

## **Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership**

### **2010 Annual Report**

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CRISP is the Catskill Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) and is hosted by The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Arkville, NY

*Thank you to all of the partners who have given so much energy and so many resources to the important work of invasive species education, outreach and management in the Catskills.*

## Mission

To promote education, prevention, early detection and control of invasive species to limit their impact on the ecosystems and economies of the Catskills.

## Background

The Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership has existed as a volunteer collaborative effort of a group of dedicated organizations and agencies that have donated time and resources toward invasive species projects since 2005. This past October, with the establishment of a contract between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development for the coordination of the Partnership, many planned projects are now able to become a reality. Meredith Taylor took on the role of full-time CRISP coordinator in November and the CRISP executive committee began tackling many organizational objectives.

This year also saw the first detection of emerald ash borer (EAB) in the Catskill region. Forest pests have always been a top priority for CRISP, and the EAB infestation quickly became a major outreach opportunity. A contract with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to do outreach relating to forest pests this fall was well timed. This additional funding source allowed for some workshops educating forest landowners and will also support a citizen science sentinel tree project for EAB.

Looking back at all that has been accomplished in 2010 there is much to be proud of and many efforts that can be redoubled in 2011. As we lay the groundwork for Partnership projects in 2011 we can build off of the work that has been done to educate and reach out to diverse groups and to control, monitor, and inventory a number of invasive species.

## CRISP Partners

<i>Organizations and Agencies of the Executive Committee, (ie. Principal partners)</i>	<i>Other Partner Organizations and Agencies in CRISP</i>
NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation	SUNY Oneonta
NYS Dept. of Transportation	SUNY ESF
NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets	New York Forest Owner Association
The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development	Trout Unlimited
The Nature Conservancy	NYS Department of Parks and Recreation
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Catskills Native Plant Nursery
NYC Dept. Environmental Protection	Mountain Top Arboretum
The Catskill Forest Association	Upper Delaware Council
The Watershed Ag Council	Society of American Foresters
County Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Hartwick College
The National Park Service	Frost Valley YMCA
	New York New Jersey Trail Conference
	Catskill Mountain Club

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	Farm Bureau Institute of Ecosystem Studies Olive Natural Heritage Society NRCS County Staff Delaware River Basin Commission Friends of the Beaverkill Sullivan County Master Gardeners Delaware Highlands Conservancy Callicoon Creek Park Committee Upper Susquehanna Coalition Otsego Lake Association Catskill Watershed Corporation USGS US Forest Service USDA APHIS Catskill Landowners Association Ulster County Department of the Environment
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## Accomplishments

### Education and Outreach

#### *Festivals*

- The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) tabled at the **Delaware and Ulster County Fairs**
- The DEP Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Ulster County tabled at **Shandaken Day, Olive Day, the Eco-Heritage Festival**, and the **Ulster County Fair**, reaching a total of ~ 450 individuals
- CCE of Greene County tabled at the **Catskill Forest Festival**, reaching ~ 50 individuals and at CCE of Greene's **Eco Fair**, reaching over 75 individuals
- The Catskill Center had a table at the **Margaretville Cauliflower Festival**, reaching ~ 40 individuals

#### *Workshops*

- The DEP Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and CCE of Ulster County hosted a **Native Plant Workshop** on March 27<sup>th</sup>
- CCE of Greene County held an **EAB Preparation Workshop** for 35 individuals on April 19<sup>th</sup>, a **Master Forest Owner Refresher** for 33 individuals on June 12<sup>th</sup> and an **EAB Update Workshop** for 44 individuals on October 19<sup>th</sup>
- The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) in partnership with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development held a kick-off workshop for

the **Forest Pests Outreach and Survey Project (FPOSP)** in Fishkill August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> with ~ 25 individuals attending

- CCE of Ulster county held **EAB Informational Workshops** on October 18<sup>th</sup> at BOCES in New Paltz for ~15 individuals and October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Ruby Rod and Gun Club for ~ 20 individuals
- CRISP and Catskill Forest Association (CFA) held a follow-up **FPOSP EAB Preparedness Workshop for Forest Landowners** with assistance from Mark Whitmore at Cornell and the DEC and DAM on October 30<sup>th</sup> with ~25 individuals attending

#### *Presentations*

- The DEP Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and CCE of Ulster County hosted Leslie Surprenant presenting on invasive species to ~ 20 individuals on July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Meredith Taylor from CRISP presented for Trout Unlimited Trout Waters Youth Camp for ~ 15 youth on July 21<sup>st</sup>
- Barbara Dibeler from the DEP presented to ~ 20 individuals at the DEP's Invasive Species Working Group on September 16<sup>th</sup>
- Meredith Taylor from CRISP presented to ~ 10 members of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council on September 29<sup>th</sup>
- CCE of Greene County presented on EAB for 12 officials at the Catskill Mountain Towns meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>

