

CISMA “Spring” Meeting – 3/17/15 – Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome

Alison Field-Juma welcomed everyone to the CISMA Spring Meeting.

Announcements – Amber Carr

- 3/19 Invasive Plant Talk at Assabet Wildlife Refuge – Assabet Pulling Together
- There will be a delay in River Stewardship Council Funding – not expected until later this year. Proposals will likely be due in Fall for 2016 funding
- Also a delay in NYANZA funding, pushed to 2016 for beetle monitoring and water chestnut mapping work, some funds redistributed to wet meadow project – 2016 funding
- Lynne Knight from Carlisle is leaving – please sign goodbye card
- Barbara Volkle – reminded everyone about the importance of the tax checkoff that benefits Natural Heritage and asked them to spread the word.

Amanda Weise – Japanese Stiltgrass, Still an Early Detection Species

Amanda introduced the topic by saying that she is not sure how well established Stiltgrass is in the watershed. She explained the identification of the plant and showed slides of the extent to which it has been found. It is an annual grass, native to East Asia and pulls up easily. It is spread by water, hikers, wildlife, mowers, and birds. Stiltgrass was first found in Massachusetts in 2003 and there are now 240 records in 40 towns. There are 6 sites in CISMA. Members of the audience discussed what is known about various sites as well as at least one site that is not yet mapped and found in Stow. Stiltgrass is at the northern limit of its range, but is found up to 2000' elevation in the Berkshires. Those present agreed that we should try to get a better handle on the extent of Stiltgrass in the watershed this season and perhaps make an effort to map known patches on public land, from roadways, along rights of way, etc.

Stilt Grass should be surveyed mid-July and August

Ted Elliman’s Presentation on Early Detection Species

Ted reviewed 16 Species

1. Wild Chervil - Umbel like Queen Anne’s lace, but fern-like leaves; relatively high pH; base of leaf clasps stem
2. Narrow-leaved Bittercress - very divided leaves; 12-15”, base of leaf clasps stem, outcompeted garlic mustard at one site
3. Lesser Celandine – blooms early spring and then disappears (native marsh marigold is taller and rounder leaves with fine teeth)

Control best by hand.

4. Giant Hogweed
5. Perennial Pepperweed - - inland along salted roadways
6. Wall Lettuce
7. Mile-A-Minute
8. Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)
9. Black Alder
10. Wine Berry
11. Kudzu
12. Rusty Willow
13. Amur Cork Tree
14. Callery Pear
15. Hydrilla
16. Brazilian Waterweed

Some questions and comments:

Hairy bittercress not yet considered invasive

Yellow Iris – more problematic with higher pH; very difficult to remove manually

False Indigo is more coastal

Porcelain Berry, related to grape – large population in Stow that they are treating with Roundup; likes sandy soil; also at NEFF in Littleton

Mapping (Amber Carr):

CISMA web page. Report invasives with directions

1. On CISMA web page - Click Map; fill in form; upload photo
2. OR use EDD Maps - Infested Area vs. Gross Area
Requires Login Name & password
3. OR Smart Phone: "Outsmart Invasives" Doesn't have all of the species

CISMA has applied for a grant to hire 4 interns in 2016 to assist with the EDRR rapid response effort. Many of the EDRR species are at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. Amber will schedule plant walks during the 2015 field season.