

# ROOTS

INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS IN THE ADIRONDACK REGION

*A Newsletter of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program*

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Issue 1

## Calling Volunteers

This summer, citizens across the region will play a critical role in protecting the region from invasive species. Volunteers help detect, track, and control terrestrial invaders, like swallow-wort and Asian bittersweet, that strangle trees, and aquatic invaders, like Eurasian watermilfoil, that choke waterways. Join partner groups and APIPP Project Coordinators Steven Flint (Terrestrial) and Tyler Smith (Aquatics), APIPP and SCA interns, and Wayne Blanchard (DEC Invasive Species Specialist) to push back the line of invasion. Opportunities to get involved are posted online <http://adkinvasives.com/volunteeropportunities.html>.

## APIPP Receives Top EPA Award

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded APIPP its 2009 Environmental Quality Award commending the partnerships' contributions to improving the environment. Nominations were received from EPA-Region 2 including New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The EPA award follows a DEC award in 2007 and national awards from the Federal Highway Administration in 2001 and 2004. Congratulations to all of APIPP's partners, volunteers, and supporters!

## Stop Spiny Waterflea – Clean Gear

Partners identified spread prevention measures to keep the spiny waterflea from leaving Great Sacandaga Reservoir and other aquatic invasive species from entering the lake. Activities include stewarding boat launches, informing key user groups about spread prevention steps, participating in local community events, monitoring the lake and nearby areas, and exploring filtration options in the Glens Falls Feeder Canal to prevent the spread to Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. Signage will also be posted, similar to the DEC sign below, which will make an appearance at infested waterways in the park this summer.

# ATTENTION!

**INVASIVE SPECIES ARE PRESENT  
IN THIS WATERBODY.**

Please clean your boat and equipment before leaving to stop their spread.

## Upcoming Events

- **APIPP Partner Meeting**, May 7, Ray Brook, NY
- **International Day for Biological Diversity - 2009 Theme: Invasive Species** May 22, Global
- **Aquatic Invasive Plant Training**, June 16, 18, 23, Bolton, Tupper Lake, Northville, NY
- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week**, July 5-11, Regionwide
- **Adirondack Waterfest**, July 25, Ticonderoga, NY
- **Asian Longhorn Beetle Awareness Month**, August, Nationwide

## NYS News

New York State's invasive species program is growing. Need help keeping tabs? The checklist below identifies several key efforts and resources to connect and coordinate activities across the state:

- 8 Regional Partnerships (PRISMs)
- Invasive Species (IS) Council
- IS Advisory Committee
- Office of IS Coordination
- IS Research Institute, [nyisri.org/](http://nyisri.org/)
- IMAP Invasives Database, [imapinvasives.org/](http://imapinvasives.org/)
- IS Information Clearinghouse, [nyis.info/](http://nyis.info/)

## 3 Ways to Protect Forests from Tree Killing Pests and Pathogens

The transportation of invasive insects and diseases through firewood is destroying trees in urban, suburban, and forest areas. Pests can travel hundreds of miles by hitchhiking on firewood to new locations. Asian longhorn beetle and emerald ash borer, among others, are closing the distance between them and the Adirondack region. A recent infestation detected in Worcester, MA led to the eradication of 6,000+ trees, and cutting continues. A pathway analysis showed that many visitors of Adirondack campgrounds came from the Worcester area in the last five years. Pest inventories are underway at high risk locations.

Three things you can do today: don't move firewood; ask the seller if the firewood you are buying is from local trees; and, tell your friends why it is dangerous to move firewood. Learn more about the nationwide efforts to stop the spread at [www.Dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.Dontmovefirewood.org).



'Don't Move Firewood' is a national campaign. Help spread the word – use only firewood local to the area you are visiting.

## Invasive Species Soundbytes

Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 5-11. To participate, contact [hsmith@tnc.org](mailto:hsmith@tnc.org).

Invasive species funding was fully restored to \$5M in the state Environmental Protection Fund budget.

