

ROOTS

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

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Issue 1

The Tasks of the Task Force

Assess impacts; Identify existing programs; Report recommendations: these are the tasks of the Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF). In 2003, Governor Pataki signed legislation, sponsored by Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman DiNapoli, that called for a team to explore invasive species issues in NYS and to provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by November 2005. Co-chaired by the Department of Environmental Conservation and Agriculture and Markets, the 17-member ISTF includes state agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Each of APIPP's principal partner organizations serves on the Task Force. Representatives have been meeting throughout the past year and considering the statewide application of many of the approaches that APIPP utilizes: focus regionally, build partnerships, prioritize actions, and practice prevention, early detection, rapid response, management, and education.

Public review of the ISTF's draft report of recommendations is slated for mid-July. Public meetings will be held across the state in early August (in Ray Brook locally). For more information on the ISTF's progress, www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmmr/habitat/istf/index.html

Stewarding State Lands

State lands comprise nearly half of the Adirondack Park and harbor a wide array of biological diversity: they too are not immune to invasive species. APIPP has begun to provide adaptive invasive plant management recommendations to Unit Management Plans (UMPs). To implement those recommendations, APIPP and DEC arranged for a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern to assist them this summer. The Steward will be housed at Whitney Headquarters, supervised by Steven Flint, and will assist inventory and control actions on State land that are identified as priorities in approved UMPs. Additionally, SCA crews help Steven annually to control garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and Japanese knotweed during the field season. Many hands make light work!



Upcoming Events

- **Aquatic Plant Training**
June 28, 30, July 6 – RSVP by June 17
- **Terrestrial Plant Control Days**
June 9, 13-17, 30, July 22, August 8-12, 19
- **Public Meeting for Task Force Report**
Ray Brook, early August
- **Paul Smiths College Water Quality Conference, ANS Management Plan**
Paul Smiths, August 15-17, 2005
- **New England Invasive Plant Summit**
Framingham, MA, September 16-17

Healthy, Native Byways

The scenic, recreational, and natural attributes of the Park draw in millions of visitors to its roadways and waterways every year. This year, APIPP and the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) are collaborating on a Scenic Byways stewardship initiative. With funding through the NYS Scenic Byways Program, the initiative will enable

APIPP to continue its work with local communities along the Adirondack Trail and Olympic Byways to inventory, map, monitor, and control invasive plant infestations along these scenic travel corridors.

The project also incorporates a rigorous educational component. Through presentations, training sessions, and educational materials, APIPP will collaborate with the Wildlife Conservation Society and local businesses to increase awareness among Byway travelers. APIPP is pleased to welcome two Scenic Byways Stewards: Leda Poliquin and Joe Phelps, both graduates of Plattsburgh State University. In addition to assisting with invasive plant activities along the Byways, the Stewards will also spread the word on prevention techniques at the Lake Flower state boat launch in partnership with the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program.

Planning for the Park's Waters

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are expanding in Adirondack waters. Recognized as a critical water quality issue facing communities, ANS will be the focus of the Paul Smith's College 3rd Annual Water Quality Conference August 15-17. The Conference Planning Committee, which includes APIPP, state and local government agencies, environmental organizations and lake groups, is developing an Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan. The Plan is modeled after the Lake Champlain and New York State Plans and will incorporate objectives for prevention, control, restoration, and education. The Plan will serve as a mechanism to leverage resources to support local and regional projects identified as priorities. The Plan will be featured at the conference, so please attend and contribute your ideas!



Cheers

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) sets the "gold" standard for a county's commitment to aquatic and terrestrial plant activities. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Mangle, District Manager, the HCSWCD is an excellent example of a comprehensive, county-wide effort to combat invasive plants.

With significant staff support from Lenny Croote and Caitlin Stewart, the District inventories, maps, and manages terrestrial invasive plants on county and town roads. Ms. Mangle also pursues grants to promote prevention and early detection of aquatic invasive plant infestations. The District is a leader in developing educational materials and organizing opportunities to increase public awareness through press releases and scheduled events. As of this spring, the District no longer offers non-native and potentially invasive plants at its annual tree and shrub sale, and instead promotes native, non-invasive plants. These are just a few examples of their exemplary and proactive projects.

Thank you Elizabeth Mangle and HCSWCD for your partnership, innovation, and dedication to protect the Park from invasives!



Elizabeth Mangle (second from left) assists APIPP's annual aquatic plant training sessions.

Plant Profile

Species Alert - Black Swallow-wort

Black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*), aka "dog-strangling vine," is creeping its way into the Park. Identified on the shores of Lake Champlain, it is a twining vine that poses significant risks to natural areas and abandoned pastures. Originally introduced from Europe, and subsequent garden escapee, it thrives in woods and fields and is frequently found in sunny sites and limestone soils. Tangled masses of vines shade and suppress native plants and change habitat structure used by wildlife.

Black swallow-wort is an herbaceous perennial and a member of the milkweed family. Its twining vines can reach 3-6 feet long and can be identified by oppositely growing, dark green leaves that taper to a point. Be on the lookout for purple-black five-petaled flowers produced in the summer. The fruit grows in pairs and develops into a slender, milkweed-like pod. All it takes is one single seed traveling a distance to start a whole new infestation.

In Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties, another invasive swallow-wort is taking hold: pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*). If either is detected in the Park, please report to sflint@tnc.org, or for more information, log on to <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>.



Black Swallow-wort flowers are a key identifying feature of the plant.

On The Horizon

In the coming months APIPP will be working on these important issues:

- Collaborating with Scenic Byway communities to increase awareness about invasive plant threats.
- Conducting training sessions in aquatic plant identification and monitoring.
- Developing a comprehensive list of early detection / rapid response plant species in the Park.
- Inventorying and controlling priority terrestrial invasive plant infestations throughout the Park.
- Helping to develop an Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.
- Assisting with Rapid Response planning coordinated by the Lake Champlain Basin Program.
- Seeking funding to ensure APIPP has the financial resources it needs to meet its objectives.

Check out the APIPP display in the northbound 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.

VISIT WWW.ADKINVASIVES.COM FOR PLANT ID TRAINING AND FIELD WORK DATES!!

For more information contact Hilary Oles, Program Coordinator, PO Box 65 Keene Valley, New York 12943; 518-576-2082 ext 131, holes@tnc.org

