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## Engaging Your Volunteer Base in Invasive Species Citizen Science Efforts

Session: A02

Monday, May 11 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM ET

Kristopher Williams, Jennifer Dean, Charlotte Malmborg, Patty Wakefield-Brown



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New York State  
Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management  
PRISM and Partner Networks

Kristopher Williams  
Invasive Species Coordinator Capital Region  
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NEW YORK STATE  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT



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### What is an invasive species?

Organisms that are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration; and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

### Why are invasive species a threat?

- One of the greatest threats to our biodiversity

### They cause or contribute to:

- Habitat degradation
- Loss of native plants and animals
- A decrease in recreational opportunities
- Crop damage
- Diseases in humans and livestock

Invasive species cost the U.S. an estimated \$120 billion a year



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## The Network is Here to Serve our Communities

- Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)
- Capital Region PRISM
- Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)
- Finger Lakes PRISM
- Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA)
- Lower Hudson PRISM
- St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario PRISM (SLELO)
- Western NY PRISM



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### NYS Regulation (Part 575)

Adopted in July 2014. The purpose of this regulation is to help control invasive species, a form of biological pollution, by reducing new infestations and spread of existing populations.

#### **Prohibited:**

- Cannot be knowingly possessed with the intent to sell, import, purchase, transport, or introduced. In addition, no person shall propagate prohibited invasive species.

#### **Regulated:**

- Are species which cannot be knowingly introduced into a free-living state or introduced by a means that one should have known would lead to such an introduction, although such species shall be legal to possess, sell, buy, propagate, and transport.



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### What are the PRISM's

Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs)

- Made up of diverse stakeholder groups that were created to address the threats posed by invasive species across New York State.
- PRISMs are key to New York's integrated approach to invasive species management.
- Partners include federal and state agencies, resource managers, non-governmental organizations, industry, recreationists, and interested citizens.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides financial support, via the Environmental Protection Fund, to the host organizations that coordinate each of the eight PRISMs.



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INVASIVE SPECIES  
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8

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## The Partnerships use a Tier System to Prioritize Work

### TIER 1 Early Detection/Prevention

- Highest level of early detection survey efforts.

### TIER 2 Eradication

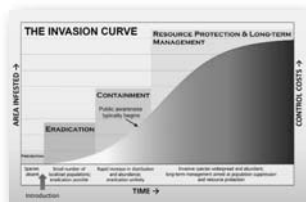
- Highest level of detection and response efforts. High impact species with low enough abundance are suitable for treatment

### TIER 3 Containment

- Target strategic management to slow the spread, as likely too widespread for eradication, but many surrounding regions could be at risk if unattended.

### TIER 4 Local Control

- Eradication from PRISM not feasible; focus on localized management over time to contain, exclude, or suppress to protect high-priority resources like rare species or recreation assets.



Management Effort	Area 1 (Low)	Area 2 (Medium)	Area 3 (High)	Area 4 (Very High)
Introduction				
Early Detection				
Prevention				
Containment				
Local Control				
Suppression				
Eradication				
Resource Protection				
Long-term Management				

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## The PRISM's Coordinate and Deliver Invasive Species Efforts in Several Realms

### Information Management

- Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research. Act as regional communication hubs.

### Control

- Control invasive species by using best management practices, through eradication, containment, and suppression.

### Restoration

- Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

### Research

- Support research through citizen science in collaboration with the Invasive Species Research Institute [www.nyisri.org](http://www.nyisri.org) and report observations into iMapInvasives [www.nyimainvasives.org](http://www.nyimainvasives.org)

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## The PRISM's Coordinate and Deliver Invasive Species Efforts in Several Realms

### Prevention

- Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the region by coordinating partner efforts, recruiting and training citizen volunteers, and establishing networks.

### Education & Outreach

- Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species by identifying and delivering education and outreach through informal and formal settings.

### Early Detection & Rapid Response

- Rapidly detect new invaders and control the spread by establishing early detection and monitoring networks with internal and external personnel.

### Cooperation

- Share resources, including funding, personnel, equipment, information, and expertise.

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## The PRISMS Are Here For You!

