

# Saving New York's Ash, One Tree at a Time!

# SLELO PRISM

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

*Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species*



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## About the Cover

By Rob Williams and Megan Pistolese

Threatened by the invasive forest pest known as the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) New York's ash stands are in jeopardy. But its not all gloom and doom, well perhaps mostly, but not entirely.

SLELO PRISM has partnered with Jonathan Rosenthal, Director of the Ecological Research Institute (ERI), and Dr. Radka Wildova, their Senior Scientist to implement appropriate steps from ERI's MaMA (Monitoring and Managing Ash) framework and promoting the adoption of this framework more broadly by land managers (including agencies, municipalities, private landowners, and NGOs) and citizen scientists throughout the SLELO region. This project includes, among other components, a structured citizen-science program, and it will improve the scientific understanding of the extent, impacts, and long-term mitigation and management of EAB. Importantly, **it will provide a platform for positive messaging regarding ash conservation**, providing hope for a situation in which too many people have already given up even though their actions can still have a decisive, positive impact.

The Ecological Research Institute (ERI) program Monitoring and Managing Ash (MaMA) offers a long-term framework for ash conservation and EAB mitigation, providing specific, constructive steps to be taken at each stage of EAB invasion, ranging from pre-invasion to when ash mortality has reached virtually 100%.

This past summer, four workshops were held across the SLELO region in partnership with MaMA, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County. 79 people participated in these workshops and there is a lingering ash monitoring plot established in each SLELO county.

Hats off to the Ecological Research Institute and our participating partners for their commitment and excellence in broadening the publics understanding of how to monitor and manage New York's ash population.

*Pictured on the cover is a youth volunteer with a tag that can be used to monitor all types of trees including ash.*

*Pictured below is volunteer Ed DeMattia tagging an ash tree at TNC's Rainbow Shores Preserve.*



## Volunteering with SLELO PRISM -Experience Showcase

My daughter Corinne and I began volunteering initially for the socialization and cognitive exposure for her after she had sustained a traumatic brain injury. Although most of our duties include office work, we have learned an extensive amount about our local environment and how invasive species impact not only our surrounding area, but all of nature throughout the world via transporting of plants and lumber whether it be for commercial or recreational means. We have come to greatly appreciate SLELO PRISM's role to advocate, educate, and protect our environment from invasive species.

~Peggy Rice SLELO & TNC volunteer



Pictured: Peggy and Corinne Rice.

Learn about [volunteer opportunities](#) & [workshops](#)

Need inspiration, watch our [volunteer video](#)

# Can Invasive Aquatic Plants Influence Harmful Algae Blooms & Impact Climate Change?

By: Rob Williams & Brittney Rogers-SLELO PRISM

Through a partnership with the Cornell Nutrient Analysis Lab (CNAL), Brittney Rogers of the SLELO PRISM is currently engaged with our new invasive macrophyte nutrient analysis. To start, we have tested a single aquatic invasive species, water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) for the nutrient content of the plants from several Eastern Lake Ontario locations.

Why *Trapa* you ask? During the summers of 2018 and 2019, partners of the SLELO PRISM hand harvested over 60,000 pounds of *Trapa* plants and curiosity took over. If we can determine the nutrient content of the plants, perhaps we can equvalate that into an internal nutrient loading value. The final step will be to attempt to determine if the nutrients removed from the system via hand-pulling are of significance in suppressing harmful algae blooms or HAB's.

