

ROOTS

INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS OF THE ADIRONDACK REGION

A Newsletter of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

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Issue 1

With Thanks...

...to the principal partners, cooperating organizations, volunteers, and concerned citizens who are champions to protect the park from invasive plants. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) celebrates its 10 year anniversary as a regional partnership this year and owes its successes to its founding partners and numerous supporters. In August, APIPP partners will reissue their cooperative agreement, and the program will broaden both its mission and project area, as well as seek new partnership commitments. This milestone causes APIPP to pause, reflect upon its history, and most importantly, look forward and identify ways to better protect the precious natural resources of the Adirondacks.

Invasive Species Awareness Week

With citizen awareness about invasive species on the rise, groups across the Adirondack region will help maintain that attention by celebrating the third annual Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 6-12. View the lineup of activities by logging onto adkinvasives.com/InvasiveSpeciesAwarenessWeek.html.

NYS News

In 2003, the State created the Invasive Species Task Force; in 2007, it formed the Invasive Species Council and Advisory Committee, and, as the calendar flipped to '08, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) established the Office of Invasive Species Coordination (OISC). Four OISC staff members, as well as new invasive species positions in other state agencies, are ramping up efforts to strengthen programs and close gaps. More good news is that invasive species funding in the Environmental Protection Fund held steady at \$5 Million – dollars critically important to enact the 12 recommendations of the Task Force including eradication grants, PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management), research, education, and others.

Stay current on NYS invasive species news by joining a PRISM listserve or calling into the monthly statewide conference calls which feature a special presentation and enable each PRISM to give an update.

Upcoming Events

- **Lake George Watershed Conference Forum, June 19, Lake George, NY**
- **APIPP Aquatic Invasive Plant Training June 20, 24, 26 – RSVP Requested**
- **Volunteer Boat Inspector Training June 27, Paul Smiths, NY**
- **Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Days Ongoing – Volunteers Needed**
- **Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 6-12, Parkwide**
- **"Climate Change and Invasive Fish" July 9, APA VIC, Paul Smiths, 7:30**
- **"Are Invasive Species Gaining Ground, Or, Are We? An Adirondack Perspective" August 7, APVIC, Newcomb**

Reaching Out To the "Rooftop"

APIPP welcomes the addition of Northern Franklin and Clinton Counties to its project area and is eager to work with new partners such as NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation as well as municipalities, local highway departments, and resident groups located in areas outside of the Blue Line. Inventory and outreach activities will occur in the "rooftop" of Northern New York throughout the summer.

Aquatic Exotic Control Projects

Better known for its rapid response projects for terrestrial invasive plants, APIPP now treads new water by assisting efforts to control three different aquatic exotics – European frogbit in the Grasse River; Eurasian watermilfoil in Follensby Clear Pond; and, water hyacinth in the Raquette River. Each project relies on partnerships with communities as well as with regional experts, such as Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute, DEC Region 6, and St. Lawrence County Cornell Cooperative Extension.



Paul Smith's College held its sixth annual training session for Watershed Stewards and welcomed partners from Lake Champlain and Lake George. Nearly twenty stewards will be stationed at launches this summer.

Photo courtesy Eric Holmlund

Keepin' Watch at the Boat Launch

Check. Clean. Dry. Play. Repeat. A new mantra of aquatic recreationists and a message relayed by both paid and volunteer stewards positioned at more than ten boat launches in the Adirondacks and Champlain Valley. Stewards intercept aquatic invasive species by conducting voluntary visual inspections of watercraft. Learn more about this important spread prevention program led by Paul Smith's College and adapted by the Lake Champlain Basin Program and Lake George Watershed Conference online at <http://adkwatershed.com/>.

