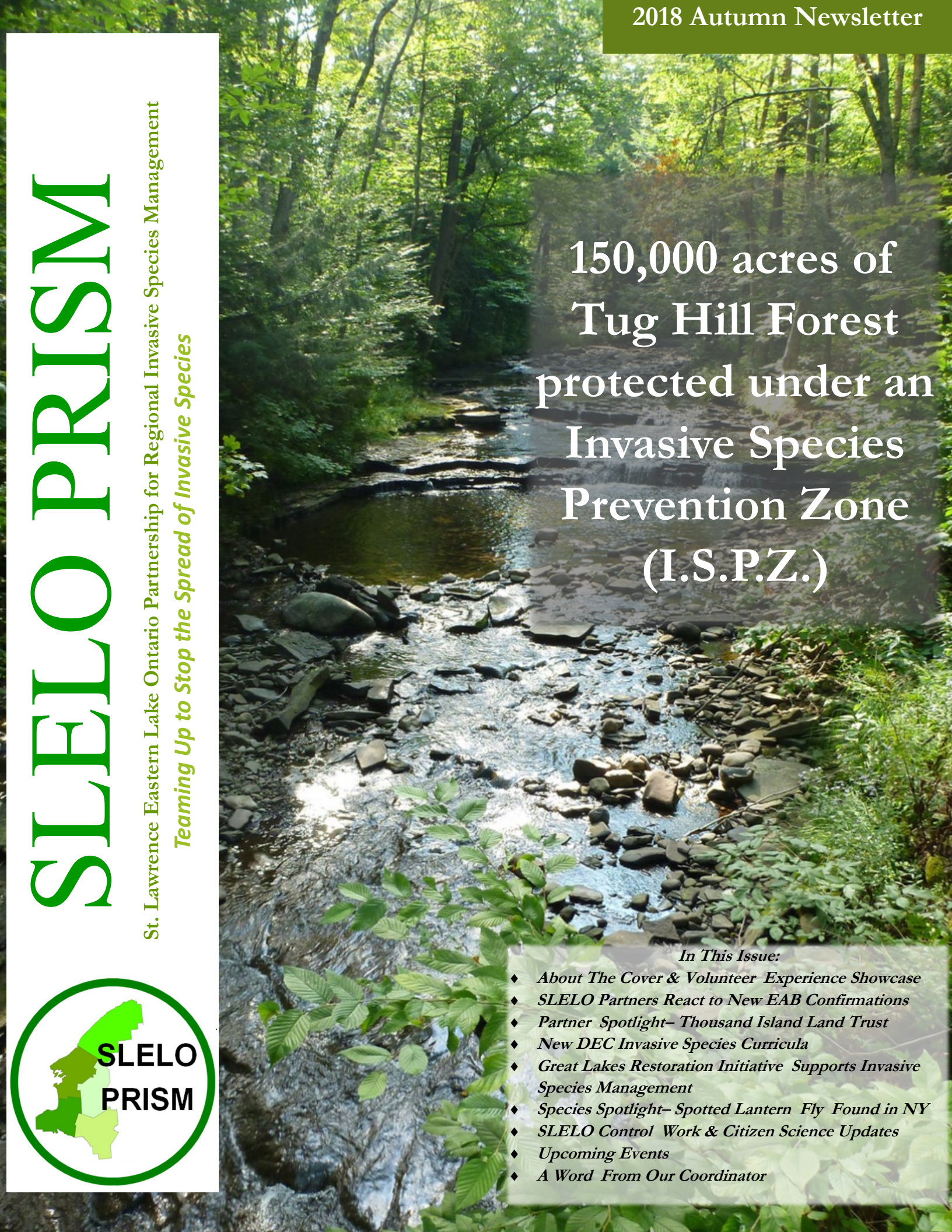
2018 Autumn Newsletter

SLELO PRISM

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

Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species



150,000 acres of Tug Hill Forest protected under an Invasive Species Prevention Zone (I.S.P.Z.)