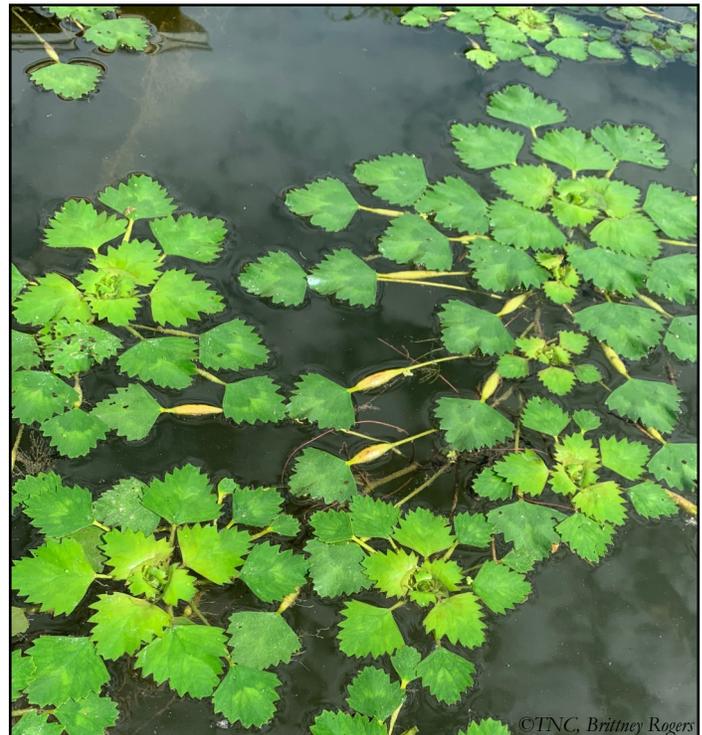
According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NOAA, Harmful algae blooms (HABs) may be linked to 'overfeeding.' This occurs when nutrients (mainly phosphorus, nitrogen, and carbon) from external sources such as lawns and farmlands flow downriver and build up at a rate that 'overfeeds' the algae that exist normally in the environment (NOAA 2017). Internal sources of nutrients or nutrients released from sediment or through in-situ decomposition may also play a role in the overfeeding of algae, stimulating HAB's. Furthermore, the amounts, proportions, and chemical composition of nitrogen and phosphorus sources can influence the composition, magnitude and duration of blooms (Paerl 2008). If you think you've encountered a HAB, avoid contact and please report it to [NYS DEC](#) via the online Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form.

Initial (preliminary) labs conducted on *Trapa natans* suggest substantial amounts of carbon contained within the plant material (based on percentage of wet ash). These values could serve to better inform management on best disposal practices for harvested material. In the presence of oxygen, microbes use the carbon for energy and decompose the organic wastes. A benefit of this process is heat, which suppresses pathogens and

Harvest year	Average amount of nutrients removed from 4-Eastern Lake Ontario embayment's as contained in <i>Trapa natans</i> samples (composite) based on percentage of wet ash calculations.		
	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Carbon
2018	680 lbs	100 lbs	14,000 lbs
2019	680 lbs	100 lbs	14,000 lbs
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,360 lbs</b>	<b>200 lbs</b>	<b>28,000 lbs</b>

seeds, leaving the carbon as stable, weed free, humus that is safe to use for agriculture, landscaping or gardening. Therefore aerobic composting may be the best disposal method for harvested material verses landfilling.

Stay tuned for more on this subject including other native and non-native species analysis.



©TNC, Brittney Rogers

## References:

NOAA. (2017) What is eutrophication? National Ocean Service website, <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/eutrophication.html>

Paerl H. (2008) Nutrient and other environmental controls of harmful cyanobacterial blooms along the freshwater-marine continuum. In: Hudnell H.K. (eds) Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms: State of the Science and Research Needs. Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, vol 619. Springer, New York, NY.

Agriculture and Food, Dept. Primary Industries and Regional Dvlp. W. Australia <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/climate-change/composting-avoid-methane-production>

# Controlling Invasive Woody Plants in the Fall

By: Robert Smith-SLELO PRISM

For those who have woody invasive species crowding out the native species on their property, fall is the perfect time for control/management efforts. During fall, woody plants move much of their energy (carbohydrates) to the roots for storage. This energy will be used next spring to produce the leaves necessary for more energy production (photosynthesis). This adaptation to our northern climate can be exploited in our efforts to rid our properties of invasive trees and shrubs.

If herbicides are applied to a woody plant, it will move these chemicals to the roots along with the carbohydrates, seriously lowering the chance it can produce new leaves in the spring. In addition, many of these non-native invasive plants retain leaves longer than our native species. This makes them easier to spot, and minimizes the chance of unintentional damage to native species if applying foliar herbicides. Woody invasive plants in our area include Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and a variety of honeysuckle species.

Japanese knotweed can be identified by its bamboo-like stems and large (6 x 3-4 inch) triangular or heart-shaped leaves that alternate along the stem, pictured below (photo credit: [bugwood.org](http://bugwood.org)).