### Prevention and Education

- Watercraft Inspection Steward Program
  - Clean Drain Dry
- Citizen and Community Scientists
  - Train the Trainer Workshops
    - ex. Hemlock Initiative and iMapInvasives
  - Offer Pesticide Continue Education Credits
  - Volunteer Network Programs
  - Programing to Affiliate Agencies
- Leverage of Partner Programs
  - Play Clean Go



**PlayCleanGo.org**  
STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS™



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## By the numbers for Education and Outreach



## Finger Lakes PRISM

Hands on events: 26 with 2412 participants  
Nature Hikes: 1 with 4 participants  
Workshop: 15 with 214 participants  
Presentations: 36 with 2246 participants  
Tabling: 26 events with 107,529 participants  
iMapInvasive Trainings: 1 with 8 participants

Total Participants Reached: 104,016 reached



## Capital Region PRISM

Clinics: 9 with 378 participants  
Conferences: 4 with 983 participants  
Demonstrations: 3 with 175 participants  
Lectures: 41 with 1025 participants  
Round Table: 6 with 94 Participants  
Service Learning: 2 with 127 Participants  
Train the Trainer: 4 with 40 Participants  
Tours: 4 with 34 Participants  
iMap Invasive Trainings: 12 53 Participants

Direct Contacts: 2903  
Indirect Contacts: 104,310

### Early Detection & Rapid Response Teams

### In-house Seasonal Technicians

### Seasonal Strike Crews

- Focus on Priority Conservation Areas or PCA's

## Crew Assistance Program

- WNY PRISM accepts proposals for surveys, removal and habitat restoration projects.



### Volunteer Based

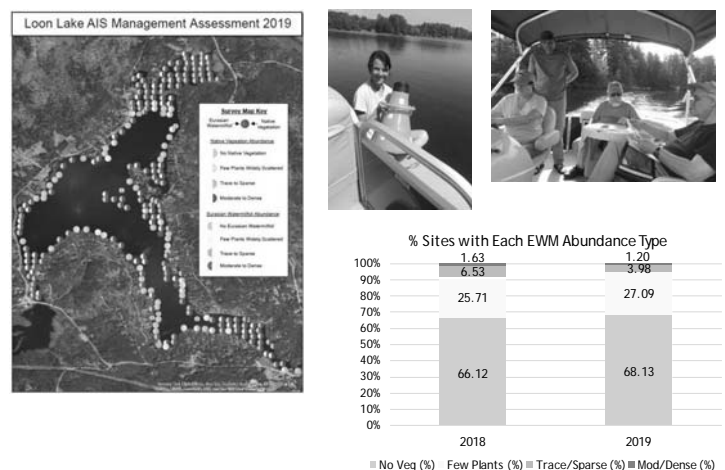
- Volunteer Surveillance Network
- Hydrilla Hunters
- Water Chestnut Chasers
- HWA surveys
- Mile-a-minute survey
- Lake Monitoring Programs
- Citizen science surveys



### Education and Outreach Examples



## Lake Management Tracker APIPP



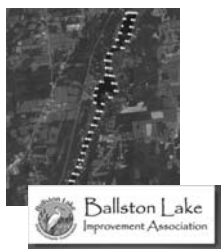
### Cooperation and Coordination

Share resources, including funding, personnel, equipment, information, and expertise.

Several PRISMs have funding available for Priority Projects to help support partners.

- Request for Proposals (RFP's)
- Request for Bids (RFB's)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's)

Coordinating partner efforts regarding invasive species management



Schenectady County  
Environmental Advisory  
Council

17

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### Control

- Control invasive species by using best management practices.
- The invasive species must cause serious environmental or economic harm or harm to human health. The project should be feasible. The project should give a good return on the investment of resources.
- The Invasive Plant Management Decision Analysis Tool (IPMDAT)
- Partner with Agencies in Treatments



19

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### Information Management

Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research. Act as regional communication hubs.

- Host Partner Meetings For Networking Opportunities and Regional Updates
- Facilitate or Participating with Working Groups
  - Who's Doing What in Invasive Species Management in the Catskills
  - Ecological Monitoring and Management Alliance (EMMA) Lower Hudson
- Presentations
- Statewide program and connections
- Expertise/Collaborations
- Provide Internships
- Unify key stakeholders to address IS
- Connect research to citizen scientists
- Letters of support, etc.
- Regional visibility



18 | #Rally2019

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### Control

- Biologics
  - SLELO PRISM has release (*Hypena opulenta*) to suppress swallow-wort and (*Galarucella spp.*) to suppress purple loosestrife.
  - Cornell University's New York State Hemlock Initiative (NYSHI) (*Laricobius nigrinus* beetles and *Leucopis argenticollis* silver fly)



20

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## Restoration

- Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species.

