



SLELO PRISM

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Invasive Species Management
"Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species"

2020 Spring Newsletter

Over
200,000
people in the
SLELO region
benefit from
urban forests

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About the Cover

SLELO-Robert Smith

Urban forests provide many economic, social, and environmental benefits to urban communities. These range from conserving energy, filtering air and water, increasing property values, and to just making a walk a more pleasant experience.

With all these benefits comes responsibility. As managers of the urban forest, we must be aware of the effects that invasive pests, pathogens, and climate change may have on our forest and how we can make these forests more resilient. To do this, SLELO PRISM has established the **Urban Forest Sustainability Initiative**.

This initiative involves visiting five cities (starting with the largest populations) each year for a period of three years. We have or will be providing a presentation, an urban forest sustainability guide, and some funds to reimburse the purchase of native trees to each of these communities.

Both the presentation and guide emphasize resilience through increased tree species diversity, planting climate adaptable trees, implementing proper pest management, planting the right trees in the right places, and selecting native trees. You can learn more about the Urban Forest Sustainability Initiative on our [website](#).



Watertown's Urban Arboretum. Photo credit: Mike DeMarco-City Planner.

Volunteer Experience Showcase

My husband Richard and I reside in Minetto, Oswego County. Richard is a retired Deputy Chief with the Oswego City Fire Dept. and I'm a retired school teacher from the Mexico School District.

We have volunteered with SLELO-PRISM on many occasions, including tagging ash trees to raise awareness for emerald ash borer and removing water chestnuts at annual community pulls on the Oswego and Salmon Rivers.

In our experience, it's the involvement of the community that aids to the success of invasive species control. We enjoy volunteering with SLELO and think others would too.

~Naneen Drosse– SLELO volunteer



Pictured are Phil Clift on the left and Dick Drosse on the right and other volunteers at an ash tree tagging event held at the Great Bear Recreation Area in Fulton, NY. Photo credit Naneen Drosse.

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

Need inspiration? Watch our [volunteer video](#)

Enhancing Outreach for Spotted Lanternfly

SLELO-Megan Pistolese & Brittney Rogers

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) or SLF is an invasive plant hopper native to Asia that threatens significant economic losses to our tourism and agricultural industries. SLF was likely introduced to the US as egg masses on a stone shipment from China, India, Vietnam or South Korea. The first infestation was discovered in 2014, in Berks County, Pennsylvania and has since spread to other states including DE, MD, NJ, VA & West VA. There are no known established populations in NY, but the individual findings of dead adults or egg masses have occurred in multiple counties within the state, including Oswego County within our region, visit our website to access resources with confirmed SLF locations and finds ([see link below](#)).

SLF lay their eggs and hitchhike on practically anything, so anyone traveling from areas with known infestations could easily introduce new populations to our region. This opportunistic feeding and high spread potential of SLF is concerning to organizations across the state. SLELO is collaborating with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to develop a strategic outreach initiative, [Spotted Lanternfly Spotters](#).

This new outreach strategy fosters a commitment among marinas, tackle/bait shops owners and charter fishing services to distribute outreach materials that convey a message to their customers who may be traveling from areas with SLF infestations to check for SLF and clean their equipment prior to traveling.

To help measure the success of this outreach strategy, distributed materials will have a trackable QR code that when scanned brings recipients of the materials to an online questionnaire. Key questions asked include where the participant is travelling to and from, what type of equipment they are traveling with, and if they're aware of SLF. Participants are also asked for their commitment to take steps to prevent the spread of SLF. Any responses will provide SLELO and partners with a more informed understanding of spread potential and the effectiveness of the strategy.

Considering the current public health situation, marinas and other target businesses are not currently operating, so the SLF Spotters initiative will begin later this spring. Stay tuned for more information and reach out to Megan or Brittney if you have questions or comments.

