The NYSDEC has launched the '#OnesToWatch interactive map' (DEC's "Ones to Watch" – Help Us Find and Report Invasive Species (arcgis.com)) to identify what invasives to look for in our Finger Lakes area and to make it easier for us to quickly report them. According to the map, the following species are what we should be looking for:

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

Photo: Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

The Asian longhorned beetle, or ALB, (Anoplophora glabripennis) is a wood-boring insect native to Asia that feeds on a variety of hardwoods including maple, birch, elm, ash, poplar, horsechestnut, willow, and others.

BEECH LEAF DISEASE

Photo: Kelsey McLaughlin, NYSDEC

Beech leaf disease affects and kills both native and ornamental beech tree species. It is associated with a nematode, Litylenchus crenatae mccannii, and has only been discovered in recent years. Much about it, including the full cause and how it spreads, is still unknown.

EUROPEAN FROGBIT

Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

European frogbit (Hydrocharis morsus-ranae) is a floating perennial aquatic plant. It quickly grows into dense mats that can crowd out native plants and block sunlight from reaching plants below the surface.

GIANT HOGWEED

Photo: Terry English, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) is a very large invasive plant that can cause painful burns and permanent scarring. Supposedly 10 times worse than poison ivy. It can grow very tall and has a hollow stem which attracts kids. It looks like a giant Queen Anne's Lace, and many times grows along roadsides.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

Photo: Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bugwood.org

Hemlock woolly adelgid, or HWA, (Adelges tsugae) is a tiny aphid-like insect that attacks North American hemlock trees. Their feeding disrupts the flow of nutrients in the tree, typically killing it in 4-10 years.

HYDRILLA

Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Hydrilla or "water thyme" (Hydrilla verticillata) is an aquatic plant from Asia that is one of the most difficult aquatic invasive species to control and eradicate in the United States. It crowds out native plants, reducing native diversity and destroying habitat.

MILE-A-MINUTE

Photo: Jil Swearingen, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

Mile a minute (Persicaria perfoliata) is an herbaceous annual vine native to eastern Asia. It grows quickly and aggressively and can add up to six inches of length per day. The vines outcompete or smother native plants, reducing native diversity and destroying habitat.

NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD

Photo: Susan Trammell, Bugwood.org

Northern snakehead (Channa argus) is a predatory fish native to Asia. This fish poses a threat at all ages, as both the juveniles and adults feed on a wide range of species on which our native fish rely. The northern snakehead can breathe air and survive for days out of water, meaning it can spread to new waterbodies on its own.

OAK WILT

Photo: C.E. Seliskar, Bugwood.org

Oak wilt is a disease that affects oak trees. It is caused by Bretziella fagacearum, a fungus that develops in the xylem, the water carrying cells of trees. All oaks are susceptible to the fungus, but the red oak group (with pointed leaf tips) often die much faster than white oaks (rounded leaf tips).

RUSTY CRAYFISH

Photo: USGS , US Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

Rusty crayfish (Orconectes rusticus) is an aggressive species native to the southern US. They reduce our native plant diversity through their feeding, which destroys native fish habitat. They also directly impact fish populations by eating fish eggs and reducing invertebrate prey.

Lastly, and the invasive the NYSDEC really wants and needs our help with, is:

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Photos: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org *Adults*

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) (Lycorma delicatula) is an invasive pest from Asia. Adults and nymphs use their sucking mouthparts to feed on the sap of more than 70 plant species including grapevine, hops, maple, walnut, fruit trees, and others. SLF also excrete large amounts of sticky "honeydew," which attracts sooty molds that interfere with plant photosynthesis, negatively affecting the growth and fruit yield of plants. This ‘honeydew’ also attracts other SLFs and swarms of other annoying insects.

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The adults lay 1-inch-long egg masses in the fall on nearly anything from outdoor furniture, tree trunks and rocks to vehicles and firewood. When first laid they are smooth and brownish-gray with a shiny, waxy coating. Because of their egg placement, they can be inadvertently transported to new areas by humans, resulting in their spread. SLFs can also jump and fly short distances.

SLF egg masses on a tree, Photo: Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, bugwood.org

Another potential pathway for the spread of SLF is its preferred host plant, tree of heaven (TOH), which is already found in many locations across NY. It's a deciduous, invasive tree which can grow up to 75 ft. tall and 50 ft. wide. It looks a lot like sumac and other native trees.

TREE OF HEAVEN Pinnately compound leaves (arranged in pairs across the plant's stem) of the tree of heaven are similar to native plants. However, the reddish-brown twigs make it stand out. © Derek Markham / Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

So far, the primary NY infestations are downstate, but there is an infestation in Ithaca, NY, not that far from us. The initial and major infestations are in Pennsylvania, again, not that far from us. Signs of infestation, besides the massive honeydew build-up under plants with possible black sooty mold, and the one-inch-long egg masses (brownish-gray, waxy and mud-like when new, and brown and scaly when older), is sap oozing or weeping from tiny open wounds on tree trunks, which appears wet and may give off fermented odors.

We can help by:

- Learning how to identify SLF
- Inspecting outdoor items, such as firewood, vehicles, and furniture for egg masses
- If we visit states with SLF, be sure to check all equipment and gear before leaving, and scraping off any egg masses. These states include: Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia

If you think you have found a spotted lanternfly in New York:

- Take pictures of the insect, egg masses and/or infestation signs as described above (include something for scale such as a coin or ruler) and email to spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov.
    - or fill out the Department of Agriculture and Markets' reporting form
    - or report it on the free iMapInvasives mobile app
- Note the location (address, intersecting roads, landmarks or GPS coordinates).

For more information on NYSDEC's #OnesToWatch campaign and the successes they have had as a result of people like us getting involved, visit their new Find and Report Invasive Species webpage, https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/121154.html

Marion Greenhalgh

OLPA LFL Committee Member