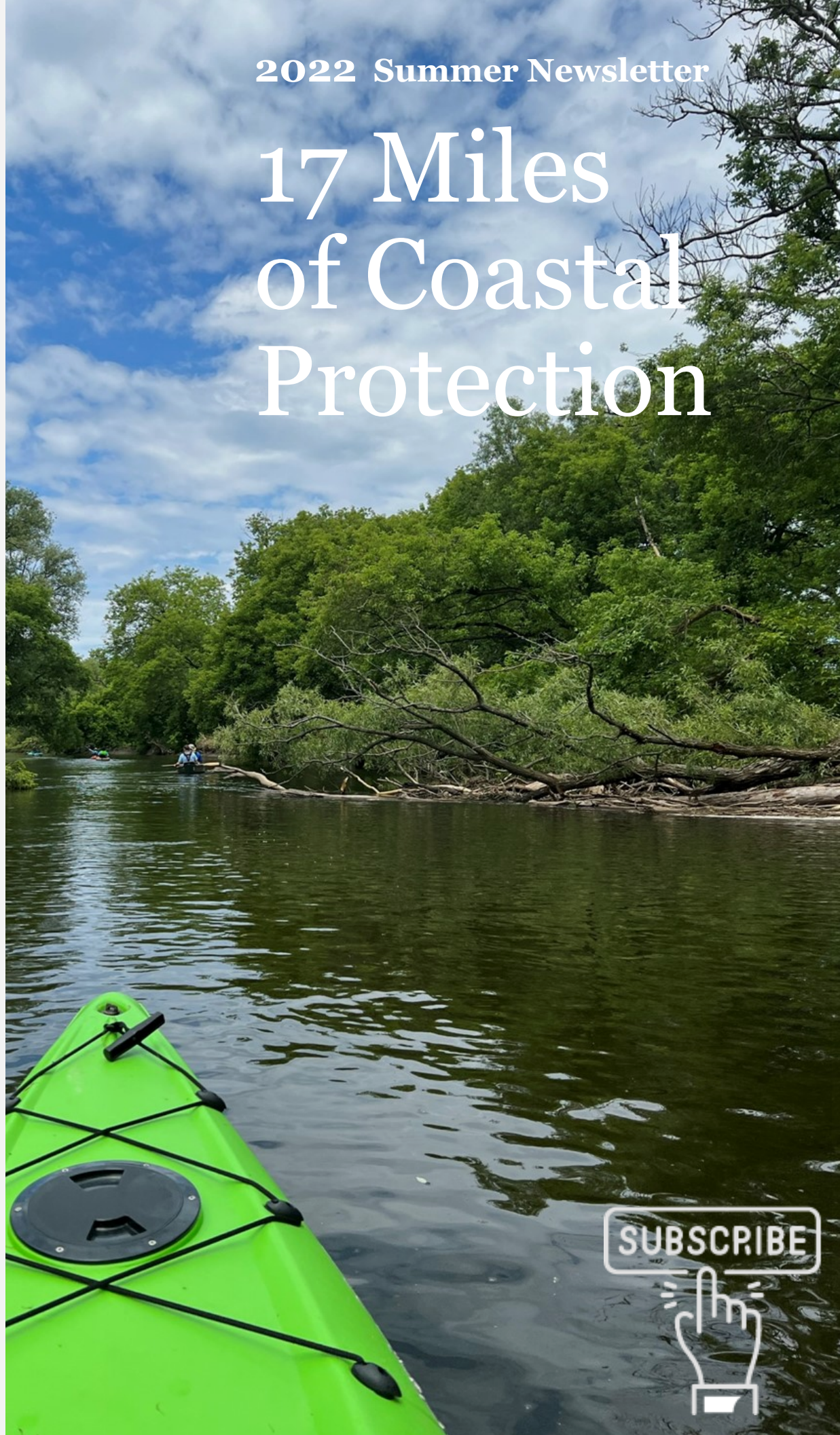




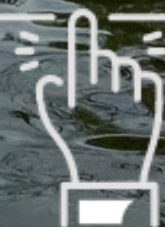
**SLELO PRISM**  
St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Invasive Species Management  
*"Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species"*

2022 Summer Newsletter

# 17 Miles of Coastal Protection



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# About the Cover

SLELO PRISM – Rob Williams and Brittney Rogers

Along the eastern shoreline of Lake Ontario lies an inter-connected system of coastal barrier dunes and tributaries. These coastal dunes and tributaries act as a natural green infrastructure bringing stability to the habitats they support.