SLF SPOTTERS



A Call for Standardization

SLELO-Brittney Rogers



Depending on the size of an infestation, populations of water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), are currently being managed across NYS and SLELO through a variety of methods. Some programs are applying herbicide onto dense beds or using mechanical harvesters. Another potential option if approved, is *Galerucella birmanica* as a biological control, currently being studied at Cornell University, among other locations. The most common method for managing water chestnut is manually pulling plants. The best time to do this is after fruit has formed in late June but before they are ripe in early August. In 2019, there were 13 organized hand pulls in SLELO, including efforts from the Soil and Water Conservation District in the Oswego River. This was equivalent to the removal of over 35,000 pounds of rosettes. We removed a similar amount in 2018, totaling 69,000 pounds in two years.

Those numbers are astounding! The best part is, in SLELO we are fortunate enough to still have the opportunity to suppress populations and prevent it from spreading to new waterbodies. Knowing this, it is important we improve our data on a regional level regarding how much water chestnut is being removed, how many people are involved in the effort, what that effort entails, and how populations are responding to management.

How can our regional efforts contribute to statewide (and international) efforts?

In collaboration with iMapInvasives and AIS coordinators across the state, we are working to standardize metrics collected. Standardized metrics will help us scale up our management

efforts and go above and beyond the way we are currently doing our work. We hope these metrics will provide sufficient information for managers to make more informed decisions regarding removal efforts and potential restoration opportunities for native species.

Afterall, isn't protecting and restoring native ecosystems our main goal?

In SLELO, we have been working with hand-pull organizers to collect important information regarding hand-pulls on a simple spreadsheet for the last few years which has greatly increased our knowledge of water chestnut beds and removal efforts. We have also received an increasing number of reports of water chestnut populations in the region, nearly 600 as of the end of 2019. The recent iMapInvasives updates have allowed programs to more easily track treatments that are occurring, like those in Lakeview WMA, Salmon River and Grindstone Creek, though not all programs are tracking in this manner.

We are hoping to determine how much water chestnut participants are removing in a standardized measurement for removal (weight, cubic yards, bed size, etc.); how programs are dispose of harvested material and if composted if there are any known reuse of the harvested material; tracking the number of volunteers attending events and the hours involved in the efforts.

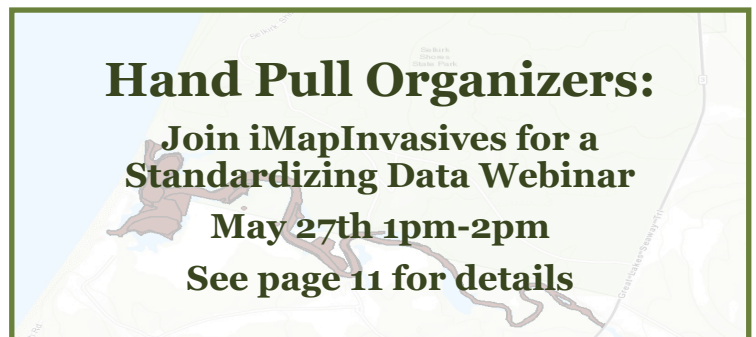
Stay tuned for new resources coming out this spring for how to plan, correctly remove and report your efforts. If you haven't already done so, be sure to share your efforts with us or if you're hosting hand pull events and have additional information you'd like to share please reach out to Brittney.Rogers@tnc.org.

Hand Pull Organizers:

**Join iMapInvasives for a
Standardizing Data Webinar**

May 27th 1pm-2pm

See page 11 for details



Controlling Invasives in Your Backyard

SLELO-Robert Smith

Now that spring is here and the area is once again becoming green, invasive species will be emerging and trying to take control of your property. Managing these species early is key to a successful season of management. One reason for getting an early start is to remove the invasive plants before they produce seed and disperse to new areas of your yard or your neighbors. In addition, soil is generally more moist and soft which allows for easier removal and less roots remaining in the soil.