In This Issue:

About the cover

Protecting our Lands and Forests

In 2014, partners of the SLELO PRISM established an Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) around the core forest of Tug Hill, protecting 150,000 acres from the threat of invasive species. Being relatively free of invasive species is what qualifies this important resource for such protection. Since the ISPZ was established, the SLELO PRISM Early Detection Team has monitored the perimeter every two years and has found no Prevention-List species. Occasionally, Target-Management List species, invasives known to be in our region, have been found encroaching the perimeter of the ISPZ. In response, the SLELO Rapid Response Team has implemented appropriate control measures to keep newly found infestations from spreading into the prevention zone.

SLELO partners are preparing justification for an aquatic ISPZ within the Tug Hill Plateau in the Whetstone Reservoir in which a similar approach will be taken.

In addition to monitoring the Tug Hill ISPZ, and employing management efforts, the SLELO PRISM has assisted with implementing a climate resiliency project. The intention of this project is to strengthen disturbed areas of the Tug Hill forest through the suppression of invasive species that impede forest regeneration, and the planting of 45,000 native tree species in areas that have been subject to timber harvesting. This approach makes these disturbed areas more resistant to the onset of invasive species and establishes a tree base which is better able to adapt to long-term changes in regional climate.

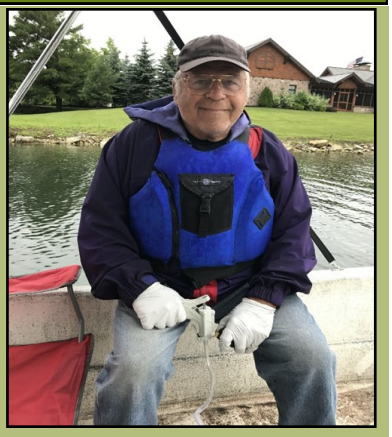
Combined, these efforts serve to protect areas of Tug Hill now and for the future.

Mike Parks, Rapid Response Team Lead. Not shown is Ed Miller, Rapid Response Team Apprentice. Photo by Ed Miller. SLELO PRISM.

Volunteering for SLELO PRISM -*Experience Showcase*

I have always preferred outdoors experiences, and when I moved to the North Country, it wanted to take advantage of all the recreational opportunities here. I learned of SLELO-PRISM through my work with The Nature Conservancy, where I have been volunteering for several years. I got to know the SLELO staff, and volunteered to assist a SLELO boat launch steward helping to remind boaters about the need to be aware of invasive aquatic plants that could inadvertently be trailered from one body of water to another. This lasted all summer for me, and I enjoyed every minute of it, meeting some interesting people, and sharing their experiences. We even chatted with an ESPN film crew here to video a BASS tournament.

I grabbed another great chance to help out collecting water samples on the St Lawrence river, to be analyzed for the presence of invasive fish DNA. There were three of us, and we had some animated conversations about salmon fishing, freighter traffic, and other river topics. I would do it again in a minute. I like to stay involved and I help out where I can. **It is a reminder that there is never enough time to give back to our environment,** to savor the days when I am trying to make a small part of our outdoors cleaner, less polluted, or more enjoyable for others who also like to be out there.



Try volunteering for SLELO-PRISM; you might be as convinced as I am that there is no more satisfying way to spend a few hours soaking up all the pleasures that nature offers.

~ Ed DeMattia
Dedicated Volunteer

Learn about volunteer opportunities at www.sleloinvasives.org

SLELO Partners React to New EAB Confirmations

By: Megan Pistolese, SLELO Educator

There has been much talk about emerald ash borer since the forest pest was discovered within SLELO PRISM boundaries. In 2017, EAB was confirmed in 2 St. Lawrence County sites—a single trap catch in Hammond, and over a dozen in a sentinel tree in Massena. This year, new EAB finds were made in Lisbon, New Hartford, Sandy Creek, Hammond, and Williamstown, leaving Lewis and Jefferson the only two counties left within SLELO boundaries where EAB hasn't been found "yet." The insects were caught in green funnel traps which were supplied by the NYSDEC, and deployed & monitored by volunteers through the SLELO PRISM Adopt-a-Trap Project *(more details about these findings are on page 7)*. The Massena EAB confirmation was made by USDA-APHIS, but all others were made by the DEC Forest Health Diagnostic Lab.

