

Maryland Invasive Species Council – Robinson
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Annapolis, MD 21401
Thursday September 18, 2014
MINUTES

Call to order – 9:30

By Dick Bean, Facilitator

Introductions

Dick Bean – MDA

Barbara Beeler – Friends of Deep Creek Lake

Dave Clement – UMD Extension

Eric Duce, BA Co. DeptEnvProtSustain

Mike Ellis – MNCPPC/PG Ranger

Michael Greenberg – MD, SHA

Anne Hairston-Strang – DNR

Ruth Hanessian – MD Assn. Pet Ind.

Marc Imlay – MNCPPC, Sierra Club

Jay Kilian – DNR

Sylvan Kaufman – MD IPAC

Deborah Landau – TNC

Rea Manderino – USDA, APHIA, PPQ

Damien Ossi – DC Dept. of Environment

Carla Porter – MG County Volunteer

Earl “But” Reaves, JR. – AA County

Matt Salo – Cheverly Green Infrastructure

Comm.

Mike Sowers –

Robert Tatman – MDA Forest Pest

Mark Taylor – MDA, PPWM, Nursery Insp.

Robert Tichenor – USDA, APHIS

Matt Travis – USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Jim Young – USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Lane Heimer MDA Weed Control

Agendas being passed around.

Additions to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes

Kerrie Kyde absent – Minutes of previous meeting written up and sent to Kerrie for approval. Approval will take place at November meeting. Hopefully, minutes from this meeting will be written up by then.

Membership

Anyone who has been to two meetings is eligible to become a member. Anyone? No.

Invader of the Month

Bud Reeves: Bushkiller is now up on the website thanks to Mike Sowers. List matches up with the website. Working on how to get things up and running. Having trouble finding information for articles. Dave Clements is scheduled up next with thousand cankers disease – TCD. Pretty sparse beyond that. Any ideas are welcome.

Sylvan Kaufman: There is a lot of porcelain berry out now. The timing is good to do now. It was done previously in July 2004. Possibly update. Sylvan volunteered to do the update.

Someone (?) suggested updating Bamboo, which was done in 2011.

Deborah Landau suggested amphibians (often from pet trade) transmitting virus between wetlands.

Bob Tatman suggested Crazy Worm – fish bait, problem in Wisconsin. Earthworm from Asia becoming invasive. Same as Jumping Worm? Mark Imlay suggested invasive earthworms in general. No-one volunteered. John Peter Thompson noted that changes in increased earthworm counts preceded microstegium invasions.

Mike Sowers mentioned that at the March meeting parasitoids used for bio-control were mentioned. Plant biocontrol write-up has been completed, need insect biocontrol. Dick Bean said MDA could help with that. Previously involved with insect biocontrol programs in the past – Emerald ash borer, Mexican Bean Beetle, Hemlock wooly adelgid, etc.

Mike Sowers – Website work is coming along. There was a bit of a learning curve. Carol has website laid out fairly well. Can update using Notepad. Did not need to buy a new program. Ended up being fairly easy to work. If the website was changed to work with the Word Press Program (free), the whole site would have to be changed and there are a lot of pages. There are also security issues with this program. For now, working with HTML is ok. Entire site would need to be converted. Bud reeves may know someone who could do the conversion. Would make it easier for more people to update.

Currently MDA is paying for the website that is hosted off-site and will continue for at least the next year. Carol Holko is involved in this. In the meantime, Mike will keep updating. If broken links are found on the website, email Mike Sowers mikesowers@ptd.net. Takes about an hour to an hour-and-a-half to upload.

Articles for invader of the month, send images separately as jpeg. It takes less than an hour to prepare and upload new pages, including Invader of the Month articles. Updated list of Invasives of Concern in MD is not on website.

MISC brochure on website? Move to more conspicuous site?

Jay Kilian – Live bait update in spring before fishing season with updated crayfish regulations. Jay will provide for May.

