

MARYLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
Seneca Creek State Park
Gaithersburg MD
December 4, 2002
Minutes

Call to order - Bob Tichenor

Additions to Agenda

Dick Bean
Don Cober
Maryland Associated Pet Industries (MAPI)

Dick Bean, MDA-PPWM
Carole Bergman, M-NCPPC
Don Cober, MD SHA
*Eric Dews, SHA
*Ruth Hanessian, MAPI**
Lane Heimer, MDA-PPWM
Carol Holko, MDA-PPWM
Larry Hurley, Behnke's Nurseries
Carol Jelich, MNPS
Mary Kay Malinoski, UM-HGIC
Caroline Myers, MDE

Kerrie Kyde, MA-EPPC
Bob Rabaglia, MDA-FPM
Pete Rupp, MDA-PPWM
*Ellen Nibali, UM-HGIC
Phil Pannel, MD DNR, FS
Al Tasker, USDA-APHIS
*Terry Taylor, MAPI
Edith Thompson, MD DNR
Bob Tichenor, MDA-FPM
Robert Trumbule, MDA-PPWM

* new attendee

**Maryland Association of Pet Industries (MAPI) - Maryland retailers wholesalers, distributors approved by organization; working to educate consumers on how to handle spent exotic pets, e.g. stores that will take them back or refer to appropriate contact; working with Andy Lazur, UMD; draft poster passed around.

Membership

Ruth Hanessian, MAPI, requests voting membership in MISC.
Motion to accept Carol Jelich as voting MISC member. Motion seconded and passed.

Presentation: Updated Invasive Species Section of Univ. of MD HGIC Information Center, Mary Kay Malinoski

- Overview.
- Invasive Species - MISC Brochure, HGIC pamphlet posted.
- 2004 National Master Gardener Conference, would like MISC representation
- www.hgic.umd.edu

Discussion: contact Mary Kay with suggestions, additions, etc.

Presentation: Update on Invasive Species Field Projects in Maryland, Edith Thompson

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/invintro.html>

Northern snakehead - found in privately-owned pond in Crofton, Maryland

- CANNOT walk or burrow into mud, CAN survive freezing temperatures, 3 ft. maximum size; food, not aquarium, fish; released intentionally and illegally, 2-year statute of limitations on prosecution.
- killed vegetation, applied Rotenone - killed 5 adults, 800 young, i.e. reproducing population.

- current status - appears to be gone; electroshocking yielded only one bullfrog, will restock in Spring.
- brought invasive species issue to everyone's living room.

Mute swan

- almost finished management plan, future uncertain.
- most recent public comments favorable for plan, some previously against in task force report.
- plan
 - slowing growth of population, egg addling, 300 nests in 2002.
 - concentrated in mid-Bay area.
 - 95% cooperation from landowners in affected area.
 - survey every three years, 2002 survey indicates slowing of growth.
 - research, 1) impact on SAV, 2) impact on tundra swans.
 - proposed restrictions on sale, importation, breeding, and possession.
 - plan included on DNR web page.
- Discussion: are landowners responsible for populations on property? - possession means keeping in confinement; originally brought in as domestic.

Nutria - brought in for fur farming in '40's

- population 50-75K ?; reproduce all year; young can eat on own in 4 days; reproductive @ 4 months; 4-13/litter.
- destroy 1000 acres of swamp/year - restoration pointless without controlling nutria; move maximum of 40 acres/day; will destroy habitat and move on; general vegetation feeders; don't eat Phragmites.
- pilot project in Dorchester County over; 14 trappers hired through APHIS; 800 nutria caught since September; hired 2 landowner liaisons.
- goal to eradicate nutria - expensive, feasible?, need congressional support

Discussion

non-targets? - caught, not generally harmed in leg hold traps; rails caught in kill traps during migration - traps modified and non-target rail kill reduced; racoons and muskrats also caught - traps checked daily. Natural predators? - none when adults.

National Aquatic Invasive Species Act

- screening, rapid response emphasized; puts time limit on ballast water exchange, will be introduced next session; important to comment when asked.

Discussion:

Are any invasive plant projects underway? - no, Jonathon McKnight is current lead DNR person for invasive species.

Should we draw legislative persons into group? e.g. Delegate Baldwin, Senator Frosh, staffer David Bruster - formal invitation to provide input on opportunities for legislative changes?; Edie could facilitate identification of issues, present overview, top issues to be addressed through statutory change; need specific issues to present to legislators; Environmental Day - apprise legislature of MISC and MISC issues, i.e briefing.

Other success stories? Phil Pannell, SHA - *Ailanthis* suppression.

Approval of minutes from October 15, 2002

Motion to approve minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

Monthly press release

Handout - draft introductory press release on MISC history and purpose.

Suggestions for calendar "Poster Plants" - need same list for other taxa.

Action items:

- AI will talk to Mike Kenney about monthly pathogen list.
- “bug people” (MDA) will do bug list by Friday.
- MDA will talk to PIO about distribution.
- Edith Thompson will produce “critter” list.
- AI Tasker will send format to Carole Bergman.
- complete lists by end of January.
- Kerrie will send draft MISC history via list serve - please review and comment.

Handout - informational flyer on *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas* - produced by USFWS, National Park Service.

- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/plantinvasaders.htm>

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Holko

- MISC brochure reprinting - 10,000 were delivered this week; thanks to Dick Bean and the CAPS program for funding; changes include addition of Web page on front, emerald ash borer and northern snakehead to list.

Edith Thompson

- handout - DNR testimony by Jill Stevenson on “The Experience of Maryland Natural Resource Managers With Aquatic Invasive Species” before U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry.

Larry Hurley

- MISC brochure highlighted in *Greenhouse Management PRO* magazine, November, 2002.
- Passed around article on bison as “native invasive” in the Grand Canyon.

AI Tasker

- National Weed Awareness Week in February after WSSA meeting.
- S198, Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act of 2000, passed.
- APHIS weed plan revision
 1. public survey to assess needs.
 2. FICMNEW, early detection, rapid response.
- contract with NRCS to put public input page on usda.plants.gov website.
- Invasive Plants Management Conference, November 3-7, 2003, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, <http://www.esa.org/ipinams-emapi7>
- Natural Areas Conference to be held in Madison Wisconsin, late September 2003; one day to be devoted to invasive species.
- Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Tropical Soda Apple Rules handed out.

Dick Bean

- Presentation: 2004 Committee Recommendations, Eastern U.S. Region CAPS Meeting, Charleston, NC, November 13-14, 2002.

Next meeting

First week of February, 2003 - date, time, and topic TBA.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Carol Holko, Recording Secretary