

Maryland Invasive Species Council
Thursday, September 15, 2011
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Call to order: 9:36 am. Bob Tichenor, Facilitator

Introductions

Dick Bean, MDA

Lane Heimer, MDA

Marc Imlay, MNCPPC

Carol Holko, MDA

Carol Jelich, MNPS

Sylvan Kaufman, CCLC

Wesley Knapp, MDNR

Kerrie Kyde, MDNR

Chris Lockett, MDE

Mary Kay Malinoski, UMD

Damien Ossi, DC Dept. Environment

Carolyn Puckett, Carroll Co FCB

Karen Rane, UMD

Peter Rupp, MDA

Matt Salo, FLBC

Ian Spotts, MDE

Al Tasker, USDA APHIS PPQ

John Peter Thompson, MNLA

Bob Tichenor, USDA APHIS PPQ

Matthew Travis, USDA APHIS PPQ

Robert Trumbule, MDA

Gaye Williams, MDA

Kevin Wilsey, SHA

Jim Young, USDA APHIS PPQ

Additions to the Agenda

Discussion of ideas for program topics and field trips

Approval of Minutes, July 2011 meeting

Motion to accept minutes. Motion seconded and passed.

Membership

Carolyn Puckett requested membership. Will vote at next meeting attended.

Kevin Wilsey, SHA, attended second meeting (first was May 2011). *Motion to accept for membership, seconded and passed.*

Congratulations to Carol Holko on her promotion to Assistant Secretary at MDA. Carol will continue membership in MISC and attend meetings as time permits.

Invader of the Month

http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invader_of_the_month.html

September is posted. Wes Knapp has submitted *Murdannia keisak* for October. Carol H. may seek assistance in preparing Gold Spotted Oak Borer for November. It was suggested that Marc Imlay could prepare Chinese Mystery Snail for December. Species for 2012 lotM will be on agenda for discussion at November meeting.

MISC brochure and web site – Sylvan Kaufman, Carol Holko

Draft text for 12 species descriptions for brochure is complete. Sylvan will send animal and disease descriptions to Kerrie Kyde, who will forward to appropriate DNR staff for review. High resolution

photos in jpg or tif format are needed for Sudden Oak Death, Canada Goose, Rock Snot and Snakehead. Preference is for photos that will not require crediting on brochure. Action photo of people engaged in control is requested for the brochure cover. Members should send photos to Sylvan by December. Goal is brochure finalized in January as PDF for web site. Funding for printing copies to be determined.

Carol H has received expanded species descriptions for web site and will confer with Sylvan on presentation.

Legislative update on HB831 ISLE OF MISC - Carol Holko

Membership of Committee has not been finalized.

Agency Updates

MDA – Carol Holko, Dick Bean, Bob Trumbule, Gaye Williams

- Carol H – MD considering best way to enter into agreements with other states on EAB quarantine, as the quarantine expands through the mid-Atlantic region and beyond.
- Dick B – Bean plataspid (*Megacopta cribraria* Fabricius – superfamily Pentatomoidea, family Plataspidae), a bug, has been detected feeding on kudzu in Georgia and North Carolina. Potential pest of soybean so not in consideration for biocontrol of kudzu.

Larvae of EAB are starting to bore into pupal chambers for the winter. Due to expected budget reductions in federal funding, trapping survey will be discontinued in quarantined counties (west of Chesapeake Bay). There will continue to be full trapping on Eastern Shore. Determining how to address continuing trapping on western shore, where EAB has been detected in 6 of the 14 counties. Traps are being cleaned and saved in anticipation that a methodology could be worked out for someone else to deploy; e.g., Forestry Boards or UME Master Gardeners.

Currently implementing two strategies for producing biocontrols: cutting trees heavily infested to collect adults for lab in Newark; also collecting parasitoids that emerge. Impact of biocontrol at this point is low. Gaye noted that the permit for EAB parasitoids is completed.

