

2026 SPRING PARTNER MEETING SUMMARY

April 23, 2026 - 9:45 AM-12:00 PM

visit the [SLELO PRISM YouTube Channel](#) to view meeting recordings.



AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Updates from SLELO PRISM Staff
- Partner Presentations
- Roundtable Updates (in-person and virtual)
- Open Dialog
- Adjournment
- Optional:
 - *Networking lunch*
 - *Salmon River Fish Hatchery Tour*

NEXT STEPS

- Mark your calendars for our Autumn Meeting on November 17, 2026
- Share upcoming events, or report metrics for events, visit www.sleloinvasives.org/report-event-stats/

ATTENDEES (In-person and Virtual)

In total 31 attendees, representing 23 organizations, were present during the meeting. See last page of this meeting summary for full details.

SLELO PRISM Staff Updates:

• Aquatic

- Continuing early detection efforts with aquatic vegetation surveys, prioritizing five waterbodies this year including sites located in the A2A wildlife corridor and Tug Hill to ADK corridor through the lens of our Connected Lands and Waters Initiative (CLAW)
- Education remains a key prevention tool, the Aquatic Invasive Species Learning Experience (AISLE) offers hands on learning to volunteers interested in native and invasive aquatic vegetation species ID. We offer this as a three part training series including a webinar, in-person workshop with plant samples, and an educational guided paddle. Volunteers who complete the training are eligible to enroll in our water protectors program to select and survey a waterbody with the plant ID tools we provide. Information available on our website events page to register.
 - **Session 1: Webinar Plant ID Training**
 - **When:** June 10th, 10 AM-12 PM
 - **Session 2: In-Person Plant ID Workshop**
 - **When:** July 10th, 1 PM- 3 PM
 - **Where:** Redwood Hill Preserve
 - **Session:3 Guided Paddle**
 - **When:** August 14th, 10 AM- 1 PM
 - **Where:** Theresa/Hammond, NY (Indian River Lake TBD)
- Hosting and assisting in a number of water chestnut pulls. These are ongoing efforts which we've been monitoring over the years alongside this active management community centered approach.
 - **Lakeveiw WMA South Colwell Pond, Ellisburg**
 - **Date:** July 22nd
 - **Time:** 9 AM- 1:30 PM
 - **Guffin Bay, Dexter**
 - **Date:** Friday, August 7th
 - **Time:** 9 am-12:30 PM
 - **Oswegatchie River, Heuvelton**
 - **Date:** July 17th
 - **Time:** 9:45 AM- 4 PM
- Excited to share SLELO is developing our Aquatic Plant Restoration Pilot Project. Involves wild stock harvest of *Vallisneria americana*, overwintering, and turion collection for restoration material following water chestnut pulls to support native aquatic plant abundance.

• Terrestrial

- 14 HWA surveys were completed by Early Detection Team and volunteer training surveys.
 - Found HWA at 2 sites (Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Three Mile Bay WMA)
 - HWA also detected by VSN member at Hamilton College
- Results of HWA winter mortality survey at Independence Park was 90.5% mortality.
- Adrien and I will survey six terrestrial priority conservation areas (PCAs) this summer for Tier 1-4 species and native species.
- Changing our contract herbicide applicator from Miller's Turf to Invasive Plant Control, Inc. out of Nashville, Tennessee.
 - 147 Potential treatment sites on 15 PCAs for 5 invasives species.
- No more Hypena moth releases, hoping *Chrysochus asclepiadeus* will be approved.
- Rice Creek Staff will continue EAB Establishment Surveys this year.
- No HWA biocontrol releases planned. New York State Hemlock Initiative will conduct *Laricobius nigrinus* establishment survey at Independence Park
- Requesting Spotted Knapweed Biocontrol for 2nd year of releases on dunes at Deer Creek WMA

- Currently, we have 8 restoration areas. Two are at 5th year and will be inventoried. Goal is 80% species richness of surrounding region. Five sites are being monitored for reduction in invasives, increase in natives. New site is first in state forest and in Tug Hill ISPZ
- Responsible for a total of 147 sites. Will not be able to apply herbicide this year, root cut method only. Expect to complete 67 sites.