The Eastern Lake Ontario Dune system is a 17-mile barrier beach designated as a Natural Heritage Area and proposed National Marine Sanctuary. **Invasive species threaten the integrity of the dunes and pose significant threats to endangered species that occupy the dunes**, including piping plovers, hairy-necked tiger beetles, and Champlain beach grass.

Great Lakes Dunes are a community dominated by grasses, shrubs, and trees that occur on sand dunes along the shores of the Great Lakes. Portions of the South Sandy Creek tributary meander through the NYSDEC Lakeview Marsh Wildlife Management Area with emergent marsh as the dominant ecological communities in the riparian zone. Stands of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) affect the integrity of these interconnected systems. Small-scale projects that restore critical corridors can have profound impacts on ecological integrity and **resilience in connected landscapes**. Scale is an important factor when it comes to conservation work. When you think of large continental conservation efforts, the Blue Ridge to Boreal Initiative, for example, the vision can be so big that it is easy to forget the power of the smaller-scale work that can collectively impact our efforts.

The Saint Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) team is collaborating with multiple partners including the Eastern Lake Ontario (ELO) Dunes Coalition, the ELO Dunes Foundation, NYSDEC, USFWS, Onondaga Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, private property owners, North Pond Resiliency Project consultants and many subject matter experts to implement an invasive species management and ecological restoration plan for these unique and beneficial coastal areas. This effort combines invasive species

suppression and restoration work along riparian sections of South Sandy Creek within Lakeview Marsh WMA and efforts along the North Sandy Pond barrier beach area. The project offers a unique and complementary approach to protecting large sections of our freshwater coastal areas and effectively demonstrates invasive species mitigation and system resiliency at scale.

These efforts to restore the health and resiliency of the Eastern Lake Ontario dunes and riparian areas of South Sandy Creek **contribute to protecting biological diversity, supporting natural climate solutions, ecosystem resilience, and green infrastructure**. It is a solutions-based approach that engages stakeholders to work collaboratively to repair ecological damage and rebuild healthier systems by enhancing the natural recovery carried out by plants and animals.

Cover image: Kayakers enjoying the South Sandy Creek Experience guided paddle along the project restoration area. Image below: Dune grass growing on barrier beach in dune restoration project area. Photos by Brittney Rogers, TNC ©



# Protector's Activity

SLELO PRISM-Megan Pistolese-Shaw & Laura Schappert—TILT/SLELO

European water chestnut is an invasive aquatic plant that was introduced to the Cambridge Botanical Garden in the mid-1800s. It has since spread throughout the northeastern United States, including New York State, and today it can be found in over 40 counties in New York.

Water chestnut thrives in the shallow sections of lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers and streams. It roots itself in the soil and sends up stalks that end in dense floating rosettes of triangular, toothed leaves. Water chestnuts grow thick, dense, floating mats that impede aquatic recreation, reduce waterfront property values, and alter aquatic ecosystems. Their nutlets are so sharp that they can injure people and pets if stepped on, or even puncture tires if driven over. When the leaves die back, their decomposition removes the oxygen from the water, which negatively affects local fish populations.

Removing water chestnut plants is important for the health of local fish populations as well as for the safety of people and for the ease of waterway use. Like many aquatic plants, water chestnut can reproduce rapidly. Each nutlet can produce 10-15 new plants, and each leaf rosette can produce 15-20 nutlets that remain viable in the sediment for several years. Water chestnut can easily get caught on boats, equipment, and trailers and be unknowingly spread to new areas, so it is important for boaters to inspect their watercraft and trailer before entering a body of water and to **clean, drain and dry** their watercraft after each use.

Water chestnut populations can be suppressed manually. If you own waterfront property where water chestnut is growing, you can take action by talking to your neighbors and organizing a water chestnut pull or you can join hand-pull efforts scheduled to occur in your area (*see below for upcoming hand-pulls in the SLELO region and beyond*).

Water chestnut hand-pulls are best held during the summer when their floating rosettes are present but before their fruits ripen and lower to the sediment (typically from late June through early August). Pulls can be conducted by boat using a



canoe, kayak, or small motorboat, however, plants may tangle in the motor. If wading in the water to remove water chestnuts, take care to protect your feet from their sharp nutlets.

When pulling water chestnut plants, only the leaves and fruits need to be removed. Water chestnuts are an annual plant. Without leaves, the roots die, and without seeds, the plant cannot spread. Pulling the roots disrupts the sediment at the bottom of the water body. If the sediment comes loose and migrates, it can lead to changes in the shape of rivers and streams, as well as leading to a lack of nutrients for native water plants. Removed plants can be composted on land as long as they are placed away from water and can't be accidentally washed into nearby waterways. If you don't have a site where you can compost the removed plants, you can bag them and bring them to a local landfill.