- Part of Posts Treatment Monitoring.

### Ecological Restoration of the Salmon River, Pulaski NY

- Suppressed & eradicated 8.68 riparian acres of
  - Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* alt. *Polygonum cuspidatum*).
  - Restored 51,500 sq. feet to native grasses, shrubs and tree seedlings.



21

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## 2020 NYS Invasive Species Awareness Week

June 7-13 2020

ISAW is an annual educational campaign coordinated by the New York State Invasive Species Council, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee, the eight PRISMs and their partners.

- The mission of the New York Invasive Species Awareness Week is to promote knowledge and understanding of invasive species and the harm they can cause to our environment, economy, and to human health.
- The goal is to engage with people throughout our region and empower them to take action to help spread the word, not the species. Please join us and host an event to help protect our environment.
- The year's theme is 2020 Vision: Focus on Invasive Species.



## PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID RESPONSE



430+

Trees mapped over 7+ acres



400+

Trees protected with systemic insecticide



3,490+

Diameter inches treated



0

HWA detected in 2018 & 2019

## The PRISM's are Here For You !

For more information including links to PRISM webpages and list server information check out the NEW YORK Invasive Species (IS) Information Page.

<http://nyis.info/>



24

## Take Away's

1. COST of invasive species management is a huge burden
2. PREVENTING invasive species is key!  
- Invest in prevention programs and early detection
3. Work together to take on infestations and collaborate in efforts
4. Connect with your local PRISM



Jennifer Dean  
New York Natural Heritage Program

## Why train volunteers to map invasive species?

### State/ PRISM level

- o Early detection of key species
- o Help fill data gaps
- o Prioritization - Species tiers

### Expand your own local capacity

- o Map out preserves
- o Prioritization - Species tiers
- o Followup treatment monitoring

### Engagement, awareness

- o Especially now – individual activity
- o Connection to your favorite places



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## iMapInvasives

Mapping Invasive Species with Volunteers

**Jennifer Dean**  
Invasive Species Biologist  
New York Natural Heritage Program



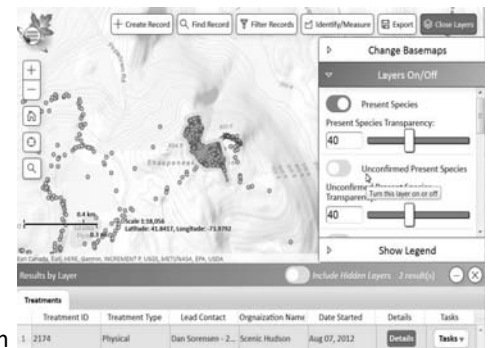
## iMapInvasives – New York's centralized invasive species database

For natural resource professionals and the public

Mobile and online

Presence, Not Detected, and Treatment records

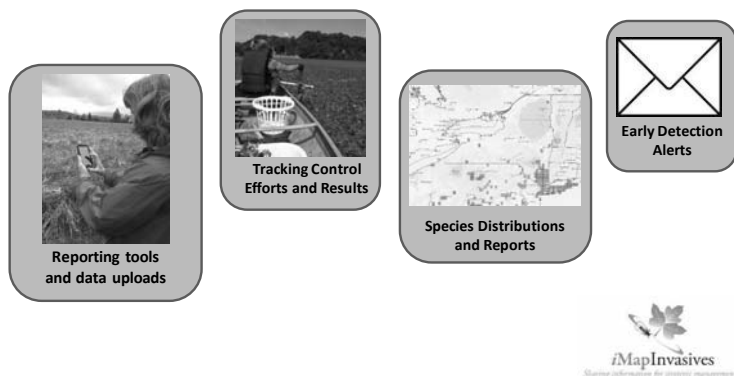
Managed by the NY Natural Heritage Program