Agency Updates

Jim Young (USDA): Paper came out for Biocontrol for European swallowwort. A Noctuid moth – released in Canada – still in review process in US. Only feeds on 2 species of swallowwort that are invasive in the US. June: Leaf miners found in cut flowers. A snail Hydromia ??? found in Norfolk, feeds on wide range of small grains, grasses, wheat, rye, etc. It's a European leafroller species that eats lots of plants. Spider mites in flowers from Africa. ??? First time intercepted coming into US. Large detections on Military Cargo – really bad stuff in there. Luckily most stuff is dead or nearly dead because cargo holds are not pressurized. Not sure where stuff is picked up, shipped from Germany. Baltimore intercepted nemapogon (?), mostly fungus feeder but found in 7 shipments of soybeans. NPAG has determined this to be a non-agricultural pest since it's reported as a fungus feeder.

A few weeks ago, found *Coptotermes* sp., subterranean termite, coming in cargo from China. There are 30 species in this area but can't find a key that actually identifies to species or it stays sp. Someone needs to learn Chinese.

Marc Imlay and Damian Ossi are coordinating the Mid Atlantic Plant Council meeting, probably meeting in PA next year, are looking for suggestions. Biocontrol working group has a paragraph on swallowtail he would like Jim to review. 1 acre population at Loch Raven.

Mark Thurmond: Federal Noxious Weed poster developed – presentation of Noxious Weed training for staff in Baltimore. Lucid Central website very useful. Has new power point presentations for new training session.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife are responsible for all things other than invasive plants coming into country. (Frogs, strange looking creatures...)

Matt Travis: Military cargo is pre-cleared. Could be new staff or untrained personnel. Seeking suggestions for 2014 Farm Bill – Qualifiers.

Recently information was released on Public Information Initiative on Giant African Land Snails on Facebook Social Media – buying and selling of these Snails. End of August APHIS has seized 1,237 giant African Land Snails from this incident alone. Locally and multiple states involved from NY, into Long Island, Georgia, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and several other states. Opened up this network of buying and selling of these snails.

CPHST is offering training for Weed Risk Assessment 2/24/15 thru 2/27/15. In the past there was interest in the workshop, and is limited to 25 participants. It's free multi-day training. Interested parties would be involved with regulations, guidelines, policies, etc. Carol Holko, Kerrie Kyde, Sylvan Kaufman and John Peter Thompson have taken the training.

Kansas added two counties with EAB. Also several counties in NY and NJ.

DEC and Ag Markets in NY proposed to initiate more strict regulations along state boundaries from Invasive Species Council concerning commercial movement of plants, plant material, wood material, etc. to prevent threats to agricultural community.

Bob Tichenor – Announcement of availability of an environmental assessment of public concern for release of a parasite for Asian Citrus lyellid. Right behind it is the long awaited one for the release of the EAB parasite. This is a species collected in Vladivostok, Russia, and is climate matched better to the States of New York, Pennsylvania New England and the Lake States than the parasite from the same genus that was released in 2008. Establishment of this earlier released species has been low and not persistent.

Jay Kilian (DNR):

DNR is very concerned with Hydrillia in Deep Creek Lake discovered in September seems to be distributed in most southern cove. Over summer Fluridone was applied to 8 treatment sites at approx. 3-week intervals. Very effective on hydrillia, and some non-hydrillia species. Doing surveys along the shoreline for more sites. 2 new small sites found outside of the treatment area. Probably a yearly effort to control vegetation.

Potomac River in VA., Pohick Bay near Mt. Vernon discovered a large population of water chestnut in August. 730 bushels – approx.. 2 tons removed in August, but probably already gone to seed. Mark Lewandowski led initiative to control water chestnut in MD.

