

## NYSG: Aquatic Invasive Species Education Along Hudson River

In 2015 New York Sea Grant (NYSG) partnered with the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Partnership (PRISM) to highlight the region’s aquatic invasive species issues. This partnership is one of several PRISMs in New York State educating community stakeholders regarding likely areas of invasive species introductions and methods of early detection and response.

NYSG educators and resources were leveraged to provide needed information regarding invasive aquatic species to community leaders who are focused on terrestrial (land-based) species but whose work often intersects with pond and streamside owners, recreational fishers, and boaters.

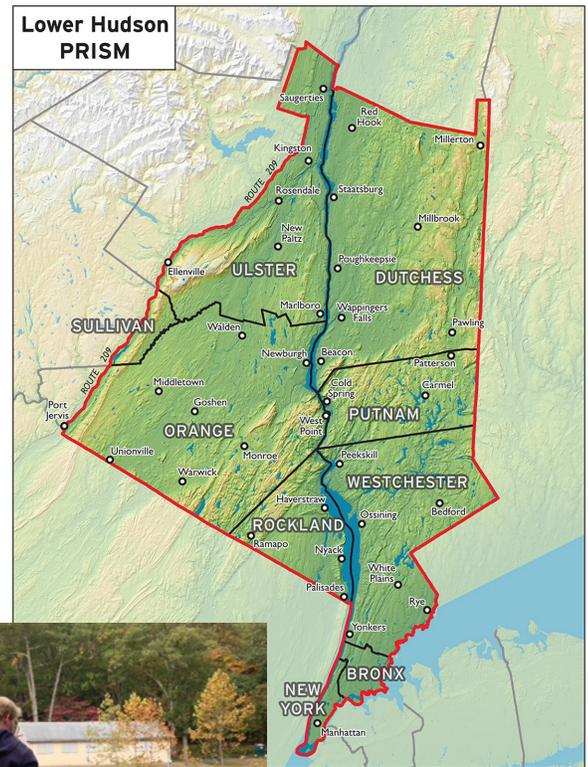
Working with Cornell Cooperative Extension associations, NYSG conducted a Master Gardener training on the identification of invasive species for 40 community leaders from Ulster, Sullivan, Dutchess Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties in 2015.

NYSG also developed and distributed 1,000 “Stop the Aquatic Invasion” posters to museums and environmental education centers throughout the region last year.

Additionally, NYSG participated with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the nonprofit Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. to help complete a volunteer survey of the presence of *Hydrilla verticillata* in the Croton River, a Westchester County tributary to the Hudson River.

NYSG provided technical assistance for Sloop Clearwater’s initiation of a boating steward program at two boat launches in Dutchess County, reaching thousands of Hudson River recreational boaters about how they can stop the spread of invasive species.

New York Sea Grant utilizes its diverse resources to assist New Yorkers in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, with special emphasis on promoting early identification and rapid response to limit the spread and impact of AIS.



The Lower Hudson PRISM assists stakeholders in five counties; left: volunteers survey Hydrilla in the Croton River. Photo: Nordica Holochuck/NYSG

### Partners:

- Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

### The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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