

MARYLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2003
Held at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Annapolis, MD.

Minutes

Bob Tichenor, MDA FPM
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI
Kerrie Kyde, USDA ARS
Fred Mann, USDA APHIS PPQ
Caroline Myers, MDE
Bill Gimpel, MDA PPWM
John Peter Thompson, MNLA
Larry Hurley, Behnke's Nursery
Pete Rupp, MDA PPWM

Lane Heimer, MDA PPWM
Ann Hairston-Strang
Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC
Jonathan McKnight
Dave Clement, UM HGIC
Don Robbins, MDA PPWM
Sylvan Kaufman, Adkins Aboretum
Bob Rabaglia, MDA FPM
Andrew Lazur, UM Sea Grant

Bob Tichenor: Facilitator
Agenda distributed.

In the absence of Carol Holko, notes were taken by Larry Hurley.
Fish and Wildlife host Julie Thompson unable to attend due to illness.
Originally scheduled speaker unable to attend due to a change in job duties.

Four parties present and eligible for membership. Andrew Lazur, Sylvan Kaufman, Jonathan McKnight, and Pete Rupp. Unanimously elected to membership.

Minutes of February meeting distributed. Corrections: Carole Bergmann states that she was incorrectly listed as having attended. Sylvan Kaufman corrects name spelling. Minutes approved as corrected.

Website Development: Bob Tichenor reports on behalf of Carol Holko Viewed four bids for a website development firm and hired the firm "48th Avenue". One may view the work in process at www.48thAve.com/clients/mdinvasivesp/site/index/html. Input to Carol welcome and encouraged via email at holkoCA@mda.state.md.us. Jonathan stated that another site done by 48th Avenue is archeobotany.com, should one wish to visit. Members encouraged to contribute content: suggestions included pending legislation; images; links; literature references; links to member agencies. All should be in some way connected to species on the MISC list.

Kerrie Kyde presented some slides to Bob Tichenor.
48th Avenue will do development through the 25th of April. Then MISC responsible for site maintenance. Still looking for someone in the group to take over the site maintenance (in group or a referral). If no volunteer, then discuss how to handle maintenance at the next meeting.

48th Avenue will provide web master training on April 17.

John Peter Thompson and Bob Rabaglia volunteered to attend the training session. Bill Gimpel suggested Carol attend also. John Peter Thompson interested in doing the site maintenance.

Ann Hairston-Strang suggests that we need subject headings for links.

Each person forward info on their species of interest.

Carole Bergmann: suggests publishing a list of upcoming events. Lectures, training sessions, symposia.

A long discussion ensued on what information should be listed on the site in terms of the individual members. Ruth felt that the contacts listed on the pamphlet are overly broad, and more targeted contact information should be available to the public.

Who answers email queries? It was felt that the webmaster should forward emails to the proper party to answer.

For whom does the answering party speak: himself, his agency, or MISC? A disclaimer, similar to that of the Extension service, must be developed. The fear is that an individual's answer may be construed by the press as being a policy position of the committee.

A motion was passed consisting of the following points:

- On the website, a member individual's listing is voluntary.
- Supervisor's approval for inclusion on the list is to be secured by the individual member, should such approval be needed.
- Contact information listed is up to the individual (phone, email, or none.)
- Primary information is name, affiliation, and area of expertise.
- A disclaimer is to be developed and placed on the website, and on any email sent out, to the effect that an individual is not necessarily speaking on behalf of MISC. Membership committee to work on draft.

Today's attendance sheet passed and those who were able to marked their contact preferences for website listing.

Invader of the Month Press Releases:

March release on Woolly Adelgid. No feedback indicating that anyone printed the release. Bob Rabaglia stated that articles on adelgid had run over the last few weeks; perhaps the media were saturated. Release went out to 100 outlets.

Bob Tichenor mentioned that we could hire a clipping service for \$70 a topic to monitor response.

April release on Giant Hogweed written by Don Robbins. Reviewed by Dick Bean and Carol Holko. Don will hand deliver to press release office.

Carole Bergmann has not heard comment on her suggested plant list. The only members of the committee to oversee press releases present today are Carole and Kerrie Kyde. Kerrie still awaiting receipt of a disease list from Mile Kenny; Bob Tichenor to contact Mr. Kenny.

Carole suggests Bob Tichenor be overall in charge of press releases.