Kerrie Kyde did update previously on Asian Swamp Eel in Lake Needwood. Established in a small town in NJ, and in FL, GA, HI. Unclear if there is established colony or if these were recently released. Only observed 3 or 5. Three dead and 1 live. Deborah Landau asked if the lake was drained a couple of years ago. If there is a colony established, only control is to remove them, if that is possible. Electrofishing is what they are doing in NJ to remove them. DNR posted signs in July to alert public to call if species was spotted. Got one phone call and was positive. Will be working with MG county. Will survey again later.

Invasive crayfish – Taking regulated steps to control import and spread in MD waters. In July, DNR put forth a proposal to completely ban the possession of all species of crayfish in MD. Would help reduce import and control and reduce supply and movement from watershed to watershed. **** Electronic copy for minutes.

Ruth Hanessian commented that destroying all crayfish would be wasteful if the regulation requires that everyone (anglers as well as crayfish in tanks in classroom settings) remove the heads, which is a bit extreme.

Marc Imlay commented that he had worked on crayfish in the past and that our watersheds do have many unique species.

University Extension (Dave Clement):

Boxwood Blight found 2nd time in MD. Baltimore County residential. Samples sent to extension & was verified to be Boxwood Blight. Sent notification to MDA and worked with them to sample and remove all 8 plants. Disease was found on all and also on an alternate host not previously found to have the disease (Sweet Box). Had all the classic symptoms. Severe defoliation from bottom of plant and black lesions on stem. Seems to be attacking all Box wood. Dead leaves remain on ground, has potential to spread disease for 5 years.

USDA scientist at Ft. Detrick, expert on Canada thistle biocontrol, to retire in January. Talked to Bob Trumbule and he said you have to find it. Was found on research farm and we are working with nursery to eradicate Canada Thistle. (Rust Fungus) will kill Canada Thistle systemically.

EPA meeting with Native American Tribal Counsel in Crystal City, Va. In October training on invasive plants and plant problems. (Mostly western states.) Opening for someone to talk about western weed control. Bob Rabalia from Forest Service to talk about insects. ??? will do diseases. Mary K. will do something on insects. Colorado, Montana, ???

Dick Bean (MDA Plant Protection):

Steve Malan did presentation August – September 2014 on Boxwood Blight in Maryland Landscape. I can send you a copy. Details incident and has pictures. Very thorough.

I was on vacation out of the country and Bob Trumbule acting Program Manager. Means Nursery in Oregon had sent plants infected with *P. ramourm* to numerous states, Maryland included. PA also

received 52,000 plants. MD received 8,574 at 21 unique locations in the state. Nursery inspectors did surveys and identified potential plants. Plant pathologist was in India for mother's funeral, so Karen Rane did our identification along with dealing with Boxwood Blight samples. 4 samples came up positive and were sent to Cornell University but they all came back negative. 4 stop sales issued. Unusual thing is the nursery was confirmed positive, and they sent infected plants, but we haven't had a positive confirmed. They are not in business at the present time and are not shipping. Will undergo "cleaning out" and will have to be under more stringent restrictions to ship out of state.

Thousand Canker: No confirmation in MD. Samples sent to lab in St. Paul, MN going through screening and a more recent sample sent to Karen Rane, University of MD. Issues in regards to getting material/firewood from MD into PA because of fear of 1,000 Canker disease. Working with regulator in PA to facilitate movement from MD to PA. How to deal with this disease is a stumper. MD has no quarantine. Even quarantine, once you get it, it will still move. Can't stop it. Major problems trying to deal with the wood. Habitat is south west. Set up traps and was found in Fair Hill Management. Trap again same tree and also came up positive this year. Sent 6 samples to MN but none are positive.

Emerald Ash Borer: Finished survey for the year. Carroll County had 2 detections, Baltimore City also had 2 detections. BA county had no detections. AA county had a lot of positives this year. Knocking on the door to the Eastern Shore. Right behind toll booths for the Bay bridge. Quarantine from 2011 is still in effect. DE has had no detections. NJ, PA, and VA all have had detections. Continuing to release parasitoids, mainly in GR and AL county. 10,000 – 25,000 released.