- **Outreach**

- SLELO is interested in collaborating on a region-wide BioBlitz we've named NNYBioBlitz26!
- **What is a Bioblitz ?**
 - The term is a combination of “bio” (life) and “blitz” (a quick, intense efforts). It can be described as an intensive, short-term event where scientists, naturalists, and community volunteers work together to find and identify as many species as possible in a specific area and period of time. Its primary goal is to create a “snapshot” of local biodiversity while engaging the public in hands-on conservation and scientific discovery.
- **When:**
 - Hold your event between June-August of 2026.
 - **Of particular interest are events held during June 8th-14th in observance of New York Invasive Species Awareness Week (NYISAW).**
- **Where:**
 - Regional partners should hold events within or bordering the five counties of Oneida, Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence, New York.
 - Canadian partners are welcome to participate and should hold events in areas within or bordering the Eastern Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River region.
- **Collecting Data:**
 - iNaturalist will be used to record and query data.
 - Hosts should create a "Collections Project" in iNaturalist ([start a project, get details](#)).'
 - If you don't want to make your own iNaturalist project, join the [SLELO PRISM Bioblitz26 Project](#) and record your data to that instead. [Instructions on how to join a project.](#)
 - All projects will be added to the iNaturalist Umbrella Project titled "[NNYBioblitz26](#)."
- **Sign-Up to Participate:**
 - Fill out the form on the events page to indicate your interest in participating.
 - Submitted events will be showcased on the events webpage to help promote them.
- **Sign up: sleloinvasives.org/event/nnvybioblitz26/**
 - **Don't want to host your own event? Join the SLELO PRISM Bioblitz26!**
 - **Date:** Saturday, June 13th
 - **Time:** 9:30AM-1 PM
 - **Location:** Lakeview WMA, [Pierrepoint Pl, Henderson, NY 13650](#)
 - **Details:** Participants can choose to take a guided walk or a paddle to explore and record species using iNaturalist. Bring your own bagged lunch to enjoy at the beach after the event. No experience needed, all ages are welcome! [Register to Attend](#)
- **Help us reach our goal of having one NYISAW event in each SLELO county!**
 - NYISAW returns June 8–14, 2026, and we're aiming high this year. Our goal is to have at least one event in each of the five counties in the SLELO PRISM region—and your participation can help us get there.

- NYISAW is a statewide campaign coordinated by DEC and PRISM partners to raise awareness about invasive species and their environmental, economic, and health impacts. Events are typically free and can take many forms.
- We highly encourage our partners to participate in NYISAW by hosting or collaborating on events held within our region. Events can be anything that helps to raise awareness of invasive species and encourages the public to get involved. *Some NYISAW event examples include but are not limited to, bioblitz, workshops, webinars, conferences, exhibits, removal or restoration efforts, guided hikes/paddles, documentary viewings, etc.*
- Visit the [official NYISAW website](#) for more information (updates for this year are forthcoming).
- Sign up to host an event or view NYISAW events in SLELO: <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/event/nyisaw-in-slelo/>
- We have many upcoming events, view them on our website: www.sleloinvasives.org/events
- Please use our online forms to request to promote or record invasive species related events held in the SLELO region. A link to the forms can be found at the bottom of our events page and partners page. <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/newsandevents/report-event-stats/>

Partner Presentations:

- Sarah Trick: Jefferson SWCD
 - Sandy Creek 9E Planning Update
 - Upstate Freshwater Institute Modeling complete for Stony Creek (sampling completed)
 - Water was clean
 - 5/12 5:30-7:30 PM Sandy Creek Town Hall (hybrid)
 - Working to complete a 9E plan for Sandy Creek
 - Interest in connecting with SLELO partners to explore using these tools
- Thom: NYS AGM
 - Yellow legged hornet
 - Not in NYS but likely to be introduced from Georgia or South Carolina
 - 25 traps stationed statewide in 2026 (bucket traps mix of grape juice/brown sugar)
 - New apiary inspectors dedicated to the SLELO region
 - SLELO is interested in learning more about the trap results and considering an article request to be shared in the winter 2027 newsletter
 - NYS AGM hiring for
 - Horticultural inspector positions
 - Apiary inspector
- NYS DEC Region 6 AIS Coordinator Brittney Rogers on behalf of Jayla White
 - Hired a technician to start in May
 - Hiring ESF interns for WISP at Cover Rd. Erie Canal east end of Oneida Lake and Godfrey Point
 - Mechanical harvester positions to be filled
 - AIS General Permit pending
 - Waterfowl research collecting samples and seeking a technician
 - Coordinating water chestnut pulls at Tibbets Creek and Lakeview
- OPRHP
 - HWA biocontrol release at Selkirk shores 93% mortality, 92% Verona Beach
 - Chemical treatments on 150 acres planned in fall of 2026