If you conduct a water chestnut pull, it is important to report your efforts to iMapInvasives—New York's Invasive Species Database. There are step-by-step instructions on how to conduct and record a pre-treatment survey and post-treatment data to iMapInvasives on our [website](https://www.imapinvasives.org).

Visit [iPledgeToProtect.org](https://iPledgeToProtect.org) and Join the Protectors!



# Species Spotlight: Beech Leaf Disease

Maria MoskaLee-NYS DEC Forest Health Specialist & Field Crew Supervisor

Beech leaf disease (BLD) is the newest threat to beech trees and is spreading rapidly across the Northeastern United States and Canada. In New York, BLD has been found in 14 new counties this year, for a total of 35 infected counties. It was recently found in Oswego county in the SLELO region, and nearby on the southwestern edge of the Adirondacks (view a [BLD Distribution Map](#)). BLD can kill a mature beech in seven years while smaller beech can be killed in as little as 2 or 3 years. All species of beech are affected.

American beech trees are an important component of the northern hardwood forest type (maple-beech-birch) which makes up more than half of the forested land in New York. Many wildlife rely on beech mast as a main source of energy. Loss of beech would cause changes in forest structure that would affect the whole ecosystem.

BLD was first observed in the U.S. in 2012 in Ohio, and there is still much unknown about the disease. BLD symptoms are caused by the nematode *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*. It is unknown whether the nematode causes all of the damage, or if it is in association with another pathogen such as a bacteria, fungus, or virus. Research on possible treatments is ongoing.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has been tracking BLD in New York since 2017. DEC is working with the Cornell Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, USDA Forest Service, surrounding states, and PRISM partners to survey for new infections, track disease progression using long-term monitoring plots, and investigate the nematode's role in the disease.

Be on the lookout for symptoms of BLD and report sightings through iMapInvasives. For more information on iMapInvasives, visit their website at [nyimainvasives.org](http://nyimainvasives.org).

The main symptom to look for on beech foliage is darkened striping between the veins, which is best seen and photographed looking up



Viewing beech leaves with BLD. © Maria MoskaLee-NYS DEC.

through the canopy. Leaves with severe symptoms can be heavily banded, shrunk, browning, yellowing, and crinkled, with a thickened leathery texture.

For more information, visit DEC's [Beech Leaf Disease webpage](#).

If you have questions about tree problems, email photos, a description, and location to [foresthealth@dec.ny.gov](mailto:foresthealth@dec.ny.gov).

SLELO PRISM is interested in collaborating with partners to coordinate a series of guided walk and talks to recruit and train volunteers to survey for BLD. If you're interested in collaborating, please reach out to [megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org).

# Partner Spotlight

*Maria Cipullo-NYS OPRHP Thousand Islands Stewardship Specialist*

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) in the Thousand Islands Region has continued working “to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources,” as written into our mission statement. Since 2017, our OPRHP region has hosted the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to ensure that this work does not go undone. SCA is an internship/career training program designed to expose its members to a wide variety of projects, techniques, and career specialties. These members work hand-in-hand with OPRHP staff on projects throughout the entire region, as well as collaborating with other local non-profits as needed for conservation efforts. Small projects we have helped with include releasing biocontrol insects, removing water chestnut, oriental bittersweet, water-milfoil, and yellow iris, as well as replanting the native Lake Ontario dune grass.

There has been an effort to map invasives species across all 28 of our State Parks, with priority work sites that we return to year after year. Common and glossy buckthorns are a species many are familiar with for their incessant bushy growth, painful thorn pricks, and non-nutritious berries. Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site – a key player in the War of 1812 – has been riddled with buckthorn for decades. Our crew has worked to control this by cutting shrubs smaller than ~3 inches in diameter and securing a thick, black plastic bag over each stump which smothers the plant and prevents re-sprouting, effectively killing the root system without any herbicide in as little as 1-2 years. In other zones of the Battlefield, mature, tree sized buckthorn is cut to be flush with the ground so that a stump grinder can come through and break up these massive trunks and root systems. This year there has been incredible support from the maintenance staff who have bolstered our efforts by acquiring a brush hog which can continue to cut back any juvenile growth to allow for native grasses and open meadow species to come back. Dense monocultures of buckthorn have been completely cut out from 0.5 acres of the western battlefield, and sporadic shrubby buckthorn has been removed from 0.75 acres within the central battlefield.



NYS OPRHP SCA members PJ Lombardi and Celeste Oppito hard at work.