Common buckthorn has tooth edged leaves with 3 or 4 pairs of curved veins, pictured below on the left, while glossy buckthorn has smooth edged glossy leaves with 8 or 9 pairs of parallel veins, pictured below on the right (photo credit: [bugwood.org](http://bugwood.org)).



Oriental bittersweet is a vine with round to elliptical, glossy, fine toothed leaves (2-5 inches in length) with pointed tips that alternate along the stem. Flowers/fruits of this species occurs in the leaf axils, while native bittersweet flowers/fruits occur at the end of the branch. Examples are pictured below (photo credits, [bugwood.org](http://bugwood.org))



Many non-native honeysuckle species exist in the area including shrub (Morrow's (*Lonicera morrowii*), Tartarian (*Lonicera tatarica*), fly (*Lonicera xybella*) and dwarf (*Lonicera xylosteum*)) varieties, and one vine variety, Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). The leaves of these species are opposite along the stem, oval, and range from 1-3 inches long. The tubular shaped flowers bloom from May to June, and range from white to pink to red in color. Stems of all non-native honeysuckles are hollow, while native species have solid stems.

Treatment techniques for these invasive woody plants include cut-stump, basal-bark, foliar, and stem injection. Cut-stump treatment involves cutting the woody stems about six inches above the ground and applying herbicide to the cut stem. If this treatment is applied to Japanese knotweed, make sure to destroy any of the cut plant material, as it could produce roots and sprout in its new location.

Basal bark treatment involves applying herbicide directly to the bark of woody stems under 6 inches in diameter. This method is only recommended for low to moderate plant densities. Foliar treatment involves applying herbicide directly on to the leaves of the plant. This is best done after leaf fall of native species, but at temperatures above freezing.

Stem injection treatment involves using a special injector that penetrates the stem, introducing the herbicide directly to the phloem. This, like with basal bark treatment, can be difficult to accomplish if invasive plant densities are too high. Herbicides commonly used in these methods include glyphosate, triclopyr, and 2,4-D.

# News From Our Neighbors in the Adirondacks

By: Michale Glennon– Paul Smith College Adirondack Watershed Institute

Since 1989, the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) has worked to protect water quality in the Adirondacks and northern New York state. Combatting the establishment and spread of invasive species is a vital component of AWI's mission and is achieved by education, research, and outreach. The AWI's flagship Stewardship Program is the primary vehicle for spread prevention, achieved through direct engagement with recreational boaters. These efforts include the annual employment of 100+ watershed stewards at boat launches throughout the region who inspect incoming and outgoing vessels and collect vital data from the recreational boating community, as well as the deployment and staffing of decontamination stations at strategic locations. This work is highly collaborative and involves longstanding partnerships with the Adirondack PRISM, as well as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the Adirondack Lake Alliance, and numerous municipalities.

AWI was recently awarded with two grants from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation which will help to enhance our understanding of AIS, their transport, movement, and management in the region, as well as the effectiveness of existing programs to prevent their spread. Our first project is entitled "Pathways of Invasion: Developing models to predict recreational boater activity, aquatic invasive species distributions, and landscape level connectivity to inform AIS management across New York State." Its goal to help managers to allocate AIS spread prevention resources efficiently by quantifying the axes of invasion risk and potential pathways of distribution in the Adirondacks and Northern New York and by developing a generalizable model that can be applied to prioritize management actions throughout New York State.

Our second project is entitled "Efficacy of boat stewards and NYS regulations at enhancing visitor adoption of aquatic invasive species prevention strategies." Its goal is to determine the efficacy of visitor engagement by boat stewards and to identify factors that contribute to the relative rates of visitor adoption of recommended AIS spread prevention practices relative to the implementation of New York State's AIS Transport Law. We will make use of a large and comprehensive dataset resulting from boater surveys to determine the effectiveness of boat steward programs and the NYS AIS Transport Law at increasing visitor compliance and identify the most influential variables contributing to compliance with "Clean, Drain, Dry."

