

**Regional Panel Activities Report
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting
May 4-6, 2016**

Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species
Submitted by: Ray Fernald, Chair & Mike Allen, Vice-Chair

Key ANS Activities from November 2015 through April 2016:

Major Accomplishments:

- The fall meeting was held November 17-18, 2014 in Lewes, Delaware. The meeting focused on AIS activities and issues of concern in Delaware, with presentations on invasive shore crabs (European green crab, Chinese mitten crab, and Asian shore crab); Delaware's Invasive Species Council; innovative use of water buffalo for invasive plant control and wetland restoration; *Phragmites* control in Delaware; and impacts of *Phragmites*, and *Phragmites* control, on a northern diamondback terrapin nesting beach. Additional presentations addressed the Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Site Cooperative, and possible opportunities for coordination between CBSSC and MAPAIS; our effort to rebuild and upgrade our MAPAIS website; and discovery and potential spread of the invasive (and carnivorous) waterwheel plant (*Aldrovanda vesiculosa*) at Ft. A.P. Hill in central Virginia. Updates on three ongoing or recently completed Small Grant Projects were presented, including development of the *Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species of the Mid-Atlantic Region*, *Investigating Options for Facilitating Access to Private Lands for the Eradication and Control of Aquatic Species*, and *Characterizing the Invasive New Zealand Mud Snail Population in Central Pennsylvania*. An afternoon field trip provided an opportunity for participants to tour research facilities at the adjacent University of Delaware campus.
- The Panel has conducted a small-grants competition annually since 2007 to fund on-the-ground activities addressing MAPAIS' mission and regional priorities. One project has been completed since our November 2015 report; the development and distribution of "*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly; An Invasive Species Toolkit for Educators.*"

Ongoing Work:

- Annual progress reports were received and work continues on three ongoing small-grant projects including *Characterizing the Invasive New Zealand Mud Snail Population in Central Pennsylvania*, development of the *Mid-Atlantic Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species*, and *Training and Evaluation of Dogs for Early Detection of Nutria (Myocastor coypus) in Virginia*. Work also continues on our project to rebuild and upgrade our MAPAIS website.
- Eight proposals were received for small grant funding pursuant to our 2016 Request for Proposals, we will review these proposals and make decisions regarding this year's funding at our upcoming spring 2016 meeting in Annapolis, on 17-18 May.

MAPAIS Current Small Grants Portfolio:

<p>The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: An invasive species toolkit for educators</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Natural Resources (PI: Kerry Wixted)</p>	<p>Invasive species of plants, animals and pathogens affect our everyday life, but often in ways that are not readily apparent to the public. This project will develop comprehensive toolkits which teachers and other educators can use to deliver classroom lessons and exercises that fit their needs, meet educational requirements, and reach target age groups in order to teach about the basic tenets of the problem and about specific aquatic invasive species and other invaders, and to motivate students to take action in their communities.</p>	<p>Project completed: final report will be presented to MAPAIS at spring 2016 meeting.</p>
<p>Characterizing the Invasive New Zealand Mud Snail Population in Central Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Pennsylvania State University (PI: Edward P. Levri)</p>	<p>The presence of the NZMS in central Pennsylvania is a cause for concern because of the substantial ecological changes that can occur due to its presence. This proposal outlines work to 1) determine the extent of the invasion in Pennsylvania, 2) determine the diversity and identity of the clones in central PA (US1, US2, US3, or new clones), and 3) conduct experiments to determine if the clones found in central PA possesses characteristics different from other clones of the species that may influence its spread and invasiveness</p>	<p>Funded through Sept. 2016</p>
<p>Mid-Atlantic Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species</p>	<p>PA Sea Grant (PI: Sara Stahlman)</p>	<p>This project proposes to expand the Pennsylvania field guide to become a regional Mid-Atlantic AIS field guide that will include 20-30 new species of concern from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, as well as Pennsylvania.</p>	<p>Funded through Sept. 2016</p>
<p>Training and Evaluation of Dogs for Early Detection of Nutria (<i>Myocastor coypus</i>)</p>	<p>Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (PI: Todd Engelmeyer)</p>	<p>This project will be a pilot program for training dogs to detect nutria on the edges of their range in Virginia.</p>	<p>Funded through Sept. 2016</p>