

Mile-a-Minute Project of the Hudson Valley
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2008
Cliff house, Bear Mountain, NY

Announcements:

- Native Plant Training Workshop- October 22, 2008, Cary IES
- Staff Changes-
 - Jeff Geller will be replaced by Donna Cook -845-429-7085 x 108
dmc72@cornell.edu
 - Scott Sheeley of DEC Permits has moved to region 8.
- Joint Permit for vegetation removal in wetlands has been updated. New form is available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/46707.html>
 - Possible way to not need the permit is to call MAM removal forest management in a swamp, because MAM affects forest regeneration.
- Issues have come up with stream bank erosion, landowners who don't take action on their property and allow stream banks to collapse. What can we do?
 - Steep slope laws vary by municipality; there is also a 100 ft. buffer on regulated wetlands???
- What can we plant for reestablishment in MAM removal in wetlands?
 - Native Plant Center Westchester handout Go Native has suggestions
 - Masters Student, Kiri Wallace, at University of Delaware to study this
- Dutchess County Update:
 - Discussion of Noxious Weed Declaration in Dutchess
 - Can we spend money to control MAM on people's property and bill them?
 - Stephanie Mallozzi- CCE-DC applied for an IPM grant to keep on Wendy Tremper-Wollerton through the beginning and middle of October.
 - New sighting on Manor Rd in Titusville – need home site, trying to get verification
 - Amenia-Millerton rail trail, MaM not found on bike path near Noxon Rd.
 - Lalita Malik and Stephanie went to 2 houses
 - Neal Curri is keeping records of negative sightings
- Orange County Update:
 - Debbie Lester has also applied for an IPM grant, Wayne Hall was given an invasives presentation
 - Lucy Joyce has presented to Planning Board
 - The Chairman of Orange County Parks has changed again.

- No Noxious weed list for the state
- There is a do not sell list accepted in Suffolk and Nassau Counties
- Stewart State Forest:
 - There are 60 acres in the sites that were sprayed last year. They are doing better.
 - The SW corner is the most heavily infested. The spraying has created a 2-3 year holding pattern.
 - The area keeps getting bigger and spraying is needed in July, Aug and Sept because seeds are continuing to sprout.
 - It is a very strange weed and hard to control. Mowing 1.5 acres destroyed a brush hog. It got strangled, can not get schedule for regular mowing.
 - Pulling keeps it down in two spots but volunteers don't come back once they've pulled.
 - USDA says that seeds need 8 weeks of 10 degrees C to be viable. There is an indication of herbicide resistance. Herbicide (Rodeo) had to be applied again. Pre-emergent is good in fields.
 - Federal funding dependent, System of control. Can't get ducks lined up.
- Rockland County Update
 - Iona Island Shore, mile-a-minute free in the linear patch where pulled in previous years.
 - This may also be due to high water, George P. has observed that plants aren't growing in areas that are flooded for more than 5 days in a row.
 - Ecological data from how the plant behaves in Asia may not apply to how it behaves here. Pennsylvania is compiling info.
 - Important to write up on the website so other people don't start from scratch.
 - MAM is like Pokeweed, takes advantage of open ground and nutrients and kills off competition.
- Aug. 25, Longwood Garden
 - Workshop from USDA Forest Health and Enterprise Team and the University of Delaware
 - Weevils are present in China from the South to the North, very tolerant to temp. and climate differences.
 - Eggs hatch, larvae eat in stem doing the most damage especially at the plants growth nodes.
 - Larvae drop to the ground to pupate and then adults eat leaves.
 - More nodes are created by mowing -> mowing allows for more weevils to grow.
 - The adults aren't responsible for much damage, 2 sites where weevils that had already reproduced were released showed very little plant damage.

- There were other insects tested, including a moth, that are not being used.
- The adult weevil is small, black before it reproduces and then it turns orange.
- Shading and weevils together caused 70% mortality to plants in a controlled experiment.
- Weevils are bred at the Philip Alampi Beneficial Insect Lab in NJ.
- 60,881 were released in 2007 in NJ, DE, PA, MD, WV.
- They will be charging for the weevil to make back the cost
- Large releases cause a lot of damage, but they aren't willing to give out that many because of the high demand.
- We need a federal permit, and then the state permit, by early spring
- Stiltgrass and black swallow-wort are taking over sites after MAM is removed. We need to combine management techniques.
- There is a graduate student, Kiri Wallace, working on native plants to use to out compete MAM.
 - At release site, for U Del, we need to do the monitoring protocol, 1 day a month, maybe the SCA intern can monitor at Iona. We will need volunteers at the other release sites.
 - We need to do individual state LFW forms for each site.
 - The weevils can be delivered through FedEx overnight. They can disperse up to 6 miles a year, so they should spread through the region pretty quickly.
- Management Techniques: Pre-emergent, Mow, Biocontrol, shade, all need to be done together.
 - We should try to refrain from herbicide use at release sites and give the biocontrol a chance. ---Do mowing, grazing and pulling in conjunction.
 - Goats will have to avoid rare plants on Iona Island
 - Deer consumption may be a major way MaM is spreading, especially in Stewart.
 - Other animals may be tolerant to MaM, Experiment comparing to sheep herds.
 - TNC determined cost is \$173 a day per goat.
- Monitoring
 - Sites were not monitored very much this year
 - 1 volunteer went back at Schunnemunk
 - We should have done more in Northern Orange and Dutchess
 - How do we prioritize?
 - Weed Free Zones? Look at how plants get around long distance, water and bird, We should monitor along the Wallkill and Rondout.