



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4/8/2019

Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA)

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LIISMA to Host Long Island Invasive Species Conference

Brentwood, NY- The Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) will host the 2nd Annual Invasive Species Conference on April 24 and 25, 2019 at the campus of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood, NY.

The Invasive Species Conference offers planning and management strategies to help prevent and limit the devastating impacts of invasive species on the environment, the economy, and human health.

Rusty Schmidt, President of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI), the organization that administers LIISMA, said, "The conference brings together representatives from government, academia, business, non-profits, and the public to address human health concerns and the risk to public and private lands from harmful invasive species."

LIISMA will host a poster session and speaker at the Great South Bay Brewery on April 24, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The main program will be held at the Brentwood campus of the Sisters of Saint Joseph on April 25, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Topics covered will include Invasive Species in the Urban Environment, Citizen Scientist Projects, Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species, and Methods for Controlling Invasive Species. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered for arborists, pesticide applicators, nursery and landscape professionals, landscape architects, and organic farmers.

Southern pine beetle and the Asian long-horned beetle are just a few of the invasive species that threaten Long Island's natural areas and landscapes. A potentially harmful invasive plant that LIISMA monitors and controls is caper spurge. The sap of caper spurge is highly corrosive and can cause burns to skin and serious damage to vision if it gets in your eyes.

"Through the expanded conference program, we hope to reach both the public and land managers about the threats to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems by invasive species, and to provide the tools, knowledge, and resources necessary to prevent new introductions and to manage existing infestations," stated Polly Weigand, Executive Director of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative.

LIISMA facilitates cooperation and coordination among landowners and land managers to reduce the threat of invasive species on Long Island and in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Queens. The goal is to help conserve the region's biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational resources, scenic quality, and crop production, and to protect human health and quality of life, by preventing and controlling invasive species before they become established.

Funding for LIISMA is provided to the Long Island Native Plant Initiative by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

For more information and to register for the conference, visit the LIISMA website at www.LIISMA.org. Advanced registration is recommended.