Mid-to-late June is the best time to find both pale and black swallow-wort in its mature growth state, making for easy identification. While many of our Eastern Lake Ontario parks have large well-established monocultures of swallow-worts, our St. Lawrence River parks still only have isolated populations. Our crew has worked diligently on Wellesley Island State Park to control the pale variety close to the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center – a stubborn patch we have returned to year after year – with efforts finally showing success. After 5 years of consistent manual removal this patch has gone from a main area of 16,000 sq-ft to just 4,000 sq-ft. Last year our staff found a new population of the black variety off of River Trail near South Bay. As a rapid response reaction, our crew spent time removing from this area as well. This proved successful as when we returned this year what was an estimated original population of 500 plants was now down to about 200 plants, which we were able to completely remove. It is always exciting to see hard work starting to pay off – carefully digging out densely tangled plants to the root ball and hauling them away in thick black trash bags during peak daylight hours in early summer is no small feat.

Our SCA crew has also helped to assist manual removals of swallow-wort and yellow iris with SLELO PRISM at some of their Priority Conservation Areas this field season.



# Invasive Species Removals at Thompson Park

*Kenneth Mix— City of Watertown Manager*

John C. Thompson Park contains 355 acres in the southeast corner of Watertown, NY. In 1899 its namesake hired Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects to design a 500-acre park. Thompson paid for the construction and maintenance of the park until he gave 191 acres to the City in 1917. The rest of the Park was never completed. Later land purchases brought it to its current size. Portions of the Park are leased to the Watertown Golf Club and Zoo New York, leaving 264 acres under the City's management.

The Park has a substantial invasive species problem that impacts most of it, except the mowed lawns. The primary problem species is Buckthorn; followed by Honeysuckle, Oriental Bittersweet and Garlic Mustard.

Many areas of the park have become unusable because of the dense thickets of Buckthorn, except for narrow trails cut through them. Much of the land was pasture before the park and it was to continue to be open lawns in the Olmsted plan, but with limited staffing for much of its history many areas were not mowed, making ideal conditions for Buckthorn to thrive.

An effort to remove Buckthorn was started in Spring of 2021. Friends of Thompson Park have been using their monthly volunteer days to liberate the trees in some of the wooded areas from the Buckthorn infestation. City crews



Clearing of buckthorn along Thompson Blvd. in Watertown. ©Mike DeMarco

precut the brush and the volunteers drag it to piles along the road where it is chipped the following week.

This immediately created a very noticeable aesthetic difference, and these areas are now available for human activity.

City crews have also been clearing areas with a mulching head on an excavator. GYMO donated the services of a contractor last year to work half-a-day with mulching head on a skid-steer. The City is now using some of its American Rescue Plan Act funds to continue the effort. A \$37,000 contract was awarded in June to clear 12 acres. We expect to award additional contracts.

The work done so far is a small fraction of what needs to be done. Preventing the Buckthorn from re-sprouting will also be a continuous challenge.

# EAB Biocontrol

Timothy Morris– SUNY ESF

The emerald ash borer (EAB) has swept its way across New York State. As of 2022 it can be found in practically every county. However, biological control agents released specifically to target EAB are following close behind. As EAB is non-native, it faces reduced mortality in our un-adapted ecosystems. This has led to extremely high populations, and high levels of tree mortality. Reuniting EAB with its natural enemies through the release of biocontrol agents can provide a means to reduce its population. Thirty-eight counties across the state contain at least one of the four federally approved biocontrol agents. Three of these species are currently present in the SLELO region. These small parasitic wasps known as parasitoids include *Oobius agrili* which targets EAB eggs, as well as *Tetrastichus planipennisi* and *Spathius galinae* which kill EAB larvae. These parasitoids underwent rigorous testing to ensure they would specifically target EAB.

Due to the extremely high number of EAB already on the landscape, the persistence of today's mature ash trees due to biocontrol alone is unlikely. The program hopes that biocontrol agents will be able to protect the next generation of ash trees, as parasitoid and EAB populations become more aligned. As these parasitoids establish alongside young regenerating ash, they can suppress EAB populations as trees grow to replace dead overstory ash. Our current research across the state has found a persistent regenerating layer of ash seedlings and saplings, indicating ample opportunity for regeneration. Our parasitoid populations have established well in forests both recently infested with EAB, and those which have already suffered significant tree mortality. Parasitoids

have demonstrated a strong ability to disperse from their release locations to nearby ash forests. We have quantified significant EAB mortality induced both by parasitoids and our local woodpecker populations. Current results indicate the mortality of

EAB is enough to reduce reproductive rates close to, or below, replacement levels. This indicates static or falling pest populations within our regenerating ash forests. While the future of ash is still uncertain, these results provide promise for the regeneration of the species in our forests. Future parasitoid releases are planned across the state, including in the SLELO region.