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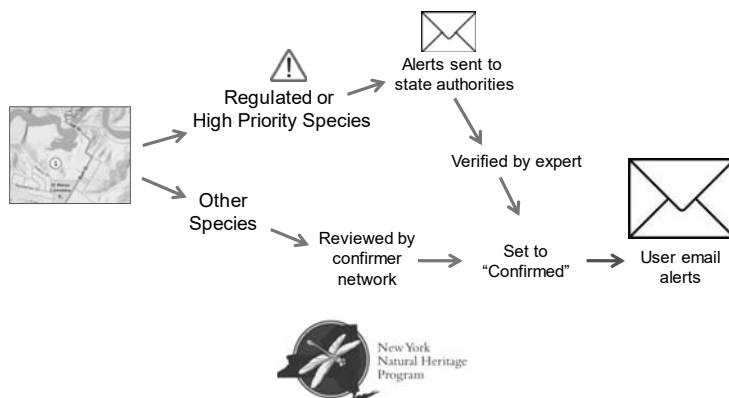
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## How iMapInvasives is used for invasive species work in New York



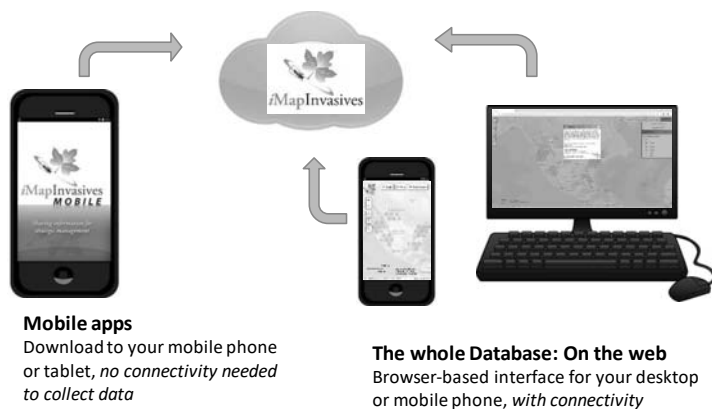
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## Reviewing the data




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## Mobile and web-based mapping options



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## Reporting invasives to iMapInvasives

1. Create a free account at [www.imapinvasives.org](http://www.imapinvasives.org)
2. Click on verification link in your email
3. Sign into iMapInvasives online through a web browser
4. Download the iMapInvasives Mobile App:  
 
5. Set up the app preferences with your account
6. Take photos and submit observations!



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## Training volunteers to map invasive species

Sample outline:

- Introduction to invasive species and impact on natural areas
- Invasive species identification
- Proper data collecting methods (species, location, good photos)
- Setting up the iMap Mobile App and submitting a record
  - Test run with “Fake Species”
- Where to look?
  - Provide maps and assignments



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## Mapping Resources available at [www.NYiMapInvasives.org](http://www.NYiMapInvasives.org)

- **Online training library** – recorded webinars and tutorials on using iMapInvasives
  - And upcoming live webinars
- **Certified trainers network** – find a trainer near you, or become one
- **NYS Invasive Species Curriculum** – targeting middle and high school students with interactive projects
- **Species Identification**
  - Links to guides, Common invasives handouts
  - PRISMS
  - iNaturalist/ Seek

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## iMap Certified Trainers Network

- Volunteers and professionals who train their communities to monitor invasive species and report to iMapInvasives
- Follows a train-the-trainer model, giving members the opportunity to become a Certified Basic or Master Trainer through a three-step certification protocol
- [www.nyimainvasives.org/certifiedtrainersnetwork](http://www.nyimainvasives.org/certifiedtrainersnetwork)



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## Tips to keep volunteers engaged

### *Feedback – thank them for entering data*

- Create a project for volunteers
- Email alerts so you get notified

### *Confirming data*

- Reach out to NYNHP when project is ready for data review
- Are you able to review data?

