

ROOTS

INVASIVE PLANT NEWS OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK
A Newsletter of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

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Issue 2

Keeping Scenic Byways Native, Not Invaded

The Adirondack Trail (Rt 30) and Olympic (Rt 3, 86, 9N) Scenic Byways are key travel arteries for Adirondack Park residents and tourists. With the Adirondack North Country Association and local communities, APIPP has been working to keep these critical travel corridors native – that is, not invaded by harmful plants.

Preventing invasive plants from becoming established is the message APIPP brought to more than 1,800 community members and staff through presentations and workshops. Participants included local governments, lake associations, Region 6 DEC staff, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Cornell Cooperation Extension staff, Fish and Game Clubs, and Boy Scouts of America. APIPP also organized an Invasive Species Awareness Day in the Village of Saranac Lake, presented updates at village and town meetings, and participated in events such as Community Spirit Day, Waterfest, and Conservation Field Day.

Leda Poliquin and Joe Phelps, APIPP's Scenic Byway Stewards, kept watchful eyes out for new incursions along the Byways and helped to control priority infestations affecting natural areas and recreational assets such as trailheads and boat launches. Stationed at the Lake Flower Boat Launch on Fridays and Saturdays this summer, they also reached nearly 1,000 lake users to promote spread prevention techniques. APIPP extends its thanks to the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program for including Leda and Joe in its training session in May.

Same Threat - Multiple Jurisdictions

Invasive species put at risk both public and private lands. That's why it is essential to have a regional scope and collaborative approach to prevention and management. APIPP set a benchmark this year working with partners across jurisdictional lines on Rights-of-Way, Forest Preserve, Public Day Use Areas, nature preserves and private land. The collective expertise and coordination among 30+ APIPP cooperating organizations, many communities, and hundreds of volunteers set the tone for effective collaboration. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting**
January 3-5, Providence, RI
- **Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting**
Januray 3-6, Providence, RI
- **National Invasive Weed Awareness Week: Celebrate Nationwide**
Feburary 26-March 3, Washington, D.C.
- **Alive in New York Exhibit: A Growing Invasion**
APA VIC Paul Smiths, mid-May-early July

Notes from the Field:

Terrestrial Trials

Three stewards assisted APIPP this season to search for, report, and control infestations of purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed and common reed grass. The team traveled over 13,000 miles to conduct inventories. Five-hundred infestations are documented in the core of the Park, and counting.

Other problematic species discovered were giant hogweed, yellow iris, black swallow-wort, wild chervil, Indian cup, and the old familiars: common buckthorn and shrub honeysuckles. Over 165 infestations were tended to this season.

Blue Mountain Lake marks the site of a new partnership with DOT and SUNY ESF. SUNY ESF professor Chris Nowak is evaluating a variety of control treatments on 27 Japanese knotweed infestations. Monitoring will reveal both treatment efficacy and plant recovery and yield important management information applicable across the Park.

Aquatic Achievements

The Aquatic Project had a record-breaking year in volunteer training and monitoring. The fourth annual training in aquatic plant identification and survey techniques (this year coordinated with the Darrin Freshwater Institute, NYS DEC, Raquette Lake Property Owners' Association, and SUNY ESF Ranger School) drew 85 participants. One hundred thirty volunteers spent over 650 hours monitoring 109 waterways. They detected Eurasian watermilfoil in Minerva Lake in Essex County, and European frog-bit in the Grasse River in St. Lawrence County, bringing the total number of waters with known infestations in the Park to at least 49.

The first of its kind at this scale in NYS ready for implementation, the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Management Plan lays out a strategic fight against aquatic nuisance species. Modeled after the Lake Champlain Basin ANS Management Plan, the Adirondack Plan, which APIPP co-authored with SUNY Plattsburgh-Lake Champlain Sea Grant and the Adirondack Watershed Institute with input from numerous groups and communities, was unveiled at the Adirondack Water Quality Conference this August. For more information, visit <http://www.paulsmiths.edu/PAGE=1685/page.pl>.

State Updates

Read the NYS Invasive Species Task Force final report on line at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/habitat/istf/index.html>
NYS DEC has launched an Aquatic Nuisance Species Eradication Grant Program.
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/habitat/erad.html>

Cheers

Lake George Land Conservancy

The mission of the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is to protect Lake George and the surrounding watershed by protecting undeveloped lakeshore and stream corridors; upland intact forest communities; rare, threatened, and endangered species; and scenic vistas. A top threat to these conservation targets? Invasive plants. A long-standing partner with APIPP, the LGLC is making noteworthy progress in the Lake George Basin.

Invasive plant stewardship initiatives thrive under the leadership of Sarah Small, LGLC's Program Assistant. From organizing plant control projects to developing educational materials, Sarah knows how to capture an audience. In partnership with the Town of Bolton, Sarah organized a training session in identification and control of one of the Basin's most formidable invasive plant threats: Japanese knotweed. The Town is allowing residents to dispose of the invasive plant material for free at the Town Transfer Station, making it the first in the Park to take such proactive measures. This event and others like it spark ideas about how communities can take action against invasive plants.

Thank you Sarah and LGLC for your partnership, creativity, and enthusiasm on projects to protect the Park from invasive plants.



Volunteers pull common reed grass from a small wetland at LGLC's Pilot Knob Ridge Preserve in Fort Ann, Washington County.

Photo courtesy of S. Small, LGLC

Plant Profile

Species Alert - European Frog-bit

European frog-bit (*Hydrocharus morsus-ranae*) is a free-floating aquatic plant that threatens the Park's waters both to the east in Lake Champlain and to the west in the Grasse River. Originally introduced from Europe, it thrives in quiet waters and can blanket shallow ponds, marshes and the edges of lakes. Like other aquatics, it can spread to new locations from plant fragments attached to boats and trailers. Tangled masses of leaf pads and roots shade and suppress native plants, change habitat structure used by wildlife, and degrade aquatic recreation.

European frog-bit has leathery, smooth, heart-shaped leaves (1-2 in. wide) which are dark, purplish-red underneath. The flowers have three, rounded, white petals and a yellow center. The leaf stem of European frog-bit lacks a mid-line groove which distinguishes it from its look-alike American frog-bit (*Limnobium spongia*).

If detected in the Park, please report to Hilary Oles, holes@tnc.org.



European frog-bit is a floating plant with a tangled mass of roots.

Photo courtesy of M. Malchoff, SUNY Plattsburgh Lake Champlain Sea Grant

On The Horizon

Here is a snapshot of APIPP's near-term priorities:

- Secure funding to ensure APIPP has the financial resources it needs to meet its objectives.
- Complete Scenic Byways Project, Phase 1.
- Collaborate with DEC Lands and Forests and Operations on Unit Management Planning.
- Prepare to implement the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.
- Assist with Rapid Response planning for the Lake Champlain Basin and Adirondack Park.

APIPP is currently sponsored by The Adirondack Nature Conservancy and funded by the NYS Department of Transportation's Scenic Byway Program through the Federal Highway Administration and TEA-21 program managed by the Adirondack North Country Association.

Check out the APIPP display in the southbound I-87 High Peaks Welcome Center!

Looking for a way to get involved?

APIPP will match your interests to our needs. Give us a call today.

For more information contact

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