Above: Instead of finding an emerald ash borer larvae at the end its feeding gallery, we instead find a brood of biocontrol agent *Tetrastichus planipennisi*. Photo provided by Timothy Morris-SUNY ESF.

Get details on EAB biocontrol releases in the SLELO region on page 9.



# Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

## Early Detection Survey Winter 2021-22

*SLELO-Robert Smith and Rob Williams*

### Search Description

Each year during the winter months, when Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) egg masses are most visible, SLELO PRISM field representatives search Highly Probable areas for the presence/absence of HWA. Hemlock trees are inspected visually, often using visual aids and data is recorded using Survey 123 software.

### Sites Searched in 2021-22

This past season 17 sites were selected for surveys to include the following:

- ◇ Altmar State Forest
- ◇ Camp Zerbe
- ◇ Deer Creek WMA
- ◇ Derby Hill Bird Observatory
- ◇ Frank E Jadwin Memorial State Forest
- ◇ Great Bear Recreational Area
- ◇ Happy Valley WMA
- ◇ Jackson Hill State Forest
- ◇ Lake Julia Preserve
- ◇ Little John WMA
- ◇ Noyes Bird Sanctuary (HWA Found)
- ◇ Rainbow Shores Preserve
- ◇ Salmon River Falls
- ◇ Sandy Creek State Forest
- ◇ Three Mile Bay WMA
- ◇ Trenton Greenbelt
- ◇ Whetstone Gulf State Park

### Past Observations

In 2020-21 HWA were found at six sites to include:

- ◇ Camp Hollis
- ◇ Independence Park
- ◇ Mexico Point State Park
- ◇ Oswego Co. Reforestation Area
- ◇ Selkirk Shores State Park

### 2021-2022 Observations

Between December 2021 and May 2022, 32 Highly Probable Areas (HPAs) within the 17 Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) were surveyed by



Robert Smith, Brittney Rogers, Rob Williams, Megan Pistolese, Frank Williams, and other volunteers for signs and symptoms of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Of the 32 HPAs searched, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was detected at 1 HPA (Noyes Bird Sanctuary). Needle miners, moth larvae that feed inside conifer needles, were found at 26 sites and Tip blight, caused by the fungus *Diplodia pinea*, was found at 11 sites.

### Referrals

Each time HWA is positively identified at a site the finding is reported to the landowner and/or land manager along with a referral to manage the adelgids to protect hemlock trees. To date most of these referrals have resulted in mitigation measures to slow the spread of this forest pest.

### Field Notes

At all but three sites surveyed this season, the hemlock crown density was 81% or greater.

Positive HWA findings within the SLELO region appear to be concentrated along the Lake Ontario Shoreline and progressing from Cayuga County northward.

### Acknowledgements

NYS DEC, NYS OPRHP, SLELO PRISM Partners, and The Nature Conservancy.

[View the 2021-2022 HWA ED Survey Report](#)



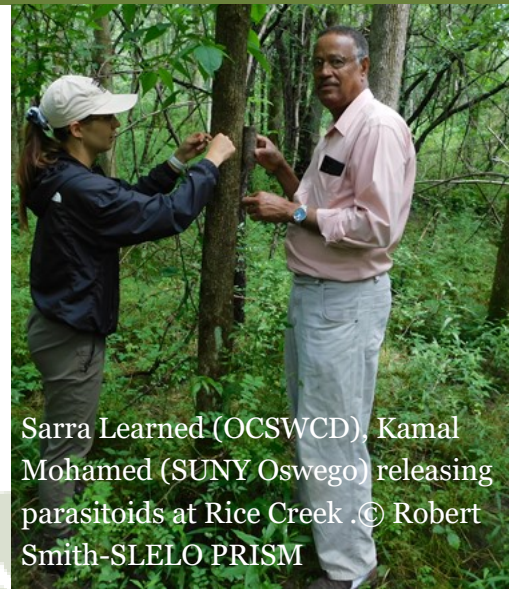
### Giant Hogweed Eradication Efforts:

Giant hogweed management has been completed for this year. Of the 44 monitored sites, 27 had no germination with four of the sites being giant hogweed free for 9 years and retired. 15 of these sites were found to have Giant hogweed. Four of those sites were treated using the root cut method and 11 were treated using foliar application. Permission was not granted at 2 sites. We also have eighteen sites that were not due for long term monitoring (6 or 9 years giant hogweed free). The total sites that SLELO PRISM is currently responsible for are 62.