### *Can there be management tied to findings?*

- Be realistic – sometimes mapping reveals that controlling a certain species is not logical

### *Mapping Challenges – Friendly competition to encourage reporting*

- 5th annual iMap Mapping challenge: June 24th-July 8th
- Host one on your preserve



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Join us for:  
**iMapInvasives Mobile App Training webinar**  
Wednesday, May 13th, 1:00-2:00pm

Register at: [www.nyimapinvasives.org/webinar-trainings](http://www.nyimapinvasives.org/webinar-trainings)

**New York iMap Resources**  
[www.nyimapinvasives.org](http://www.nyimapinvasives.org)

**New York iMap Helpdesk**  
[imapinvasives@dec.ny.gov](mailto:imapinvasives@dec.ny.gov)

Follow us at:



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## The New York State Hemlock Initiative



**Biological control**  
research for  
hemlock woolly  
adelgid (HWA)  
management



Help coordinate  
statewide **HWA**  
**detection and**  
**management**  
**efforts**



**Conduct public**  
**outreach and**  
**engage volunteers**  
in forest pest  
detection

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**New York State Hemlock Initiative**  
Engaging Volunteers for Hemlock Conservation

**Charlotte Malmborg**  
NYSHI Education and Outreach Coordinator



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Hemlock trees are  
considered a  
**foundation species**

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# Eastern Hemlock Trees



Fill a specific niche in the forest ecosystem



Support the base of the food web for charismatic forest species

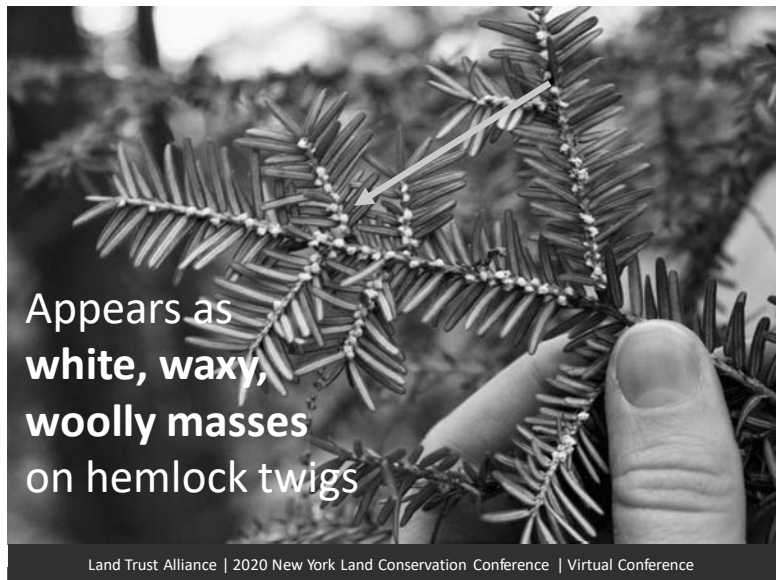


Provide critical ecosystem services



Improve biodiversity by creating unique habitats

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Appears as white, waxy, woolly masses on hemlock twigs

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## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA, *Adelges tsugae*)

Invasive forest pest that infests native eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) trees

Damages twig tissue by feeding, eventually killing the infested tree



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# HWA Invasion



Reproduce asexually



2 generations per year



No native HWA predators

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# HWA Survey Tips



Survey **November through May**



Consider **tree health**



Look for branches **on the ground**



Survey trees with **branches in reach**



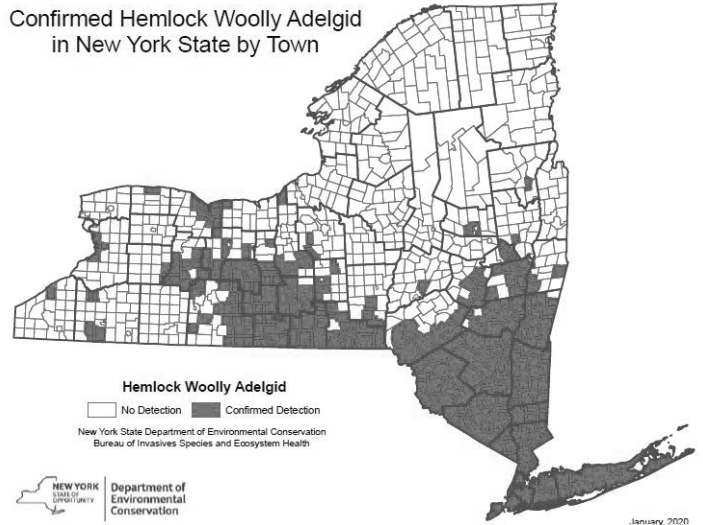
Look at **underside of twig**



Check branches on **all sides of tree**

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## Confirmed Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in New York State by Town



