

“Hike for Thought” at Tymor Park with Brent Boscarino

On Saturday, June 12th the CAC hosted a “Hike for Thought” at Tymor Park with Brent Boscarino, the Invasive species citizen science program coordinator at Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM). The mission of PRISM is to *“...protect the rich biodiversity and ecosystems of the Lower Hudson region through partnerships and collaborations that focus on controlling the introduction, spread, and harmful impact of invasive species.”* Brent led the group on a brief hike along the Furnace Pond trail and discussed invasives present in the park such as Japanese barberry, bittersweet, honeysuckle, and multi-flora rose. In addition to the invasive plant species discussed, damage from invasive insects was noted in the ash trees (Emerald Ash Borer) and the hemlock forest (Hemlock Woolly Adelgid).

The CAC and Town Recreation staff have continued to work with Brent and have formulated an action plan to help mitigate the invasives. A volunteer is currently taking inventory of the invasive plant species in this section of Tymor Park with next steps including park staff incorporating careful and monitored removal into their yearly planning and continued collaboration with PRISM.

The PRISM website (www.lhprism.org) contains a wealth of information to help citizens identify invasive species, including tutorials on using the Seek and iNaturalist apps. These apps allow users to simply use the camera of their smartphone to learn about the living organisms we encounter in our environment.



Photos of damage done by Emerald Ash borer (left) and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (right)

(Photo credit: Gary Lovett)