### Biological Control of Emerald Ash Borer:

This year, we were approved by the USDA to release EAB biocontrol insects at Rice Creek Field Station (SUNY Oswego). As part of this USDA program, the releases will occur for two years. This year, we are scheduled for 8 releases from June-August. The type of biocontrols being released are parasitoid wasps, and the USDA is providing us with 3 species of these wasps (*Spathius galinae*, *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, and *Oobius agrili*). *O. agrili* targets EAB eggs, while *S. galinae* and *T. planipennisi* target EAB larvae. Depending on the species and stage of life, these species are released using oobinators (pupae), bolts (pupae), or cups (adults). Dispersal of these wasps is conducted by SLELO PRISM with the assistance of staff from Rice Creek Field Station and the Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation.

Each release is occurring in different sections of the release area to promote an even distribution of the biocontrol wasps.



Sarra Learned (OCSWCD), Kamal Mohamed (SUNY Oswego) releasing parasitoids at Rice Creek. © Robert Smith-SLELO PRISM

Information about the release area, species/life stage released, and condition of release trees is recorded in the USDA's Biocontrol App. (MapBioControl). So far, we have conducted four releases with four more releases scheduled. **Total parasitoid wasps released by species are as follows: 1838 *T. planipennisi*, 581 *S. galinae*, and 600 *O. agrili*.**

**Swallowwort Biocontrol:** We currently have four cages with *Hypena opulenta* moths—the biocontrol for swallow-wort. Two of the cages are at Robert Wehle State Park, and the other two are at Grenadier Island. These moths have been in the cages for about 6 weeks. The numbers of larvae produced, much like last year, were low, and defoliation in all cages is at less than 5%. They are currently pupating, and we plan to retain them in the cages to emerge as adults and produce a new generation of larvae. This worked very well on Grenadier Island last year. I conducted an overwintering survey this year but could not find evidence of *Hypena*'s presence. I am currently working with the residents of Grenadier Island to show them what to look for, so they can report photos of the presence of *H. opulenta* adults or signs of swallow-wort defoliation.

# Terrestrial Restoration & Resiliency Initiatives Continued

SLELO- Robert Smith

## Biological Control Updates (*continued*):

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA): We plan to release HWA biocontrol next year at Independence Park (Oswego County). There are three species of insects that are used for HWA. These are a beetle (*Laricobius nigrinus*) and silver flies (*Leucopis argenticollis* and *Leucopis piniperda*). The biocontrol insects will be provided to us by the New York State Hemlock Initiative. We are currently waiting for approval from Oswego County to release these biocontrol insects.

Purple Loosestrife: There are two species of beetles (*Galerucella californiensis* and *Galerucella pusilla*) that have been used for many years for purple loosestrife. We plan to collect these beetles in the field and release them at PCAs where there is a high density of purple loosestrife.



## 2022 Early Detection Surveys

The 2022 Early Detection Surveys are currently in progress. We have 9 Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) to conduct both aquatic and terrestrial surveys. This will require us to survey approximately 123 highly probable areas, 47 of

these have active treatments occurring and we will be evaluating these for post treatment success. We are also conducting native species surveys at these PCAs to get a better idea of what species we are protecting and to integrate into a PCA scoring system that we are working on.



## Spotted Lanternfly Traps:

This year, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets provided us with 10 spotted lanternfly (SLF) traps. SLF is a tier 1 species in the SLELO PRISM, so it has not been observed in the area to date. It has been found in the downstate, southern tier region, including Ithaca and was originally found in PA. It feeds on more than 70 plant species including maples, apples, oaks, grapes, hops, so its agricultural impact could be quite large if it were to arrive. Spotted lanternfly is a hitchhiking pest and lays eggs on many different surfaces, including vehicles, trailers, and outdoor equipment. This allows it to spread long distances when people move infested equipment. These traps will be checked every two weeks through October.

For more information on these or other terrestrial restoration and resiliency projects please reach out to Robert Smith at [robert.l.smith@tnc.org](mailto:robert.l.smith@tnc.org).



# Aquatic Restoration and Resiliency Initiatives

SLELO PRISM – Brittney Rogers

## Watercraft Inspection Steward Program

Co-administered by the SLELO PRISM and the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) and hosted by The Nature Conservancy this initiative is part of a larger statewide effort. WISPs are one of the NYS DEC's Aquatic Nuisance Species priorities and funding is provided by the Environmental Protection Fund. Aquatic invasive species, such as hydrilla and rusty crayfish, are species that have been introduced into NY waterbodies and are having detrimental impacts on our waterways. Boater participation in this initiative is essential to protecting our waters from the threat of future aquatic invasive species introductions or spread.

Our 2022 stewards have conducted more than 7,200 watercraft inspections and spoken with over 16,500 people. **We have intercepted aquatic invasive species on 730 occasions** so far this season, preventing their spread into our waters and protecting areas visitors may travel to next. We have strategically placed the stewards around the region with the intention of reaching the largest possible audience, covering over 30 launches within our region that see either more visitors or a higher instance of hitchhikers being found on equipment. Thank you to the launch managers for your support in our program and for allowing our stewards to be at your sites. A WISP mid-season update is available on our [website](#), and details regarding inspections at each launch will be sent in November with the final program report.



