

Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Project Synopsis

Project Title: Invasive Species Preparedness

Goals:

- 1) Improve our collective, "synoptic" understanding of invasive species in Rhode Island;
- 2) provide accurate information about the state of invasives in Rhode Island to in-state and external stakeholders; and
- 3) direct those preparing for, or managing invasives to appropriate resources.

Brief Description:

This project will fund part of the existing Rhode Island Natural History Survey botanist position to function as a part-time invasive species coordinator. The specific duties of the coordinator include: keep up on and disseminate information about new issues, discoveries, and management strategies; participate in meetings and other communications of the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel (NEANS) and Invasive Plant Species of New England (IPANE); field individual inquiries to RINHS regarding invasive species; provide technical assistance for an invasive species management video and/or podcast; and help organize rapid response to emerging issues with partner institutions, specifically including response to water chestnut in Westerly and mile-a-minute vine on Block Island and in E. Greenwich.

Deliverables:

The deliverables for this project are:

1. Supervise revision of the invasive species web portal at rinhs.org;
2. Represent Rhode Island at one NEANS meeting and one IPANE meeting;
3. Help develop a script for an invasive species video and podcast;
4. Assist E. Greenwich H.S. to develop a response and management plan for mile-a-minute vine in the school vicinity;
5. Assist the Westerly Land Trust to organize and conduct a water chestnut removal and monitoring activity in Chapman Pond.

Timetable and Benchmarks:

No later than:

February 2010 – plan for revision of RINHS invasive species web portal

May 2010 – draft plan for E. Greenwich H.S.

June 2010 – draft plan for Westerly Land Trust

October 2010 – recording of invasive video/podcast

Budget:

Amount	Purpose
1,700	Coordinator, 0.25 days/week average, \$30/hour wages + benefits (RINHS agrees to cover incidental/indirect costs of the position) \$2,000 minimum additional funds would be raised for the coordinator from honoraria, program fees, or small grants

Payment will be made to The Rhode Island Natural History Survey:

Attn: Dr. David Gregg
Rhode Island Natural History Survey
P.O. Box 1858
Kingston, RI 02881

Project oversight will be done by David Gregg, Rhode Island Natural History Survey