

Invasive Plants

Reporting Meeting of February 12, 2018

Calendar of Events

Last Week: Feb 5: Club Assembly New Endeavors Brainstorming

This Week: Feb 12: Laurel Gailor PRISM; Cornell Coop Ext

Next Week: Feb 19: No meeting Presidents Day

Coming Up: Feb 26: Club Assembly

Mar 5: BOD; Kenneth Adamczyk-our coach from District Membership Committee

Mar 12: TBD

Attendance: Rotarians: 22 1 visitor

Invocation: Dan Stec

Note: Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM in the William E. Sewell Memorial Room at the Ballston Town Hall.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Beth Brownell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tonight, dues are due to Peter Parker in lieu of Val. If you have not yet paid, mail to Val. Val is in Ellis Hospital and hopefully will return home tomorrow.
- Walter Grattidge reported on the SCCC Bartlett Fire Scholarship which has been in existence for over 20 years. The club as well as the Bartlett family contributes to it. SCC requested an increase in funding and the club BOD authorized an increase to \$250 which will be matched by the Bartlett family.
- Walter also reported that former member Clarence Linder winters in Key West and summers in the Lake George area. He may try to come to a meeting.
- Laura invited members to the Underground Railroad History conference March 9-11 at various locations in Albany. The conference title is: Embracing Equity in a Global Society. Details at UndergroundRailroadHistory.org/conference
- Laura invited members to the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council annual gathering potluck Feb 20 6-8:30pm at the Old Dutch Brouwer House 14 North Church St Schenectady. Call Laura Lee for more information.
- Mike collected Happy Dollars with his usual humor

Serve with us. The world is waiting.

Laurel Gailor has worked with invasive species education/management through NYS DEC and then Cornell Cooperative Extension PRISM: Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management.

Invasive species are defined as nonnative which may cause significant economic damage or harm human health. Plants are categorized as **native**, **nonnative**-ex black locust which can outcompete with native plants, **invasive**-which are rapid growers stealing nutrients and may alter the soil preventing native plant growth, and **nuisance** plants which may interfere with human activities-weeds.

Invasives may be naturally transported by animals or weather, or by accidentally-hitchhiking via equipment involved in global or national trade. Natural disasters such as hurricanes may bring bugs, seeds, and disease to local areas.

Genetic engineering of plants to create new cultivars may result in cross breeding with native plants, resulting in the loss of native plants. Plants may also be used in bioterrorism.

Invasive species have no local predators or parasites to keep them in check. They tend to reproduce earlier than native plants, have small seeds and may also reproduce vegetatively i.e. by buried stems or from roots. They have few germinating requirements and are able to grow in many environments. They monopolize light and soil nutrients and may leave toxins in the soil that suppress growth of other plants.

Impact of terrestrial invasives: **ecological**, **economic** (loss of agricultural fields and decreasing property values), **social**, **human health** (disease or severe dermatitis). Agriculture is impacted when invasives take over fields or orchards-ex Kudzu and garlic mustard. Highway crews may mow roadsides after invasives have set seed, therefore spreading them. Deer will not eat invasive plants making it easier for invasives to take hold. It costs much more to remove and eradicate invasives than is spent on prevention.

Capital Region PRISM covers 3,000,000 acres and is at the crossroads of transportation: Thruway and I-87, the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers, canals and railroads. All these can bring invasives into the area.

Citizen scientists are members of the public who learn to identify even just one or two species and can report to PRISM. NYS is one of the few states being proactive. Others wait until invasives cause problems before addressing. Visit their FB page or on Twitter: CapMo PRISM.

Laura Gailor receives the "Speakers Mug"
Thank you, Laura.



Reported by Beth Brownell

February Set Up: Silas Schrader, Dan Stec, Bill Wehrle Clean Up: Peter Sawyer, Alex Davis, Ron Schimpf