



Maryland Invasive Species Council
August 28, 2006
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Annapolis, MD

Call to Order – 9:45 Bob Tichenor

Corrections to minutes

Sarah Widman is spelled with an “H” in Sarah

Introductions

Gary Barkman, Montg. Co. Weed Control
Dick Bean, MDA
Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC
Eric Duce, SHA
Robert A. Feldt, MD DNR FS
Anne Hairston-Strang, MDNR
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI
Lane Heimer, MDA
Mary Kay Malinoski, MCE

Fred Mann, USDA APHIS PPQ
Jonathan McKnight, MDNR
Ellen Nibali, MCE
Pete Rupp, MDA
Jil Swearingen, NPS
Al Tasker, USDA APHIS PPQ
Sarah Tasker
Bob Tichenor, MDA
Sarah Widman, MDNR

Membership

Request for membership – Robert A Feldt, Jr.

Announcements

Bob Tichenor for Kerrie Kyde –

1. Jim Dukes Farmacy Garden Tour – Thurs. Sept. 14th, sign-up sheet passed around. Limited parking so vans will ferry. Meet DNR upper employee parking lot at 8:00. Tour from 9 to 11-11:30. Back to Annapolis by 12. Note on sign-up sheet if a particular plant is of interest to you. Limit of about 25 participants.
2. Nutria trip will not be happening.
3. Mid Atlantic Invasive Species Meeting on the 13th and 14th of September?

Updates

Sarah Widman, MDNR:

- Adult mitten crab found alive in Patapsco River in June. Finder froze it. Thought not to be from China, but perhaps San Francisco or Europe. Now another specimen has been discovered, also caught in same area of Inner Harbor and frozen. Fed and State agencies are working on this. Smithsonian has the specimens now, trying to identify. Mitten crabs have a small body and very long legs (dinner plate width). Tasty but if undercooked parasites are very dangerous to health. May be illegal market in Baltimore City.
- Red Swamp crayfish – has been seen on Eastern Shore. No release available yet.
- Nuisance species regs. – public hearing September 7th at DNR. Will be on Division website by this Friday (Sept. 1). She will try to send out to everyone.

Dick Bean, MDA:

- Fire ants – found in 10 sites, now under heavy management, including hotels and resorts. Eradicating in Baltimore hotel now. Florida has been lax in IFA treatments.
- EAB - Missed 1 adult in Forth Washington and 1 in Odenton. Found larvae in Brandywine in 2 trees, no exit holes. A quarantine is in effect for all of PG County for all movement of ash or firewood. For a smaller area (about half of PG County bounded by Beltway, Rt 4, and Patuxent River) no material can be moved even into the rest of the county. Will do extensive survey, not ½ mile circumference as was done for the last time outbreak, but up to 2 miles, possibly 5. (It was believed in 2004 that EAB didn't fly more than ½ mile but this has proven untrue—they are strong flyers.) There are 6,000 properties in the 2 mile buffer, comprising 8,042 acres. Will concentrate on deciduous and mixed forest, especially along Piscataway Creek

where a lot of ash can be found. Much of this land is Capital Park and Planning land. Surveys will be done on a ½ acre grid. In 1/3 of the grids, will do destructive sampling (current plan.)

Challenge will be to get manpower to do the job. DNR will help. ½ mile buffer cuts now known to be too small. As soon as EAB is discovered by the survey, the grid circle will expand. To survey and do destructive sampling will require a “skill set” including physical strength because of the rough, swampy terrain. Ash ID and sampling skills can be taught. Workers should look for declining ash, bark splits, holes, canopy dieback, etc. Michigan used 2 person crews. In residential areas, tree-climbing skills will be important.

To eradicate EAB requires 3 years of negative data. Neither Merit or Spinosad effective. Stumps can be treated successfully by Garlon—had no resprouts last time. Timber might be useable if processed correctly, but 90% of the ash trees will be under 10”. (EBA can infest ash as small as ¾” radius.)

Most finds in Michigan were by homeowners seeing d-shaped holes. MDA will probably use billboards in public outreach. Firewood dealers are an issue, since no data base exists to locate them and they do not register. Yellow pages and classifieds probable sources for names. Education is #1 tool – flyers, magnets, etc. Community meetings will be held in impacted areas. Homeowner mailings will be sent. The Incident Command System has been set up.