#### *Articles and Newsletters*

- DEP Watershed Recreation Newsletter ran a Fall 2010 article on zebra mussels and quagga mussels and a Spring 2010 article on didymo

#### *Other*

- Marilyn Wyman presented on August 9<sup>th</sup> at a press conference with Chuck Schumer on EAB
- Frost Valley YMCA did an education campaign for their fishing members to clean gear to prevent the infestation of didymo from April to October

#### **Control and Monitoring**

- The NYCDEP Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and CCE of Ulster County held a Japanese knotweed pull on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with 7 volunteers.
- Frost Valley YMCA worked on a 1-acre mechanical Japanese barberry eradication project on June 10<sup>th</sup>, with planned herbicide inspection follow-up
- The SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station:

- ✓ Monitored zebra mussel distribution in conjunction with a study of four freshwater unionid mussel species of “NYSDEC Greatest Conservation Need” in the Susquehanna Drainage Basin in NY
  - ✓ Monitored Lake Moraine for response to long term Eurasian water milfoil control – a recently introduced exotic there
  - ✓ Monitored fisheries and water quality in Moe Pond, Otsego County, NY, in response to introductions of largemouth and smallmouth black bass several years ago
  - ✓ Continued, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year, monitoring the response of native plants to purple loosestrife biocontrol in Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary on Otsego Lake
  - ✓ Conducted a search for exotic species as part of Annual Lake Cleanup Day on Otsego Lake
  - ✓ Controlled water chestnut and purple loosestrife in an Oneonta, NY wetland for the third year as part of a NYSDEC eradication grant
  - ✓ Collaborated with the Otsego County Conservation Association in controlling water chestnut on Goodyear Lake in Otsego Co., NY for the third year
  - ✓ Continued acquisition of a database for the development of the Lake and Watershed Management Plan for Canadarago Lake, NY in response to concerns regarding zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil, among others
  - ✓ Provided resource for SUNY College at Oneonta faculty for research on zebra mussel and marsh thistle
  - ✓ Continued stocking of walleye in Otsego Lake in an attempt to control the population size of the exotic introduced alewife to improve the walleye fishery and lake water quality
- CRISP contracted the SUNY Oneonta Research Foundation to conduct an aquatic invasive species inventory for 5 watersheds in the Catskills in December
  - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the DEP surveyed ~240 acres for pale swallow-wort with 68 detections in July and ~228 km of roadsides for Japanese stilt grass and swallow-wort with 61 detections of stilt grass and 6 detections of swallow-wort
  - TNC and DEP (in partnership) managed 5 acres of small patches of swallow-wort from June – August with pod-pulling and targeted glyphosate application and 2 acres of large dense patches along route 28 with mowing and pod-pulling
  - Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District worked on eradicating Japanese knotweed and multiflora rose in several locations throughout Delaware County (composting 1.89 tons of plant material):

## Control Activities of the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District

Specie Eradicated	Dates	Location	Area Cleared (# acres/ # sites)	Eradication Technique	Follow-up
Japanese Knotweed	July	Andes- Ballentine Park	.1 Acres	Hand pulling	
Japanese Knotweed	June, July	Delaware County Highway wetland, Delhi NY	.25 acres	Sickle bar mower & hand pulling 1st cutting; Hand-pulling 2nd attempt	
Japanese Knotweed	July	Town of Halcott	.1 Acres	Hand pulling	5th year of treatment
Japanese Knotweed	June, July	Hobart- Town Brook	0.1 acres	hand pulling	
Japanese Knotweed	July	Walton - South Street	0.2 acres	Hand pulling	
Japanese Knotweed	June	Marvin Hollow Rd, Walton	100 Sq Ft	Hand pulling/Digging	Landowner maintenance
Japanese Knotweed	June	Trout Creek, NY on Trout Creek	400 Sq Ft	Hand pulling/Digging	
Japanese Knotweed	June	Pines Brook, Walton	400 Sq Ft	Hand pulling	Landowner maintenance
Japanese Knotweed	July	Little Delaware River, Delhi	400 Sq Ft	Hand pulling/Digging	Landowner maintenance
Japanese Knotweed	October	Beers Brook, Beers Brook Rd., Walton	1000 Sq ft	Hand pulling/Digging	Landowner maintenance
Japanese Knotweed	October	Mary Smith Hill Rd, Andes, Trib to Beach Hill Brook	300 Sq Ft	Hand pulling/Digging	Landowner maintenance
Multiflora Rose	October	Beers Brook, Beers Brook Rd., Walton	400 Sq ft	Hand pulling/Digging	Landowner Maintenance
Multiflora Rose	October	Little Delaware River, Bovina Center	0.2 acres	Mechanical removal	Landowner maintenance

### Organizational

- CRISP adopted an engagement policy in September to guide when to take management actions for a particular invasive species (See appendix)
- CRISP adopted a governance policy that outlined the formation of an executive committee (See appendix)
- CRISP contracted with the SCA Hudson Valley Americorps program to host a 10-month SCA intern

## **Looking Forward**

### *Education and Outreach*

Plans to meet our objective to *raise public awareness of invasive species in the CRISP region* are already underway. In 2011 we will be developing a communications plan and materials to promote CRISP and share information about our partnership. Some other highlights are plans to train groups in the use of the iMapinvasives database and top 10 species to look for in the Catskills, involving and engaging local governments by attending the Catskills Local Government Day in September, and developing a formal reporting system for partners to share the workshops and presentations that they are working on.