These discoveries have jump-started a long-overdue talk about community preparedness and management strategies among SLELO partners, municipal leaders and concerned citizens. There is good cause for alarm, given the nature of EAB and the fact that ash trees are common to forest and urban landscapes. EAB can be a big cost and liability issue for timberland owners, municipalities and homeowners. EAB often goes undetected until infestations have spread, with high populations. Infested trees rapidly die and fail structurally, leaving little time to plan or prepare for removals. In addition to cost, there are safety and liability concerns associated with large numbers of dead trees. For communities which have a high number of ash, EAB infestations can quickly overwhelm budgets and resources.

In response to these concerns, SLELO PRISM is working with State & County agencies, local organizations, and interested parties to provide stakeholders with the information they will need to prepare for and manage EAB. There are many efforts being led by various partners and other entities to help stakeholders prepare for the costs and management needs caused by EAB; a few of these initiatives are described below.

SLELO PRISM in cooperation with the Oswego County SWCD & DEC Region 6 have created an online EAB Community Preparedness Questionnaire to help to gauge the needs of municipalities, woodland & home owners in preparing for and managing EAB. The questionnaire, a standard response letter for EAB Preparedness Resources, and other helpful tools can be viewed on the SLELO PRISM **website.**

Foresters with **DEC Region 6** have been reaching out to woodland owners and communities to help them prepare for and manage their assets. The NYS Urban Community Forestry Program is providing technical assistance to communities through coordination with DEC foresters. The DEC Region 6's Urban Planning Committee (ReLeaf) is planning an EAB preparedness/management meeting to be held in Jefferson County this fall. The meeting will focus on the impact on the loss of ash trees along our roadways, and urban settings.

EAB/Ash tree tag. Photo credit: Megan Pistolese, SLELO.

Municipal leaders, planners & home owners and others who will endure costs due to EAB are encouraged to attend. *View page 8 for workshop registration details.*

The Oswego Soil & Water Conservation District can provide resources and guidance to municipal leaders in Oswego County to help stakeholders prepare for EAB. Oswego County municipal leaders are encouraged to reach out to Joe Chairvolotti joe.chairvolotti@oswegosoilandwater.com, (315) 592-9663 for more information.

The St. Lawrence County EAB Task Force is helping residents, land managers, and municipal leaders prepare for and manage EAB. A reprehensive from the group will be reaching out to municipal leaders at the Potsdam Local Government Conference on October 9th. Stakeholders in SLC are encouraged to contact Paul Hetzler ph59@cornell.edu (315) 379-9192 x 232 or John Tenbusch jtenbusch@stlawco.org (315) 379-2292 for more information.

The City of Watertown is undergoing a city-wide tree inventory/management plan and EAB Response Strategy through DEC grant funding. Municipal leaders looking for existing tree management plans that incorporate forest pest preparedness strategies are encouraged to view Watertown's Tree Management Plan. Watertown City Planner, Mike DeMarco is available to answer questions if needed. He can be reached at mdemarco@watertown-ny.gov, 315-785-7740.

Partner Spotlight: Thousand Island Land Trust

By: Brandon Hollis, TILT

Each year the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) looks for new and improved ways to implement best management practices when stewarding its fee-owned lands. Over the past 10 years, TILT has enrolled several of its signature preserves into different land management programs, attempting to protect some of the most sensitive and ecologically diverse habitats within the Thousand Islands region.

Up until recently, these land management projects have taken place solely on TILT's fee-owned lands, which only represent 60% of the organization's total conservation efforts. Additionally, TILT conserves approximately 4,100 acres of private land through conservation easements, or through environmental encumbrances. Given the nature and average size of a single easement property, they typically do not lend themselves to a large-scale management project.