- *Laricobius* establishment monitoring at Mexico Pt. and Battle Island SP
- Sandy Island Beach SP staff resurveying North Sandy Pond shoreline for phragmites and woody invasives
- Finalize ISCP for North Sandy Pond shoreline
- Requested *Larinus* and *Cyphoclenous* weevils for spotted knapweed biocontrol
- EDRR for Norway maples at Pixley Falls occurred in 2025
- Continuing survey mapping in 2026
- Piping plovers at Sandy Island Beach surveys began 4/15
- Reforestation initiative throughout NYS Parks, hiring an intern
- Riparian and shoreline erosion management to identify high risk areas
- TILT Spencer Busler:
 - Tibbets Point swallowwort management to restore bird habitat
 - Restoring property near Wilson Hill for bird habitat
 - 5/19 yellow iris pull at Chippewa Bay Preserve
 - Chemical treatment contract with Millers Turf is planned for field season
- NYS Great Lakes Action Agenda Emily Fell
 - May 4th and 7th meetings in SLELO region
- THC Jillian Lee
 - Black river Watershed Conference June 3rd Tug Hill Vinyard in Lowville
 - Zack Labe with Climate Central might be Keynote
 - Call for poster session and presentation abstracts
 - \$30 for presenters/posters, \$60 for attendees

Round Table Updates (in-person):

- Bonnie NYSDEC R7:
 - Follow up with land management to determine what to do about HWA at Three Mile Bay.
- Doug Trout Lake Association:
 - Been collaborating with SLELO to learn how to protect Trout Lake
 - Conducted aquatic surveys on the Lake but haven't noted AIS but found yellow iris
 - Found Chinese mystery/banded mystery snail on one shore of Trout Lake
 - Interested in learning the BMP for cleaning dogs that swim the Lake to avoid AIS being spread via their fur
- Sarah JC SWCD:
 - Planting 130 acres farm/private homeowners
- Irene M.:
 - Reporting on Cedar Lake controlling milfoil with mats, awaiting general permit, potential for collaboration with Doug/Irene on AIS pathway outreach
 - Phragmites near south sandy creek (will management occur?). Brittney mentioned that the nutrient runoff from nearby farms could be causing growth.
- Alexandra DOT:
 - Staffing changes have led to fully new staff in design department and sharing role of IS management.
 - Over last of 2-3 years they did SLF monitoring. Didn't find anything.
 - Non-mow areas for monarch and other pollinator habitats will be designated along roadsides and reflect new management approaches
 - Interested in joining workshops to learn more about IS identification/reporting and possibly developing a BMP document for key species DOT encounters, Giant hogweed, Knotweed, etc.
 - Conenct with Brittney about the trainings for DOT staff, resources and quick reference sheets for management of specific species.
- Caryn STR:
 - Guffin bay wc pull 8/7

- Grant money to expand river keeper program aiming to hold workshops in other areas among the watershed
- Spencer TILT:
 - Interested in the spotted knapweed biocontrol
 - Purchased property in Waddington near Iroquois Dam
- Garret TILT:
 - New Terrestrial Coordinator
 - Potential to collaborate with Robert on obtaining pesticide applicator certification
- Raquel OPRHP:
 - Excited for reforestation project and the upcoming field season
- Mike OPRHP:
 - Excited to hear about and to practice reduced mowing for pollinator habitat in DOT, recommended connecting with Parks staff regarding their changes
- Stephanie OPRHP:
 - Working with park managers/partners to learn more about projects
 - Phragmites manual removals planned
 - Robert Moses state park bittersweet population is harming wildlife
- Alexis DOT:
 - Interested in looking more into the strategic mowing and collaborating to prioritize reducing
 - Working on seed mixes for pollinator gardens around the region 2 areas
- Brian TNC:
 - Interested in learning more about rotational goat grazing for invasive species on preserves, has plans for some WC management along Seneca River just south of Three Rivers

Round Table Updates (virtual):

- Alivia SLC SWCD:
 - Gearing up for field season
 - Visiting parcel from SLELO special project to check establishments of restoration plantings
 - Technicians getting pesticide applicator certification
 - Akwesasne collaboration to search for biocontrol (follow up, sounds interesting for a newsletter article?)
- Crystal Fort Drum:
 - Gearing up for IS treatment field season
- Ethan Winter OPRHP:
 - Manages land at Green Lakes SP (honeysuckle management)
- Fate S. and Doug NYNHP/iMap:
 - iMap mobile app has been updated and should work for all devices
 - Tiers analysis has been updated
 - iMap webinar after PRISM webinar 1-2 PM is about getting ready for the field season for data collection tools
 - NYNHP released a new filter tool for reporting rare species

Updates continued on next page...