Together, these projects will help enhance our understanding of AIS transport and movement in the region and the effectiveness of current efforts aimed at preventing further spread throughout the Adirondacks, St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario regions and Northern New York. *For more information on these projects please contact: Michale Glennon [mglennon@paulsmiths.edu](mailto:mglennon@paulsmiths.edu).*



Boat inspection at Cranberry Lake, photo provided by Michael Glennon-AWI

## Invasive Species Transport Mitigation Presented to 300+ Utility Personnel

By Rob Williams, PRISM Manager

On October 10th, the New York State Power Authority hosted an event that included participation from over 300 utility personnel from across New York State. During this two day session participants heard from numerous experts on pesticide issues, regulations and management techniques. Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM Coordinator, presented on the topic of "Invasive Species Identification and Best Management Practices for Transport Mitigation". This included a focus on a Right-Of-Way 3-step process whereby the spread of invasives species, especially along roadsides, can be reduced by following 3-simple steps known as SCOUT-SPRAY-MOW. This protocol renders the invasive species non-viable and limits their spread. Also

presented were best management practices for site development and topsoil relocation. This included: 1) scout the site for invasive species (training someone on the construction staff), 2) At least 10 days prior to earth moving, apply the appropriate control method, manual or herbicide and 3) keeping contaminated topsoil separate from topsoil scheduled to be re-used. The Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry was also shared with participants. This event was an opportune way in which to engage utility personnel on ways to reduce the spread of invasive species.

# SLELO PRISM and The Nature Conservancy Receive International Exposure

By: Rob Williams

Over four hundred individuals from seven countries attended the 2019 North American Invasive Species Management Association's Annual Conference. This year's conference was held in Saratoga Springs New York and was co-sponsored by the NYS Invasive Species Research Institute.

Both the SLELO PRISM and The Nature Conservancy were well represented. Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM Coordinator was moderator for a session entitled "Advances in eDNA Technology in Aquatic and Terrestrial Systems". Megan Pistolese presented a poster titled "Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Efforts" aka Boat Launch Stewardship. Robert Smith presented a poster titled "Salmon River Restoration Initiative" and Brittney Rogers presented a poster titled "eDNA and Underwater Video Surveillance as Early Detection Tools". What's interesting is that all four SLELO representatives directly engaged individuals from: Guam, South Africa, Switzerland, Canada, Italy and the US.



Above, L-R: Robert Smith, Megan Pistolese, Rob Williams and Brittney Rogers presenting our work to an international audience.

The Nature Conservancy (both the NY Division and the North American Division) shared an exhibit featuring "Don't Move Firewood" and invasive species information.

All of our efforts were well received and your PRISM/TNC staff did an excellent job communicating our efforts with the international community.

## Porcelain Berry - Early Detection & Rapid Response

By: Megan Pistolese-SLELO

SLELO partners and volunteers removed porcelain berry from a residential yard in Potsdam, NY. This is the second reported infestation of porcelain berry in St. Lawrence county. A very dedicated homeowner had noticed a peculiar vine growing over everything in her yard, she did some research and after reading an article written by, SLELO partner, Paul Hetzler, she reported the infestation.

Over twenty thirty gallon bags of porcelain berry were removed from the property uncovering a variety of native plants. The removal exposed a hidden trellis hugged with the large vines of what was believed to be the parent plant to the infestation, likely intentionally planted to create a natural privacy fence by the previous owners. SLELO plans to follow-up on this site next season.

This is an excellent example of how education and outreach enhances early detection & rapid response efforts.



Porcelain berry removal effort in Potsdam, NY. Photo credit: © TNC-Megan Pistolese

*A special thank you to the property owner  
and all the volunteers who helped.*

# Welcome Robert Smith Terrestrial Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator



Please join us in welcoming our newest team member Robert Smith to the SLELO PRISM!

Robert holds a Master of Science from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and brings with him extensive experience in terrestrial invasive species identification and management including ecosystem restoration and dendrology. He is a US Army Veteran, former Drill Sergeant and has become an asset to our team and conservation efforts.

As our Terrestrial Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator, Robert will act as a technical conservation support specialist for terrestrial invasive species early detection and ecological restoration efforts. Additionally, he will assist with developing our Community Preparedness and Forest Restoration Initiatives.

We're excited to have Robert on our team and look forward to his shared expertise towards continued success.