Within TILT's conservation portfolio stands a unique cluster of easements which protect 95 percent of a 1,300 acre island landscape. Carleton Island, located in Cape Vincent, NY, sits as the guardian to the St. Lawrence River, positioned as the head island as you enter the river system from the Great Lakes.

Today, Carleton Island finds itself under attack from an invasive species known as Pale Swallow-wort. This plant has the ability to overtake entire landscapes, significantly decreasing biodiversity in both grassland and forest habitats, while outcompeting a variety of native plant species. If left untreated, this aggressive vine-like perennial has the potential to consume open fields, climb trees, and even modify the soils in which it grows. Understanding the magnitude of the impacts mentioned above, TILT, alongside the residents of Carleton Island, submitted an application for the Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control Grant administered in 2017 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Through this opportunity, TILT and its partners, including the SLELO PRISM, have begun performing three years of active management on the island, combating the spread of this invasive species via mechanical and chemical means.

Given the severity of the current infestations along the eastern shoreline of Lake Ontario, and now on Carleton Island, it is safe to say if left untreated, this invasive could potentially impact hundreds of acres if not more within the St. Lawrence River valley. To address this issue, TILT has taken on a Pale Swallow-wort project on Carleton Island through a $35,000 grant funded by NYSDEC Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control program through the Environmental Protection Fund.

One of TILT's volunteers helping to locate and combat pale swallow wort. Photo provided by TILT.

TILT is excited to have expanded its land management efforts to its conservation easement lands, realizing the impacts it can and will have on the greater Thousand Islands Region.

This particular project would not have been possible without the continued support and environmental awareness of the Carleton Island residents. TILT looks forward to working with the island to ensure the possible best management takes place.

To learn more about the Thousand Island Land Trust please visit their website at: www.tilandtrust.org.

To learn more about SLELO partners visit www.sleoinvasives.org

DEC Releases a New Grade School Invasive Species Curricula

By Emma Antolos, Invasive Species Education and Outreach Coordinator, NYSDEC

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is pleased to announce the creation of an invasive species curriculum for middle school students (Grades 6 -8). The new curriculum can be found at: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/114620.html. The unit is aligned to New York State P-12 Learning Standards and is hoped to be developed into a state-wide program. *Middle school teachers are encouraged to pilot the curriculum and provide feedback upon completion.*

The goal of the two-week curriculum is for students to gain a better understanding of invasive species and their impacts. Students will utilize the scientific process to develop a research poster focusing on an invasive species. They will learn how to identify common invasive plants on their school grounds and input data into *i*MapInvasives, New York's invasive species database. Following the field portion, students will analyze the data they collected and investigate pathways of introduction. Finally, students will research ways in which we can help prevent the spread of invasive species. At the end of the unit, students will share their research poster and findings with their fellow classmates.

The invasive species curricula project began following the completion of the "2016-2021 Invasive Species Education and Outreach Strategic Plan." The curricula was developed by a special workgroup comprised of members from PRISMs, BOCES, NYS Education Department, *i*MapInvasives, Cornell University, UAlbany, Pace University, SUNY Fredonia and the DEC. Special recognition goes out to Emily Caboot and other partners who contributed her extensive expertise to the curricula.
If you have any questions, or workshop inquiries, please contact Emma Antolos at emma.antolos@dec.ny.gov.

Students engaging in the invasive species curricula.
Photo credit: Jennifer Dean

Another DEC Educational Resource

Conservationist for Kids (C4K) is a resource DEC develops to help encourage kids to learn about environmental issues in NYS. The C4K autumn issue features invasive species educational material that parents and teachers can use to help kids learn about invasive species, and there is a word search activity that goes along with the material. For more information, contact Jeremy Taylor with DEC's Environmental Education Program: jeremy.taylor@dec.ny.gov

GLRI Action Plan III Supports Invasive Species Management in NYS

By: Emily Sheridan; Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, NYSDEC/NHT.

