

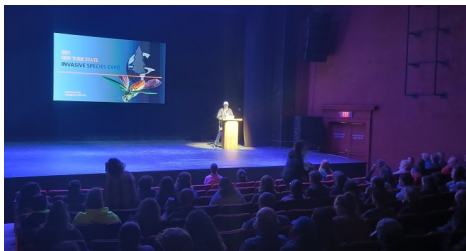
Here's a quick look at some of the things we are doing with our regional partners and at the Gorge.

BEECH LEAF ALLIANCE

Mianus River Gorge has been documenting the Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) condition on its trees since it arrived in our area in 2020. MRG staff and student interns are active participants in organizations trying to save these beautiful trees. By joining the Beech Leaf Alliance, MRG will be at the forefront of efforts to find an answer to the search for a treatment.



2023 NYS INVASIVE SPECIES EXPO



This conference held Sept. 24-28, 2023, in Saratoga Springs State Park was an immersive, hands-on event that included interactive demonstrations. MRG Director of Land Management Budd Veverka demonstrated the use of a propane-fueled torch to eliminate insidious Japanese stiltgrass. The key is to be sure to work in very moist conditions!

MRG PUBLISHED PAPER

MRG staff, students, and interns have been co-authors on 21 academic journal articles since 2005.



Most recently, a former RAP-awardee Zach Gajewski published an article on the distribution of pathogenic chytrid fungus that affects frogs and other amphibians. MRG Director of Research and Education, Chris Nagy, as well as the WTP student that Zach mentored, William Cranier, were co-authors on the paper. Another RAP student, Andy Cortese, published a paper on his research on the underground network of mycorrhizal fungi that supports the old-growth and secondary growth forests here at the MRG Preserve.

GOTHAM COYOTE PROJECT UPDATE

Our work studying the ongoing range expansion of coyotes throughout New York City, and more recently, Nassau and Suffolk Counties continues. Each year we deploy 30 cameras throughout the City to monitor where the coyotes are, and whether the resident coyotes are raising litters.



Our team and the many partners that share data with us have found coyotes in four out of five boroughs, and we know of five sites where coyotes reliably raise pups each year. We have also coordinated with the Long Island Coyote Study Group to document coyote distribution and breeding activity in Nassau and Suffolk. This partnership has recently found a few breeding pairs in the Long Island area as well.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MRG hosted 11 events over the course of the season, including three night-time family events that featured iridescent beetles, spiders, and crayfish as well as bats, owls, and flying squirrels. Walks led by Executive Director Rod Christie explored the history of the land, focusing on both its historical and geological roots. MRG events are always free and open to the public.

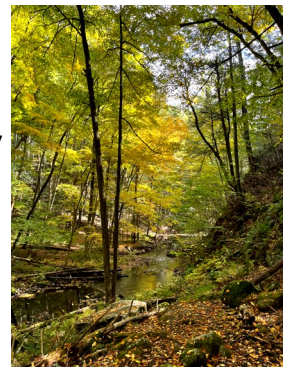
TURTLE MONITORING

Executive Director Rod Christie has been using shell pattern recognition to monitor populations of wood and box turtles in the region. Conservation dogs helped MRG staff to find some turtles in the field. (See related article in the newsletter.)



FOREST REGENERATION

Mianus River Gorge is working to improve the health and buffering ability of the younger, post-agricultural forest that surrounds the Mianus River Gorge old-growth forest. The plan focuses on reducing herbivory, removing invasive species, and planting a selection of trees that will tolerate advancing climate change to provide stability to the forest. The Westchester Community Foundation and the NYS DEC have generously helped fund this effort.



EQUIPMENT / MONITORING



Wildlife cameras are an effective tool for observing wildlife behavior and documenting species presence and distribution. Mianus River Gorge has 12 cameras placed to monitor wildlife movement along corridors, 25 cameras to monitor the deer population in the Preserve, and 30 cameras to observe coyotes in New York City.

HUDSON TO HOUSATONIC



MRG Executive Director Rod Christie continues to work with the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H RCP) to map forest connections and wildlife corridors throughout the region and explore how different H2H partners can work together on land conservation efforts.

LOWER HUDSON PRISM

As the list grows of invasive species threatening the Lower Hudson Valley, Mianus River Gorge learns from and shares best practices at meetings and workshops as an active member of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. Mianus River Gorge is currently managing / eradicating 51 species of highly invasive plants and 4 species of forest pests while carefully monitoring for new ones.

CONSULTATIONS

MRG has finished a contract project with Bedford Garden Club to identify invasive plant species on landowners' properties.



MRG staff made recommendations for control and trained contractual landscapers in best practices for controlling invasive plants. MRG continues to conduct private landowner consultations if requested.

RAP UPDATE

The Research Assistantship Program awards grants to graduate students to support their ecological research thesis research during their M.S. or Ph.D. candidacy. Since 2005, we have awarded promising graduate students over \$215,000 in support. RAP recipients as a group have completed a total of eight Ph.D.'s and three M.S.'s, with two current Ph.D. candidates and one M.S. student currently working in the field or writing their findings.

HEMLOCK UPDATE

Preserve Steward Jean-Luc Plante marked another 1000 hemlock trees for the next



round of treatment against the devastating hemlock woolly adelgid pest. To date, MRG has successfully treated over 2000 trees in the last few years. MRG continues to monitor the efficacy of the chemical regimen as we partner with the NYS Hemlock Initiative to advance promising biocontrol beetles and silver flies.



RESTORATION GARDEN PLANTS

MRG staff are preparing hundreds of plants from our restoration garden that will



be transplanted into new sites in the Gorge. Wild ginger, foamflower, white baneberry, black cohosh, wild columbine, miterwort, butterfly weed, Solomon's seal and many more woodland, wetland and field wildflowers are being repotted for use in restoration projects next year. MRG staff continues to share thousands of seeds with restoration partners.

INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE FORCE

A group of AmeriCorp volunteers forms the NY / NJ Trail Conference Invasive Species Strike Force. This spring, the Strike Force removed 85 Japanese Tree-Lilacs - a new Tier 2 threat to our region-

from the Preserve. The tier system is intended to focus attention on invasive species based on the likelihood that eradication or full containment may be feasible.



How to Donate

Online at mianus.org

By check payable to:
Mianus River Gorge, Inc.

Gift of stock:
Call us at (914) 234-3455