Finished grape survey and samples, didn't find any of seven targets.

Sirex wood borer traps out, so far negative (Jim Young doing taxonomy).

- Bob Trumbule – Biocontrol program for purple loosestrife is ongoing, with rearing and release of gallery cell beetles this year. It appears to be less effective in mid-Atlantic region than reported by Bernd in New England and upstate New York. Program funding contingent on SHA grant money from federal sources. Kerrie K noted article in Biological Invasions Journal re purple loosestrife, will post citation on list serve.

Release of mile-a-minute weed (MaM) weevil (*Rhinoncomimus latipes* Korotyaev) began in 2007, and weevil has established in every release site. Significant 90 to 100 percent reduction of weed at release sites. Reports that weevil is moving on its own, up to 15 miles from any known release site in MD. Concentrating release strategies on outlying areas where MaM weed is known to occur. At present in Wicomico, Washington, Frederick, Carroll, Prince George's; found in Caroline County,

most likely migrated down from Cecil. Weevil should establish everywhere in MD. All MaM release sites are mapped by Chuck Bargaron/Bugwood. Contact Bob Trumbule to request a visit to determine if weevil is present on a site. Weevils reared in MD, also NJ. APHIS continues to fund rear and release. SHA and Forest Service funding continuation to be determined.

- Gaye W – Gaye identified a daylily leaf miner previously unidentified in the U.S. -- *Ophiomyia kwansonis* Sasakawa, a Japanese/Taiwanese fly. It has been found in 11 states including Maryland. Report by Gaye and Florida co-author published (post-meeting) in Florida Pest Alert and NPDN Newsletter. Photo at www.BugGuide.net. International implications for exports; EU prohibits all leaf miners. *Ophiomyia kwansonis* is the only known leafminer in *Hemerocallis* spp. and varieties.

Hillers weevil (*Oedophrys hilleri*) – generalist on all plants, tiny notching visible. It's here but question of how widespread it is.

Ectobius pallidus, tawny cockroach, a Mediterranean wood roach found in MA – first specimen found in MD. Found in *Sirex* wood wasp traps in Baltimore County.

APHIS – Matt Travis, Al Tasker, Bob Tichenor, Jim Young

- Matt T – An individual in DC area was posting on blog that he successfully brought in restricted plant material from Saudi Arabia. Customs/Border Protection became aware and contacted APHIS. APHIS visited and confiscated all material. Individual was cooperative.

Proposal submitted to remove brassware from regulation. Regulation originally written to control Khapra beetle in burlap-wrapped brassware imported from Mumbai; all imports are fumigated. Now all brassware are plastic-sealed and fumigation can damage the product. Brassware no longer a risk. Khapra beetle now being found on rice and with tourists.

EAB – Regional quarantine program to be instituted later this year in Maryland/DC area. Agreements with other states are being considered.

- Al T – Viable seeds of cogongrass were intercepted on west coast. Container was confiscated. Looking at validating method of dipping in boiling water to sterilize. There is a proposal to remove exemption for Red Baron cultivar and quit allowing movement under permit, now that data is in. Developing process for submitting documents, then will roll out to broader stakeholders. Impact: quit issuing permits for it to move interstate & movement enforced; states could control it within their borders.

Hogweed planted from seed was found in hills in Appalachia.

Biological controls – swallowwort – Work progressing on an agent, no petition to release yet. Toadflax agent – Chinese weevil? Not as far along in the process.

This fall, will begin managing biocontrols. Will still have regulatory oversight of ports and interstate movement, but no funding for cooperative work with states. Discussion underway of how to manage weed program in the event of zero funding.

Working with NISC on Invasive Species week 2012, scheduled for last week Feb/first March. Looking for people to work with them on species other than weeds – animals, etc.

Kelsey has been leading field trips for students to look at weeds.

Training class on risk assessment scheduled for next week, looking at how it fits into regulatory program. There are 41 species on NAPPO list.