Since 2010, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has been federally authorized to advance efforts to protect and restore the freshwater and other natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin. Agencies and organizations in New York State leveraged GLRI funding for cleaning up toxics, preventing non-point source pollution impacts, restoring habitats and species, and managing invasive species. Almost $25 million has been used for invasive species management, control, and research in NY's Great Lakes watershed. In addition, funds have helped to prevent the spread of invasive species, improve our control methods, and educate k-12 students and the general public about invasive species impacts and prevention.

In the St. Lawrence-Eastern Lake Ontario region, GLRI has been a crucial resource in partner efforts to advance the Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management's (PRISM) mission, and has funded the development and implementation of boat stewardship programs throughout the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River watershed, early detection and rapid response activities in Eastern Lake Ontario coastal wetlands, and supported implementation of NY's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan.

The US Environmental Protection Agency and federal partners are engaging stakeholders, including the public, to develop the GLRI Action Plan III. A series of public workshops were held this summer throughout the Great Lakes to provide opportunities to connect with federal and state agencies and organizations, learn about the next action plan, and provide feedback. GLRI anticipates continuing efforts to manage invasive species under focus area 2 and key objectives for the next five years include preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes ,and developing innovative early detection/rapid response methods, technology and monitoring networks. Under focus area 5: Foundations for future restoration, GLRI will continue to fund science, monitoring, education and stewardship. To learn about other focus areas, and to review the draft plan when it is released in the fall, visit: https://www.glri.us/

Species Spotlight

Spotted Lanternfly Found Twice in New York!

Willow Eyres, NYSDEC Response and Management Coordinator

As you may have heard via DEC press release or other news outlets, the spotted lanternfly or SLF *(Lycorma delicatula)* has been recently found in two NY State locations: the Village of Penn Yan in Yates County and the City of Albany. Given the huge swarms of SLF infesting Pennsylvania, and the constant threat of spreading, it was not a surprise to discover that SLF has made its way into NYS; however, it was interesting to find only one single adult SLF in each location.

The recently discovered bugs were reported through the dedicated email hotline spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov --a prime example of how engaging the public strengthens early detection efforts. Since the confirmed observation took place, surveyors have been searching for more bugs and signs of infestation in surrounding areas. So far, no additional spotted lanternflies, egg masses, or signs have been observed. The good news is that this gives NYSDEC and its partners (Ag& Markets, USDA-APHIS, and State Parks) extra time to prepare for more significant discoveries.

In the meantime, **education and outreach remain a top priority**. Through social media, information about SLF has reached hundreds of thousands of people. This unique-looking bug is easy to identify and photograph, making reporting of suspect insects simple. In addition, a suite of materials including bumper stickers, tattoos, and fact sheets have been developed to help raise awareness in every corner of the State. Inspection of vehicles along major transportation corridors are also being conducted to look for the presence of SLF in its various life stages, and to evaluate the level of compliance with PA transport regulations.

Why is there so much hype over SLF? Since 2013, Pennsylvania has been dealing with the site of the original infestation in the US, in Berks County. SLF feed on over 70 species of plants, which poses a major concern for agriculture (grapes, hops, fruit trees), as well as to forest health. Swarming insects also create issues for recreation and quality of life, as the honeydew (excrement) of SLF is sticky, smelly, and rains down on those unlucky enough to stand below. In areas of dense infestations, honeydew promotes the growth of sooty mold in the understory of forests, likely impacting regeneration.

The Pennsylvania Dept of Ag and researchers at Penn State have worked swiftly to implement a number of SLF projects and to spread prevention measures including: compliance agreements, a permit system, reporting mechanisms, a quarantine zone across 13 counties, a robust and comprehensive education campaign, survey protocols, and experimental control and management programs.

Spotted lantern fly on a tree trunk in PA.
Photo provided by Emma Antolos NYSDEC

NY has benefited from the great work being done in PA and has been able to anticipate the arrival of SLF and establish its own quarantine, allocating staff time and resources to raise awareness. The primary objective is to find SLF as early as possible so that responses and control methods can be employed as quickly and effectively.

To learn more, please visit the NYSDEC webpage for and share this information with your friends, neighbors, and members of partner organizations.

