

Mile-a-Minute Project Meeting
April 4th, 2008 10 am – 12:30pm
Rockland County CCE, Stony Point

Attendees:

Meredith Taylor	SCA DEC/HRNERR
John Mickelson	Consultant
Amy Rickard	CCE Orange County, Master Gardener
Jeff Gellar	CCE Rockland
Nancy Binder Selover	Keep Rockland Beautiful
Lynn Barber	Orange County Audubon Society
Roni Cohen	Westchester County Coordinator/Vinecutter
Emilie Hauser	DEC/HRNERR
Ed McGowan	PIPC/OPRHP
Elisabeth Kolb	NYS Dept. of Transportation

Announcements:

- The new brochures will be ready soon. (UPDATE: They were picked up Thursday morning, and Meredith will be sending them out to anyone who pre-ordered them starting on Mon. 4/14, let her know if you would like some)
- John Mickelson created a Google Earth page with our mile-a-minute points. He can offer training on Google Earth geospatial work.
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- **Status of Biocontrol from Ed McGowan:**

*Background info. In 1995 US scientists traveled to China and screened all the pests they could find on the mile-a-minute there (in its native range). They found a weevil, **Rhinocominus latipes** Korotyaev, that is highly specific to MAM and has a quick generation time, many offspring in a season, feeds on the foliage and the leaf stalk and reduces seed number. When released in large numbers it will clear entire patches of MAM. It has already been released in 7 states.*

- In North America, there are two species of native tearthumbs and they are not impacted by the weevil. The weevil is also able to overwinter in soil; however, a limited amount of information shows that it doesn't survive well in wet soils.
- Weevils can fly up to 2 miles from release sites and can be harvested from release sites to be distributed to additional sites. The effects may not be noticeable for 3 or 4 years and releasing small numbers of weevils won't reduce the mam, just keep it from growing as quickly or as tall. Large releases may be able to knock it back.

Emilie Hauser
Apr 27, '08, 5:24 PM
Added Text

- There will be a release at Greenbrook Sanctuary Parkland in New Jersey this year. <http://www.njpalisades.org/greenbrook.htm> This is near the headquarters for PiPC and is close to the New York border. Mark Meyer is the contact at the NJ beneficial insect lab in Trenton. There is no additional paperwork to release in NJ because they already have the permit. Several thousand weevils will be released at each site. There will also be a release at Overpeck Preserve <http://www.njwildlifetrails.org/BwtWeb/SiteDetails.aspx?si=109> which is at the north end of the meadowlands and a bog turtle habitat. There is no foot access to the site, so we can't get in to steal some weevils.
- For release in NYS, a "permit to liberate to the wild is needed from the Special Licenses Unit. Ed McGowan reported that Naja Kraus at NYSDEC, who is assisting Ed in getting the permit, that staff at DEC does not have to work on this. Ed may be able to adapt the monitoring protocol that was developed by the University of Delaware to use in the permit application. This appears to be the largest part of the application to release.
- More research is need on control with **goats**. We should contact the Glynwood Center. Annie Osborn may own goats. (UPDATE: Meredith contacted Ken Kleinpeter at Glynwood and Ed McGowan agreed to try to work out a pilot goat project for Iona Island!)
- **Update on the NE Natural History Conference:** Laura will be presenting on mile-a-minute and our work on this project at **8:40 am on Friday, 4/18**. The poster will be presented from 3-5 that afternoon. John M. will help answer any questions from 4-5.

Update on the LH-PRISM: *Background Info.* PRISM is the Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. They are a partnership between NY State, The Nature Conservancy and many other organizations. The state is divided into nine PRISMs. We are in the Lower Hudson PRISM. The State funding to support the PRISMs is still in the works, but will be available to fund a coordinator position and programs, and other funds to be distributed within the PRISM for projects in the near future.

Update The last LH PRISM meeting was held at Black Rock Forest on March 6th. A subcommittee for education and outreach was developed: Fred Koontz, Dave Strayer, and John Mickelson will be on it. The PRISM is currently accepting applications for PRISM supported projects. Lynn Barber suggested that a potential site would be the powerlines in Hamptonburg. It should be fairly easy to pull because the only thing to climb is the powerpoles.

- The Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies was selected as the preferred host organization by those in attendance at the last PRISM meeting.