Forest Pest Management

Bob Tatman – Gypsy Moth mass survey. SM county found couple locations, expect to find a few in Charles County. Allegheny and Garret Co. low. No Operation there. Fungus should have been killed , but still finding egg masses. ---

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - Second round of soil, stem and CoreTect_suppression treatments to start next week at TNC's Cranesville Swamp preserve. Counterparts from Mid-Atlantic region to have meeting in Morgantown. Coming down to see swamp and to treatment operation. Going to NC to collect predators to be released. Also from Rocky Gap, to release in other locations in state. Hopefully some from VA Tech. Thousand Canker Disease set out traps to find any locations. Early fall or winter will find out if any locations.

Anne Hairston-Strang – Trying for EAB response grant request. Maybe fit into the grant, let her know. Putting more info out there on EAB. Homeowner handouts, etc.

Rainbow Tree Care Field Day – Sales Pitch for Tree Care. New machine available. Smaller than arbor-jet machine. Urban Forester from Fairfax VA very interest in releasing of parasitoids. Gave contact info to Dick or Kim regarding releasing of parasitoids? For control of EAB. Also gave contacts for PPQ.

Mike Greenberg (State Highway):

Did tour with rust fungus. Canada Thistle efforts. Change SHA with treatment of phragmites and Canada Thistle. One of our business objectives. Office of Maintenance was running it. Environmental Design got Budget enhancement so complete ownership of thistle and phragmites projects. Treatment of thistle is best in past few years. Partner with weed county spray board. Phragmites starting operation to re-inventory as they treat. Continuing our Mile a Minute weevil releases. Rt 50 corridor – Capital Beltway to Rt. 97 – target invasive species removal. Going to add in Feb. 2 contracts. 1 in PG and 1 in AA county.

MDE doesn't want Mile a Minute removed from sensitive areas, not sure why. Waiting on response. Maybe do not want use of chemicals. Weevils not working as well as in the past. Too wet???

Eric Duce: Expanding our invasive species treatments, using on-call contractors. Mostly dealing with bamboo. Seems to have gotten big on the stream banks. Also homeowners' calls but we are ending up mostly digging instead of spraying. Still in infant stages to locate larger sites. Storm Water Fee in BA county will give us more funds to work with, and hire more contractors for the long term.

Damien Ossi: Update from DC standpoint. Working on one aspect of our sustainability plan to convert the city to planting only native plants. Pretty big job. Been on task force for about the last 6 months, working on a plan to implement that and was able to initiate # of goals related to invasive plants. Hopefully, in the next year or so DC will have the mayor's order on invasive plants by the city that can't be used in landscaping. Will be based on plant invaders book and also on plants that the park service has identified as new species to be avoided. Base on Chicago scale?? Hopefully concentrate mainly on landscapers. Street trees will be dealt with. Lost a lot of them to Dutch Elm Disease. DC Forester ?? Trees belong to National Park Service.

Matt Travis: Talked about a presentation / slides from Stanton Gill – UM – regarding 5 species of street trees, showing value in energy savings, water savings, etc. This was to sell the value of urban canopy and how much energy saved by this canopy.

John Peter Thompson: National Species Council may be able to meet in November. Lori Williams, executive director retiring at the end of the month and Chris Digionigi is going to be acting director. Been there as long as Lori. Should be seamless event. Will be meeting 2nd week in November in San Antonio and Austin Texas. Hosted by Lady Bird Johnson at University of Texas. Any news for the public, push through on Twitter. Would like to get twitter feed going. Most of followers are out of the country mostly French. Think the only one in MD is Dick ?? Lots of interest in Europe. (EPO) European Plant Protection Organization. French researchers interested in my work regarding regulations and information contacting me.