If you think you have found spotted lanternfly

- Take a good clear photo of the insect(s)
- Note the location
- Email the information to spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov.

SLF education & outreach materials are available. To obtain materials please contact the Invasive Species Education & Outreach Coordinator, Emma Antolos Emma.Antolos@dec.ny.gov, (518) 402-9432.

SLELO PRISM Boat Launch Steward Program Update

By: Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM Coordinator

This year marks the third year of an effort to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS) by the partners of the SLELO PRISM.

Boat launch stewards, trained in aquatic invasive species identification & management, were placed at strategic high use boat launches along Eastern Lake Ontario for the summer to engage boaters and conduct voluntary watercraft inspections. Stewards spent twelve weeks educating boaters on how to prevent the spread of AIS between Lake Ontario and other waterbodies. In addition, boat launch stewards collected data about the vessels entering and exiting the lake along with their destinations. This helps to determine the potential spread of invasive species throughout the United States and Canada. This year, SLELO Stewards inspected 948 watercrafts bringing our three-year total to 2,605 voluntary inspections.

Spread prevention literature was provided to 91 percent of all participants. People visiting Lake Ontario came from numerous areas to include: Florida, Texas, Alaska and Canada. SLELO partners believe that having aquatic invasive species specialists strategically located at various boat launches is a great way to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species and given the connectivity of New York's waterways, watercraft stewardship and inspections are a very high priority.

2018 Statistics include **948** boaters engaged (3 year total = 2,605) **14%** of boaters were from out of state/ountry. **91%** of all participants received AIS "Clean-Drain-Dry" literature. Top 3 travel routes remained at: Route 3, 81, and route 12-E.

Above: No one is exempt. SLELO Coordinator Rob Williams and TNC's watercraft being inspected at Oswego Harbor. Photo by Casey Harkleroad.

To highlight AIS spread potential, over the past 3 years, boaters indicated they had either just visited, or planned to visit, waterbodies in 2 Canadian provinces and 15 U.S. states. Overall, **10%** of all watercraft entering or leaving ELO are found to be contaminated with aquatic invasive species.

SLELO PRISM Invasive Species Control Update

By: Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM Coordinator

The 2018 Rapid Response Team, Mike Parks and Ed Miller, had a productive season managing target invasive species on Priority Conservation Areas (PCA's) throughout the SLELO PRISM region. **Treatments and locations are summarized below:**

Giant Hogweed: (*Heracleum mantegazziamum*)
•46 sites visited
•32 active with plants
•12 sites with no plants
•1,439 plants treated
•2 sites foliar treatment
•30 sites manually controlled (hand dug)

In 2018, 94% of all active GH sites were treated manually to reduce the use of herbicides.

Swallow-wort: (*Cynanchum spp.)*
•83 sites managed
•17 PCA's
•36 acres on Carleton Island

Japanese Knotweed: (*Fallopia japonica*)
•4 sites being managed
•2 PCA's and Tug Hill I.S.P.Z

Phragmites: (*Phragmites Spp.*)
•4 sites being managed on 4 PCA's

Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*). A rapid response was initiated to an early detection observation on private property in Ogdensburg and all plants have been destroyed. ***To learn more about porcelain berry visit www.sleloinvasives.org.***