Since there are far too many invasive species to cover in detail in this article, I will focus on a few that commonly appear in backyards.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) has established itself within forested areas and forest edges. It is a biennial with seedpods forming in May of the second year of their life cycle. Hand removal is an effective method for management if conducted before formation of the seeds. At least the top half of the roots should be removed to prevent formation of a new stem. Repeat hand pulls will be necessary for several years to exhaust the seed bank. A foliar application of glyphophate herbicide is also effective, but non-specific, so make sure not to get the chemical on non-target plants.



Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) is a short lived perennial that spreads rapidly in disturbed and man-made open areas like agricultural fields, overgrazed pastures, and backyards. Like garlic mustard, spotted knapweed can be hand pulled prior to seeding with care to remove as much root as possible. Mowing can also be used to prevent seeding. Chemical treatments include the use of Aminopyralid, Picloram, or Clopyralid.



Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia virgata*) is a long lived perennial that invades pastures, roadsides, abandoned fields, and disturbed areas like backyards. It can regenerate from small pieces of root and form new individuals from root sprouts. Management is difficult, but most effective if treating small patches or combining treatment methods. Repeated cutting or mowing may limit seed production, equipment should be cleaned to reduce spreading the plant to other areas. Herbicide may also be effective on leafy spurge: 2,4-D, Amitrole, Dicamba, Glyphosate, Imazapyr, and Picloram; in addition 5 species of flea beetle (*Aphthona* spp.) are approved as a biocontrol.

It should be noted that both leafy spurge and spotted knapweed sap may cause skin irritation.



Follow our [Facebook page](#) and share invasive species you find in your backyard this season!

Native Alternatives to Invasive Landscape Plants

Sue Gwise-Cornell Cooperative Extension Jefferson County

Most of us think of invasive plants as those that invade natural areas. You may be surprised to know that your landscape may be harboring invasive species that were intentionally planted.

Many invasive plants are still sold by nurseries and garden centers. Some common invasive landscape species are now regulated or prohibited by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Regulated plants can be possessed but not knowingly released into natural areas, while prohibited plants can not be sold, bought or possessed in New York State. [View a full list of regulated and prohibited plants in NYS.](#)

If you do decide to remove any invasives from your landscape, below is a list of native replacements. If

you are starting a new landscape project, do not plant the species listed below. Try to favor native plants as much as possible to take advantage of the following benefits: [see the events page for a webinar on this topic.](#)

- Native plants support native wildlife. 90% of all songbirds raise their young on caterpillars that feed on native plants.
- Native plants are lower maintenance as they are adapted to our climate conditions and have fewer diseases and insect issues.
- A healthy population of native plants can deter invasion from invasives to an area.

For a larger view of this list [visit our website.](#)

Invasive Plants	Native Plant Alternatives
Asian Honeysuckles (<i>Lonicera spp</i>) Prohibited	Gray, Red or Silky Dogwood (<i>Cornus spp.</i>)
Autumn and Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> and <i>angustifolia</i>) Prohibited	Wild plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>), Staghorn Sumac (<i>Rhus typhina</i>), American Hazelnut (<i>Corylus americana</i>)
Burning Bush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>) Regulated	Red chokeberry (<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>), Black Chokeberry (<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>), Highbush Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>), Fragrant Sumac (<i>Rhus aromatica</i>), Virginia Sweetspire (<i>itea virginica</i>), Dogwood species listed above
Callery (Bradford) Pear (<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>) Not Regulated/prohibited	Common & Allegheny Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>) Cockspur & Green Hawthorne (<i>Crataegus spp.</i>), Sweet crabapple (<i>Malus coronaria</i>)
Japanese Barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>) Prohibited	Virginia Rose (<i>Rosa virginiana</i>), Bayberry (<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>), Ninebark (<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>), Silky Dogwood (<i>Cornus amomum</i>), Red & Black Chokeberry (<i>Aronia spp.</i>)
Multiflora Rose (<i>Rosa multiflora</i>) Prohibited	Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>), Shrubby cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)
Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>) Regulated	Red & Sugar Maple (<i>Acer spp.</i>), American Linden (<i>Tilia americana</i>), Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>), Tuliptree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)
Oriental Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>) Prohibited	American bittersweet (<i>Celastrus scandens</i>), Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)
Porcelain Berry (<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>) Prohibited	American Wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>), Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)
Sweet Autumn Clematis (<i>Clematis terniflora</i>) Regulated	Virgin's Bower (<i>Clematis virginiana</i>)
Wintercreeper (<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>) Regulated	Wild ginger (<i>Asarum canadense</i>), Christmas fern (<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>)
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) Prohibited	Joe-pye weed (<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>), Blue flag iris (<i>Iris versicolor</i>) swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)

