

TN-EPPC Board Meeting
Feb. 16, 2011
Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN

Attendance: Marie Kerr, Kris Johnson, Anni Self, Sara Kuebbing, Dan Brown, Harry Quarles, Margie Hunter, Andrea Bishop.

Absent with proxy: Mike Berkley(?), Claude Bailey(?), LinnAnn Welch (Anni), Bob Parrish (Andrea), Pat Parr (Kris)

[Asterisk by name (*) denotes action item.]

Special Presentation: Dennis Gregg, Executive Director of Obed Watershed Community Association, gave a quick presentation of a stream restoration project through a Crossville city park that involved removal of invasive species: privet, bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose. Ponds, wetlands, and cascading rain gardens are part of project. Stump treatments done with Rodeo (20%) due to stream proximity. Plan to replant with natives and include interpretive signs to help visitors understand what's being done. Will try to finish most work this spring with some followup planting in fall. www.obedwatershed.org

New Board Member: Officially nominated and accepted Sara Kuebbing to the board.

Minutes: Nov. 12, 2010, approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Attached. Reflects \$230 in memberships and expenses from Web site. Total assets: \$11,603.41. Approved.

TN-IWAW: Supporters were not contacted regarding organizing events for this year. No official week was designated. Will revive this for next year. ISAW nationally moved their designated week back to end of February, first of March. So, we will coordinate with that in 2012. Brian Bowen is going to Washington with SE-EPPC. Dan suggests that we coordinate among states to promote one problem/project, such as cogongrass, rather than take a laundry list from each state. Documenting economic impacts would also be helpful in getting the attention of Congress.

Web Site: All but Mike* and Andrea* have turned in their plant profiles. Margie has not yet posted those received.

Sawtooth Oak: Claude drafted letter and sent to Mike* for review and suggestions of native alternatives.

Articles for Publication: LinnAnn* is sending her *TN Conservationist* article to *Wildland Weeds* and is discussing with Mike sending to *Green Times*. Sara may have an article for *WW* as well. Anni* will check on a TIPS article written by an NRCS rep that would be good. Dan* will continue to work on a farm article.

Membership Update: Postcards for member renewals were mailed a couple of weeks ago utilizing Anni's list. Membership year begins in January of each year and needs to be renewed annually by January 31. He prorated 2011 membership payments depending on when they

paid in 2010. Sent out 51 cards. Dan included a note on the SE-EPPC annual meeting in Lexington, KY. Dan suggested we take a page from TNPS and offer memberships at Lawn & Garden for half price.

Display: Current display is missing from case. Anni* will see if Mike has it. (He did.) Looking into new banner. Andrea checked on options and funding through SE-EPPC, which could become a time consuming process. We may move forward and make our own. Andrea* with check with Chris Armour to see if he could do it and help with design layout. Prefer a tabletop screen about 2x3 feet. Will continue to work toward refurbishing the current display with new text/photos.

Membership Brochure: State chapter versions are usually paid for by each chapter. Alabama has a color trifold featuring top 10 worst plants. Andrea* will check with Chris on cost for this as well. We need to decide what information to include.

Lawn & Garden: We will again share a booth with TNPS March 3-6, 2011. Volunteers include Anni, Dan, Mike & Terri, Andrea, and Margie. Anni* will ask Mike about plants for the booth. Anni* will bring t-shirts to sell for \$5. Up to individual booth workers if they want to do this. If so, bring change and get proceeds to Anni. We will offer half price memberships. Andrea* will bring in older copies of *Wildland Weeds* and order copies of Miller's updated Southern Forests to hand out as warranted. We should put dates on web calendar. Anni provided check for \$36.00 to cover cost of tables and chairs rental. Margie* is handling contract.

Activities Calendar: Kris is leading a walk at the Smokies' Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage on removing invasive plants in wetlands. Townsend park entrance garlic mustard pull date will be set soon, Kris will forward date for posting. Events in Oak Ridge, Kris will check and forward. Warner Park pulls would be good to include. Margie* will post.

Board Calendar: Margie* and Andrea* will try to develop a list to keep regular board business on track.

Newsletter: no progress

Impact Studies: We are interested in funding research papers on costs of management to counter nursery questions. Bob checked with SE-EPPC, and they would be interested in funding these types of projects. What information would we like to gather and from whom? Does the presence of extensive exotics affect property value? Talk to realtors. Check with various land managers and agencies regarding budget percentage for control and maintenance on properties or for governments. TWRA has price per acre estimates for landowners on a variety of such issues. Fish & Wildlife offers grants for removal per acre. Marie* will look at the information she has from western US and send to Sara that might suggest other avenues to research. Dan* estimated the cost of fencerow and field management on his farm and will send to Sara. Harry* has costs from ORNL. Biltmore estate had to engage in exotic control to preserve timber harvest. Sara* will look into finding a grad or undergrad student interested in doing needed research. Sara* can put together a list of a few key items for someone like Mike to use in refuting green industry challenges.

Literature Review: Are there any specific topics aside from cost evaluation that we might research in literature? Sara* can review to look for impacts of specific species, i.e., bradford pear, burning bush, etc., and invasive interference with forest regrowth.

Alert List for Web Site: Brian and Andrea* have developed a new list for alert box and will send to Margie.

TDOT Revegetation Mixes: Marie has gathered info on species to avoid and species to use. TDOT has several soil type zones with recommendations. Marie* is going to take better species and slot them into these special zone mixes. Harry* will send Marie information. Kris* will send her roadside seed mix. Anni* will send her info on NRCS plant materials development center. Once this is complete Harry* will include it in a letter to TDOT regarding their use.

SE-EPPC Annual Meeting: Lexington, KY, May 3-5, 2011. Marie, Andrea, Brian will likely attend. Dan may go. A rep from TN-EPPC will need to give a chapter report.

Environmental Day on the Hill with TEC: Tennessee Environmental Council is sponsoring Conservation Education Day at Legislative Plaza in Nashville March 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The focus is Green Jobs. We don't fit with this focus, so we will not attend. We used to have a booth for Earth Day festivities long ago; difficult outside.

Wolf River Conservancy Grant: TN-EPPC wrote letter of support for \$28,000 grant from US Fish & Wildlife Foundation for exotic removal. WRC received the grant. Margie* will post info on home page of our Web site with a link to Wolf River.

T-shirts: Interested in a new design. Maybe sponsor a design contest through art teachers to solicit student submissions. People could send designs through the Web site. Kris* will ask Parks as Classroom people and Tremont at GSMNP.

Speaker Request: Wayne Clatterbuck sponsors a workshop on forest management for landowners and wants a person to speak on invasive plants in Waverly, TN, on March 5. Allan Trently might be able to do it. Andrea* will ask him.

Grants for Private Landowners: TN CWMA can offer funds for newly invasive species. County extension, NRCS, FWS, Forest Service, and other state agency conservation programs are other possibilities.

Next Meeting: May 17, 18, or 19 Cookeville - US Fish & Wildlife Office.

Meeting adjourned 2:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter, secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – February 15, 2011

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (November 10, 2010) **\$7,311.95**

Receipts:

Memberships **\$230.00**

shirt **\$15.00**

SE-EPPC (PayPal) **\$240.00**

Expenses:

Website **\$135.00**

Ending Balance: (February 15, 2011) **\$7,661.95**

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (November 10, 2010) **\$3,940.95**

Net Interest Earned: **.51**

Ending Balance: (February 15, 2011) **\$ 3,941.46**

**TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM
ACCOUNTS **\$11,603.41****