

Mission Statement: The Maryland Invasive Species Council (MISC) provides leadership concerning invasive species and encourages efforts that prevent the introduction of and manage the impact of invasive species on Maryland ecosystems.

Maryland Invasive Species Council

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Thursday, July 18, 2024, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy

Annapolis MD 21401

Conference room 112, 1st floor

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions.

2. Comments by Facilitator.

3. Review and Approval of April 18, 2023, meeting minutes.
 - Small changes are being made to minutes – concerning protocol – scientific names of species to be added to minutes.
 - Minutes approved.

4. Membership - Pending, new requests, address/affiliation changes.
 - Maddie Williams – did not return
 - Eric – did not return
 - Alexis Mowery – second time – would like to be a member – has been approved
 - Brianna Allen - 1st meeting
 - Brandon Young (USDA) – 1st meeting

5. IPAC Report.
 - Met Tuesday (July 16th) – working on changed – looking to hire potentially 1 position

6. Invader of the Month - <http://mdinvasives.org/iotm/>. An IOTM topic needs to be settled on.
 - Kenton to post future invaders

- Deborah Landau, asking for someone else to take over invader of the month – has switched to every other month.
 - o Suggestions for invader of the month – laurel wilt – japanese knotweed – star of Bethlehem – climathus – mulberry weed – elm zigzag sawfly – longhorn tick – beech leaf disease
 - o Potential addition – wall barley – national Capitol PRISM has noticed it – email was sent to group with information on it – Sarah Tangren has been selected as IOTM.
 - o Several members are open to the idea of picking up various IOTM – Daniel Root – other to reach out later.

7. Discuss whether or not MISC meetings should be maintained as in-person or changed to virtual.

- Discussing meeting format change – should we switch to virtual or in-person or hybrid.
 - o Hybrid may not be possible with headquarters
 - If we do hybrid – it maybe that they can attend but not speak
 - o Movement to have every other meeting to be virtual
 - Second
 - o Movement to ask via email – unfair to ask people who attend to make decision.
 - Second
 - o Set up an anonymous poll – to poll anyone who cannot attend.

- **Decision – set up a Google forum – have an in-person meeting with option to stream.**

8. Agency Updates (Brief please, max 10 minutes per agency).

- Ashley Bowers – Baltimore City Forestry – Weed Warriors program, grants received through state – \$250K to establish deer management program – working towards that. Hiring a wildlife biologist to assist with program. Healthy forest campaign to promote the need for deer management. Looking for folks in mind for the 2 year position, if anyone has any ideas for people. Moving forward with integrated forest management. 3 new plans for forest management coming – plans for some of their smaller area – Participating in additional work force development and training programs. Partnership with US Forest Service @ Still Meadow

Community Fellowship – focusing integrated vegetation management. Vine management training to Baltimore city school management (English ivy and ect.)

- Don Callihan – Gunpowder Conservancy – Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Task force is developing Weed Warrior program to start in all 5 major parks in the county intended to start in Spring 2025. Getting training material from Tree Baltimore. Will be limited to manual removal only such as cutting vines (vine management) and pulling grasses, forbs, and shrubs that can be easily removed. – County parks service reorganization and restriction on actions by the public has been something they have to work through. Thankful for the collaboration of MISC for opportunities like these.
- Paul Kinneman – State Plant Health Director (USDA) – camphor beetle at the port in a shipment of honeybee – maintain efforts – box tree moth, problem everywhere, approach is different, management program has started, going to box tree producers, to allow treatment for continue movement, not going through with an eradication program but management focused. Cherry trees in DC – 154 removed to repair tidal basin wall – more will be donated to replace those, will require to quarantine 2 years before allowed to be in. New employee Brandon Young from ALB program in South Carolina – they are hiring in plant health safeguarding specialist soon.
- Daniel Root – Forest health specialist with Maryland Forest Service– landowner had pine decline – loblolly issues – Caroline County – working with MDA and DDA to see what is going on, map decline, initial sample were native fungus but believe conditions could contribute to those issues. Seeing some mortality. Dorchester and Chesapeake Forest showing similar signs, taking samples to see if there are continuing issues like the original find in Caroline Co. Hired a new forest health specialist. – will be doing a lot of work with landowners and outreach. Movement – would like to develop a Central MD PRISM, asking some of the members to be involved in that committee. Sometime in the next month or so would like to plan a meeting. Fall forest health restoration committee meeting coming soon.
- Kim Rice – State plant regulatory official – Box tree moth – not in MD – just detected in DE. Federally regulated pest. We will partner with USDA when/if it is in MD – nursery would be put under compliance agreement if it is found, done by county. Believe it could fly in 20 miles in a year which put MD in the danger zone. Find in Delaware is very removed, no idea how it got there yet. Currently doing survey, we do survey for BTM (10 to 15 sites) now concentrated around DE border. Stone fruit, survey. Biocontrol with psyllid continues. Bee program – one detector dog has retired only have 1 now, looking for a second dog.