## Updates on Aquatic Restoration and Dunes Restoration Initiatives

We are currently working on Phase III at the 24-acre riparian area of South Sandy Creek and Phase II at the 4-acre project area along the North Sandy Pond barrier beach. See the cover article for more detailed information on these project areas. SLELO PRISM is appreciative of the extensive collaboration that is occurring as part of these projects ensuring the highest success possible. As part of these project efforts, an event was held during ISAW with 21 attendees. The “South Sandy Creek Experience” included a guided hike and paddle in restoration areas. As part of this effort, Native Swale and Rain Garden Seed Packets were produced which include the following species and many more that are not listed in this newsletter:

- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Flat Topped White Aster (*Aster umbellatus*)
- Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
- Canada Wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*)
- Spotted Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)



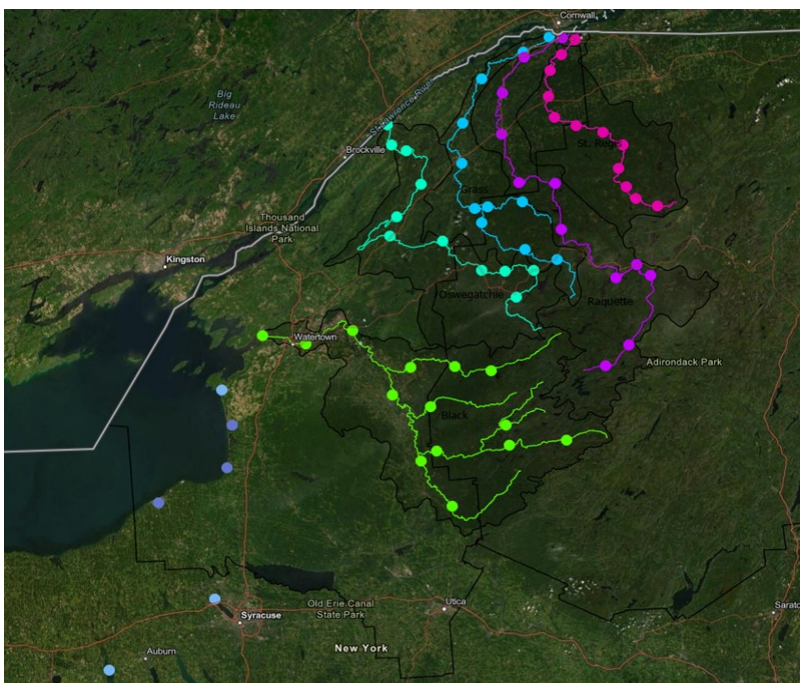
For more information on these projects or any other aquatic invasive species focused project, contact the Aquatic Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator, Brittney Rogers at [Brittney.Rogers@tnc.org](mailto:Brittney.Rogers@tnc.org)



# SLELO PRISM and APIPP Connected Waters eDNA Project

SLELO PRISM and APIPP – Brittney Rogers and Gabriel Yerdon

In 2022, SLELO PRISM and APIPP are collaborating to continue environmental DNA sampling that has been occurring in SLELO PRISM and expand into the Adirondack's region. The results from this project will help to improve our understanding of aquatic invasive species distribution and enhance our aquatic early detection work. Sampling sites are selected based on the most highly probable areas to encounter new invasive species introductions or experience the spread of invasive species that are present in other regions. Rather than conducting transect based sampling, we will focus our efforts in areas and habitats that these invasive species would most likely be found. An initial assessment was conducted using satellite imagery and GIS tools to select sites which was followed by field verification. This allowed us to be the most cost-effective and efficient with our time and efforts. Sampling protocol follows the 2021 QAQC developed by SLELO PRISM and The Nature Conservancy Tributary Project. A total of 66 sampling sites have been selected. All amplifications of high-level species indicating potential presence will be reported to NYSDEC where continued communication on response and next steps will be planned collaboratively. The project will be summarized in a report at the end of the field season, which may include sample results, watershed summaries, and recommendations for potential future projects.