### *Control and Monitoring*

The aquatic invasive species inventory will be completed in 2011, allowing us to make some important decisions regarding what management options we have for our waterways. Trained volunteers will be in the field collecting information and reporting new locations for invasive plants. There will also be information coming in from volunteers involved in the ash sentinel tree project.

### *Organizational*

The CRISP Strategic Plan, which outlines objectives and strategies for the next five years, and the Cooperative Agreement, which outlines the expectations of the partnering groups, will be completed in 2011. Plans are in place to complete the Invasive Species Management Plan by the end of the year as well.

Elizabeth D'Auria will be the 10-month SCA intern working on CRISP projects in 2011. She will be largely focusing on working with communities and volunteers to conduct ash tree street inventories to prepare for EAB.

Sub-contracts will be awarded in 2011 after the release of an RFP. These proposals will be ranked based on their relevance to the CRISP objectives and a number of other factors. At least four projects will be supported by CRISP that will be completed in 2011.

## **Appendix**

### **CRISP Engagement Policy**

**Adopted 9/2010**

#### **Objective:**

The top priorities for CRISP program efforts will be in the areas of education, prevention and early detection. The Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership will engage in active management of invasive species based on criteria that consider the potential negative impacts of the invasive species and a clear definition of a successful outcome. Before engaging in eradication or control efforts CRISP will:

- Conduct a comprehensive inventory to determine the size and scope of the invasive specie's population and distribution within CRISP.
- Determine if areas adjoining CRISP have committed to keeping the species under adequate control
- Consider the sustainability of funding sources to ensure that resources will be available for long term success
- Ensure the vectors for reintroduction and conditions for additional spread are adequately addressed
- Determine that the control techniques used can result in eradication within a reasonable timeframe
- Conduct an assessment of the negative impacts from control measures.
- Conduct an assessment of the consequences of a decision not to engage

### **CRISP Governance Policy**

**Adopted 9/2010**

**Background:** The CRISP organization was established in 2005 in order to address the issue of invasive species management within the Catskill region. Over the past four years membership in CRISP has grown from a small core group of organizations into a partnership of more than 60 Organizations. The current CRISP governance model is consensus driven; the CRISP members present at any particular meeting discuss issues and determine future actions after reaching agreement. Over the course of time it has become apparent that this simple governance model is insufficient to meet the demands of organizational management. In 2008 CRISP made a significant advance in formally selecting the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development (CCCD) as its host organization. This act has allowed CRISP and CCCD to pursue and secure funding from the NYS DEC that would not have otherwise been eligible to the CRISP organization alone. With contract funds secured and a host organization identified it is now

time to solidify a governance structure for CRISP that can; facilitate efficient decision-making, identify authorities held by CRISP and the CRISP host organization, and establish accountability. The following structure is proposed for use in governing CRISP.

**CRISP Executive Committee:**

- In order to create the environment for efficient decision making it is necessary to identify a core group of individuals representing a variety of organizations that can guide decision making. This group should be composed of two components. The first component consists of individuals representing organizations that demonstrate the greatest financial investment in CRISP, as well as representatives from public agencies that have a vested interest in invasive species and the Catskill region. This component should be no larger than nine individuals. Representatives of the following organizations are recommended to fill these nine positions: NYS DEC, NYS DAM, NYC DEP, NYS DOT, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, The Nature Conservancy, Watershed Agricultural Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Catskill Forest Association. The second component is made up of two representatives at large. These at large representatives are individuals representing organizations within CRISP that are not included in the first component, such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Collectively the representatives of these two components make up the eleven member CRISP Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will function through majority rule in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. The Executive Committee will meet, at minimum, on a bi-monthly basis.
- In order to establish accountability to the larger group of CRISP organizations the two at large representatives will be elected by the CRISP organizations. At large representatives will serve two-year terms.

**CRISP Authority** - CRISP retains the authority to designate a host organization that will pursue CRISP goals within the Catskill region. CRISP also retains the authority to provide comment on all contracts, grants, agreements, projects and work plans developed by or for the CRISP host organization which address CRISP goals.

**CRISP Host Organization Authority and Responsibilities**

- The CRISP host organization retains the authority for financial oversight, as well as the authority to manage and implement grants, contracts and agreements that it has entered into on behalf of the CRISP organization. The host organization will chair meetings and develop agendas as well as record and distribute minutes to CRISP.