Gearing Up for Spring: Calling all Volunteers

SLELO-Megan Pistolese

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) region spans over 7 thousand square miles of land encompassing five counties that border the Adirondack Park and include the rich forests within the Tug Hill Plateau and multiple waterbodies that attract visitors from across the country and around the world.

To protect these important resources SLELO PRISM has made early detection and rapid response a top priority in our strategic plan. However, we can't do it alone so we call upon members of our [Volunteer Surveillance Network \(VSN\)](#) to help strengthen early detection efforts for priority invasive species. Currently we have 148 volunteers who have been trained to recognize and report invasive species including, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, spotted lanternfly, tench and fanwort.

Spring is here and it's time again to gear up for another field season. We encourage anyone who plans to spend time outdoors this season to help protect our beautiful region by [joining our network](#). Your participation makes a huge difference and it's as easy as taking a hike or enjoying a paddle. Keep an eye out for invasive plants and animals on your favorite trails or waterways, or visit the suggested survey sites outlined in our [VSN StoryMap](#).

We will be featuring a webinar showcasing our story-map in May, see page 10 for details.

Check This Out!

[Our new video](#) highlighting SLELO's Hemlock Woolly Adelgid efforts. We would like to thank our current VSN members for volunteering and enhancing these extensive programs.



Partner Spotlight

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Our partners of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in Northern New York are successful recipients of funding by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This program allocates \$70.5 million to support 386 projects under the Plant Protection Act's Section 7721 (PPA 7721) to strengthen the nation's infrastructure for pest detection and surveillance, identification, threat mitigation, and safeguard the nursery production system.

In support of USDA's Goal 6, Enhance Mitigation Capabilities, the Tribe plans to build on the existing framework of State and Federal response plans while integrating culturally relevant components that provoke mitigation action through community-based collaborations. Engaging with community basket makers and ash log producers is a notable collaboration in the plan.

Below are the main components of the project:

- The delivery of technical assistance to an underserved Native American community for plant health emergencies.
- Addressing high-risk areas for EAB.
- Developing a community based and culturally relevant EAB response plan to protect culturally significant black ash.
- Enable appropriate response to infestations through Incident Command System training.
- Identifying response resource needs.



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe partners pictured from left to right: Tom Colarusso, Greg Bjork, Joe Bither, Elizabeth Spinney, Jevonnah Foster, John Payton, Les Benedict, [behind Les] Bill Davidson, Angello Johnson, Wayne Samphier, Matt Nolan.

As an outcome of this project, the Tribe envisions strengthening collaboration and shared successes among interagency partnerships and other Tribal nations. Special acknowledgement is given to the many partnerships that lead to the approval of this project and for the cultural support received by the USDA-APHIS.