***Welcome Robert!***

## Sustaining Healthy Lands

By: Robert Smith-SLELO Terrestrial Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator

### Healthy Cities Initiative

Urban forests provide economic, environmental and social benefits to people and nature within cities. With the spread of invasive forest pests and pathogens such as emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly, Asian long-horned beetle, beech bark disease and others, along with a changing climate and a predicted increase in storm severities including drought, the need for stronger, healthier, more resilient urban forests is of the utmost importance. As an initial focus of our efforts, I will be engaging various cities within the SLELO region to discuss options to better prepare communities to address future forest pests and pathogens and to create pocket parks and grow more climate adaptable street trees to make our urban forests more resilient to invasives and a changing environment.



date, 35,000 native tree seedlings have been planted with an additional 13,000 seedlings scheduled for next spring. Monitoring forest regeneration will be conducted for several years as the project continues.

### Tug Hill Resiliency Efforts

For several years now SLELO and TNC have collaborated on a robust initiative on Tug Hill. In 2014, partners established an Invasive Species Prevention Zone (I.S.P.Z.) on the core forest of Tug Hill protecting 150,000 acres. In 2017, an effort was initiated to make the forests of Tug Hill more resilient to invasive pests and pathogens, as well as, strengthening adaptability to a changing climate. These efforts included the suppression of invasive species and beech bark disease and increasing the number, age classes and species diversity of the forested area. To

### Eastern Lake Ontario Swallow-wort Collaborative

The Eastern Lake Ontario Swallow-wort Collaborative (ELOSC) purpose is to bring together stakeholders and resources toward the shared goal of improving control and preventing the spread of swallow-wort (SW). Currently, researchers are conducting field trials of a biological control to strategically suppress SW populations with an insect known as *Hypena opulenta*. This moth is known to feed exclusively on swallow-wort in their native region of the Ukraine. As is the case, rearing additional insects is a complex, time consuming process.

Please join us on October 28th for our next ELOSC **webcast** featuring Lisa Tewksbury from the University of Rhode Island. **Please [register](#) for the webinar.**

For information regarding the webcast contact Robert Smith [Robert.Lsmith@tnc.org](mailto:Robert.Lsmith@tnc.org), 315 397 3600 x7723.

**To join the ELOSC listserv follow these steps:**

1. Email [cce-jc-swallowwortcollab-l-request@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-jc-swallowwortcollab-l-request@cornell.edu)
2. Type (join) without the parentheses in the subject line
3. Leave the entire email body blank and send

# Sustaining Healthy Waters

By Brittny Rogers SLELO Aquatic Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator

## SLELO's Watercraft Inspection Steward Program

For the past three summers, SLELO PRISM in collaboration with partners, has been implementing strategies that serve to protect our regions freshwater resource from the threat of aquatic invasive species through our watercraft inspection steward program. SLELO stewards have inspected over 3,000 boats and intercepted nearly 300 aquatic invasive species from being transported to alternate locations. Looking forward to 2020-2023; we will be collaborating with partners and covering 20 boat launch sites across our region from Oswego to Rome and north to Massena. Stay up to date on the exciting work our [steward program](#) is conducting through our annual reports posted on our website.



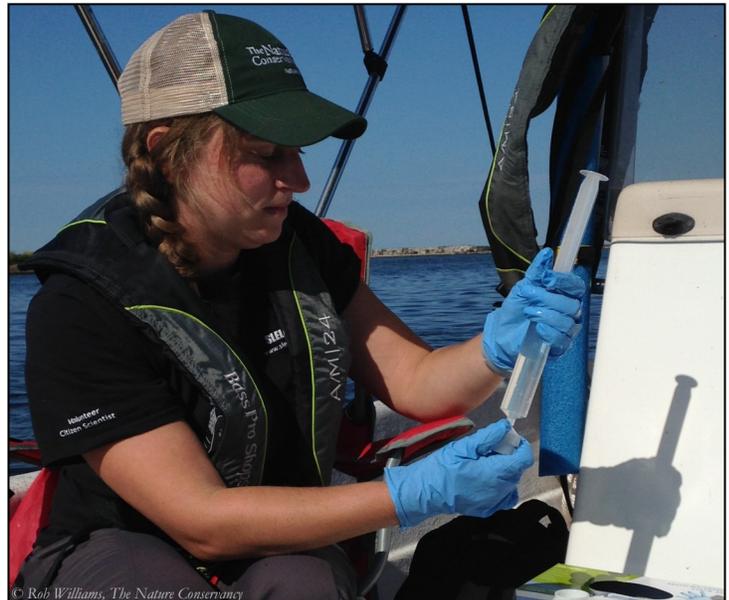
## Early Detection Field Surveys – Updated Webpage

As SLELOs newly welcomed staff, the Aquatic and Terrestrial Coordinators, Robert and I are teaming up to continue, expand and improve early detection field surveys across the region. This work has been and will continue to remain an important piece of SLELO's strategic plan and mission. We are currently updating the field report web page to make our efforts more accessible, transparent and understandable. The new landing page includes the list of how we have chosen our Priority Conservation Areas, where they are, when the most recent survey occurred and what the status of the site is. Check out the new [Field Reports web page](#) and be sure to let us know what you think or what you'd like to learn more about.



