

**SUASCO CISMA  
Annual Meeting  
Assabet National Wildlife Refuge, Sudbury MA  
November 9, 2010 3-5 pm**

**Present:**

Joan Bradford, Linwood Bradford, Karen Lombard – The Nature Conservancy, Julie Richburg – The trustees of reservations, Bryan Connolly – MA Natural Heritage, Susan Tyler – Sherborn Concom, Hylton Haynes – New England Forestry Foundation, Tom – Eagle – US Fish and Wildlife, Stephanie Koch – US Fish and Wildlife, Barbara Volkle – Friends of Assabet NWR, Dave Williams – Marlborough Concom, Jenn Forman-Orth – MADAR, Alexandra Erhandi – MA DCR, Eve Donahue – Stow Conservation Trust, Rick Findley – Littleton Conservation Trust, Joan Ferguson- Concord Land Conservation Trust, Gordon Shaw – Concord Land Conservation Trust, Laura Mattei – Sudbury Valley Trustees, Erin Snook – Sudbury Valley trustees, Vivian Kimball – Westboro Land Trust/Concom, Annie Reid – Westborough Community Land Trust, Ron Gemma – Westford Conservation Trust, Lisa Groves – Westford Conservation Trust, Rita Gibes grossman- Boxborough Conservation Trust, Jeff Collins – Mass Audubon, Peter Alden – national Audubon, Delia Kaye – Concord Division of Natural Resources, Lori Capone – Concord Division of natural resources, Freddie Gillespie – Southborough, Matt Burne – Walden Woods Project, Marilyn Martino – Sudbury Foundation, Nancy Bryant – SUASCO Watershed Community Council, Lee Steppacher – River Stewardship Council/ National Park Service, Amber Carr- US Fish and Wildlife, Lynn Knight – Carlisle Concom, Ted Elliman – New England Wildflower Society, John Dwyer – Maynard Concom.

**Welcomes:**

Lynn Knight, Co-chair of the CISMA brought the annual meeting to order.

Susan Russo, USFWS, introduced everyone to the new visitor's center at ANWR, and invited everyone to spend some time visiting the exhibits. Anyone interested in volunteering at the building is welcome, so that open hours can be extended.

Lynn welcomed everyone and provided some background to CISMA. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in May of 2009 by 23 members. In the ensuing year and one half work has been done to create a process to work together, to form subcommittees to do much of this work and projects have been initiated to make a difference in the presence of invasive species in the watershed. Eight members have joined within the year as well, so that CISMA now includes 11 towns, 7 land trusts, federal and state entities and non profits.

In the meeting packet there are handouts describing the CISMA structure and subcommittees. Lynn encouraged everyone to get involved in subcommittee work. A member does not need to be on the steering committee to serve.

Officer positions for the CISMA are as follows: Eileen McGourty- co – chair, Lee Steppacher – secretary, Jeff Collins – treasurer. Chair of Education and Outreach Subcommittee – John Dwyer, Chair of Control Subcommittee – Russ Hopping, Chair of Early Detection/Rapid Response – Anna Wilkins, Chair of Administration Subcommittee- Lynn Knight.

Lynn encouraged guests to consider becoming members of CISMA. Benefits include working on projects/issues of interest, helping to apply for and receive grant funds, tap into a wealth of expertise, share tools etc, share volunteer groups.

### **New Members Recognition:**

Amber introduced the 8 new members: Trustees of Reservations, Hop Brook Protection Association, Littleton Conservation Trust, Littleton Conservation Commission, Harvard Conservation Commission, Chelmsford, Wayland, and Carlisle Conservation Foundation. All were welcomed with a round of applause.

### **Profile of CISMA Projects:**

1. **Purple Loosestrife Control Project** – Laura Mattei reported on this project funded by a grant from CISMA. The project depended on approximately 40 volunteers, over half of which were youth. Starting with 76 successful plants and 1,300 beetles (some were bought and others were collected from plants in the town of Lincoln), the project estimates that 36,500 beetles were raised. Beetles were raised at SVT, the Fay School and in Wayland. They were then released to 5 sites in Marlborough, Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury and Wayland. Beetles will winter underground and then reemerge in the spring. The beetles disperse well, so over time hopefully they will spread within the watershed and beyond. In the future, Hopes are that a number of schools will raise the beetles and then release them to CISMA partner organizations. MADEP has a Google map on which you can track where beetles have been found.
2. **Early Detection Invasive Plant Survey** – Ted Elliman reported on this project which received funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The project began last May, with 4 training sessions for 101 volunteers on identification of 11 ED species. These are species that are just beginning to be seen in the watershed or at the margins. Identification is challenging because these species are not common. Five field trips were organized through the summer to help volunteers identify the species. The volunteers returned to their communities – 23 of the 36 towns in the watershed- and surveyed 92 conservation land areas. Work resulted in 1234 volunteer hours – far exceeding expectation. Volunteers found 1) infestations of Japanese Stiltgrass in Framingham along the Sudbury River and at Centennial Place. Local volunteers had pulled these infestations. 2) Mile A Minute was found in Littleton and Westford which was also removed by volunteers organized by Ali Echandi of DCR. 3) Brazilian Waterweed was found in Eagle Pond at Callahan State Park. State conservation officers with NEWFS interns responded to this. 4) Japanese Hops which are not yet listed as an ED species were also found WHERE?
3. **Website Development** – John Dwyer reported that the Education and Outreach Subcommittee was working with a contractor to design a website for CISMA. The website will have a number of features to serve CISMA members including a photo gallery of the top invasive species in the watershed, a calendar of events and volunteer activities, a mechanism to report a sighting of a species and mapping of species in the watershed. This latter effort will be done in close conjunction with Mass Audubon which is working to generate these maps under a grant from the Sudbury Foundation. The website will be launched early in 2011.
4. **Sudbury Weed Education and Eradication Project (SWEET)** – Rebecca Chizzo from SWEET reported on work accomplished under a grant from CISMA. SWEET has

worked closely with the Sudbury Conservation Commission to identify town lands that are over run with invasive species. SWEET has recruited volunteers to work at these sites including Town Hall, Revolutionary Cemetery Wall, King Phillips Conservation Area and Lincoln-Sudbury High School. In each case, SWEET has partnered with local organizations and volunteers to clear the area. SWEET has also hosted educational displays at the Russell's Farmers Market and worked with the high school to develop a management plan to control invasives.

**Guest Presentation – What is Here and What is on the Horizon : Asian Long Horned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer and other Invasives , Jennifer Forman–Orth, State Plant Pest Survey Coordinator, MA Department of Agriculture.**

Jenn spoke to the group about a number of wood boring invasives, how to identify them and their borings, and how the State is responding to them. See attached powerpoint for specifics of her talk.