Invasive Species Soundbytes

Spring has sprung, and a busy summer lies ahead. Here is a breakdown of activities past and present: In April, APIPP and DEC co-hosted a two day training series on forest health and forest pests. The DEC enacted a firewood transport regulation in June. This summer, APIPP's Terrestrial Field Team led by Steven Flint includes Wayne Blanchard, DEC Operations Recreation; Andrew Ross and Kelsey Engelhard, DEC Student Conservation Association; and, Brendan Quirion and Zachary Mahoney, Department of Transportation student intern stewards. In the coming months, APIPP will work with tourism professionals, businesses, and Scenic Byway communities to reach visitors and the traveling public.

Cheers

Invasive Plant Council of New York State

In the early 1990s, a group of innovators banded together to take coordinated action against invasive plants in NY, and by 1999, the Invasive Plant Council (IPC) was born. Its organizers and eventual board of directors involved professionals from state agencies, academia, industry, and non-profit organizations. They raised awareness among private and public sectors about the need for partnerships and access to centralized invasive species identification, distribution, and management information. In recent years under the leadership of Meg Wilkinson, IPC steered its mission toward the development of a statewide database of invasive plant occurrences. In 2005, the Invasive Species Task Force heard the IPC's call to action and recommended that an all-taxa database be administered by the New York Natural Heritage Program.

This spring, the IPC passed its torch to the new Office of Invasive Species Coordination. The IPC served as a principal partner to APIPP for four years and was as an important resource for managers in NY. It was a leader in NY's budding statewide invasive species program and will be remembered for the fundamental role it played. Thank you staff and board and members of IPC, past and present.



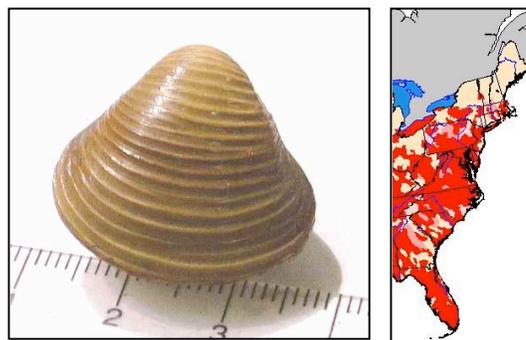
The Invasive Plant Council of New York State was a non-profit organization that served as an information clearinghouse for invasive plant identification, research, and management for groups across NY.

Species Alert

Asian Clam (Corbicula fluminea)

A new invader appearing this spring in the Lake Champlain watershed joined the ranks of tens of other aquatic invasives. New York State Museum staff discovered Asian clams, *Corbicula fluminea*, in the Champlain Canal at Fort Edward during routine zebra mussel monitoring. Scientists and educators are working with the Canal Corporation staff to delineate the population's extent as well as to inform staff and the boating public about the identification, impacts, and vectors of the clam.

Native to Asia, Africa, and Australia, the Asian clam was first introduced to the U.S. in 1938 in Washington State but now is present in at least 38 states. Displacing native benthic fauna and fouling irrigation and other water systems, it can spread through bait buckets, aqua culture, the live food market, or by passive movement in the water column. The Asian clam's mode of transmission is similar to that of the zebra mussel - a free-swimming veliger stage. For more information, log on to <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.asp?speciesID=92>.



Although widespread through much of the Eastern U.S., Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) is considered an early detection species for the Lake Champlain watershed and Adirondack region.

Photo credit http://www.pseric.psu.edu/sep/grant/asi/images/ws_clam03.jpg; Map credit USGS-BRD

On The Horizon

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

- Implement Scenic Byways Invasive Plant Community Outreach Program.
- Reach out to partners in northern Franklin and Clinton counties and begin baseline inventories.
- Reissue APIPP's Cooperative Agreement.
- Assist the implementation of the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.
- Hire Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with NY PRISMs and the Office of Invasive Species Coordination.

Looking for a way to get involved?

Give us a call today about volunteer opportunities that reflect your interests.

APIPP is housed by the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Short-term funding is provided by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Adirondack North Country Association.

For more information contact

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