- Jim Y – Distributed list of pests recently intercepted in the mid-Atlantic; also posted to list serve. Not sure whether improved monitoring or higher pressure is leading to detection of more Khapra beetle. Marc I noted a recent article on the good work that APHIS is doing. Kerrie K thanked Jim for providing the very helpful updates.

MDE – Chris Lockett

- Chris L – Multiple partners worked to contain overflow and test to identify substance that appeared as black streaks in Anacostia River. It was identified as algal bloom, a rare occurrence in fresh water. Working with taxonomists to determine species, but not toxic, no adverse effects.

MDE has designated their member of the HB831 Invasive Plants Advisory Committee: Ian Spotts. Ian has background in plant science and water quality monitoring.

SHA – Kevin Wilsey

- Kevin W – Inventory of roadside vegetation conducted. Increase in Canada thistle, as expected due to reduction in mowing. Business plan renewed this year; includes thistle and phragmites treatment. Vegetation management plan developed for all state highway corridors, though funding not established. Goal is to survey, set thresholds for action. Since funding uncertain, plan is broad for now. Noted that “clean equipment” rules not in effect for SHA at present.

DNR – Kerrie Kyde

- Kerrie K – Eradication program for wavy-leaf basket grass (WLBG) was discontinued. Volunteers had pesticide application training at park with large WLBG population and will work under supervision of certified applicator to continue control efforts as well as help train other volunteers.

Held a successful workshop on Aug 30 with 40 people including DNR forestry staff. Conducted by Invasive Plant Control Inc, sponsored by Kerrie and Anne Hairston-Strang with grant from US Forest Service, on invasive plant control in sensitive sites. Part of grant is to look at Heritage Bionet Tier 1 and Tier 2 sites, layered with forest or stronghold watersheds/headwater streams. Will work with county crews under Lane Heimer’s guidance. Learned how to do control in places where it is important not to damage species other than target plant. Will work with volunteer groups where only manual measures can be used.

Forestry staff member at Chesapeake Forest on Eastern Shore had 2009 paper on control of Japanese knotweed. There are both live and dead structures in knotweed clusters. Although the rhizomes in the middle die, they can still pass water through to outside of cluster. Timing chemical control with different chemicals at different times of year can get old rhizomatous tissue to “wake up” and take in herbicide, thereby killing a patch. Article was in Weed Science.

MNPPC – Marc Imlay

- Marc I – Working on Japanese stiltgrass at parks and nature centers. Five-year plan to eradicate WLBG. Also working on saving native *Rosa palustris* from multiflora. MaM control has been successful.

UMD – Mary Kay Malinoski

- Mary Kay M – Study of *Bipolaris* underway, to see what else it attacks. There is potential for a micro-herbicide.

DC DOE – Damien Ossi

- Damien O – DC Fisheries agency licenses fishing in DC. They monitor catfish, discussion of monitoring blue cat, rockfish, snakehead. Large project underway for cooperative weed management area. Forestry grant will provide for an intern to do outreach. MoU signed re sites not federally-owned. Will do some mechanical control in parks and other sites. Marc I noted most effective to work simultaneously on contiguous sites.

News and New Business

Marc Imlay

Russ Richardson, who is monitoring *Bipolaris* on populations of *Microstegium* in West Virginia, reported that "*Bipolaris*, which appears to be native to the central Appalachians showed up in Maryland and Virginia last year and the wet spring of 2011 has not hampered the spread of the fungus so it should be expected in more locations this summer."

Kerrie Kyde

Initiated discussion of recent literature presenting new arguments against the need or desirability of controlling invasive species. This could be a future presentation to this group. John Peter T could facilitate discussion; he has met and talked with Mark Davis, who is a key arguer. Current conversation missing some points; Davis is getting publicity by allowing people to take what he says out of context. JPT will put presentation together. Another issue arising is assisted migration. Discussion is ongoing on other list serves. Kerrie has copies of papers, will post to MISC list serve.