Jonathan McKnight, DNR:

- He suspects the mitten crabs were stowaways and no population build-up in the Bay
- The crayfish are thought to be released intentionally in the belief that the crayfish would consume nuisance aquatic weeds. We are discouraging this theory.
- Giant snail has been found in Garrett County. Possibly the Apple snail. Lake Needwood sighting possible.
- DNR has put together regulations for aquatic invasive species. There will be a public meeting in early September before they go into effect in October.
- Mute swans – good progress. Population has been halved. Being used to test for bird flu.

Al Tasker, USDA APHIS:

- Hydrilla has been found in the Ohio River
- Hogweed found in Illinois. Still in DC, though seedhead was removed. Round-up not satisfactory because requires retreatments. Garlon kills in one application. Will try Milestone (new clopyralid product.)
- Japanese Dodder in California. Eradicated in Houston. Nasty stuff, kills trees. Spreads vegetatively from small piece, not by seed. Coming into US as Asian medicine even though it's designated as federal noxious weed.
- 8th Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week, February 25 to March 2, 2007. Flyer available. For more info see: http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm
- Weed Symposium in February. February 8, all day on invasives in nursery trade, arboritums. Speaker topics will include pet trade aquarium plants.
- Annual Brittonia is being added to the list.
- Early Detection Rapid Response Meeting – putting out book early next year. Want to fill gaps so people know how to contact the correct agency. EDRR website will have a link such as “I Found Something. What Do I Do?” Will be just plants now, but want to expand to other taxa. Local reporting of invasives better than direct reporting to national level. He wants to get a new EDRR manager whose job would be to “direct traffic”, queries, etc.
- Quarantine hearings being held for states who want to increase strength of federal quarantines.
- Redoing regulated areas for witch weed
- NOMA meeting Sept. 18 in Calgary. Canada has no national weed regulations, but may be able to do under existing plant protection law. Enforcement only on provincial level.
- In the US, our most effective weed regulations are in the west. Maryland is the exception in the Eastern states.

Fred Mann, USDA, APHIS:

- *Sirex noctilio* – found in Bradford and Tioga Counties, PA. 150 mile radius survey area includes Maryland
- Plum pox – found in eastern Michigan and New York. In New York, 1-2 trees in Niagara Falls across from the Canada infestation.
- Potato nematode – found 20 kilometers from Quebec in fields of big farmer of seed potatoes
- PA hogweed brochure will be reissued, edited to generalize (PA references removed), so it can be used elsewhere. Local jurisdictions can stamp with contact info.
- Also Benghal Day flower brochure.
- Pineshoot Beetle quarantine expanded to Delaware's Morris and Somerset counties.
- Gypsy moth quarantine in VA's Craize, Giles and Roanoke counties. Also some Asian gypsy moth quarantines.
- Med flies and exotic snail species came in on Spanish lemons (Verna lemons). These lemons are not usually a good host. Look for browning lemons. Currently, lemons on hold at port. No recall as yet.

Lane Heimer,

- Big Johnsongrass year
- Ailanthus removal being done
- Phragmites removal in progress
- Wet weather in spring resulted in a 2nd flush of thistle.
- Hogweed treated in 2 sites in Garrett County (one a brush dump on a farm)
- EAB – County personnel could help in PG work

Anne Hairston-Strang, MDNR

- Japanese hops program has started. Surveying, with some spraying in Monacacy watershed.

Business

Bob Tichenor – Invader of the Month assignments. Apologized for missed months.

Carole Bergman will do Wineberry. November a good month for EAB, with an emphasis on firewood quarantine info. Jill Swearingen will do Barberry for December. Jonathan McKnight will do Asiatic clam or Bee mites.

Discussion of *Lespedeza bicolor* - on our list though still being planted, especially in quail plantations. *L. cuneata* still being planted by DOT, though a native replacement is in the works. Jon recommends building a strong case against lespedeza because of enthusiasm for it in the trade.

Jon McKnight – Good regulations coming through, including Asian Leatherloche. Wants consensus from MISC supporting. Last meeting regs were discussed and changes suggested which were made. Bob will put changes on website. Hearing on September 7. Comment period ends October 2nd. Bob invites any strong opinion not in consensus.

Future meetings

Next meeting: October

February will be ARS Systematics lab.

Adjourn 12:45 p.m.

Prepared by Ellen Nibali, ed. Carol Holko, Recording Secretary