Above: Porcelainberry with fruit. Photo by Rob Williams ©

A Glance at SLELO's 2018 Citizen Science Initiatives

By: Megan Pistolese, SLELO Educator

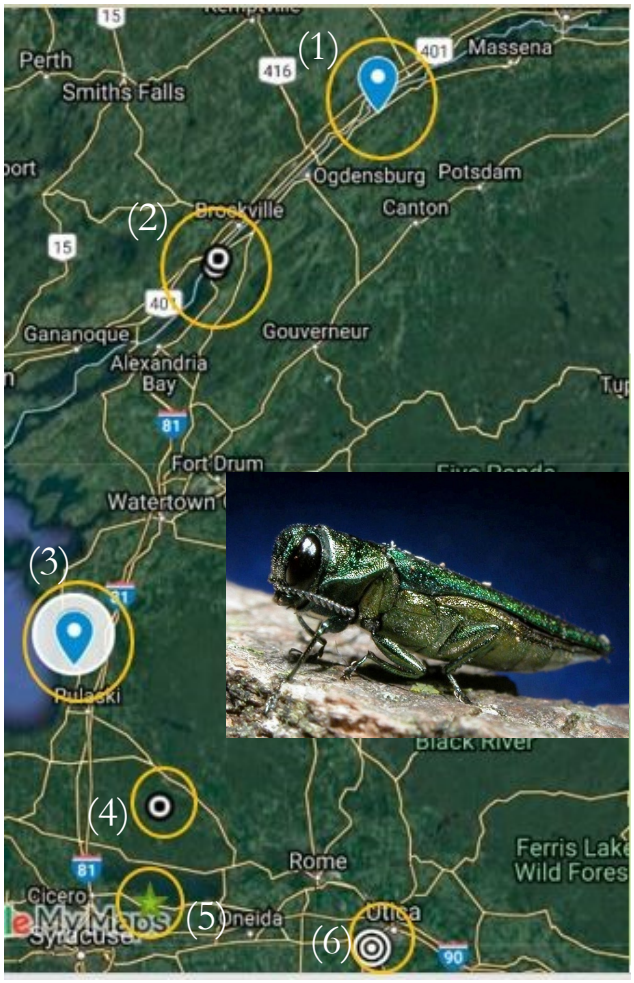
Education and outreach is a main strategic goal of the SLELO Partnership, and citizen science is an excellent way to engage the public and raise awareness of invasive species. This field season, partners engaged the public in a variety of citizen science-based initiatives geared towards the control of Target Management and Watch Prevention species which are summarized below:

Dozens of volunteers and partners removed over 34 thousand pounds of invasive water chestnut from 11 different waterbodies within SLELO boundaries. Water chestnut pulls are annual effort that have helped to suppress and prevent the spread of existing infestations, plus they're a lot of fun! Join us next July for a day on the water; watch the watch the SLELO PRISM Events Page for dates.

2018 Lakeview water chestnut hand pull volunteers. Photo credit: Liz Truskowski, DEC.

This year served as our first attempt to suppress invasive rusty crayfish within SLELO boundaries. A juvenile population of the invasive crustacean was initially detected in 2017 at Delta Lake by the SLELO early detection team. In addition to the distribution of informational brochures, partners teamed up for what we called a Rusty Round-up to search for and remove rusty crayfish from the initial site.

Volunteers searching for rusty crayfish. Photo credit: Mary Ripka, CWNY TNC.



One of our larger citizen science projects is the SLELO PRISM Adopt-a-Trap Project. For two field seasons, volunteers and partners have adopted and deployed emerald ash borer tree traps. A total of 60 traps were deployed and monitored in 55 locations spread throughout each county within SLELO boundaries for two field seasons. Each season, new EAB infestations have been found. As mentioned on page 2, these findings have helped spur community preparedness conversations among SLELO partners and stakeholders. Below are locations of confirmed 2018 trap observations to date, in addition to a reported iMapInvasives & SLELO Early Detection (ED) team confirmation: ***(numbers correlate with locations on map above, more confirmations may occur as the specimens from SLELO's project are still being analyzed).***

- (site 1) **Lisbon** off Route 37
- (site 2)**Hammond** off Route 12
- (site 3) **Sandy Creek** (iMapInvasives observation)
- (site 4) **Williamstown** off Route 69
- (site 5)**Chapman Park** (SLELO ED team detection)
- (site 6) **New Hartford** Woodberry Drive