Herbicide Information

- Should we have presentations and a discussion on herbicides at our next meeting to help educate the members of the Mile-a-Minute Project on all of the details of herbicide use/permitting as it relates to MAM control?
 - Jeff would talk about safety-how to protect yourself
 - Tom Dechillo would discuss permitting and regulations
 - Chris Ticimpidis, a professional applicator would discuss experience applying herbicides to MAM

Discussion:

- We would like to do this so we are better able to discuss this with municipalities/landowners
 - This would not be a pro herbicide session, just an opportunity to hear more and become more informed about what is being done with herbicides for mile-a-minute.
- We should represent the other side, make sure we are getting the pro's and cons. There should be some scientific papers available on the long-term impacts on wetlands as well as a scientific perspective for why herbicides are useful. – John M will work on this.
- In many cases homeowners have small areas and only need to hand pull. Public areas and parks would be more likely to apply herbicides.
- An alternative to this session may be just to create a fact sheet with information from the experts, not a formal presentation.
 - A fact sheet should contain peer reviewed material, more science not just DEC's regulations and brochures.
- We need to make sure that everyone who needs to know about the FIFRA 2ee herbicides does and we should include alternatives.
- It is important to educate homeowners on proper herbicide use: There are many TV commercials that show that using herbicides is no big deal, kids playing in the yard while dad is spraying it wearing shorts etc...
- The Nature Conservancy has decided that herbicides are the only option for some weeds.
- People are not aware of the Neighbor pesticide notification laws. We need to clarify what this is and in what counties it has been adopted. Commercial applicators are definitely required to notify neighbors,

applications by homeowners may or may not require notification... more research is needed.

(UPDATE: We will not be having an herbicide talk in June but will work on preparing an herbicide fact sheet for the next meeting)

County Updates

Dutchess County:

- The legislature put forward a resolution to declare mile-a-minute noxious and to create a position at CCE to deal with coordinating mile-a-minute control and education in Dutchess County. This was made possible by the Environmental Management Committee.
- There was a trip to the Dover Knolls site. The property manager was willing to work on controlling mile-a-minute there.
- The Town of LaGrange is discussing taking the lead in the pulls there this year.

Questions: What does the noxious weed status do for the county?

Rockland County:

- Unlike Orange or Dutchess, Rockland doesn't have a strong agricultural presence, so declaring MAM noxious may not be possible. There is a Rockland farm alliance, and there could be more specialty farms in the future.
- The parks in Clarkstown are covered in invasives.
- APRIL 23 Rockland County EMC is hosting Katrina Shindledecker, who will be talking about invasives at RCC at their Earth Day – Jeff will be there to try recruit students to pull.

Orange County:

- George Profous found another patch on the other side of Stewart State Forest
- The mayor of Florida lost the funding for herbicides to control Eurasian milfoil in Glenmere Lake.
- We had an Orange County strategy meeting to discuss a presentation to the legislature. We were able to reach out to a member of the County Parks staff and Meredith will be speaking to the entire County Parks staff at their next staff meeting.
- Ed McGowan met with a rep. from OSI to discuss plans to monitor the new state park at Schunnemunk. A plan was established to monitor 3 times in the areas most likely to have mile-a-minute.
- NY/NJ Trail Conference and Rutgers have a partnership to do citizen science. They are using trails as transects to map invasives on a landscape scale. They have been surveying

sites in New Jersey and in Harriman State Park, and 30 miles in Bear Mountain, which are in Rockland and Orange County. Mile-a-minute is one weed they will be looking for. To learn more about the New York/ New Jersey Trail Conference visit <http://www.nynjtc.org/>

Westchester County:

- We had a meeting at Mianus River Gorge Preserve. Brenda Bates of Ward Pound Ridge, Rod Christie of Mianus and Roni Cohen, Meredith Taylor, and Emilie Hauser met to discuss plans for pulls and what has been done in the past in Westchester. We are going to have an SCA intern pull one weekend in July.
- Other groups to contact for volunteers are Katy Dunlap's Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Westchester County Planning, Groundwork Hudson Valley see <http://www.groundworknyonkers.org> (They may have money for events and they have 80 water quality monitors, and volunteer support systems)

DOT:

- The DOT has a new annual herbicide contract. There will be a new performance spec. They are going to have crews map and give proposals for how to treat invasives. Most state highways are on easements and DEC herbicide laws only allow spraying on property owned by DOT, not on easements.
- There hasn't been any news from WAIPUNA because the contact there has been sick. It may be possible to use it this year in the Hudson Valley. New York City will be using it this year for restoration work to allow preferred vegetation to grow. WAIPUNA is great for urban areas.

DISCUSSION: What is the future of our program and what role will CCE and the PRISM play in our efforts?

- CCE's have priority issues to focus on and will continue to do so after the PRISM CCE connection becomes more established.
- How can we better work together?
 - We need to be able to shape our message to go along with what they working on. Perhaps we can create a way for mile-a-minute information to go along with other terrestrial invasive plant handouts.