John Peter Thompson

Review of environmental assessment and complete bibliography of MaM. He will publish if he gets grant. Has contract with NPS to develop presentation on invasive species protocols for urban parks, for Weed Awareness Week. Principles same, application different for half square block in DC versus Yellowstone Park. There will be monthly conference calls to develop his presentation; contact John Peter if interested in participating. Al T is engaged. Damien O is interested.

PG Community College – Randy Westbrook's certification and rapid response to be offered in an online course as a module of applied, practical classes for workforce development. Working with MNCPPC to beta test on their staff. Pesticide Applicators pre-course to help pass Extension Applicators exam. In Spanish. Ultimately will be available statewide, online. The idea is to model Carole Bergmann's Weed Warriors to train MNCPPC staff.

Carolyn Puckett

Volunteers are being recruited to do invasive controls in Carroll County.

Sylvan Kaufman

American Public Gardens Association has started offering training on pest detection. Sylvan will attend a workshop in Boston. CCLC conference is December 2 in Lancaster, PA. See information at www.chesapeakelandscape.org.

Al Tasker

Natural Areas Conference will be held in Florida in November.

Carol Jelich

Maryland Native Plant Society Conference will be September 24-25 in Southern Maryland. See www.mdflora.org for further information.

Marc Imlay

Marc is managing a Bioblitz. See Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter web site for further information.

Matt Salo

Cheverly has adopted green infrastructure plan, moving into implementation phase.

Karen Rane

Small fruit pest detected in Howard County, filling in distribution on map. New virus disease of soybean – soybean vein necrosis virus, spread by thrips. Don't know distribution. Confirmed in St. Mary's County, also been confirmed 2011 in DE and VA. First found in 2008 in AR, IL, KY. Monitoring, looking into impact on crop production.

Mary Kay Malinoski

Mary Kay and Nevin are still distributing laminated set of five diagnostic cards; she has a supply at meeting. Getting them distributed across the state of MD. Useful to general lay workforce folks. Seeking another grant to produce more detailed version of card set. Aimed at supervisory level.

Received an email regarding the plant Chinese toon (*Toona sinensis*); writer is getting sprouts along driveway from neighbor's yard. This could be a plant of concern in MD. Kerrie K also received an email. Wes K and Kerrie K will follow up with the homeowner.

Planning field trips and presentations – Kerrie Kyde

Ideas for field trips and presentations at upcoming meetings include:

- Al Tasker to do a presentation on the NAPPRA (Not Allowed for import Pending Pest Risk Assessment) process and the revised PPQ Weed Risk Assessment tool at the November meeting. John Peter Thompson recommends this, as the topic will be of interest to the industry as it moves forward.
- NASA has program "DEVELOP." Vanessa Beecham is gathering info on WLBG to develop predictive model. Plan to tie in with climate change data. Two interns (recently hired) can come present at a later date. Project includes a dispersal component simulating deer and small mammal movement through the woods.

- Matt Kasson, lead grad student at Penn State on *Verticillium albo-atrum* infestation and killing of *Ailanthus*, weevil work at VA Tech. They have isolated agent they are using in their testing. Getting massive die-off of ailanthus , with the fungus spreading by air and root grafts within ailanthus populations.
- Presentation that illuminates the “exotics vs. invasives” argument currently underway by Mark Davis and others. Randy Westbrook will be in DE in October, could come here.
- We have open invitation to Brian Knox’s EcoGoats site, which will start up in spring. Knox is only one doing invasive control with goats commercially in MD. He was originally a forester.

Kerrie K will post list of options on list serve to assess interest.

Next meeting

Thursday, November 17 in Beltsville. John Peter T. will work with John Lydon on getting BARC or other meeting space. Need volunteers for refreshments.

Program – AI Tasker, on the NAPPRA process and the revised PPQ Weed Risk Assessment Tool.

Adjourn 12:17 pm

Respectfully submitted: Carol Jelich, Recording Secretary