## Sampling Our Waters for Environmental DNA

This year, we continued to collaborate with the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University on the Lake Ontario Harbor eDNA Initiative. The focus for this project is on high risk shipping ports; we sampled two sites, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway, while the Finger Lakes and Western New York PRISMs visited Buffalo and Rochester. This early detection tool, eDNA, can detect invasive species at the molecular level. This is done first through aquatic organisms shedding mucous, scales, and feces then collecting water samples which are taken to a lab and DNA is extracted and analyzed through a qPCR process. eDNA is key to developing an immediate and strategic response to the threats of aquatic invasive species. In 2020, SLELO will partner with another lab at Cornell University (Dr. James Casey) and expand our eDNA work to help us better manage our ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature.



Photos: Top; Massena boat launch. Middle; Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area. Bottom; Brittny Rogers filtering water sample for eDNA project.

# Partners Spotlight

## Office of Parks Recreation & Historical Preservation

By: Brian Siklinski & Maria Cipullo— OPRHP

The Aquatic Invasive Strike Team with the Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation lead a removal effort for invasive rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) on the Mohawk River/Delta Lake inlet this summer. The removal was a continuation of efforts conducted in 2017 by SLELO partners and volunteers.

Turning over rocks and using hand nets, within an hour the team had removed twelve *O. rusticus* and found fourteen native crayfish species translating into 46% of the crayfish found being of the invasive variety.

Removal of the invasive crayfish will help to control the population size of this infestation. A single female rusty crayfish can introduce between 80 to 575 viable eggs in the spring, summer and fall, and new infestations can be introduced by a single female carrying viable sperm.

Four Student Conservation Association stewards were hosted this year by the NYS Parks Corps- a collaborative effort made possible through the Student Conservation Association, AmeriCorps, and NYS Parks & Recreation. Stationed at Westcott Beach, the Stewards were involved in invasive species management throughout the region.

They started their season over the winter snowshoeing through Southwick Beach, Robert G. Wehle, Westcott Beach, Long Point, and Wellesley Island State Parks using GPS units and specific criteria to record data on healthy ash trees serving as good candidates for future treatment against the emerald ash borer. The stewards were also given the opportunity to work with the Akwesasne-Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe on an EAB survey for the area's ash trees.



Stewards debarking ash trees searching for EAB larval tunnels with the Akwesasne St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.



Parks Aquatic strike team removing rusty crayfish from the Mohawk River/Delta Lake inlet. Photo Credit: Brian Siklinski-OPRHP.

Not to be slowed by the stubborn snow cover of early spring, they began working on Wellesley Island cutting the stalks of invasive phragmites to benefit the known and threatened Blanding's turtle habitat. Together they cut 3.5 acres of affected land!

With the thawing soil, they focused back on trail work, putting up new signage, clearing overgrowth and hazard trees, even building outdoor classrooms. A week was spent at Thompson Park in Watertown to help boost the park's volunteer trail program. The park is riddled with invasive buckthorn, that the stewards effectively cut to open up 1/2 mile of previously non-existent trail. More control work was done throughout the season the crew dug up swallow-wort at both Robert G Wehle and Wellesley Island State Parks. They have canoed Lakeview Wildlife Management Area and Selkirk Shores State Park to pull water chestnut, being sure to collect each sharp nutlet. In addition, over the summer, the SCA members monitored EAB tree traps for the SLELO Adopt a Trap project.

This fall they pulled variable leaf watermilfoil from the Higley Flow Reservoir on the Raquette River in Colton, as well as, cut honeysuckle and buckthorn at both Sackets Harbor Battlefield and Wellesley Island State Park.