- Jillian THC:
 - Winter webinar series 4/30 7 PM, about owls, register on their website tughill.org
 - THC has a bi-weekly newsletter and partners are welcome to share updates.
 - Recordings on Spotify and live on FB
 - <https://open.spotify.com/show/43fvML42yryteMxT96V9T3?si=7aab182d174a4dc6>
- Karen Sime Rice Creek

- Developing a management plan for invasive species and applied for a grant
- SLELO will be a collaborator in the development of the management plan
- Continuing EAB biocontrol monitoring
 - Add volunteer opportunity to SLELO website)
- Matt NYS Hemlock Initiative:
 - Predator establishment traps specimens to be analyzed
- Nick SLC CCE:
 - hosting forest stewardship workshop Steve Sherwood and Aarin Barrigar May 5th 5-7 PM.
 - <https://events.cornell.edu/event/woodlot-forest-stewardship-workshop>
 - Spotted Winged Drosophila monitoring to continue
 - Plans to participate in Oswegatchie WC pull
- Payton Oneida County SWCD:
 - Conducting IS assessment with SLELO this field season for CLAW
 - Hiring interns
 - Environthon 4/28
 - NYISAW art show
 - <https://www.oneida-swcd.org/education>
- Emilie D. River Strategy
 - River Strategy AIS subcommittee- if anyone is interested in participating contact Emilie, next meeting to be held in September.
 - <https://stlawrenceriverstrategy.com/>

First	Last	Email	Company/Affiliation (if any)
Brittney	Rogers		SLELO PRISM
Adrien	Owens		SLELO PRISM
Megan	Shaw		SLELO PRISM
Robert	Smith		SLELO PRISM
Alexandra	Beck	alexandra.beck@dot.ny.gov	NYS Department of Transportation - Region 7 Watertown
Alexis	Sprague	alexis.sprague@dot.ny.gov	NYS Department of Transportation
Bonnie	Parton	bonnie.parton@dec.ny.gov	NYS DEC
Brian	Roat	broat@tnc.org	The Nature Conservancy
Caryn	Clements	programs@savetheriver.org	Save the River
Dorothea	Biggs	dorothea.biggs@agriculture.ny.gov	NYS Dept of Agriculture and Markets
Douglas	Lowry	Douglas.lowry@gmail.com	Trout Lake Association (Hermon, NY)
Garrett	Konet	gkonet@tilandtrust.org	Thousand Islands Land Trust
Irene	Mazzocchi	mazzdill@frontiernet.net	OBI
Lingyu	Peng	lingyu.peng@dot.ny.gov	NYS Department of Transportation
Michael	Serviss	michael.serviss@parks.ny.gov	NYS OPRHP
Raquel	Mennella	Raquel.mennella@parks.ny.gov	NYS OPRHP
Sarah	Trick	ERS@JeffersonCountySWCD.org	Jefferson County SWCD
Spencer	Busler	sbusler@tilandtrust.org	Thousand Islands Land Trust, Inc
Stephanie	Larkin	stephanie.larkin@parks.ny.gov	NYS OPRHP
Thom	Allgaier	thomas.allgaier@agriculture.ny.gov	NYS AGM
Alivia	Bleau	Manager@slcswcd.org	SLC soil and water
Crystal	Wixon	deckerc22@hotmail.com	CSU CEMML at Fort Drum
Douglas	Knoph	Douglas.Knoph@dec.ny.gov	New York Natural Heritage Program
Emilie	DeRochie	ederochie@riverinstitute.ca	River Institute
Ethan	Winter	ethan.winter@parks.ny.gov	NYS Parks
Fate	Syewoanguan	fate.syewoanguan@dec.ny.gov	New York Natural Heritage Program
Jillian	Lee	jillian@tughill.org	NYS Tug Hill Commission
Karen	Sime	karen.sime@oswego.edu	SUNY Oswego Rice Creek Field Station
Matthew	Del Buono	mjd378@cornell.edu	New York State Hemlock Initiative
Nick	Hamilton-Honey	nh327@cornell.edu	Cornell Cooperative Extension