Upcoming Invasive Species Events

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

Prepare for EAB, Learn to Plant a Tree:
Saturday, October 13th 9am-12pm at Canton's Recreation Center located at 90 Lincoln Street in Canton, NY. Learn the proper way to plant a tree and participate in a community planting to replace ash trees that have been removed in Canton to prepare for emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect that kills ash trees. Hosted by the St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District and Cornell Cooperative Extension along with the Village of Canton. ***Those who have ash trees on their property are especially encouraged to join as they will likely lose their trees and benefit from attending.*** To register or for more information, call Aaron Barrigar at the St. Lawrence County SWCD at (315) 386-3582.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Walk & Talk:
Thursday, October 11th 10:30am-2pm (rain date 10/12 same time) at Forest Park located off 10-24 Ripley Rd. Camden, NY 13316.
Participants will learn to recognize seasonal signs of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), an invasive pest that threatens hemlock trees. They will also will become part of a state-wide early detection effort to survey for HWA and learn how to report observations via the iMapInvasives mobile app. To register for this event, please click here or email megan.pistolese@tnc.org.

CCE Agriculture, Food & Environmental Systems In-Service: November 13th-15th in the IRL Conference Center at Cornell University. Explore over 60 workshops in 11 tracks, including an invasive species track. To learn more and to register visit: https://www.aginservice.cce.cornell.edu/

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop: Saturday, October 13th 11am-4pm at the Sullivan Free Library located at 101 Falls Blvd, Chittenango, NY 13037. Hosted by the New York State Hemlock Initiative. Free & open to the public. A multi-part presentation including volunteer opportunities and a field survey session. For more details and to register visit the NYSHI Event Page or email Steve Kinne at 2hike@yahoo.com .

Preparing Your Woods For More Frequent Disturbances Workshop: Rain or shine, Saturday, October 13th 9am-4pm at the Snow Ridge Resort with an afternoon field session on Tug Hill. Learn about the history of Tug Hill forests, as well as adaptive management & climate resilient forestry strategies. The site visit will occur on The Nature Conservancy's 17,000 acre conservation area where a climate resilient forest project is currently underway. Project team staff from TNC and the Cornell Cooperative Extension will be present and information about the project and a forest health productivity tool that can be used to guide climate resilient management plans will be shared. **To register** CLICK HERE or email Kristina Ferrare, CCE Onondaga County kaf226@cornell.edu or phone (315) 424-9485 ext. 231.

Preparing for the Bad Bug-EAB/ Community Preparedness Workshop: Wednesday, November 14th from 8:30am-12pm at the Adams Municipal Building located at 3 South Main Street, Adams NY. The meeting will focus on the impact on the loss of ash trees along our roadways, and urban settings. Municipal leaders, planners & home owners and others who will endure costs due to EAB are encouraged to attend. **Registration required,** contact Mike Giocondo, michael.giocondo@dec.ny.gov , (315) 376-3521 .

Continuing education credits will be offered. Stay tuned for announcements and details.

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Acknowledging our Field Teams

As another robust field season comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our seasonal teams that help bring success towards our efforts to protect the lands and waters of the St. Lawrence and Eastern Lake Ontario Region.

This year we had eight seasonal employees that made up three distinct teams. First was our Early Detection Team (Sarah Kirkpatrick and Emma Geuterez) who together searched over 120 HPA's (Highly Probable Areas) protecting ½ of our identified Priority Conservation Areas.

Then came our Rapid Response Team (Mike Parks and Ed Miller) who, despite the angry swarms of insects and extremely humid weather, persevered to complete control work on 137 sites.

Completing the circle was our four aquatic invasive species specialists a.k.a. Boat Launch Stewards (Casey Harkleroad, Alex Lineroad, Ben McCrobie and Evan Jones) whom inspected boats and gear that came from all over the Eastern US and Canada resulting in 91 interceptions of aquatic invasive species.

To our 2018 seasonal teams,
here's to you for a job well done!

THANK YOU !

~***Rob Williams***, PRISM Coordinator

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

Acknowledgements:
NYS Invasive Species Council
NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation
The NYS Environmental Protection Fund

Edits completed by: Paul Hetzler, St. Lawrence CCE;
Rob Williams SLELO PRISM Coordinator
Megan Pistolese SLELO PRISM E/O Coordinator

Our host organization

Protecting nature. Preserving life.