- If you would like to aid rusty crayfish removal reach out to [megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org)
- To learn more about opportunities with the Student Conservation Association, visit [www.thesca.org/serve](http://www.thesca.org/serve)
- Reach out to [Maria.Cipullo@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Maria.Cipullo@parks.ny.gov), the TI Trails Coordinator, with any questions about SCA opportunities in our region.

# Upcoming Invasive Species Events

We encourage our partners to highlight their upcoming invasive species related events in each newsletter & on our website.

[HAVE YOUR EVENT PROMOTED](#)  
[REPORT AN EVENT YOU HOSTED](#)

- **Friday, October 25th** 2:50pm-5pm join us for a [Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Walk & Talk](#) at the Kip Trail in Canton to learn how to recognize, monitor and report hemlock woolly adelgid using the iMapInvasives mobile app. We need at least 5 attendees to host this walk so please [register here](#).
- **Tuesday, November 19th** 2pm-3pm [Webinar-Two Case Studies on Hydrilla Rapid Response in the Great Lakes](#). Hosted by the Great Lakes Hydrilla Collaborative.
- **Friday, November 15th** the 2019 LHPRISM Invasive Species Summit to be held at the NY Botanical Garden. [Here is the registration link for more details](#).
- **Saturday, February 1st** Save the River's Annual Winter Conference. Contact [kendall@savetheriver.org](mailto:kendall@savetheriver.org) or call (315) 686-2010 for details.
- **Thursday, March 26th** Save the Date for the Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference.

## Eastern Lake Ontario Swallow-wort collaborative



“SAVE THE DATE” October 28th 2019 (1 pm - 2pm),  
**ELOSC webcast.**

Lisa Tewksbury from the University of Rhode Island will be presenting about swallow-wort biocontrol & updates.

**A webinar link will be sent to the ELOSC listserv.  
 To join the listserv follow these instructions.**

1. email: [cce-ic-swallowwortcollab-l-request@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-ic-swallowwortcollab-l-request@cornell.edu)
2. Type :”join” in the email subject line w/o quotations
3. Leave the entire email body blank (remove all text).
4. Send

## 2019 SLELO Partner Highlights

Received new five year contract to administer a region-wide PRISM



Expanded our professional capacity by adding new staff (x2)



Achieved 64% eradication of giant hogweed



Initiated a Healthy Cities Initiative for Community Preparedness and Street Trees.



3,083 People directly engaged (*one-on-one*) via education & outreach



Managed 80.76 acres of Invasive Species



Harvested 17 Tons of water chestnut plants by hand.



Completed 2,982 Watercraft Inspections to date



Hosted 96 Public Exhibits & Events



Added 2 new Partner Organizations to Our PRISM





# COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

*Here we go!*



After many months of critical thinking, planning, scoping and gathering input from our partners and various teams and committees, I am very excited to begin the journey of our next five years of invasive species management.

Having completed a review of our PRISM's Strategic Plan and under our service contract with NYS DEC we will continue to align our programs and initiatives in such a way as to have greater, longer lasting conservation impact while at the same time broadening our scope to include such considerations as climate change, carbon storage issues and resilient restoration efforts. Our core program to include: prevention, early detection/rapid response, education and outreach, and ecological restoration will be robust and carried out in such a way as to maximize the benefits to nature and people.

We will be assisting with invasive species control, site preparation and tree planting, on our Tug Hill ISPZ with a focus on restoration, climate adaptability, carbon storage & forest

pest resiliency. We will be engaging municipal leaders on the development of Community Preparedness Plans including native street tree planting and pocket-park demonstrations.

We will be significantly expanding our watercraft inspection and stewardship efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. Included in our efforts, are innovative ways we can utilize and learn from aquatic invasive species nutrient analysis to inform management and how we can expand our efforts to restore sites and systems to support native species in the wake of a changing climate.

I hope that these efforts will become more apparent especially now that we have expanded professional capacity and I hope that some day soon we will all *pledge-to-protect* the health of our lands and waters.

On behalf of our partners,  
~ *Rob Williams*

## SLELO PRISM Partners

- ◆ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy , CWNV
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Indian River Lakes Conservancy
- ◆ St. Regis Mohawk Tribe-Environmental Unit

### Acknowledgements:

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NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation  
The NYS Environmental Protection Fund

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



*Our host organization*