## Primary Sampling Sites:

- Black River and adjacent watershed (14)
- Oswegatchie River and adjacent watershed (11)
- Grasse River and adjacent watershed (11)
- Raquette River and adjacent watershed (12)
- St. Regis River and adjacent watershed (12)
- Eastern Lake Ontario Continued Sites (3)
- Species Specific Sample Sites (3)

## Primary Species:

- Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)
- Bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)
- Northern snakehead (*Channa argus*)
- Tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus semilunaris*)
- Tench (*Tinca tinca*)
- Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)
- Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*)
- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- Carolina fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)
- Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



**Register** to join us August 25 for an eDNA Webinar

For more information on this project contact the Aquatic Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator, Brittney Rogers at [Brittney.Rogers@tnc.org](mailto:Brittney.Rogers@tnc.org) or the eDNA Project Technician, Gabriel Yerdon at [Gabriel.Yerdon@TNC.ORG](mailto:Gabriel.Yerdon@TNC.ORG)

Learn More About our **eDNA Project**



# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## EVENT DETAILS



## EVENT DETAILS



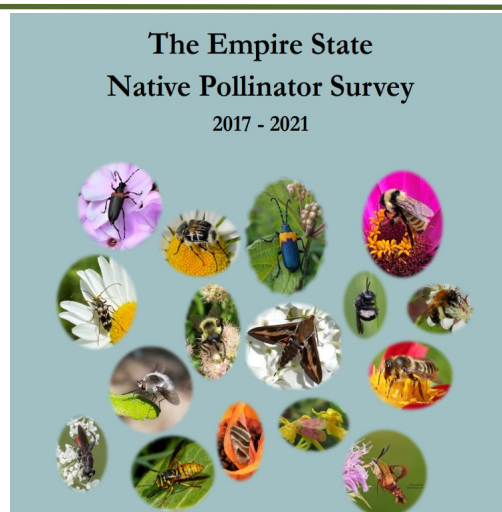
## EVENT DETAILS

- August 1st & 8th: **Launch and Learn**
- Monday, August 8th 6pm: **Find Invasives-Trail Trek**
- Monday, August 1st 9am: **Guffin Bay Water Chestnut Pull** & other **Water Chestnut Pulls in SLELO & Beyond**
- August 8th & 9th: **Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange Workshops**
- Tuesday, August 16th: **Spotted Lanternfly Community Science**
- August 18th-19th: **Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Curriculum Workshops**
- Thursday, August 25th: **Connected Waters eDNA Project Webinar**
- August-December: **What's Bugging You? First Friday Events**
- PRISM Network Events Pages: **ADK PRISM**, **Capital PRISM**, **Lower Hudson PRISM**, **Long Island PRISM**, **Finger Lakes PRISM**, **Western NY PRISM**
- **NY Invasive Species Speaker Series 2022**

## <<Notable Announcements>>



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**[View the Survey](#)**



Email **[aliyah.panahi@parks.ny.gov](mailto:aliyah.panahi@parks.ny.gov)** for details and to join a listserv for upcoming garden beautification events.



# From Our Director

*Hats Off to Our Stewards!*



As our first line of defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species, our stewards have made a commitment to inspect thousands of watercraft and educate thousands of boaters about the importance of cleaning, draining, and drying their watercraft. Like the postal workers' motto, through rain, sleet, ice or snow....ok leave out the ice and snow— add wind and mosquitos, our stewards are on the front lines. And let us not forget that our Boat Launch Stewards have committed all of their summer weekends to help protect our freshwater resources.

Sponsored by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Section, and co-administered by SLELO PRISM, TNC, and the Thousand Islands Land Trust, our Watercraft Inspection Steward Program (WISP), combined with all programs

across the state, represents a significant effort to prevent the spread and introduction of new aquatic invasive species. Watercraft users travel from across North America vacationing, recreating, and angling. These travels pose a rather significant liability to our freshwaters. Our stewards interact with folks from all over and provide aquatic invasive species information to all those encountered. And with all of this comes a notable **96% Clean, Drain, Dry compliance rate.**

So 'hats-off' to our stewards for your continued commitment and hard work to protect our freshwaters from the impacts of aquatic invasive species. Your efforts are acknowledged and appreciated.

*~Rob Williams*

## SLELO PRISM Partner List

- ◆ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy in New York
- ◆ Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices
- ◆ NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
- ◆ NYS Department of Transportation
- ◆ NY Natural Heritage Program
- ◆ Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- ◆ Fort Drum Military Installation
- ◆ CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
- ◆ NY Power Authority
- ◆ Tug Hill Commission
- ◆ Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- ◆ Thousand Islands Land Trust
- ◆ Indian River Lakes Conservancy
- ◆ Save The River
- ◆ NY Sea Grant
- ◆ Ducks Unlimited
- ◆ Onondaga Audubon
- ◆ US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- ◆ St. Regis Mohawk Tribe-Environmental Unit
- ◆ Algonquin to Adirondack Collaborative

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**SLELO PRISM**  
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**Eastern Lake Ontario**

Swallow-wort collaborative