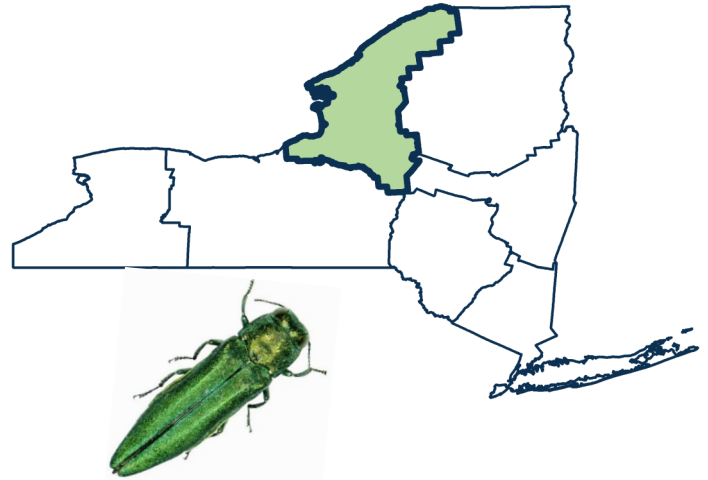


Using Sentinel Trees to Track EAB

By: John Payton-National Grid

The Emerald Ash Borer Task Forces of both St. Lawrence County and Franklin County are highly active with engaging and educating their communities about emerald ash borer (EAB), particularly in delineating the range of known infestations across both counties. As this destructive pest continues to feed its way south from our northern borders, several groups are working in a coordinated effort to track its movement. Many of you may have seen the green funnel traps and purple prism traps that have been deployed to locate their infestations. The traps work decently but it is believed that the use of Sentinel Trees produces better results as it is thought that EAB is attracted to stressed trees much like a 5 year-old is to a fudgesicle.

Sentinel Trees are created simply by removing a 1ft. section of bark from the trunk of an ash to stress it. The trees are selected and girdled in early Spring. Then, in either late fall or early spring the following year, the trees are taken down and the bark peeled off in search of larvae and its galleries. The process is labor intensive and volunteers doing this work are specially trained to work methodically so that they don't lose any evidence or data.



This last year, the Forestry Team for National Grid's Northern Region, set and monitored 35 green funnel traps and created and harvested 12 sentinel trees that were strategically located along the Northern borders of St. Lawrence and Franklin County. Of the 47 opportunities to identify the presence of EAB, our team had 2 positive finds, both of which were from sentinel trees. One was just west of Heuvelton, NY on County Route 184 with the second in the Town of Lisbon, NY on County Route 10. The positive find in Lisbon is 2 miles further south of any previous known infestations, possibly illustrating southern progression of the infestation.

Although 2 confirmed EAB findings out of 47 locations doesn't seem like it should be a concern, keep in mind that our midwestern counterparts have been dealing with EAB for decades. What we've learned from them is that where there is one, there are many. The time was yesterday to begin dealing with this invasive, as the best way to reduce financial costs associated with managing EAB infested ash is by implementing a management plan early.

From the front left going clockwise are Asplundh Tree Experts & National Grid contractors: Matthew Nolan Forman, Dustin Crump, Paul Merrill. Photo taken by John Payton- Forestry Supervisor for National Grid.



Parks Kicks off Invasive Species Work

Maria Cipullo-Office of Parks Recreation & Historical Preservation

The Thousand Islands State Parks region has brought on seven new Student Conservation Association (SCA) members through it's NYS Parks Corps program. This is a three-way partnership between SCA, NYS OPRHP, and AmeriCorps aimed to make volunteer service a realistic venture for young adults by providing on-site housing and hands on training applicable to a career in environmental studies.

This year, the program has four Conservation Stewards who will work throughout the Thousand Islands region; which covers Eastern Lake Ontario, up the St. Lawrence River, and over to Lake Champlain. They work on sustainable trails, carpentry projects, chainsaw safety, and a variety of invasive species management initiatives. We also have three Environmental Educators based out of the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center who design and implement programs for all age groups that often showcase the impacts and management of invasive species.

Since 2019, the SCA crew have improved 90 acres of parks land, 2 miles of shoreline from the impacts of invasives, and mapped 650 acres for the occurrence of invasive species. In addition, the crew has participated in the Park's Plant Materials Program and collected seeds from 11 different wetland species in order to revegetate areas where *Phragmites* has been treated.