- Damien Ossi – DC department of energy and environment. Chair of national Capitol prism. Council gave his agency to do invasive plant management – got new funding to do so. They have promised funding for atleast 3 years – hopes for it to stay. Focusig on district property. Not on national park service land but maybe able to cross boundaries. Still don't have regulations – it is being worked on – recently joined the eastern plant board. Prism – about a year into the program within the COG – pursing funding, have some – applied for several grants – last year found 8 acre beaver pond full with trapper bypsonpa -beaver is no longer there the dam is gone and the pond is dry. Asdking for advice on how to work a cost share program with the core. Plant can't survive in mud which is why the pond is dry.
- Jennifer Fisher – AA Co Forestry – looking into trying to grow something to give to homeowner and HOA to help control wavy leaf basket grass – to help them replace what they remove.
- Alexis Mowery – MD DNR Chesapeake and Coastal Service – costal restoration crew – has a new injector and don't know how to use it. Would like some advice on how to help, shaggy darrow was suggested as a person to reach out to. Tried a new event – not move info about wineberry, Pick and Pull, did it only for DNR employees but would like to do it with the public. Wineberry infested area, they pull wineberries and then pull up the plant after removing berries. Went well, seems like other parks would like to participate and integrate the public. Future goals, more of a SOP invasive assessment for DNR – nothing is cohesive, would like to make it cohesive.
- Bud Reaves, AA Co. ret. – invasive species manamngnet – wants to encourage people to do more of it. Had 1 meeting to establish more motivation and increase awareness about invasive. Would like to coordinate with all of those in the county to assist. Get everyone on the same page. Bring in the government agencies that are also doing invasive plant management. Setting up goals and objectives for the program. Lost Weed Warrior coordinator – no volunteer coordinator, looking for one. Is not a paid position, have no money, need help.
- Natasha Shangold – Forestry inspector for Rockville – Been very hot, does forest easement conservation assessments - Lots of easement insepections. Lots of outreach to middle and high schoolers, are able to show them what she does. Career Day, - updating forestry ordinance in Rockville, having a public hearing soon.
- Deborah Landau – couple of studies gong on with fire and invasives. – control burns for invasives, mircrostegium – doing combo of burn and herbicide – fragmities, burn and herbicide. Has an invasive crew for the summer – been great.

- Jaime Tsambikos – Nursery inspector supervisors – vascular streak dieback – sending sample to MDA plant pathologist. 1 sample did come back positive.
- Alex Betz – nursery greenhouse association – nothing new – open ears
- Jess Boyles – SLF –
- Samantha Lott – DNR – not a whole lot to add – pulled monitoring meeting – about invasives species in restoration – post restoration.
- Judy Fulton – Org. in VA – VA invasive plant coalition – December of last year meeting with top decision makers – as a result, initiatives have been put forth for organizations. Blue Ridge Prism – 40% time allocation to invasives species. LME – new invasive called toon tree, Chinese mahogany – similar to TOH, acts the same way (??)
- Andrew Bowles – Weed control – working with SHA – MDOT with weed control programs, budgets and weed control agreements have all been approved for those counties. Starting with committee soon to get ag. Farmers on the committee – have been sending out advisory notices, mostly for Johnson grass, has come up early. – no sign of palmer of water hemp in southern md.
- Kenton Sumpter – Forest Pest – spongy moth suppression – 22k acres, Allegany acres did not get treated 5k acres. Used helicopters, done over 3 weeks. Majority of treatment was done in western MD. Using post suppression to determine the extent of defoliation and effectiveness of treatment, defoliation isn't too bad, some patches of minor defoliation. Getting flights later than they wanted so some trees may have been able to regrow before assessment. Will be looking for spongy moth egg masses in the fall, most likely will be suppression program in western MD next year. Lots of mortality from NPV and *entomophaga maimaiga*. unsure what portion of the population was impacted. Seeing early egg masses compared to last year, not expected. Traps and surveys currently happening, - trap – exotic Asian defoliator, pine commodities (6 species – complicated), nothing in the traps so far. Sirex woodwasp is out – nothing found yet. Walnut twig beetle trap out in 2 weeks. Beech leaf disease – finding a good amount of it. Lots of it in central counties – BLD will kill beech trees, largely concerned. High mobility – easily spread. Oak wilt – looking for it now, namely taking samples in the fall. Lingreen ash – looking for stands of untreated ash trees that survived EAB. Setting up plots for laurel wilt – Setting up plots for elm zigzag saw fly. ALB – nothing much. *Phytophthora ramorum* – collections ended – Patrick Simons noticing a large amount of wilting in spice bush – thinks could be a pathogenic issue, unsure why. Larger stems are dead and epicormic sprouting – if you see thrips, let FPM know.

9. News and New Business (Max. 5 minutes per member).

- [Tinyurl.com/framingjuly24](https://tinyurl.com/framingjuly24) – committee meeting about the invasive plant law.
- Easier communication between members – google group or Slack?
- PRISM - National Capitol – it is really an early detection. *Curtis inscida* - Forest heaven city area, DC youth secure school. Large population at the top of the patuxtent. Does something to do the soild to eliminate virginia blue bells, will affect spring ephemerals

10. Announcements

Adjorn @ 11:19am

11. **Next meeting: October 17, 2024**

12. Adjourn