

Why We Need This: Finger Lakes Boat Steward Program, 2013 Results

A program managed by

FINGER LAKES
INSTITUTE



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

Contact us at flsteward@hws.edu



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Lisa B. Cleckner
May 2, 2014

A Little History of Our Program

- GLRI funding through USFWS
- Shared amongst multiple 'priority action' projects across the state
 - *Southern Lake Ontario – Finger Lakes Region Aquatic Invertebrate Monitoring and Prevention Project*
 - USFWS \$198,892
 - Administered by NYSDEC and FLOWPA



Species of Concern and Waterbodies

- Asian Clam
 - Owasco Lake (2010), Otisco (2012), Seneca (1999), Canandaigua (2012)
- Chinese Mystery Snail
 - Owasco, Canandaigua, possibly Cayuga
- **Hydrilla**
 - Cayuga (2011), Erie Canal-N. Tonawanda (2012), Broome County (2012)
- Bloody Red Shrimp
 - Seneca Lake, Cayuga-Seneca Canal
- Quagga mussels
 - Seneca, Cayuga, Canandaigua, Keuka, Skaneateles

Invasive Plant Alert



Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is a highly invasive plant recently found in the Cayuga Inlet.

Hydrilla has small, pointed, often serrated leaves that are arranged around the stem in whorls of 4 to 8. The plant's aggressive growth (25-foot stems can add up to an inch per day) can spread into shallow waters forming thick mats that block sunlight to native plants below. Thick growth of hydrilla can obstruct boating, swimming and fishing and have negative impacts on drinking water and other water withdrawal uses.

Please help keep this harmful plant from spreading.

Clean all vegetation from your boat and recreational equipment (skis, tubes, fishing gear).

Dispose of the plant material on dry land.



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When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

For more information contact:
Scott Kishbaugh

NYSDEC Division of Water, Albany, NY

Phone: 518-402-8286

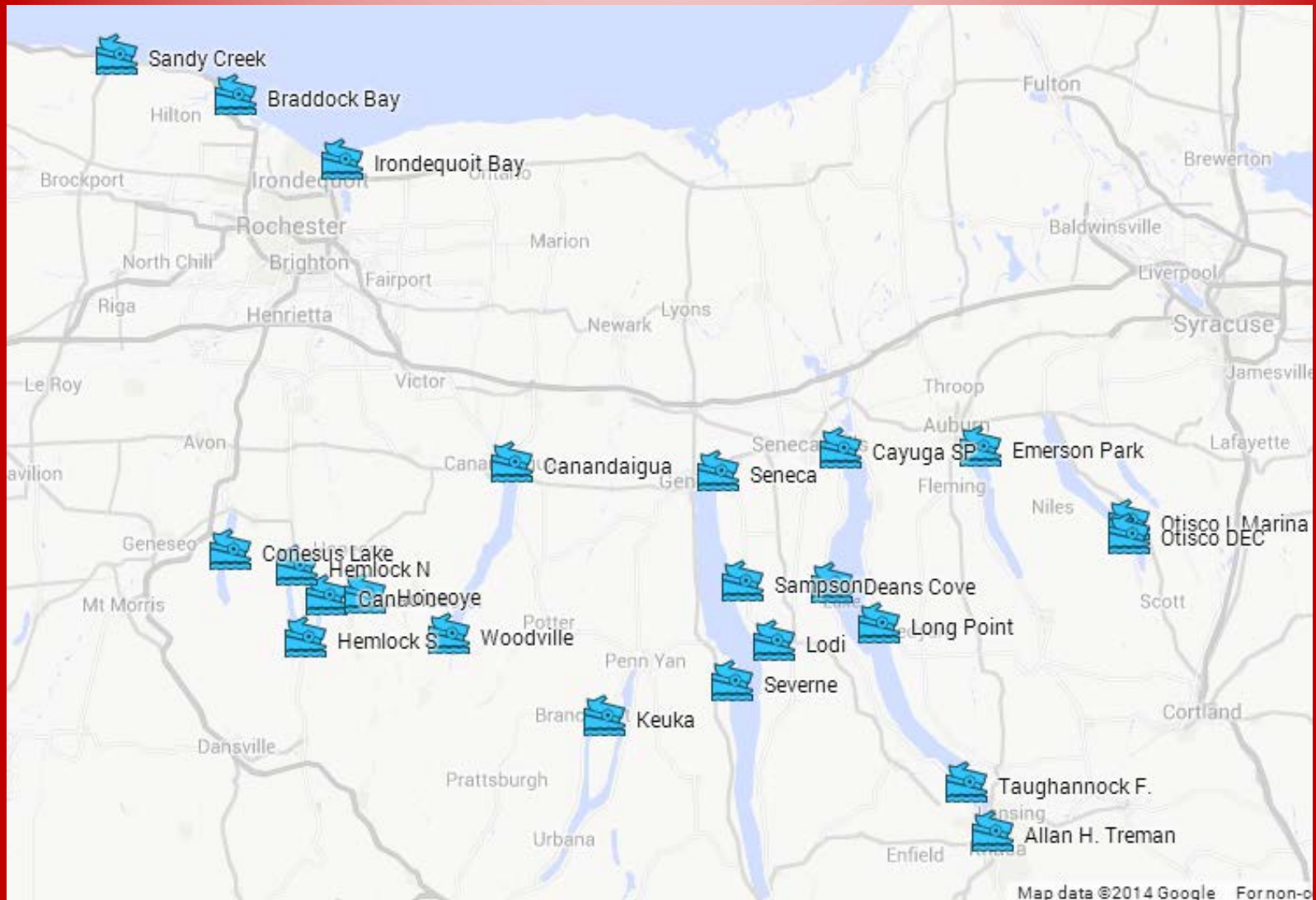
E-mail: sakishba@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Project Goals