This year, the program will include the following invasive projects:

- Terrestrial surveys and long term treatment planning.
- Habitat restoration for blanding's turtles at a herbicide treatment site for *Phragmites*.
- Buckthorn bagging and honeysuckle removal along scenic vista ridgelines to re-establish pollinator habitat.
- Emerald Ash Borer funnel trapping, and delineation of girdled trees to look for larvae.
- Controlling swallow-wort by digging out the root crown and experimenting with solarization techniques.
- Removal of oriental bittersweet vines starting with outlier populations.
- Hand pulling variable-leaf watermilfoil during a county-wide drawdown and volunteer effort on the Raquette River.

If you think you have a project that our SCA members could tackle in 1-5 days please email

Maria.Cipullo@parks.ny.gov

To collaborate on outreach with our Environmental Educators please email

Lauren.Eggleston@parks.ny.gov

Upcoming Invasive Species Events

Highlight Your Invasive Species Event

[PROMOTE YOUR EVENT](#)

— [REPORT AN EVENT YOU HOSTED](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Outreach will be focused on virtual experiences until further notice. Interact with us on Facebook, check out our videos on YouTube and join us for a webinar!

Wednesday, May 20th 1-3:30 PM

Learn about native alternatives to invasive plants and the benefits of planting natives & how you can support a State-wide Pollinator Survey.

Friday, May 15th, 10:00-11:30 AM

Learn how to set up an iMapInvasives user account/mobile app & learn where to search for invasive species threatening our region through our interactive online [storymap](#).

Thursday, May 21st 1-2 PM

Calling all gardener's & plant dealer's, Asian jumping worm was detected in Colton, NY last spring! Learn how you can help stop the spread.

Wednesday May 27th 1-2 PM

Join iMap to learn to report water chestnut pulls and engage in a discussion about standardizing pull data.

Every Wednesday From 1-2 PM

Join the North American Invasive Species Management Association to hear from the experts about invasive species, with topics ranging from data management, education and awareness, invasive species management and legislation.



Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW)

Due to COVID-19 social distancing regulations we're shifting to virtual/self-guided ISAW events such as:

Webinars

Social Media Outreach

Radio Announcements

Backyard Invasive Species Scavenger Hunt

To collaborate on an ISAW event contact:
Megan Pistolese, megan.pistolese@tnc.org;
315 387 3600 x7724

To learn more visit:

www.nyisaw.org

**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org**

Did you Know that

Dontmovefirewood.org publishes a newsletter?

Their newsletter is published 10 times a year and has short, relevant stories that pertain to firewood and invasive pests.

[SIGN UP](#)



Managers Memo

Analogies & Lessons



In the midst of our current global biological event, we have found new ways to work, drawn new analogies and experienced how relatively easy it is to reduce air pollution.

I can only imagine how different our current experience would be had this pandemic occurred not so many years ago before cell phones, tablets, fax machines and numerous other technologies we all often take for granted. Communications would have been limited to rotary dial phones and regular postal services. OK courier pigeons would have worked too. Not to belittle the situation, but rather, be thankful for technology.

Over the past many weeks, our important work has continued to move forward despite working from home or remotely thanks to technology and most importantly, our committed staff and partners.

There's also an analogy to be referenced here. Those of us who protect our lands and waters from invasive species use the word 'invasive' on a daily basis. We spend much of our time educating others on just what in-

vasive means. We say things like: spreads rapidly, no natural defense mechanisms, prevention, rapid response or best management practices—see the similarities? So if you have ever wondered what exactly we mean by invasive, it has now been globally defined.

Furthermore, reports are now surfacing on reductions in climate-related air pollution due to transportation restrictions. New York reports a 50% decrease in carbon monoxide (CO₂), *source Barcelona Institute for Global Health*. San Francisco reports a 16% reduction of particulate matter and a 20% reduction of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), *source Air Quality and Emissions Data Statistics*. Perhaps you've seen the fancy maps on the national news!

So whether its about working differently (from home), understanding what were up against (the definition) or learning lessons as the direct result of our actions, we can make a difference and we can do it through better understanding and by always working together for a shared future.

~ 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

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The Nature
Conservancy



SLELO PRISM
Host Organization



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Eastern Lake Ontario
Swallow-wort collaborative

