1. Background

At the request of the Rainbow Lake Association (***RLA***), Adirondack Ecologists, LLC (***AE***), conducted an aquatic plant assessment of Rainbow Lake, Clear Pond, Lake Kushaqua, and The Narrows in Gabriels, New York. The assessment consisted primarily of an inspection for invasive aquatic plant species, but native plants observed during the conduct of the inspection were also recorded.

2. Methods

Four volunteer members of the ***RLA*** assisted with the inspection process during four one-half day sessions/each. These volunteers utilized their personally-owned watercraft to navigate in a zig-zag fashion around the periphery of the littoral zone of the above-mentioned waterways allowing ***AE*** to perform the survey. Both survey days presented good conditions for the inspection (i.e., low cloud cover, high sunlight intensity, and relatively low wind) and the air temperature was in the 80's during the duration of the survey. ***AE*** would like to thank the ***RLA*** and their many dedicated volunteers for their funding of and assistance with the performance of this project.

3. Results

An aggregate list of species observed for Rainbow Lake, Clear Pond, Lake Kushaqua, and The Narrows is provided in *Table 1*. Thirty-three species of aquatic plants were documented during the survey. This number of species greatly exceeds the 15 species typically reported for moderately productive lakes in New York and indicates good water quality and a variety of habitat types.

No aquatic invasive plant species were documented during the inspection, but what appeared to be an invasive terrestrial species, *Phragmites australis*, was observed from the boat growing on a riparian landowner's property. The existence of this species near the shoreline of any Adirondack water body is a concern to ***AE*** and for the sake of the ecological integrity of native plant communities in the area the introduction of any invasive species should never be encouraged. Thus, the ID of this plant should be confirmed and if it is found to indeed be an invasive species, the owner should be contacted.

Table 1. Species list for Rainbow Lake & connected waters, Franklin Co, NY.

Species	**Common Name**
Brasenia schreberi	watershield
Calla palustris	water arum
Ceratophyllum demersum	coontail
Eleocharis acicularis	needle spike-rush
Elodea canadensis	waterweed
Eriocaulon aquaticum	pipewort
Isoetes sp.	quillwort
Juncus sp.	rush
Lobelia dortmanna	water lobelia
Megalodonta beckii	water marigold
Myriophyllum sibericum	northern water milfoil
Najas flexillis	slender naiad
Najas guadalupensis	southern naiad
Nitella sp.	stonewort
Nuphar advena	spatterdock
Nymphaea odorata	white or fragrant pond lily
Nymphoides cordatum	floating heart
Persicaria amphibia	smartweed
Pontederia cordata	pickerelweed
Potamogeton amplifolius	large-leaf pondweed
Potamogeton epihydrus	ribbon-leaf pondweed
Potamogeton gramineus	variable-leaf pondweed
Potamogeton natans	floating pondweed
Potamogeton pusillis	narrow-leaf pondweed
Potamogeton robbinsii	Robbins pondweed
Potamogeton zosteriformis	flat-stem Pondweed
Sagittaria graminea	grass-leaved arrowhead
Scirpus sp.	sedge
Sparganium sp.	burreed
Typha sp.	cattail
Utricularia purpurea	eastern purple bladderwort
Utricularia vulgaris	giant bladderwort
Vallisneria americana	wild celery