Mike Ellis: Working with Mark in usual parks in PG County. Wavyleaf and stiltgrass worse this year. Wavyleaf seems to be resistant to _____? _____, it doesn't seem to be dying fast enough. Spray and a month later it is still green and producing seeds. Another topic, after last meeting, I asked Kerrie Kyde for updated brochure of Invasive Species of Concern in MD. The brochure hasn't been updated and there are no plans to do it. I noticed a lot of species missing from it.

Dick Bean: Determined in past meetings not to update invasive plant list. Just work with invaders of the month. One in the brochure doesn't have everything listed.

What is the purpose for having the list online if it is not updated? PG county uses that as a guideline on what to plant and what not to plant. Anything on the list is not ok to plant? No, but the list changes too often to update.

IPAC to study what should and should not be added. Should be defined on the brochure that the list will always be behind the curve. We will have preliminary list soon. Work in progress on Legislation that will have some regulatory guidelines. Will be continually updated. Hopefully by January.

Mark ?: Risk of creating more work, take a look at the update to be put on the website. Maybe some kind of header as to why we have the list. Asking for help. Any seconds. Postpone till next meeting to be able to locate old records from previous minutes. Motion seconded by Dick Bean.

Update for biological control workshop to facilitate research into host-specific biological controls. Japanese stiltgrass is now undergoing biological control research with a grant. 1½ years ago we got 750 replies in 2 days from Sierra Club members in Maryland requesting our legislators fund research on Japanese stiltgrass and other invasive plant species in the region. The action alert had a photo of Japanese stiltgrass as the example of species needing the research. Senator Mikulski responded with a message that she added funding in Federal legislation for this purpose. That shows how important the Sierra Club thinks this issue is. Services funded research into biological control, of Japanese stiltgrass. Principal investigator is Judy Hough-Goldstein, Univ. of Delaware, who did mile-a-minute work with Bill Bruckart and Ding Jiang of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural sciences. The research is ongoing in China now with phase 2. Hopefully, up to 30% chance of finding something to help control Japanese Stilt Grass.

Barbara Beeler: Deep Creek Lake, Hydrilla. DNR established control program this past summer. Unfortunately the hydrilla is going around the point that it is going to spread next year. Will need more money for control. The issue is controlling and educating about aquatic invasives. DNR can't inspect, etc. State Delegation to send question to Attorney General: is Maryland's State law strong enough to deal with these issues? Maybe add some regulatory controls and compliance controls for boats to be inspected before launching, and if coming from an infected area to clean the boat before re-launching. Primary suspicion or opinion is that law is not strong enough other issues are other invasives coming into lake, crayfish, etc. Hopefully something before next meeting.

Carla Porter: Maryland Master Gardener Volunteer. Focus is education of invasive plant identification. Target audience is members of Public. Those attending my presentation are fellow master gardener volunteers, forestry landowners, and few members of general public. Current interactions now are just 2 – in May plant sale in Calvert County, where I have an invasive plant booth and then a presentation in late summer: scheduled for Sept. 5 next year. Can't have too many people at presentations because plant samples are brought in, along with native lookalikes to help in identification.

In regards to the list – The list is also an issue for me. Guide public to this list and website. Maybe would help if broken into type of plants???

I also compile a lot of information for free publications, in addition to photos, and it's downloaded to CD. Currently holds 200mb of information. Information as to why this plant is invasive, etc. Add information regarding invasive species in General, 'What is invasive species?' Invasive plants and identification and additional info on native plants, pests, and diseases. Don't teach these subjects but am open to including on the CD. Long-term plan maybe getting county involved and becoming member.

Matt Salo: expressed concern that native plant vendors in the area often swap, or buy from each other, plants whose provenance is not determined. Having bought a plant touted as "native," which later turned out not to be of local ecotype and potentially invasive, Matt advises buyers to inquire about the actual provenance of the touted "natives" and not buy any whose origin is unknown.

Mike Sowers: Website – EAB workshops in future.

Next meeting is Nov. 20. No location yet. Any suggestions? Maybe MDA Conference Room. Maybe Extension Howard County.? Meeting adjourned 12:07.