Didymo, aka "rock snot," was confirmed in a third NY river, the Esopus Creek in Ulster County.

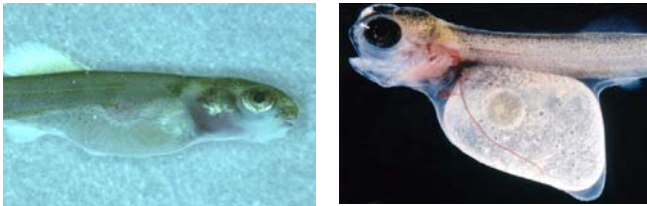
Stay informed about invasive species news in NY by phoning into the monthly invasive species conference call, held the last Wednesday of every month from 11-12. Contact Leslie Surprenant [ljurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ljurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us) for more information.

## Cheers

### *Ed Weed Fish Hatchery – Grand Isle, VT*

This spring, Kevin Kelsey, a Fish Culture Specialist at the Ed Weed Fish Hatchery in Grand Isle, Vermont, detected Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in freshly hatched landlocked Atlantic salmon. Kevin observed tens of thousands of fish with developmental and behavioral abnormalities caused by EMS that would be lethal if untreated. He immediately ordered thiamine baths for all the young fish and within a few days 90% of the fish saw a complete recovery. Without quick thinking and action on his part and his colleagues, an entire generation of Lake Champlain salmon would have been lost.

Scientists link EMS to consumption of alewife by adult fish. Alewife, an aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, contain the enzyme thiaminase which when ingested, decreases the level of thiamine in adult fish and their eggs. Thiamine is an important source of vitamin B-1, essential for healthy development of young-of-the-year fish. Multiple year classes of alewife were documented throughout Lake Champlain in 2005 ; their impacts are now being realized.



A diet of alewife can lead to Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in freshly hatched landlocked Atlantic Salmon. (L) Normal alevin (larval salmonid that hasn't absorbed its yolk sac). (R) Alevin with EMS have popeye, hydrocephalus, opaque yolk sac, and shortened maxilla.

Photos provided by Kevin Kelsey, Ed Weed Fish Hatchery

## Species Alert

### *Asian Longhorn Beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis)*

The Asian longhorn beetle (ALB) is native to Asia and was transported to the US via shipping and packing material. Infestations were first discovered in Brooklyn in 1996 but have since spread to several states including Illinois, Maryland, and, in the fall of 2008, Massachusetts. ALB attacks many hardwood trees, like maples, killing young and mature trees by tunneling within the trunk and branches disrupting sap flow and weakening the tree. ALB infestations put at risk a multi-billion dollar lumber, wood products, syrup, and tourism industry.

Adult beetles are large (3/4–1¼ " long) with very long black and white banded antennae. ALB looks similar to native longhorn beetles, such as the white spotted sawyer. A quick tip to easily distinguish between them is the number and placements of spots. ALB has many spots; the white spotted sawyer has only one spot, which is located where its wings meet on its back. ALB is visible from June thru November. Evidence of infestations includes large circular exit holes in trees, oozing sap, accumulation of coarse sawdust, and leaf feeding along veination. Questions about forest pests can be directed to APIPP or your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office.



Invasive Forest Pest  
Asian Longhorn Beetle  
Photo credit Michael Bohne, forestryimages.org



Native Look-Alike  
White Spotted Sawyer  
Photo credit Michael Bohne, forestryimages.org

## On The Horizon

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

- Complete Scenic Byways Invasive Plant Community Outreach Program.
- Offer aquatic invasive plant training sessions and survey priority waters.
- Collaborate with partners to control Eurasian watermilfoil in Paradox Lake.
- Control priority terrestrial invasive plants in campgrounds and Forest Preserve.
- Participate in the New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee.
- 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 for a Scenic Byways Project by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Adirondack North Country Association. Long-term funding is provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Fund.*

For more information contact

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