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## Reporting HWA Infestations



**NYiMapInvasives**  
 mobile phone app  
[www.nyimainvasives.org](http://www.nyimainvasives.org)



**NYSHI's Report HWA Finding** website tool



**DEC Forest Pest Line**  
 866-640-0652



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## HWA and Land Trusts

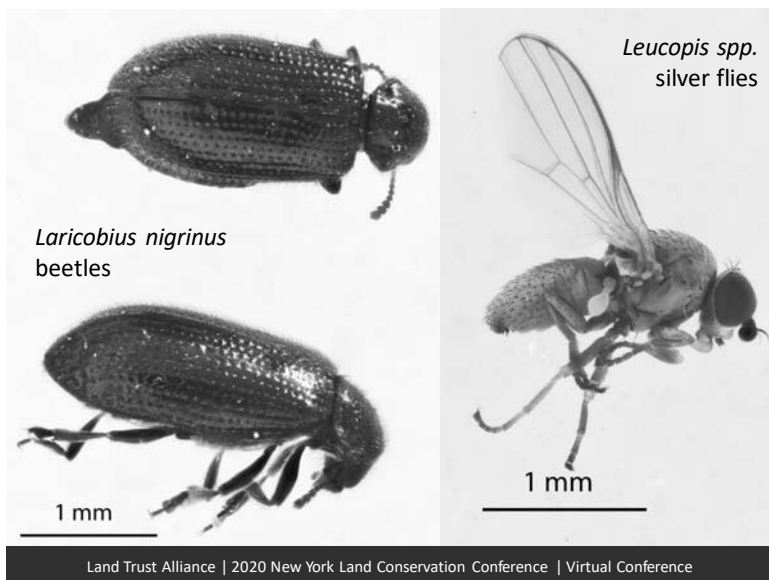
Land trust properties are used as **biocontrol release sites**

Land trust volunteers can help **detect HWA infestations** and monitor forest health

Education and outreach staff can **use our HWA resources** as part of our NYSHI Trainer Network



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## Citizen Scientist Volunteers Help Us...



**Track the spread of HWA** infestations across New York



**Identify release sites** for biocontrol insects



**Time biocontrol releases** according to HWA phenology



## NYSHI Train-the-Trainer Network



**Share HWA resources** with environmental educators around the state



**Train educators** to host their own HWA trainings locally

[cm933@cornell.edu](mailto:cm933@cornell.edu)





[www.nyshemlockinitiative.info](http://www.nyshemlockinitiative.info)

Facebook icon Instagram icon @nyshemlockinitiative

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## NYS PRISM Map Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

**Finger Lakes PRISM MISSION:** To reduce the introduction, spread and impact of invasive species within the Finger Lakes PRISM region through coordinated education, detection, prevention and control measures



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## Finger Lakes PRISM Invasive Species Sampling Programs



Patty Wakefield-Brown  
Invasive Species Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator  
Finger Lakes Institute/Finger Lakes-PRISM



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## Finger Lakes Characteristics

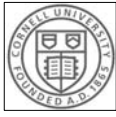
- One of the best places to travel to in 2020 (Bloomberg)
- 2019 Named Americas best wine region in USA poll!(2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)
- Home of NYS only National Forest!
- High tourism (\$2.9B/yr) and agriculture (\$1B/yr)
  - Wineries, breweries, great fishing, trails, and more!
- 7.3 M acres, 17 counties
- 2,351,253 residents
- > 40 state parks & hist. sites

### Federally threatened spp.:

- Bog turtle
- Leedy's roseroot
- Chittengo ovate amber snail
- American hart's-tongue fern



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The Finger Lakes PRISM maintains **strong partnerships** with DEC, Cornell, NYS IPM, NYSDAM, NYSDOT, NYS Parks, CCE's, SWCD's, PRISM's, Universities, Colleges, and many other organizations to share and provide resources.



Agriculture & Markets



Department of Environmental Conservation



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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Year	Volunteers	Lakes	Rake Tosses	Duration of Program
2017	11	7	123	3 months
2018	16	7	95	5 months
2019	43	19	316	5 months



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## Finger Lakes Macrophyte Sampling Program

Engaging the Community in Early Detection and Invasive Species Monitoring



- Stewardship
- Empowerment
- Ownership

**Citizen Science/Community Science** is defined as "scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions". Citizen scientists often partner with professional scientists to achieve common goals.