Kerrie feels that the committee should have a chance to see the press release in draft form before it is sent out. Drafts should be sent by email to Carole Bergmann, who will forward them to the committee.

Bob has a general format for press release which he will email.

Future topics decided:

Caroline Myers will write May release on garlic mustard.

Jonathan will do mute swan from June.

Jonathan to ask Mike Naylor to write up water chestnut for July.

Kerrie Kyde will do stiltgrass for August.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of featuring mute swan, which is controversial. It was decided to go ahead with this pest, by mutual consent.

Bill Gimpel reported on Daylily Rust, a pest of ornamental daylilies, and MDA's efforts to reduce its spread. Suggested as a possible September press release.

Jonathan proposed that this disease is not within the scope of the committee, as it is not a disease that harms plants within the native environment, but only introduced species.

John Peter expressed his opinion that an invasive organism is a problem regardless of the host; that this is a council to deal with invasives, not merely the "native council". Raising awareness of invasiveness as a concept on plants in the public's back yard may increase their reception to discussion of the problem in natural areas as well.

Whether to feature daylily rust was not decided.

Committees:

Projects Committee: Kerrie reported that no progress has been made on evaluating the various risk assessment databases. John Peter Thompson reported that he had met with Faith Kuehn from Delaware, and they have a system they like. Kerry will contact her.

Organization Committee: John Peter Thompson; nothing to report.

Education and Outreach Committee: Bob Tichenor says they have been devoting all time to the website development.

Old Business:

The Frosh Bill, Maryland Senate Bill 287, has passed the senate, but has not gone to the house. The bill was modified with suggestions from the pet industry.

Ruth and Andrew discussed the Maryland Association of Pet Industries (MAPI) Gold Circle Dealer certification plan. Certified dealers get a sticker for their doors and agree to rehome animals to prevent their release into the wild. Gold Circle Dealers do not rebuy animals (or aquarium plants) but will accept them and/or deal with them in a proper manner. This may be a referral to the humane society or other suitable location. Most stores also have bulletin boards for customer use if they wish to sell an animal.

Bill Gimpel reported on *Raulstonia solanacearum*, a bacterial organism on the bioterrorism watch list. It was discovered on geraniums that were rooted in Kenya and distributed throughout the United States. In addition to causing a geranium wilt, it also kills members of the Solanaceae, which includes many important food crops (potato, tomato, eggplant, pepper). MDA monitoring grower with the plants in Maryland, and helping with disposal. He says some plants from Texas got into the retail stream, so we should all watch out for wilting geraniums in the market place. The organism has appeared in the USA several times since 1999; it is not thought to have been a terrorist release.

John Peter Thompson reported that the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association will consider adopting a Code of Ethics regarding the introduction of potential invasive plant species. This was a code formulated about two years ago at a meeting in Saint Louis, attended by various representatives of the nursery industry, botanical gardens, academics, regulators and other interested parties.

Don Robbins is organizing a Giant Hogweed Workshop to be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds on May 20. Speaker will include Betty Marose on the MISC mission. Other speakers to include Bob Trumbule, Dick Bean, Don Robbins and Al Tasker.

The meeting to target people who get out on the land who can report pockets of infestation. A similar meeting in Pennsylvania was successful in locating a number of new sites there.

Kerry will send notice out on MA-EPPC listserv if Don sends her meeting information.

Andy: would like to partner between MAPI and MISC to publicize the Gold Circle Dealers program. Link web sites.

Bob Tichenor proposed a "Space on the MISC Website" Policy:

- For material generated by other organizations and links to other organizations

 - There should not be a space problem on the site (that is, the information listed should not take an unreasonable amount of space)

- There should not be direct commercial applications (that is, it should not be doing marketing for the organization)

- If such is agreeable, the MISC should vote up or down re linking

Andy has a poster for MAPI. He would like to list MISC on the poster and MAPI on the MISC website. Kerrie Kyde exercised the option of holding the motion to link until she could study the MAPI materials. The decision was made to send them out on the list serve for the membership to look at.

Next meeting:

John Thompson may bring MD representative Hubbard to attend as a guest.

Date: June 2, Monday, at MDA

Speaker to be Richard Johnstone of Conectiv Power and Light discussing maintenance of rights of way.

We were unable to set a date for the August meeting at this time.