- Assessment of benthic and planktonic invasive species in Finger Lakes and connecting waters
 - Biological assessments of benthic invertebrates and zooplankton
- Prevent spread into the Finger Lakes and Great Lakes
 - Watercraft stewards
 - Educate boaters, perform inspections, collect data
- Citizen science program



2013 WSP Focus Area



2013 WSP Protocols

- June 15 – Sept 26
- 1.5 day training
- Weekly, bi-weekly meetings
 - East, west
- Wiki for internal documents
 - Lots of texting
- Continuing education
- Stewardship activity
- Engagement with watershed groups

FLI Watercraft Steward Program

Standard Operating Procedure

2013

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Draft

Comprehensive Data – All Sites

	No Organisms	Yes Organisms	(blank)	Grand Total
Launching	14,456	1,134	64	15,654
Receiving	3,844	6,121	69	10,034
Grand Total	18,300	7,255	133	25,688

High Use Sites

	Canandaigua St Marine Park	Conesus St Park	Irondequoit Bay St Park
Dates on site	88	71	71
Total Boats	5,506	5,399	2,947
Total People	13,898	13,760	6,662
Min Boats	2	2	2
Max Boats	167	240	137
Mean Boats	62.6	77.1	41.5
Median Boats	51	54.5	35
Purpose (Rec, Fish, Comm.)	73%, 23%, 4%	54%, 46%, -	62%, 38%, -

Cayuga Lake Launches

	Cayuga SP	Allan H Tremen SP	Long Point SP
Dates on site	62	57	16
Total Boats	1,742	1,204	231
Total People	4,202	2,744	619
% NYS	81	91	96
Purpose (Rec, Fish, Comm.)	50%, 49%, 1%	72%, 27%, 1%	64%, 36%, -
% LWBV as Cayuga	65%	93%	78%
Next largest % LWBV	Seneca, 4%	Seneca, 1%	Owasco, 3%

Honeoye Lake (for Don)

	Honeoye State Park
Dates on site	62
Total Boats	2,063
Total People	4,645
Min Boats	4
Max Boats	101
Purpose (Rec, Fish, Comm.)	21%, 78%, 1%
% LWBV as Honeoye	46%
Next largest % LWBV	Conesus, 10%

Additional 2013 Project: Survey Design

- Created a survey measuring perceptions of AIS as well as support for various management actions
- Administered to recreational boaters throughout the summer of 2013 at two boat launches in the Finger Lakes region of New York State
 - Pilot survey
- Total of 200 surveys were completed at each boat launch with a response rate of 89%
- Collaborators: Sarah DePillo, HWS student, and Ryan Sharp, E. Kentucky St.

Additional 2013 Project: Preliminary Survey Results

- Statistically significant difference between Canandaigua and Conesus boat launch survey subjects
 - Conesus checked boats for aquatic hitchhikers more often
- Sense of urgency question had a significant difference in mean responses between the 2 lakes with
 - Conesus reporting a higher level of urgency
- Conesus participants
 - Heard of invasives more
 - Used the lake more for fishing
 - Motivation for invasive control was for good fishing
 - More male participants than Canandaigua sample
- Differences are at the 0.05 significance level using a chi square test

FLI Working with Lakes Associations to Identify Citizen Science AIS Needs

Types of Monitoring

- *Occurrence*
- Abundance
- Expansion
- Biology
- Impact

Potential Assistance from FLI

- Watercraft steward position and training
- Research and benchmark other programs
- Co-sponsor training events for AIS
- Terrestrial and aquatic?
- Online database and web support
- Equipment and supplies?

- Shoreline Surveys
- Surface Surveys
- Diver Surveys
- Plankton Tow Sampling
- Rake Toss Sampling
- Fisherman Surveys (Angler Diary Program)
- Substrate Samplers

WSP Lessons Learned

- Branding the program is important
 - Consistent and accurate messaging
 - Use existing SAH
- Monitoring the stewards is necessary
- Data entry is time consuming
- Tailor education messages to different populations?
- Should we focusing on boats leaving launches?
- The data are not insignificant..



Future Activities



Finger Lakes Partners for Regional Invasive Species Management Stakeholder Meeting

April 29th, 2014, 1:30-3:30

- I. Gregg Sargis, TNC: Welcome Remarks
 - A. After the first FL-PRISM meeting 7 years ago, funding is finally procured
 - B. FL-PRISM is made possible by many collaborators including MARSH at Montezuma NWR, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Finger Lakes Institute, etc.
- II. Dave Adams, NYS DEC: Introduction to PRISM

Acknowledgments



Acknowledgments

- GLRI, USFWS, NYSDEC, FL-LOWPA
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- FLI Staff (Goranowski, Meyer, DePillo, Gove)
- Watershed associations and FLRWA
- Conesus Lake Association, Livingston County, Cayuga County

<https://flisteward.wordpress.com/>