**The goal of the survey** is to learn to survey for, identify, and report three high priority invasive species of concern:

- **Hydrilla** (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- **Water Chestnut** (*Trapa natans*)
- **Starry Stonewort** (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

Keep it SIMPLE



Hydrilla



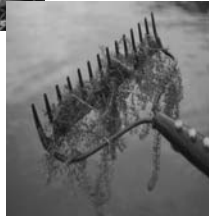
Water chestnut



Starry stonewort

**Protocol consists of:**

- Rake toss bi-weekly from June – October (5 mos)
- Document plant species (Survey123 or paper sheet)
- Bag and tag specimens
- Send pics to [FLXplantID@gmail.com](mailto:FLXplantID@gmail.com)



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Five Trainings in four counties to accommodate the distribution of volunteers.



Good thing that's not Hydrilla!

## Stay Connected!

## Bi-Weekly Newsletter

- Invasives of the week
- Outreach events
- Presentations
- Training opportunities
- Send in pictures & happenings
- Write a blog

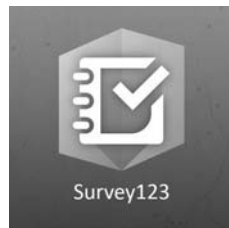
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## Keep it Simple!

2020 sampling will use the Survey123 app, data sheets will be available for anyone that does not have access to a computer

<u>Aquatic Plant Survey Data Sheet</u>							
	<u>Exotic/Invasive Plants</u>				<u>Native or Other Plants</u>		
<u>Date:</u>	Curly Leaf Pondweed			Brazilian Elodea			
	European Frogbit			Spiry Nutsed			
	Eurasian Water Hyacinth			Earl Grass			
				Crotonella			
				Rudbeckswort			
				Northern Water Nettle			
				Nerita			
				Chara/Potamogeton			
				Pondweel			

Abundance Values: Z=Zero; T=Trace/Little/Low; S=Scattered/Low; M=Moderate/Lots/Low; D=Dominant/much too bring onto boat



## 2018 & 2019 Scouts STEM/Invasive Species Program

Camp Hoover - Song Lake &amp; Camp Comstock - Cayuga Lake

A summer camp with a focus on:  
Terrestrial and aquatic invasive  
species –

- ID, pathways and prevention
- Journaling
- Stewardship





## Invasive Species Teacher Trainings-NYSDEC Curriculum



The workshop included identification of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, iMapInvasives, and how to use the curriculum for 6-12 graders. There was also an outdoor component looking both aquatic and terrestrial Invasive species.

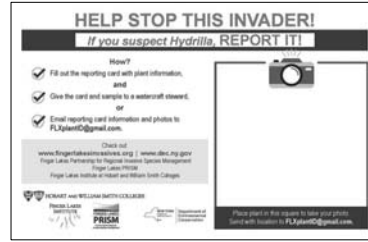


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## Prevention = Protection = \$\$ Saved

### Invest in programs to prevent spread

- Watercraft steward programs
- Education and Outreach
- Early detection through surveys and citizen science programs
- **Knowledge is power!** Know your invasives, attack early on the curve.



### Early Detection

- Finger Lakes Invasive Species Sampling Programs
- Hydrilla Hunters
- Water Chestnut Chasers
- HWA surveys
- Mile-a-minute survey

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## GRASA (Greater Rochester Afterschool Alliance) Workshop



FL PRISM collaborated with Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District to create an invasive species activity guide as a resource for educators.



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## Resources for Invasive Species Early Detection & Mgmt

- Outreach materials
- Preserved specimens
- iMapInvasives training
- Field guides
- Fact sheets
- BMP's

- Workshops
- Management Plans
- Starry Stonewort Collaborative
- Voluntary survey programs
- Be a Hydrilla Hunter

- [FLXplantID@gmail.com](mailto:FLXplantID@gmail.com) to confirm plant ID
- Let us know about your programs, we can promote them on our calendar and FB page!!

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## Reference Materials



FL-PRISM website:  
[www.fingerlakesinvasives.org](http://www.fingerlakesinvasives.org)

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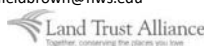


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## Thank You!!

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