Editor’s note: This report is reproduced here to aid in the distribution and availability of data collected and activities contributed by the collaborating partners to interested stakeholders in the Northern Catskills.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizations and Agencies of the Executive Committee, (ie. Principal partners)</th>
<th>Other Partner Organizations and Agencies in CRISP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation</td>
<td>SUNY Oneonta</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYS Dept. of Transportation</td>
<td>SUNY ESF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Dept. of Ag &amp;Markets</td>
<td>New York Forest Owner Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development</td>
<td>Trout Unlimited</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>NYS Department of Parks and Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell Cooperative Extension</td>
<td>Catskills Native Plant Nursery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYC Dept. Environmental Protection</td>
<td>Mountain Top Arboretum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Catskill Forest Association</td>
<td>Upper Delaware Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Watershed Ag Council</td>
<td>Society of American Foresters</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Soil and Water Conservation Districts</td>
<td>Hartwick College</td>
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<tr>
<td>The National Park Service</td>
<td>Frost Valley YMCA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New York New Jersey Trail Conference</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Catskill Mountain Club</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 27th
- CCE of Greene County held an EAB Preparation Workshop for 35 individuals on April 19th, a Master Forest Owner Refresher for 33 individuals on June 12th and an EAB Update Workshop for 44 individuals on October 19th
- 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 3rd – 6th with ~ 25 individuals attending

- CCE of Ulster county held **EAB Informational Workshops** on October 18th at BOCES in New Paltz for ~15 individuals and October 19th 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 30th 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 8th
- Meredith Taylor from CRISP presented for Trout Unlimited Trout Waters Youth Camp for ~ 15 youth on July 21st
- Barbara Dibeler from the DEP presented to ~ 20 individuals at the DEP’s Invasive Species Working Group on September 16th
- Meredith Taylor from CRISP presented to ~ 10 members of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council on September 29th
- CCE of Greene County presented on EAB for 12 officials at the Catskill Mountain Towns meeting on October 7th

**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 9th 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 22nd with 7 volunteers.
- Frost Valley YMCA worked on a 1-acre mechanical Japanese barberry eradication project on June 10th, 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 10th 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

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

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 species’ 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.